

# CORNERSTONE

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## **“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S**

**March 2022 Volume 29, Issue 4  
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

**PLUM Pastoral Message**

**April 2022**

**Pittsburgh Lutheran United  
Ministries**

Dear Partners in ministry,

I'm thrilled to take this opportunity to publicly announce that our newly called pastor, the Rev. Alexander Sumo, will officially begin his ministry with us, the Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries, PLUM, on May 9, 2022. He comes to us from Columbus, Ohio where he has served the last 13 years as a Mission Developer.

### **“Come and See” and “If not Now, When?”**

As many of you know, I have really become enthralled by the theme of this year's Epiphany Series from year 4 of the Narrative Lectionary Series which follows the gospel of John for our Sunday sermons. We've also been using “The Chosen” TV series theme for some of our Bible studies. What made these themes even more current to me happened last week when we were visiting with our grandchildren, who, immediately

upon our arrival, ran up and in animated excitement grabbed our hands and beckoned us to “Come and See” as they welcomed us into their ever-changing world. When our response was less than exuberant and more like, “whoa there” or “wait a bit,” their comeback was “If not now, when?” They wanted a definitive reply to their request of inviting us into their world.

The old phrase, we've never done it that way before has truly taken a major hit in the way we can base anything for the future. Just consider how many things have changed in the way we do things as we begin the third year of COVID 19. We prayed for years that we as the body of Christ become more active and involved in the life beyond our church doors. In many ways COVID has forced and encouraged us to see the value in the many personal individual ministries that we are doing every day. And some might say that COVID isolated us and separated us, which in some ways it has. It has also made us stronger by strengthening our diversity and challenging us to look beyond the box of what “was” normal. We grew up in a time when the church celebrated our gathering together and allowed that to become the norm and identifier of what was “church.” We forgot our roots where we are called to be “evangelical,” or sent to proclaim (“do”) and be the body of Christ in the world, i.e., scattered.

This in common terms might be better understood as the difference between being a welcoming congregation and being an inviting congregation. To be sure both are needed, but in most of our cases, I would assume we are more welcoming than inviting. We prefer people come into our doors rather than getting involved in the lives of people outside our doors. One avenue is safe, while the other takes a little more risk. And this is the part that I find most exciting because in most of our lives we are already doing this. It is in our various walks of life beyond our doors – those areas of our lives which consume our time, energy, and passion beyond church on Sunday morning. And for each of us it is different. Some are nurses, teachers, firefighters, ambulance workers, health care workers, electricians, moms, grandparents. The list is endless, and we are called to ministry in each of these areas, diverse as they are. Ministry does not stop once we leave the building on Sunday morning.

As part of the ministry of PLUM we have always pushed ourselves to be outside the box when it comes to the norms within our culture as churches. As we redefine ourselves beyond Covid 19 and with the calling of a new Pastor and the retirement of Pastor Paul Koch (Thank you, Pastor Paul), as congregations, we again have the opportunity to push ourselves away from our comfort zones back to the church of our forebearers. And that is really a group effort. Our churches and ministries have a place for you and your unique gifts to flourish. If we want to be relevant churches of the future, we must pull together with all our blessings. I encourage you to come and see the many blessings we are and how we are better together. In the words of my

grandkids, “Come and See,” and if you’ve been sitting on the sidelines and waiting for a more opportune time, may I ask you, “If not now, when?” There is always a place at God’s Table for you to be strengthened and equipped to go out in our daily lives. What better time than now? It’s a time to celebrate the Resurrection and “new life.”

I/we look forward to seeing you as we collectively journey together.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastors John, Brenda, and Susan

**Rev. Brenda Henry Rev. Sue Devine**  
**Rev. John J. Gropp**

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Blessings to you all,

Your pastoral team



- April 2, 2022, Blessing of the Paschal Candles, St. Andrews, Carnegie, 11AM.
- April 3, 2022, Fellowship will reconvene in Eberle Hall after church. Signup sheet in Eberle Hall on

bulletin board. Ruth Latta will provide donuts this week.

- April 3, 2022, is the last day for you to turn in your order form for Easter Lilies, \$9.00, 4 blooms; Tulips, \$8.00, 6 blooms; Hyacinth's, \$8.00, 3 blooms.
- Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, 517 Sangree Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-486-4010, celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an ecumenical service of Holy Communion on April 3, 2022, 4PM. Bishop Abraham Allende will preside and the Rev. Lamont Wells will preach.
- April 4, 2022, 5PM, St. Paul's Easter cleaning preparations. All are welcome.
- April 6, 2022, Lent services, 7PM, zoom, Struggling with Jesus.
- St. Andrews Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, April 9, 2022, 2 – 4 PM with refreshments. All children are welcomed. Call 412-299-3615.
- There will be a Chrism Mass, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 328 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pittsburgh 15220, April 12, 2022, 10AM. The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and the SWPA Synod ELCA clergy are invited to vest (red/scarlet) and process. Register at Synod Web Site – must register to participate.
- April 16, 2022, 11AM – 1PM, Lutheran Church of Our Savior distributes their Blessed Bundles. All donations are appreciated.
- Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, and Good Friday, April 15, 2022, services will be held at **7:30 PM**, zoom. Maundy Thursday in person service is at Resurrection, Hanky Farms, 7PM, Pastor Brenda. Good Friday in person services will be at 12 noon, St. Andrews, Pastor Brenda and Resurrection, 7PM, Layperson Janet Craig.
- What's Next Meeting, April 16, 2022, 7PM, zoom. Please attend and bring your ideas. Everyone is welcomed and invited to attend.
- PLUM Worship Committee, April 20, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- What's Next Meeting, April 21, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- **Our Redeemer, 105 Gateshead Dr., McMurray, PA, will host the ordination of Katie McNeal, April 24 2022, 3PM. The color is red for those robing and there will be a reception. The ordination will be streamed on Facebook and**

### **UTube. Katie McNeal will go to St. John's Lutheran Home.**

- Generosity and Stewardship movies. 2<sup>nd</sup> Movie April 24, 2022, "Before the Flood" documentary – Stewarding Creation and Environment. 3<sup>rd</sup> Movie May 26, 2022, "It's a Wonderful Life" – Stewarding Financial Resources. All movies are at this Website, 7PM, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88176068825> . All are welcomed.
- PLUM Board, April 25, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- St. Paul's Council Meeting, April 26, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- Synod Open House, 1014 Perry Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, April 26, 2022, 2-4 PM.
- Synod Office building will be open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10AM to 2PM. Meetings with individuals will be by appointment only.
- April 30, 2022, 2PM, St. Paul's Quarterly Get-together.
- Praise God! Pastor Alexander Sumo is officially a PLUM pastor and all of the paperwork has been signed. Pastor Alexander Sumo will officially arrive on May 9, 2022 but his first service has not been decided. Each congregation is asked to plan a fellowship after his first visit with you. We anxiously await his arrival.
- Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 16 17, 18, 2022, zoom. St. Paul's needs 2 representatives. Notify Nancy Pollo if you are interesting in being a representative.
- A letter of appreciation has been received by the Synod office for the generous donations to the Madagascar appeal. The synod received nearly \$70,000 in contributions. Our synod sent \$10,000 to the Tulear Synod and \$5,000 to the Bezaha Seminary in 2021. The monies raised will all go to the Malagasy Lutheran Church over the next few years.





**WORSHIP SCHEDULE 11:15 A.M. -- St Paul's**

**April 3 – Pastor Brenda Henry  
April 10 – Layperson Bob Averell  
April 17 – Pastor Sue Devine  
April 24 – Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth**



**Eternal Candle**

**April – Scott & Lisa Cregut  
May – Ann Morrocco  
August – Karen & Logan Billingham  
October – Mike, Carol, Corey Ferens  
December – Ann Morrocco**

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle for one of the vacant months in 2022, please notify Ann Morrocco, [amorocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorocco1@verizon.net). Donation is \$25.00. Put your name on the envelope along with your check/money in the collection plate.



The monthly mission for the month of April for St. Paul's Lutheran Church is meals on wheels.



**Lectors**

**April 3           Mark Pollo  
April 10         Scott Cregut  
April 17         Corey Ferens  
April 24         Mike Ferens**

**Assistants**

**April 3 Logan Billingham  
April 10         Shawndel Kelley  
April 17         Carol Ferens  
April 24         Karen Billingham**

**Ushers**

**April 3 - Scott Latta  
April 10 – Scott Latta  
April 17 – Scott Latta  
April 24 – Scott Latta**

If you are interested in serving as an assistant/lector/usher, please sign the signup sheets next to the flower chart or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: [amorocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorocco1@verizon.net).



Will you please consider saving your prescription bottles? These bottles can help people in third world countries.





### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Emily Bell	April 6
Jennifer Porter	April 16
Jaxon Porter	April 20
Sydney Richmond	April 24
Rebecca Harvison	April 27



Will you please consider saving your pop can rings? Also, any other can that has a pop ring. These rings will help someone with cancer treatments.

Please remember all who suffer from disease, violence or distress, frontline health care workers; all who protect and serve our country and community; all who suffered the loss of a family member or friend; all PLUM churches and our PLUM pastors and staff; the congregation of St. Paul's and the Canonsburg community; especially ...Milt, Charlotte, Steve, Barbara, Lee, Logan, Karen, Dom, Jim, Donna, Kevin, the Richmond family, our Bishops, our Synod. **(Please notify Ann Morrocco, [amorocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorocco1@verizon.net), if anyone should be added or deleted from our prayer list).**

Protect and bless all of our young people, especially...Logan Billingham, Andrew Cowser, Gina Cowser, Eleanor Marie Cregut, Austin Filby, Joelle Filby, Clarke Johnson, Larry Ryan Johnson, Gregory McGrail, Lindsey Nimal, Josh Porter, Jaxon Porter, Jordyn Porter, Aaliyah Gilpin, Adalae Carmichael, Hazel Julia Mae Cregut.



