

2018 RADIO BROADCAST/FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR/COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

The sign-up charts for 2018 are located on the balcony bulletin board. Sign up now for those special dates. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored or volunteered for any of these special services for St. Paul. ***Please notify the office (324-3049) for any changes, additions, or cancellations.***

Radio Broadcast Open Dates: April 29; May 20; July 1, 8, 15, 29; September 16; November 4, 25; December 2, 9, 16, 24(\$120), 30. To sponsor a radio broadcast it is \$80.

Coffee Fellowship Open Dates: June 10, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; August 12, 19, 26; September 2, 9, 16, 23; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 25; December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Cookies and bars are optional. Please check the kitchen to make sure you have coffee and juice to serve. If you wish to be on the coffee fellowship volunteer list and serve on an open Sunday, call the church office.

Flowers On The Altar Open Dates: April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 13, 20; June 10, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2, 16, 23; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18, 25; December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

The Easter Sunrise offering goes to the Jr. / Sr. High Youth. If you use your Easter Sunrise offering envelope, your offering will go to the youth. If you use your Sunday weekly offering envelope, your offering will go to the general fund, unless otherwise designated.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **April 9** at 7:00 p.m. at Gladys Drenkow's home.

Bible Study/Hostess: Dorothy B.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on **March 11** at 9:00 a.m. - Little Dresses. (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on **March 25** at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Potluck Lunch)

BIBLE STUDY

Sack Lunch Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays, **April 3, 10, 17 & 24** at 12:00 p.m. in the church lounge.

Men's Early Risers meet at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, **April 4, 11, 18 & 25** at Cook's Café.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will meet on Sundays from **10:15-11:20 a.m.**, **April 8, 15, 22 & 29**. There is **NO Sunday School on April 1** due to Easter.

JAM

Will meet on Wednesday (1st - 5th grades), **April 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** with a meal being served.

St. Paul Website: www.stpaulsheldon.org Office: 712-324-3049 Parsonage: 712-324-0036

ST. PAUL YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Jr. High Youth: April 4, 11, 18 & 25 (**5:30-7:00 p.m.**) Youth Group Meet (Meal Served)
April 1 (**6:00 a.m.**) Youth/Parents Be At Church For Sunrise Service/Breakfast Prep
April 22 (**11:00 a.m.**) Youth/Parents Set Up For Supper And Auction
April 23 (**4:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth/Parents Help With Supper/Auction/Clean-Up

Sr. High Youth: April 1 (**6:00 a.m.**) Youth/Parents Be At Church For Sunrise Service/Breakfast Prep
April 4 (**7:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth/Parents And Pastor Night
April 11 & 25 (**7:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth Group Meet
April 18 (**8:00-9:00 p.m.**) Sheldon High School Youth Gathering At Living Water Community Church
April 22 (**11:00 a.m.**) Youth/Parents Set Up For Supper And Auction
April 23 (**4:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth/Parents Help With Supper/Auction/Clean-Up

Youth Worship Team: April 8, 15 & 22 (**4:00 p.m.**) Worship Team Meet

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Alvina Roberta Heyl

Transferred Out: Amber Klynsma, First Christian Reformed Church, Hospers, IA.

ST. PAUL YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Our annual youth mission trip this summer will happen July 23-30. We are heading to a suburb of Houston, Texas, to help with recovery from Hurricane Harvey. The trip is being put together by the Iowa NALC Mission District and will include groups from all over the state. We have a group of 7 youth and 3 adults from St. Paul Lutheran that are headed down to serve. Our biggest fundraiser for the youth ministry that happens every three years is our dinner and auction. This year we will be serving smoked pork loin sandwiches with all the fixins along with the auction on April 23. If you have a donation of goods or services that you would like us to auction off please contact Mark at the church office. One great way to connect with someone in the congregation and to help out the youth group, would be to donate a lesson for something that you like to do. It could be pie baking, digital photography, woodworking, knitting or any other skill that you'd like to share. Thank you for your support. –Mark Richards, Youth Director.

INNER CHURCH COMMUNICATION

Congregation members, please update the church office if you have changed phone numbers and now have a cell phone in lieu of a land line. The church would also like to have email addresses. One of the fundamental aspects of being the Church together is that we are able to communicate with each other. Our office staff frequently find that they are not able to reach members of the congregation because our telephone and contact information is outdated.

ST. PAUL WORK GROUPS

Every household of St. Pauls' members is assigned to a 'work group'. This is one of the ways we are the body of Christ for one another and for mission. These groups are called on by rotation: if group 5 covered the last funeral, group 6 is being called for the next, and so on. Group leaders call down their list of members to request kitchen help, and/or food donations. This is a ministry of support and care for families at funerals, and occasionally other church events. Every time we have a funeral we are serving family and friends of one of our members, often people who do not live here; and it is always greatly appreciated. **Please help us provide this fundamental ministry by allowing the office to share your contact information with the work-group chairperson.** Phone numbers and emails can be put on the *Opportunities To Serve* form and can be placed in the offering plate or turned into the Church office. You will not always be called for your group - depending on the need for workers/food because of the anticipated size of the funeral. Thank you for your cooperation in providing us this information.

WARTBURG WIND ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

Host Homes Needed. College students from Wartburg College will perform a concert on **April 20** at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon High School. St. Paul has been asked to help the need for host homes. These young adults would need an early meal on Friday, a place to clean up and sleep, and breakfast the next morning. Please consider this an exercise of Christian hospitality and provide a witness of our faith in Christ. We will have a sign-up in our church office and more information will be available in April.

ST. PAUL LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 25	9:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Service
March 29	4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Services
March 30	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
April 1	7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
April 1	7:45 a.m.	Easter Breakfast Following Service - Free Will Offering
April 1	9:00 a.m.	Easter Service - NO Sunday School Easter Sunday



From Pastor Craig...

- ✦ I will be facilitating an adult Sunday School class at the end of April. Watch the bulletin for more information after Easter.
- ✦ Starting this month, every 4th Wednesday we will have Wednesday WORSHIP with Holy Communion at Fieldcrest! We did this once before Lent and many have requested that we make it available regularly.
- ✦ Also, many of you do not connect with the church via social media, and I thought several posts we shared last month were worth passing along to you all in print. These quotations I have shared were, in various ways, part of Lent and the reflection and consideration to which the season invites us.

"Imitation is inseparable from love: it's the secret of my life. I've lost my heart to this Jesus of Nazareth, crucified 1900 years ago, and I have spent my life trying to imitate him as best as my weakness allows." Charles de Foucauld - French Catholic priest assassinated in 1916 while living amongst the Tuareg in Algeria.

"One of the great temptations of the spiritual life is to believe that if I were in another season of life, I could be more spiritual. The truth is spiritual transformation takes place as we embrace the challenges & opportunities associated with each season of life." - Ruth Haley Barton

"This kingdom of God life is not a matter of waking up each morning with a list of chores or an agenda to be tended to, left on our bedside table by the Holy Spirit for us while we slept. We wake up already immersed in a large story of creation and covenant, of Israel and Jesus, the story of Jesus and the stories that Jesus told. We let ourselves be formed by these formative stories, and especially as we listen to the stories that Jesus tells, get a feel for the way he does it, the way he talks, the way he treats people, the Jesus way." Eugene Peterson

Is the water in the coffee or the coffee in the water? Where does the water end and coffee begin? Both have made something new. "I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." (John 14:20) "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works." (John 14:10)

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23) "...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:17)

"I most certainly believe that it is the gift of God that I am what I am. And so I dwell amongst barbarians, a proselyte and an exile, for the love of God."

St Patrick - prayer warrior, preacher, teacher, discipler, a light in the darkness whose faithfulness to Jesus built a nation and saved civilization.

From Pastor Craig: Lois Tvberg is one of several scholars I follow who examine the Jewish roots of Christianity and the Jewish writings of Jesus' era to shed light on our scriptures. This post seemed timely for me to share, as it ends with a quote from John 17 (and we've been spending time on John in worship). But also because she addresses the importance of a communal understanding of worship, which I think is increasingly under-valued in USA churches and among American Christians. You can follow her at www.ourrabbijesus.com

Worshiping Alone Together?

In *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus* I talked about Christian individualism. Our tradition greatly emphasizes the idea of isolating ourselves in order to experience God's presence, whereas Judaism emphasizes community.

Many Jewish prayers speak to God as "we" rather than "I." Their daily morning prayers actually require a minyan, the presence of at least ten men, even to be prayed! To them, praying together isn't optional, it's a necessity. Jesus, too, framed prayer in plural terms, telling us to address God as "Our Father..."

But contemporary Christians especially like to focus on God and me. In the book I shared about a large Christian service I attended where that was the focus of every song:

"I love you Lord, and I lift my voice," ...
"Just as I am, without one plea," ...
"Here I am to worship, here I come to bow down..."

Hundreds of us were worshiping side by side, a sea of voices resounding together, and every one of us was pretending to be all alone! (*Walking*, page 57)

It's ironic that I experienced just the opposite culture clash at one of the first Hebraic services I attended many years ago. Everybody except me seemed to know the words to a lovely, rhythmic Hebrew tune, which we chanted over and over:

hi-nei mah tov u-mah na-yeem, shevet achim gam yachad
hi-nei mah tov u-mah na-yeem, shevet achim gam yachad

We clapped in time and occasionally broke into a chorus of "lai-lai-lai-lai-lai-lai-lai." Finally, we sang this mysterious line in English. Its words caught me by surprise:

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity."

Wow! I've never sung anything like this before, I thought. This was definitely not a song written by a Christian praise team. For a moment I even wondered if it was appropriate for a service. Where was God in these words?

Later I learned that Hinei Ma Tov is a traditional Jewish hymn that is quite biblical. It is a quote directly out of Psalm 133:

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (Psalm 133: 1, 3)

The point of this song is to rejoice in the community that God has provided for us. We are praising God for giving us to each other! And we are doing it by singing together. It's ironic what a polar opposite Hinei Ma Tov is to individualized Christian worship. There's no "God and me" anywhere!

In a very Jewish way, we were expressing our joy for something that Jesus prayed for. We were praising God for unity — the love of God in Christ that expresses itself between believers:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17: 20-21, 23)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Youth Ministry



Dinner and Live Auction

*Join us on Monday, April 23rd from 5-7:30 pm
at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheldon, IA.
for smoked pork loin sandwiches, baked beans,
drinks and dessert and a live auction.*

*A free will offering will be taken for dinner with all proceeds
going to our Youth Ministry. Dinner from 5-7, live auction
with a wide variety of donated goods and services at 7 pm.*