

April 2018
Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

The nation's attention has been gripped in recent times by school shootings and their aftermath. The school shooting in Florida is not the only shooting that our nation has seen, but it has caused a great deal of discussion. The student walkout and protest against gun violence that followed it has certainly generated additional reflection. Much of that conversation, appropriately so, has centered on how to prevent such senseless violence and tragedies from happening in the future. For us, as Christians, we know that God's Word has much to say in this regard.

First, we understand that all of this is the result of evil. We are not like the world around us that cannot understand the root cause of all of these things. We understand that all of this goes back to Adam and Eve disobeying God in the Garden of Eden and bringing sin into this world. As a result, Adam and Eve saw their son Cain commit the first murder when he killed his brother Abel.

But for us, we also understand that evil has been overcome. That is what we celebrate at Easter. As we go through Holy Week, we see the evil of sin as Jesus suffered and died on Good Friday to pay for our sin. Three days later Jesus overcame evil through His resurrection from the dead. He won the forgiveness of our sins and also gives us the assurance that through faith in Him we look forward to the day when we will be delivered from all of the evil of this world.

What about the evil that exists in the meantime as we live in this world? It does seem that our society has become more callous in recent times. We see that in the way that people talk to one another and treat one another. Many people also remember back to the day when schools weren't locked and you never heard about school shootings. There are those who believe that you can make society safer by taking away guns or passing stronger laws.

We understand that what really needs to happen to change things in our world is to change people's hearts. We realize that no amount of legislation can change a person's heart. We understand that the only thing that can ultimately change a person is the Gospel. It is only the Holy Spirit who can change a person's heart. It is when a person has received the forgiveness of sins that Jesus won through His death and resurrection that they are truly changed.

Sadly, our world today has less tolerance for the message of the church. Why are we surprised that our society has become more callous when our society has become less tolerant of the message of the Savior? How often do we hear in our country about a teacher being reprimanded or fired for inadvertently giving witness to their faith in Christ? We read stories about prayer being ridiculed and those who offer prayers following tragedies being belittled. When so many people in our world reject the very thing that can change people's hearts, why are we surprised when our society becomes more calloused and violent?

The church has the one thing that can change people's hearts and help our world: the good news of Christ's death and resurrection. The message of Easter is all about hope. It is all about giving hope to people who live in an evil world. We know that the message of Jesus can change the most hardened of individuals. We stand up in a world that is filled with evil and proclaim the message of Christ's resurrection. We know that the Holy Spirit will work through that message.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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Mission Statement

*"Proclaiming
the saving
grace of
Jesus Christ
to all."*

Sermon Texts and Titles

Easter Sunday: Easter falls on April 1 this year. April 1 is also known by many in our world as April Fools' Day. Our text on this day is Mark 16:1-8. We see how there were those on that first Easter that Jesus' resurrection wasn't real, that it was just a prank. Well, we see that Jesus' resurrection is no joke. Jesus has truly risen and overcome death itself for us. The fool is the one who looks to something besides Jesus' resurrection for the hope of life everlasting.

Easter Sermon Series-The Resurrection Effect: During the Sundays of Easter, we will have a three week series on the readings from Acts. Each week will look at what effect Jesus' resurrection had on the earliest Christians and the effect that message has on us.

Easter 2, April 5 & 8: The text for the sermon is Acts 4:32-35. The title of the sermon is "The Resurrection Effect: Community." We see how the good news of Jesus' resurrection created a sense of community among the early believers. Their faith in Jesus Christ united them to their fellow believers. This week we will look at how the good news of Jesus' resurrection still impacts our sense of community in the church today.

Easter 3, April 12 & 15: The text for the sermon is Acts 3:11-21. The title of the sermon is "The Resurrection Effect: Witness." We continue to look at how the message of Jesus' resurrection impacted the earliest Christians. We see that the earliest Christians were moved to give witness to their faith in Jesus. They told people that Jesus had risen and the hope that they had. Jesus' resurrection also moves us to witness.

Easter 4, April 19 & 22: The text for the sermon is Acts 4:1-12. The title of the sermon is "The Resurrection Effect: Courage." We see that Jesus' resurrection filled the earliest Christians with courage. Knowing that Jesus had risen from the dead gave them the courage to face death itself. It also gave them courage to live their lives. Jesus' resurrection gives us courage in our lives as well.

Easter 5, April 26 & 29: The text for the sermon this week is John 15:1-8. The title of the sermon is "Juice It Up!" In this reading, Jesus gives us one of His "I am" statements. He tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. We look at what it means for our relationship to Him to know that He is the vine and that we are the branches. We learn of all of the blessings that come from knowing that we are connected to Jesus who is the vine who supplies us with all that we need to be strong living branches.



St. Paul Lutheran School News

Excellence in Christ-centered education for now and for eternity

He is risen! He is risen indeed! We will celebrate our Lord's resurrection from the dead on April 1. During the Wednesday morning chapel services, we have been learning about the Lord's Prayer. The students have had the opportunity to grow in their understanding of what we are praying for when we pray the Lord's Prayer. During the Easter Season, we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. We rejoice in knowing that because Jesus has risen from the dead that we too shall rise.

Voucher Program: There is still time to apply to the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). The deadline to apply is April 20. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to attend St. Paul Lutheran School for free. The income qualifications have been raised for this year. This means that more families will qualify for this program. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or need more information.

4K: There are still a few spots left in the 4k program. St. Paul offers a full day program five days a week with morning and afternoon busing. St. Paul Lutheran School is a wonderful place for children to flourish intellectually and spiritually.

Pizza and Cookie Dough Fundraiser: The school is once again doing the pizza and cookie dough fundraiser. The event was already kicked off and will end on April 4. If you haven't been contacted by a student and wish to place an order, you can contact the school office. This has been a very successful fundraiser for our school in the past.

St. Paul Drama Department Presents



COME CHECK OUT THE SHOW!

April 13th @ 9:30 - Final Dress Rehearsal (no ticket required)

April 13th @ 7:00 (no ticket required)

April 14th - Dinner Theater Show; Dinner @ 6:00 / Show @ 7:00 (ticket IS required)

When the kids gather at the park near the church for a Saturday of baseball, they are in for a surprising glimpse of the Bible's "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. They'll meet Moses ("he got his start in the bush leagues"), Noah ("that guy can really swing the lumber"), Abraham ("with his son Isaac at the plate, it looks like the manager is calling for a sacrifice..."), and many more. With shades of the iconic "Casey at the bat" it all leads to "Jesus at the Cross", and the Good News of the Gospel is driven home with power!

4K: Can you just feel it? The sun is getting warmer, days are brighter later, and it seems that everything and everyone is starting to spring back to life! There is something wonderful about spring and this time of year in just life in general and in the classroom. With Easter on the horizon and the celebration of our resurrected Savior upon us there is a joy that is always there but seems to just grow as we get closer. One of my favorite parts of this time of year is the musical. There is nothing that makes a teacher smile more than seeing their class sing about Jesus and have fun doing it! What a wonderful opportunity for them to share the message of salvation and hope with others! In class, we have been working hard in reading and phonics and we are almost done with our alphabet! That is another joy of spring - seeing just how much my class has grown! It wasn't that long ago many came in not able to spell or write their name without help - and now they are reading! We have had fun learning about the Rain Forest and we will be moving to a new habitat this coming month. We have had a great month and we are looking forward to new adventures in April!

5K: It has been a busy month in 5K. We finished up Bible stories of Jesus miracles and healings, to preparing our Lenten hearts with the passion story in preparation to Easter. We are finishing up our math, so we are starting with 1st grade math facts that will be needed for next year. The class is on target with their reading and are striving to improve their reading levels. We have spent time getting ready for our big performances of "In The Big Inning", our school musical. If you are able to one of our shows, you will be able to see Moses playing Baseball!! We hope that you will be able to make it to a show!

1st and 2nd Grade: He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed Alleluia! What a joy it is to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! In the last couple weeks leading up to Easter our class has been creating a set of Resurrection Eggs to help us tell the story. Each egg contains a small item that reminds of us a different event that happened during Holy Week. Besides Easter, we have spent a lot of time preparing for our upcoming musical "In the Big Inning"! It is going to be such a great show and we can't wait to share the message and the music with you all. In Social Studies our class has been learning about our country's history. They have really taken an interest in the Revolutionary War and the events that took place at that time. It is so exciting to see them so eager to learn. We are also working on writing and informational paragraph about an interesting animal. We learned how to take notes and then create sentences from them. I can't wait to read all of their finished projects! God's blessings in this Spring season!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of March has gone by really fast. All of the students have been working hard. The 3rd-8th graders enjoyed bowling. They tried to improve their scores every week. They even learned how to score bowling! And the whole school has been working diligently on the musical! The students are learning lines, songs, and actions. Everything is looking great! We are excited for the performances in April! We also enjoyed a few days off for spring break. As we celebrate this Lenten season, let us keep our eyes focused on Jesus and all He has done for us!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Greetings from the 6th, 7th and, 8th Grade classroom. It may still feel like winter out there, but spring has sprung in the upper grades. At the moment, outside of our normal routine of classes our classroom is abuzz with preparations for the upcoming musical, entitles "The Big Inning." This baseball themed musical (which this Cubs fan is loving right now) has sparked many of our kids interest and there is a lot of excitement learning lines, songs, and actions as we look forward to sharing this amazing message with all of you next month. We have also been switching things up in gym class, trading the typical basketball or volleyball for something long thought of pursuing in this class: bowling. The students are learning how to better think through bowling process, including hand scoring their games without any electronic assistance. It has been great seeing the kids excited to come to class every day eager to work together and join in a game in which anyone can participate. This is just a snapshot of all that's going on in our classroom and while we only have a couple of months remaining in the school year, we look forward to sharing more wonderful memories soon enough. Until then, may you all have a blessed Lententide and a very happy Easter!

Stewardship News & Views

We are all blessed by God with certain gifts: talents, money, family and friends, free time, and so on. You may not have every gift, but you have some. For example, the simple gift of encouraging others might be as precious in God's eyes.

As we reflect on Easter, remember the words of John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

As Christ now lives, so do we. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God: all this comes from our Risen Lord's grace. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.”

In Christ,

Cindy Doell, Linda Dahlke, Patricia Brand



Handbell Fundraiser:

St. Paul is looking to start a handbell choir to enhance our worship, offer more musical opportunities to the school, and have greater outreach into our community. Our goal is to use these bells to create a mixed-age choir to provide a new musical dynamic for church services and community events, as well as a greater connection to music among our students right here in the school.

We are looking to purchase a three octave set of bells (37 individual bells), tables, tabletop foam, gloves, music, and other necessary accessories by the end of the year. The total cost would be around \$14,000 for the lot. We are prayerfully hoping that you would consider supporting our music program through your prayers and financial gifts either through the purchase of a single bell or general contribution. A secure online donation site has been created on youcaring.com/stpaulluxhandbells or if you would prefer, you may make out your church offering or separate donation directly to the St. Paul Handbell Ministry. If you have any questions or would like more information about this ministry opportunity please contact Tim Eigenfeld. God's blessings to you all.



Orphan Grain Train (OGT) Needs Our Help!

I did some mission work in July of 2016 for the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) located in Nebraska. OGT is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 64 different countries including the USA.

In the recent newsletter that I received from OGT they are asking for our help! OGT has depleted its inventory of hygiene kits, school kits, and back packs. The requests and need for these items are great within the US and worldwide. Some of the help they provided was for hurricane Harvey which hit Texas on August 25, hurricane Irma which swept over Florida on September 10, and hurricane Maria which devastated Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017.

I am asking for your help to collect the necessary items to assemble the needed hygiene kits and school kits.

Here is a list of items that are needed for a Hygiene Kit:

- ❖ 1 bath towel
- ❖ 1 wash cloth
- ❖ 1 bath-size bar of soap
- ❖ 1 adult-size toothbrush
- ❖ 1 sturdy comb

Please Note: Dark colors are recommended for towels and washcloths. All content items must be new and can be any brand.

Here is a list of items that are needed for a School Kit:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Backpack | ❖ Glue sticks |
| ❖ 2-3 spiral notebooks – any size | ❖ Blunt scissors |
| ❖ 2 or more pencils | ❖ Washable markers |
| ❖ 2 or more pens | ❖ Protractor |
| ❖ Pkg. of construction paper | ❖ Crayons |
| ❖ Ruler | |

You can donate one of each of the items, or just one item, or several of one item or you can donate money. The money donated will be used to purchase any items needed to complete the kits or given to OGT to pay for shipping of the kits to those in need. Whatever you can donate is appreciated. Please place your donated items in the container and cash in the box both labeled Orphan Grain Train and both located in the narthex. **Items and/or cash will be collected through Sunday, April 29.**

This is a great way to help children and families less fortunate. Thank-you, in advance, for helping OGT so they can help those in need. I would like to thank all donors for helping those in need to whom we can show the love of Christ by sharing material blessings.

In His Service,
Susan Kratz



Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild will be held on Wednesday, April 4 at 1pm in the church meeting room. e
Our skit will be Lessons From the Flowers. All ladies are welcome.

We will be having a rummage sale again this year sometime in the first week in August. Please
start saving items for the sale! More information later.

Our next Bethesda Volunteer day is April 12, 2018 at 9:00am. Next 50% off sale is April 27 & 28th.

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Lakeshore Lutherans for Life Thank You

Lakeshore Lutherans for Life would, again, like to thank all of those who participated in the Life Sunday
observance. The funds raised have allowed us to make donations to the following organizations: Lutherans for
Life of Wisconsin, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services, National Lutherans for Life, A Place of Refuge
Ministries, Focus on the Family and Eyewitness for Life. The maternity clothes and the baby clothes that were
collected were donated to local maternity support groups in Green Bay and Manitowoc.

Please Join Us at Our Next Lutherans for Life Meeting!

**St. Paul's Church and School- Luxemburg
Monday, April 16th at 6:30PM**

For Questions Contact Nola Duescher (920) 845-2196, Dianne Zeitler (920) 845-2840 or
Brittney Duescher (920) 493-3782

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YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

February 23rd-24th, 2018: We held our first Lock-in and it went off without a hitch. We had a total of 20 youth attend this
event. We had a Nerf gun battle along with some karaoke and music for the entertainment. We held a Bible Study on
bullying and had a great discussion on how we can better ourselves through Christ to show the love of Christ to others
when they might need it the most. The youth also had a chance to play some games like Sock-Hockey, Dodgeball,
Kickball, and others. A great time was had by all who attended, and we hope to see more next year!

March 16th, 2018: The youth went roller skating, some with their families, on this day. Lots of falls but great times had by
those who showed up. Good food, great times, and better memories were had at this event, we hope to have more fun
times and great memories at our next event.

April 20th, 2018: We are planning another Bowling event on this day. It will be held after school from 5-7pm at The
Rendezvous. We will be getting Four lanes and it will be \$8 per person which will include Pizza, Soda, and Bowling. For
those who need a driver we will meet at church/school at 4:30pm to leave by 4:50pm to arrive at the Rendezvous by 5pm
and at 7pm parents can come pick their child up at Rendezvous. Please when picking up your child talk to John Ketterer
so he knows that can keep track of who has been picked up and who has not, for your child's safety. If they will be going
home with another family, please put that information on the permission slip. If you have any questions or concerns
please Contact John Ketterer: email jketterer@stpaullux.org or 920-845-2095.



Holy Humor

At the pearly gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and congressman and gave them their room assignments.

“Pastor, here are the keys to one of our nicest efficiency units. And for you, Mr. Congressman, the keys to our finest penthouse suite.”

“This is unfair!” cried the minister.

“Listen,” St. Peter said, “ministers are a dime a dozen up here, but this is the first congressman we’ve ever seen.”

Faculty/Staff Contact

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3rd, 4th & 5th Grade: Laura McClellan: lmcclellan@stpaullux.org

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: Tim Eigenfeld: teigenfeld@stpaullux.org

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Sunday School Choir

DVD's are available of the church service. Call the church office at 920-845-2095 and one of our volunteers will deliver it to you.

Need a ride to church? Please notify the church office for a ride to and from church services.

Newsletter Deadline: the 21st of the month.

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