

March 2016
Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“He has risen; He is not here.” Mark 16:6

We recall how on the first Easter the women went out to the tomb early in the morning. They had seen Jesus suffer and die, and His body laid in the tomb. Because it was the Sabbath (the Jewish day of rest), Jesus was buried in haste. The women went out as soon as they could to finish the burial rituals. When they arrived at the grave, they did not find Jesus. The angel told them, “He has risen; He is not here.” With those words, everything changed for them.

They had seen Jesus die on Good Friday. They had seen how Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself and suffered in the place of all sinners, including each one of us. They had seen how the darkness came over the land from noon to three as Jesus took the very pain of hell into Himself. They were filled with grief and pain in their lives. They still did not understand that all of these things must happen to Jesus that He might save sinners. They went out to the grave on that first Easter expecting to find nothing but darkness and death. Everything was turned upside down for them when they heard these words, “He has risen; He is not here.”

Those words meant life and salvation for them. Those words meant that God the Father had accepted the payment for their sins. Those words meant that death itself had been overcome for them. They now knew that if death could not hold Jesus it could not hold them. They had the assurance that because Jesus had risen that they too would rise. They now had the assurance of life everlasting.

On the last Sunday of this month, we will celebrate our Lord’s resurrection from the dead. We will hear those words once again, “He has risen; He is not here.” During Holy Week, we will follow our Lord once again as He accomplishes our salvation. We will gather with Jesus in the upper room on Maundy Thursday as He celebrates the Passover Meal with His disciples. As Jesus recalls how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt, He would give the meal of all meals. He would institute the Sacrament of Holy Communion that by eating and drinking we might be delivered from death. As Jesus leaves the upper room, He goes to the Garden of Gethsemane where He is betrayed by Jesus and arrested. Jesus will then be tried and sentenced to die on the cross. We will focus on our Lord’s death on Good Friday and leave the church in darkness and silence. It is a very somber time in which we see the cost of our sin and the depth of our Lord’s love.

On Easter Sunday, we gather together and hear the message that “He has risen; He is not here.” We will celebrate the good news that Jesus has risen and overcome death for us giving us the assurance that we too shall rise. Jesus’ resurrection gives us the assurance that through faith in Him we will overcome death. “He has risen; He is not here.” With those words, everything changes for us.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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Mission Statement

The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran is to strengthen and support our members in their Christian faith through God’s Word, the Sacraments, education, prayer and fellowship; thereby preparing them to be witnesses of the Gospel in our community and the world, so that all who believe shall receive the gift of eternal life.

March Sermon Texts and Themes

March 6: During the Fourth Sunday in Lent, we will focus on the story of the Prodigal Son. This account in Luke 15 tells us a great deal about the Father's love for His children. We often focus on the younger son who wandered from the Father's home and returned. We don't often focus on the elder brother, but we will on this Sunday. As we look at this story, we see the Father's love for all sinners.

March 13: Our Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is known as the Parable of the Tenants. Luke 20:9-20 shows how a man plants a vineyard and rents it to some tenants. The problem is the tenants don't want to be tenants. They want to be owners. This has been the problem for the human race going all the way back to the Garden of Eden. God has made us tenants in His vineyard today. Do we produce the fruits of repentance in our lives?

March 20: Everyone loves a parade! On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem with the crowds shouting, "Hosanna in the highest." We see in our Gospel reading for this day, John 12:12-19, the people greeted Jesus with great joy as they waved palm branches. Sadly, many people had no idea what Jesus was coming to accomplish as they shouted "Hosanna!" They had their ideas about what Jesus should do for them and give them. But Jesus had come to deliver people from sin and death. Some would feel that Jesus was a disappointment and would shout "Crucify Him!" just a short time later. Do we ever end up feeling that Jesus is a disappointment? Jesus comes to us on Palm Sunday and focuses on the salvation that He had come to bring.

Maundy Thursday: Jesus would gather His disciples in the upper room as He celebrated His last Passover Meal. This meal remembered how God had delivered His people from the land of slavery in Egypt. It was while celebrating this meal that Jesus would give His church the meal of meals. He would institute the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We gather together on Maundy Thursday to receive that meal of meals once again.

Good Friday: The color on Good Friday is black. We focus on Jesus' suffering and death. We hear the last of Jesus' words from the cross, "It is finished!" Jesus' suffering for our sins was complete. We leave the church in darkness and silence.

Easter: "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" From ancient times, Christians have greeted one another on Easter by saying "He is risen!" and responding by saying, "He is risen indeed!" The color of this day is white as we celebrate our Lord's victory over sin and death on our behalf.



St. Paul Lutheran School News

"Excellence in Christ-Centered Education"

Registration for the 2016-2017 School Year: Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open. Please spread the word about our school. Any questions about our school can be directed to the school office or Pastor Olson.

4K Enrollment for 2016-2017: There are only a few spots still available in our 4k program for the 2016-2017 school year. This is a full day 5 day a week program with morning and afternoon busing.

Voucher Program: St. Paul Lutheran School is a participant in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This means that a family that meets the requirements for this program would be able to enroll their child at St. Paul Lutheran School for free. This state program covers all the costs of education. You can go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs> to learn more. You can also contact Pastor Olson if you have any questions.

St. Paul's Drama Department Presents: Happily Forever After

"Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Mark 10:14

Knights! Castles! Princesses! Dragons! Join Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek in a faraway land.

When the Carpenter from another kingdom brings the troubling news that their castle (built far away from the King), is actually built on sand and will not withstand the coming storm, they hesitantly choose to follow him as he promised to show them this "better Kingdom", and assures them he'll take them, "all the way, and will never leave them."

Encountering troubles, temptations, and some very funny characters along the way, ultimately their narrow road to "The Shining Kingdom" seems hopelessly blocked by the Dragon Doom. But the seemingly-simple Carpenter steps forward to fight the dragon on their behalf, and vows that "even if you hear that I have died slaying the dragon, don't fear - my Father has promised I'll be victorious, and see you safely home." There will be a Friday night performance on April 8 at 7:30 pm and a dinner show on April 9 at 6:00 pm (please purchase tickets for the dinner show in advance).

Pizza and Cookie Dough Fundraiser: Our pizza and cookie dough fundraiser will kickoff on April 1. This is one of our two fundraisers that we do every year. Please watch for information.

Spring Break: School will not be in session from March 23-March 28. This schedule will give families the opportunity to attend all of the special Holy Week services. We will also have Easter Monday off so as to not take away from the Easter celebration.



4K: It has been a busy month of learning in 4K! We have explored more letters, had fun reading silly books, and have enjoyed many hands-on activities and games to learn our sight words! In math, we have been enjoying learning the coins and their values and have put our skills to the test by shopping at our “Student Store”. In science we finished our unit in learning about the amazing ways God takes care of our world with the weather. We explored the beauty of the seasons God designed and learned how God continues to bless us through the weather. In Bible this month we explored the many ways God loves and takes care of us – through providing for our daily needs, healing our physical needs, and forgiving us of all of our sins ! We also learned how we can show God’s love to others by the way we live out each day in caring for those around us! Finally, we have had lots of fun in our “Passport to the World” program as we journeyed to Australia, and met cool creature like Kangaroos and tasted traditional foods from that area. From Australia we ventured off to Brazil and learned about the many amazing things to see and explore there! It has been a fun-filled month of learning in 4K – always an adventure!

5K: February is a short month but we pack alot of activity into that month!! We celebrated Groundhog Day with mixed weather predictions. We celebrated the 100th day of school with counting fruit loops, making hats and glasses, eating a group snack, and playing 100 seconds to win it games!! The 5K got a chance to visit First Grade and the 4K came to preview 5K for a morning, everyone had a great time! I am hoping that many of those children will be coming back for 5K in the Fall. This month our Bible stories were about Jesus' miracles, it is amazing what God can do. We have been counting by fives and tens in math. We are adding many sight words every week and learning about nouns and verbs. We celebrated Ash Wednesday and are thinking about our sins and the suffering that Jesus endured during this Lenten season. We are looking forward to the excitement of Jesus resurrection very soon.

1st and 2nd grade: Our 1st and 2nd Grade classroom had another eventful month. We celebrated the 100th day of school on February 9th! We had fun 100 second to win it relays, shared a 100th day snack and had a food drive. There was a contest to see which class could be the first to collect 100 items! We were one of the winning classrooms! Our room collected over 150 items! Great job 1st and 2nd Grade! We also had a Preview Day where the 5K students got to visit our room and be 1st Graders for the day. What a fun day. We can't wait to have them join our class next year. We also celebrated Valentine's Day with a classroom party filled with games, treats, and lots of candy! The musical has also gotten under way in the last couple weeks. We have already begun learning songs and dances. It will be so exciting to put on a show for all of you! We have also been learning a lot this month including about the miracles Jesus performed, all about natural resources and even beginning cursive in handwriting!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of February has been very busy. The students have begun working on the musical, Happily Forever After. They are working hard to learn the words for all of the songs. We celebrated Valentine’s Day and focused on God’s love for us. We were excited to go to the Weidner Center for a field trip. We learned about the science behind magic. Most of all during this time of Lent, we look to the cross to see how much God loved us. His love was so great that He sent Jesus to pay the price for all our sins.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade This month the students were excited to find out their parts for the musical. They have started learning the songs and lines and are preparing for a great show! The 7th and 8th graders are reading the book, *The Giver*. This is a science fiction book, which allows us to discuss the gift of being different and the beauty of God’s creation. The 6th graders are studying the plant kingdom in Science and learning about all the ways plants are used and classified. Another highlight in our room has been Art class and working with clay. Though it is a little messy, the students have loved working with the clay and figuring out what to make. Some made animals and others made cute bowls and designs.

Christian Service Guild News:

The monthly meeting of the Christian Service Guild will be held Wednesday, March 2nd at 1pm in the church meeting room. Our devotion is entitled "Compassion in our Daily Life". The message in our devotion will be reflected in our "Mission Servants Project". Please join us for an afternoon of God's Word and fellowship with our Sisters in Christ.

Bake Sale: We are grateful for all who donated bakery and to those who attended our February Super Bowl Bake Sale. Thank you!

Mark your calendars: Our 6th Annual Rummage Sale is set for August 6th and 7th, 2016. It is not too early to start saving no longer used or needed items for the sale. More information to follow.

Stewardship News & Views

The door to a house has a dual purpose. When closed, the door keeps unwanted things outdoors, denying entrance. When unlatched and open, this same door allows things of our choosing to enter and come inside. The greatest friend we could ever have stands at the door of our heart, anxiously waiting for us to unbolt that door and welcome Him inside.

Christ can change our lives from defeat into victory. It has happened to countless souls through many centuries, and it can happen to us. God's friendship is eternal, at it there for the asking.

During Lenten season we are reminded of what our Lord and Savior suffered through as He completed His mission, which ultimately gave us the greatest gift ever given or received, the gift of forgiveness for our sins and the promise of eternal life with Him in Heaven.

What can we, as His children and His stewards, do during these weeks proceeding Easter, to best serve Him and help share His word and spread the "good news"?

Yours in Christ,
Sue Heim, Don Mullen, Cindy Doell





Thank You!

In the February Newsletter there was an article thanking all of the people that helped to decorate the Lord's house, inside and outside, for the Christmas season as well as take down and pack the Christmas things away. Inadvertently in that article thanks were forgotten for the following who donated the following items to make beautifying our church for Christmas possible:

- Brad and Jill Dahlke and Mike and Kathy Calewarts, Calewarts Tree Farm, for the two large Christmas trees next to the altar.
- Roger and Candy Krohn for the two wreaths outside on the front of church given in memory of their daughter, Tiffany Krohn.
- Arlie Doell for the two Christmas trees from his property decorated with apples and white roses used for the Christmas Eve sermon theme.
- Jim and Sue Kratz for the four faux wreaths inside of church.
- Arlie and Jean Doell and Jim and Sue Kratz for the additional decorations used on the wreaths.

**These donations made it possible to beautify the Lord's house for the Christmas season!
Many thanks for the donations!**

Happy Easter!

Join us for

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 27 between

8:00am and 9:15am

St. Paul Fellowship Hall

Free Will Offering

Sponsored by the St. Paul Sunday School



Holy Humor

The pastor's family was invited Easter dinner at the Olson's home. Mrs. Olson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Peter, wait until we say grace,' insisted his embarrassed father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Peter,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Peter explained, 'but this is Mrs. Olson's house, and she knows how to cook.'

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

Pastor & Principal: Rev. Dr. Daniel Olson: pastorolson@stpaullux.org

4K Teacher: Beth Cheslock: bcheslock@stpaullux.org

5K Teacher: Sherry Byrne: sbyrne@stpaullux.org

1st & 2nd Grade: Heidi Pahnke: hpahnke@stpaullux.org

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

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: Sarah Ludwig: sludwig@stpaullux.org

Secretary: Jenny Tenor: jtenor@stpaullux.org

Newsletter: Angie Peterson: apeterson0727@yahoo.com

Funerals: Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137

Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048

Prayer Chain: Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048



Tubing

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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