



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.” Psalm 51:1

During the month of March, we continue our Lenten journey. We recall that the season of Lent lasts for 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday, excluding Sundays. The Sundays are in Lent but not of it. Sunday is its own special observation. But what are we to be doing during these 40 days? What are we to be about? “It is a time for the discipline of learning and growing in the faith, for repentance and for prayer, even for fasting to practice self-control and to heighten one’s awareness of Christ.” (Lutheran Worship History and Practice, 166)

Lent has traditionally been a time of special focus for Christians leading up to their Easter celebration. I recall very well when I was a kid during the Lenten Season. My mother would always pick me and my siblings up right after school and immediately take us to church. We knew that this was a part of our Lenten observance. We were given the opportunity to hear a special sermon series during the Lenten midweek services that would lead to a deeper understanding of God’s Word. Things were different when we went to church during Lent. The color was purple. Certain parts of the liturgy weren’t sung. It was evident that there was something special going on at that time of the year. I also noticed that there were people in the community from other churches that gave up certain things during the Lenten Season. Weddings were not conducted during the Lenten Season. Occasions that were considered to be joyous celebrations were refrained from. In other words, there was no partying during Lent. It was a time of serious reflection. There was an awareness that it was a time for repentance. It was a time to focus on the seriousness of our sin and the cost that it had to our Savior.

It seems that many of those Lenten observations have been lost in our society today, and even in the church to some extent. This is about more than a loss of Lenten customs. The loss of Lenten customs is only a sign of the fact that we at times lose sight of the essence of Lent: repentance. For most Christians today, the Lenten Season is no different than any other time of the year. Why is that? We need to be honest with ourselves on this. The truth is that our lives do not always revolve around the life of Christ. Our lives often times tend to revolve around our everyday activities that we consider to be most essential. We see our faith, and the life of Jesus, to be something that we add on to our lives if we have room left over. Well, you see that’s what Lent is all about. It is a time for serious spiritual reflection. It is a time for us to evaluate our priorities and to reset them. It is a time for us to focus in a special way on all that Jesus has given up for us. It is a time for us to confess our sins that we might receive forgiveness and spiritual refreshment. In short, it is a time for repentance.

People at times see Lent as being a time when you have to give something up. They see Lent as a burden. We see Lent as a time when we give up our sinful ways. Lent is a time for us to receive the forgiveness that Jesus has won for us. It is a time for us to reset our priorities. It is a time for us to have an extra opportunity to hear God’s Word and be deepened in our faith. It is a time for us to look forward to celebrating our Lord’s death and resurrection on our behalf.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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Mission Statement

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

Sermon Texts and Titles

Midweek Services: The Thursday evening services are different from our Sunday morning services. The Wednesday morning chapel services and Thursday evening services serve as our Lenten midweek services. During these services, we continue our sermon series titled “Lord Teach Us to Pray.” We will continue our study of the Lord’s Prayer during these services. We pray the Lord’s Prayer all of the time. These services provide you with the opportunity to grow in your understanding of what the Lord’s Prayer means.

March 3: The text for the sermon on the 3rd Sunday in Lent is John 2:13-22. The title of the sermon is “Staying Focused on God’s Business.” This is the account of Jesus cleansing the temple. We see that temple in Jesus’ time was a very busy place. The problem is that it was busy with the wrong things. Jesus comes in and refocuses the church’s attention. Jesus comes and focuses our attention on the business that the church is to be about.

March 11: On the fourth Sunday in Lent, the sermon will focus on our Gospel reading from John 3:14-15. It is in this passage that Jesus talks about an Old Testament event. He talks about the snakes coming into the camp of the Children of Israel. We recall how the people complained against God, and God sent snakes among them. The snakes bit the people and many died. Moses lifted up a bronze serpent on stick. The people were saved by looking up. How often do we complain against God? Jesus was lifted up on the cross for our sins. We are saved by looking up to Jesus.

March 18: Our text for the 5th Sunday of Lent is from Mark 10:34-45. We see that some of Jesus’ disciples come to Him with a simple request. They want to share in Jesus’ glory. These disciples have their ideas about what glory should look like. Our world today has its ideas about what glory should look like. Like the disciples, we often want glory in our lives, but we have the wrong ideas about what glory really is. Jesus tells His disciples, and us, that we will share in His glory. However, Jesus tells us what real glory is. Jesus tells us that He came into the world to serve. He came that He might serve us by giving up His life on the cross for our sins.

March 25: We observe Palm Sunday on this day. Our processional Gospel for this day is from Mark 11:1-11. The title of the sermon is “Prepare the Way of the Lord!” Palm Sunday is all about getting ready for Easter. Jesus’ disciples had their ideas about what it meant to prepare the way of the Lord. However, we see that their ideas about preparing the way of the Lord are wrong. They end up serving the Lord in very simple ways. We are often called upon to serve the Lord in very simple ways as well.

Maundy Thursday: We will observe our Lord gathering with His disciples in the upper room and instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Good Friday: We gather together to observe our Lord’s suffering and death on the cross for our sins. It is on Good Friday that we see the cost of our sin. We leave the church silently and in darkness as we reflect on the cost of our sins upon our Savior.



St. Paul Lutheran School News

Excellence in Christ-centered education for now and for eternity

Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year: Registration for the 2017-2018 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 2018-2019: There are still a few spots available in our 4k program for the 2018-2019 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 the cost of education. It should also be noted that the income allowed for this year has been substantially increased. This will allow more families to be able to participate in this program. You can to St. Paul's website and find the link for this program there to learn more. You can also contact the school office if you have any questions.

Pizza and Cookie Dough Fundraiser: Our pizza and cookie dough fundraiser will kick off March 23. This is one our two fundraisers that we do every year. Please watch for information. You may contact any St. Paul student if you want to support this fundraiser or contact the school office.

Spring Break: School will not be in session March 2-March 6.

Easter Break Change: School will not be in session March 29-March 30. We will be in session on April 2 due to the snow day.

St. Paul Drama Department Presents:

In the Big Inning

April 13th and 14th

April 13th at 9:30 Dress Rehearsal (no ticket required)

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

April 14th - Dinner Theater show; Dinner at 6:00, Show at 7:00 (ticket 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: Did you hear that? Well if you walk by my classroom you will most likely hear the sounds of monkeys, or a jaguar, or maybe even the sounds of some tropical birds as we are deep in the Rain Forest! We have had lots of fun this month making fun projects, reading great stories, and doing all kinds of activities centered on this theme! We have also been busy traveling to different countries, learning our letters, working hard in math telling time, counting coins, and playing number games! It is hard to believe we are past our 100th day milestone leaving less than half a year left till we reach summer and my ten little friends move on to Kindergarten. As their teacher it is so fun to see how much they have grown and how much they have learned! As we move into the last part of this year we will be finishing our alphabet, cruising through our math concepts, and finishing up our last lessons on the various subjects. Most of all we will be continuing to learn about just how much Jesus loves us and how we respond to that love with our words and our actions. The adventure in 4K continues with lots more fun in learning to come!

5K: 5K- February was a month packed full of learning and fun. We started the month off with watching the Groundhog to predict our weather.....we were disappointed. We then had a lot of fun celebrating the 100th day of school. We counted to 100 so many times. We collected food for the Kewaunee County Food Pantry. The class got to "step up" to 1st grade for a morning to see how fun that will be next year. The class had a fantastic Valentine's party! The parents all pitched in to make it a great party. We started working on the school's spring musical, it is called "The Big Inning" We also started the Lenten season with special Lenten morning services at 8:30. We really see how much God loved us, He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins.

1st and 2nd Grade: February has been a short but exciting month. We started the month by taking our all-school MAP Growth Assessments. They were long tests but everyone worked hard and did an excellent job. We also had Preview Day this month. During the morning on February 9th the 5K students came to visit our classroom to see what it was like to be 1st Graders for the day! We even had some real 1st Grade classes. They are a bright bunch and I can't wait to have them join our classroom next year. Of course, we can't forget the 100th day of school!! We always love to celebrate being 100 days smarter. We played games, popped 100 balloons, made 100 Valentines and had a yummy 100th Day snack! The week after that we enjoyed some fun at our class Valentine's Day party and then got to attend the Lion King show at Luxemburg-Casco High School. So much fun! We have also been learning a lot of great things. Our favorite subject this month was science. We learned about solids and liquids and tested the properties of each. We are just getting started on our musical rehearsals and can't wait to put the years show together. Wow! There is so much going on...but what a blessing it all is! God is working great things here at St. Paul!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of February has been a busy and exciting one. We had a field trip to the Weidner Center and Heritage Hill to learn about the Freedom Riders. There was even a person from Appleton, Jim Zwerg, who participated in the freedom rides. We went to a preview of "The Lion King" at the Luxemburg-Casco High School. The performance and costumes were amazing! We are doing a bowling unit for p.e. and are enjoying it! And we had our Valentine's Day party. This is a time for us to remember how much our Savior loves us because He paid the penalty for our sins!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Greetings from the 6-8th grade classroom! We have had a great start to the month with several exciting events happening in the middle school. In the past few weeks our students have had the opportunity to see two musicals performed in the area. The first, to celebrate Black History Month, was a retelling of the civil rights freedom riders from the 1960s through the eyes of several young people, including a man from Appleton. The second, performed by students from Luxemburg-Casco High School, was a stage program of Disney's The Lion King. Both musicals were moving to watch and the students enjoyed these fun learning experiences away from school. Also, after a successful outing with the whole school during Lutheran Schools Week, the 3-8th grade has started a bowling unit as part of our physical education curriculum. For six weeks our students will go over to The Rendezvous for an hour to learn about proper bowling techniques and how to hand score their games. Lastly, musical practices have begun and our students are thrilled to get to work and have fun preparing our own play, "The Big Inning" which will be performed in April. At this point we are only part of the way through the month, who knows what is in store for us in the upper grades as we move into spring. We are looking forward to many more exciting and educational experiences as we continue forward. That's all for now from the upper grades; have a blessed month!

The Sunday School and Day School collected offerings during the 2nd quarter of the year. The offering project was Camp Luther in Three Lakes, Wisconsin. Camp Luther is a great place to share God outdoors. Our offerings came to \$524.10 for the quarter. The next project that our offerings are going to is trying to purchase a bell or two for the new handbell choir that St. Paul is now forming.

Stewardship News & Views

How blessed we are to serve! But not before we are freed to do so in Christ. Knowing that His grace is freely given and that we are not on some mission to earn our Lord's favor, we are given the license and joy to serve Him now in whatever vocation He has given. Are you a father or mother? A lawyer or secretary? A nurse or teacher? A pastor or stay-at-home mom? God bless you even as He continues to do so for the joy of service in His name. Sometimes we doubt whether we are making a difference at all. God be praised for you all and in everything you and I do in Jesus' name. By grace through faith in Him, we are now ready at His service.

Lord, thank you for my calling in life and for the gifts You have given me to serve. Grant me joy in all I do for You and for others. Amen.

In Christ,

Cindy Doell, Linda Dahlke, Patricia Brand

Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild will be held on Wednesday, March 7 at 1pm in the church meeting room. We will see the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. 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 March 8, 2018 at 9:00am.



Lakeshore Lutherans for Life Thank You

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to our Life Sunday observance with monetary gifts, food and clothing. We would also like to offer a special thank you to all who assisted in food preparation and kitchen help for the porkie/ pancake breakfast.

Please Join Us at Our Next Lutherans for Life Crafting for Care and Meeting!

St. Paul's Church and School- Luxemburg
Saturday, March 10th 8:30am
Crafting with Meeting to Follow

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

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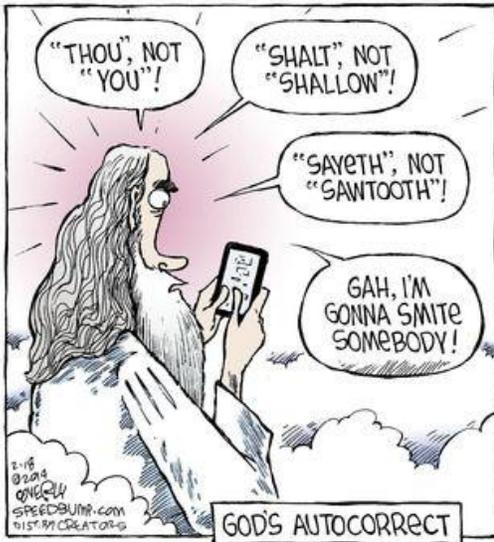
Children's Message

Mark your calendars!

The 10th Annual Time, Treasure and Talent show will be April 28th. If any group is interested in serving refreshments/meal, please contact Mike Peterson. It's a great way to raise funds.



Holy Humor



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St. Paul Basketball

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.

Join us on Facebook: Search for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School and **LIKE** us today!