

March

2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is now upon us, beginning March 6, which is Ash Wednesday. Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter. The forty days of Lent recalls Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses' forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

During Lent, the church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" and the word "Alleluia" are often omitted from the liturgy, the former being a practice that goes back to at least the 5th century. By not using the alleluia - a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" - until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly distinguished from the rest of the year. Additionally, its absence during Lent contrasts sharply with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear on Easter morning.

The penitential character of Lent was not its sole purpose in the ancient church. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation during Lent. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). This suggests that Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own baptism and what it means to be a child of God.

People often wonder about the practice of giving something up for Lent, such as sweets or meat. Depending upon how it is done, the practice can be considered fasting. Some Lutherans hold that it is entirely a matter of Christian freedom, since the Scriptures themselves do not require it. And so if a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so.

Other Lutherans hold the practice to be of no benefit or even more harmful than helpful. Some are concerned that giving something up for Lent can cause pridefulness and can tempt those who practice it to "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do it. The argument is also made that the old creature turns the practice of giving something up into a work to merit God's favor.

Still others assert that Christ doesn't need your sacrifice, but your neighbor does. Therefore, any practice of giving something up should be to benefit your neighbor. Such people might suggest, for example, that one could give up eating lunch during Lent, donate the lunch money saved to the needy, and spend the lunch hour reading God's Word and praying. Regardless of what we choose to do, it is helpful to remember that Isaiah 64:6 tells us, "...all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags." We are dependent completely upon our Lord Jesus Christ for our righteousness and salvation.

During the Reformation, some wanted to eliminate Lent since Scripture does not command it. But Luther urged it be kept, for he believed it to be an opportunity for the strengthening of faith. He wrote, "Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week shall be retained, not to force anyone to fast, but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season." (LW 53:90)

During Lent an extra worship service is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. This worship service is intended to help strengthen us in the faith, as we hear the Good News of what Christ has done to save us from our sin! This Lent you can give up cooking for your family on Wednesday evenings as we serve a Lenten meal beginning at 5:30 p.m.! Your generous meal offerings benefit the ministries of our church, such as Luther League and Bible Camp scholarships. See you in church!

With Christian love from your sister in Christ,

Pr. Tricia Mattson

St Paul Lutheran Church - Church Council Meeting, February 13, 2019, 7:30pm

Present: Ed Meidl, Matt Sargent, Jill Vogel, Dan Longsdorf, David Bittler, Bill Vogel, Pastor Tricia, Paul Muske

Also Present: Katie Mueller, Church Coordinator

Absent: Craig Valentin, Anita Jensen, Financial Secretary

Call to order, Ed Meidl at 7:35pm

Devotion – Pastor Tricia- Jer. 17:5

M/S/P-Secretary's Report

Financial Report

M/S/P- To borrow \$6,000 from the Memorial fund to assist in covering current costs.

Recommendations: to inquire payments/budget billing for Center Point Energy.

Building and Grounds

Tunnel is completely dry.

Pastor noted the stairwell 2-way switch is not working correctly.

Parish Education Report

Grateful for the money helped with weekend retreat.

Lock-In was a success.

Planning 2 Lenten Meals.

Need to look into permission slips and requirements for outings.

Pastor's Report

Visitation

Visited homebound, assisted living, nursing home, and hospitalized members.

Delivered bulletins to SJLH, the Maples, and Downtown Estates on 1/10/19.

Worship

Led worship with the Lord's Supper at SJLH and the Maples.

Parish Education

Continuing to lead weekly bible study Mondays at the Maples and Tuesdays at church.

Leading the study, *Why I Am a Lutheran*, on Sunday mornings from 10:15-10:45 a.m.

First Communion class for our 5th Grade Sunday school students begins Sunday, February 17 at noon.

Teaching premarital education classes.

Taught a baptism class for the Hillesheim family.

Attended the Parish Ed meeting on 2/10/19.

Confirmation

Teaching confirmation on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Attending the Augustana District Confirmation Retreat with four students on March 8-10.

Luther League

Attended the Luther League monthly meeting on 2/6/19.

Community

Attended Falen Hillesheim's Baptism Brunch on 2/10/19.

Attended the SAFE Annual Meeting on 2/10/19.

Attended the Sparkle & Dine Dinner at the Community Center on 2/11/19.

Other Business

Installed the Church Council on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

Continuing Education Update

My DMin studies with SPLS resumed on Monday evenings beginning 2/11/19.

Attended the LCMC Augustana District Theological Conference 2/4-5.

OLD BUSINESS

ALICE Training— Saturday, March 30, 2019, 4pm. Takes approximately 1hour. Katie will share with other congregations.

SAFE Annual Meeting—attended by Pastor, Ed and Shawna

Parsonage Property—Was voted on at the annual meeting. Paperwork needs to be finalized. Survey will not happen until spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee appointments-

Council Vacancy—to be determined, council members working to fill.

German Supper: M/S/P--Saturday, March 30th 4:30-7:00pm.

Ash Wednesday & Lent Services: March 6-Ash Wednesday- 5:30 supper, 6:30 service. Lent supper 5:30, service 6:30pm

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday-April 18, 7 p.m.

Good Friday-April 19, 1 p.m.

M/S/P- addition of 7 p.m. service in the chapel

Easter Sunday-April 21, 6:30 a.m. & 9 a.m. Luther League breakfast to follow 6:30 am service.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, April 5, 2019, 9am – 2pm

Planning to serve a light lunch. Katie applying for Thrivent fund to assist with this expense.

Please note in the bulletin to inform members of the need to borrow funds from Memorial as well as a reminder to activate their Thrivent Choice dollars/options.

Adjourn Lord’s Prayer: 9:09pm

Shawna Jacobs

Council Secretary

<u>2019 Church Council</u>		
Ed Meidl - Chair	Paul Muske - Vice Chair	Dave Bittler
Shawna Jacobs - Secretary	Dan Longsdorf	Jill Vogel
Craig Valentin - Treasurer	Matt Sargent	Bill Vogel

Deadlines: Sunday Bulletin: Wednesday by 10 am. **Epistle:** 20th of each month.

Please call or email Katie at the church office with additions or changes for the bulletins or Epistle.

Please pray for... William Halter, Marge Wellner, Mickey Meidl, Carol Carlson, Sherry Fenger, Alice Trebesch; Amanda Havemeier, Tabor Gluth and all those serving in the military, at home and abroad.

Prayer Chain – If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please call Jan Severson (723-6358) or the church office (723-5880). Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer Chain and/or (2) included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for **two** Sundays unless otherwise specified or request is renewed.

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Notice: Please update your phone numbers and/or email address with the church office!
Several of the numbers we have are disconnected and we need to know how to get a hold of you! You can leave a note in the box outside of Katie’s office, use one of the yellow information cards in the church pews, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com. We appreciate you keeping us updated!
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Budget Recap & Attendance Year-To-Date (01/01/19 to 2/17/19)

Giving last week 2/17/19	\$2,055	Gen Funds Rec'd YTD	\$12,830
Wkly amt. to meet budget	\$3,210	Expenses YTD	\$27,587
Budget YTD	\$22,470	Deficit	(\$14,757)
Benevolence Budget	\$1,077		
Benevolence Paid YTD	\$272	2018 Benevolence YTD	\$1,808
Thrivent Choice \$ Rec'd	\$123		
Sunday School	\$8		
Memorial Loan	\$6,603		

*The Church Council wanted to make the congregation aware that at the February 2019 meeting the current financial situation we are in was discussed and the council made the decision to borrow \$6,000 from the Memorial Fund.

Attendance Worship Services

Sunday, February 3	- 9am - 82	11am - 10	Sunday, February 10	- 9am - 102	11am - 12
Sunday, February 17	- 9am - 62	11am - 14	Sunday, February 24	- Services Cancelled	

Lenten Service 2019

<u>Lenten Service 2019</u>	<u>Meal prepared by</u>
Wednesday, March 6, 2019	Luther League : BBQ, beans, salads, chips, cake, beverage
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Parish Ed
Wednesday, March 20, 2019	
Wednesday, March 27, 2019	St. Paul's Choir
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	Parish Ed



*Join us each Wednesday evening at 5:30 for a Lenten Meal served by our church groups & members.

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 18, 2019 Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 19, 2019 Good Friday Worship Service at 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
Sunday, April 21, Easter Sunday Services at 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Brunch served after the 6:30 service

Join us on Saturday, March 30th at 4:00 p.m. for ALICE Training!

ALICE (Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate) training prepares organizations in responding to violence and intruder situations.

ALICE training instructor led classes provide preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. Whether it is an attack by an individual person or by an international group of professionals intent on conveying a political message through violence, ALICE Training option based tactics have become the accepted response, versus the traditional "lockdown only" approach.

Protection and safety must be the priority in an Active Shooter event or Terrorist Attack. Circumstantial and operational concerns vary in every new situation.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:15 Why I am a Lutheran 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 12:00 1 st Communion Class	4 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	5 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 7:00 Parish Ed Meeting	6 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Meal 6:30 Worship 6:00 Luther League 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7	1 Office Closed	2
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship Confirmation Retreat -----	11 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	12 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	13 5:30 Meal 6:30 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Council Meeting	14	8 Office Closed	9 Office Closed Confirmation Retreat -----
17 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 12:00 1 st Communion Class 1:00 Church Bowling	18 3:16 Bible Study & HC @ The Maples	19 10:00 SJLH Worship 3:30 The Maples HC 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	20 5:30 Meal 6:30 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 12:00 1 st Communion Class	25 2:00 Downtown Estates 3:16 Bible Study @ The Maples	26 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast	27 5:30 Meal 6:30 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29 Office Closed	30 4:00 ALICE Training @ St. Paul's 4:30-7 German Supper
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Coffee Talk 10:35 Ch. 8 Broadcast 11:00 Worship 12:00 1 st Communion Class						

9:00 am Worship Service

Date	Sound & Video	Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Usher
3/3	Tim Vogel	Paul Muske	Parker Gluth Abigail Jensen	Jim & Elsie Groebner	Team 4
3/6	Bob Kratz	Kristin Rogotzke	Zach Timm Andrew Longsdorf	Bill & Mel Vogel	Team 1
3/10	Shane Clemon	Daniel Kettner	Kyler Zihlke Daniel Groebner	Richard & Lois Zihlke	Team 2
3/17	Tim Vogel	Jo Muske	Nickolas Rogotzke Keagan Streich	Don & Sherry Bloemke	Team 3
3/24	Bob Kratz	Mel Vogel	Dalton Langseth MaCoy Krick	Dustin & Tiffany Trapp	Team 4
3/31	Shane Clemon	Jeanette Pidde	Jace Rosenau Jordyn Plaster	Doug & Marcia Schiller	Team 1

Sharon Rogotzke has been asked to call Greeters, Readers and Acolytes reminding them of their Sunday. **In order to avoid confusion, please call Sharon at 723-5117 if you will be gone and have found a substitute.**

March Altar Guild

Lois Zihlke, Carol Carlson, Mary Glaeseman

If you are unable to help, please find a substitute or switch months with someone.



Delivering bulletins in March

7 -
14 - Pastor Tricia
21 - Larry Pederson
28 - Leona Schottle

March Birthdays!

3 - Jessie Micka
3 - Sarah Riederer
4 - Arland Kettner
9 - Kate Quesenberry
11 - Ethan Langseth
12 - Lacey Groebner
15 - Justin Asmus
15 - Ali Trapp
17 - Laurie Longsdorf
18 - Angie Meine
19 - McKenzie Jensen
20 - Jo Muske
21 - Keagan Streich
25 - Katelynn Clemon
30 - Duane Nachreiner



March Anniversaries!

27 - Tim & Jill Vogel
28 - Dana & Shawna Jacobs

CHRIS RUPP & 7TH AVENUE BAND WILL BE PERFORMING A CONCERT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH AT SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW THRU KATIE OR JEFF. \$12 IN ADVANCE.

Luther League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
All members grades 7-12 are invited to attend!

Parish Education needs your help! We are looking for donations towards the Bible Camp Scholarship Fund. Each year we sponsor an average of 10 students to attend camp. We would like to continue offering financial assistance to our youth through this fund. During Lent, we will be doing a couple of fundraisers and ask that you consider a donation. We will be collecting noisy offering throughout Lent, and also doing a money board. Please stop by the bulletin board by fellowship hall for instructions. Thank you in advance!

KJLY presents our 10th Annual "A Day for Women" on Saturday, April 6th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year's Special Guest is Liz Curtis Higgs, nationally known humorist and author of "Bad Girls of the Bible". Local Praise and Worship Leader, Jillian Jones, will also be joining us. There will be music, ministry, lunch, testimonies, and mini-sessions. Space is limited so call 507-526-3233 or go online to KinshipRadio.org to register.

The Springfield Area Food Shelf will once again be participating in the 37th annual Minnesota Food Share March Campaign. The Campaign runs February 25th-April 7th. Springfield's service area includes Springfield, Comfrey, Cobden, Clements, and Sanborn.

The food shelf needs have increased and more families are using the service. All money and donations received stay at the Springfield Area Food Shelf and are matched by Minnesota Food Share.

Money donations can be mailed to the Springfield Area Food Shelf, 804 East Rock Street, Springfield, MN 56087.

Other grocery donations or personal items may be placed in the plastic tubs marked food shelf. A list of items that are currently needed is on the cover of the plastic tub.

If you have questions, contact Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 or 507-723-6120, or Jan Schwanke at 507-723-4120.

Tubs will be picked up on March 25th.



St. Paul's will be hosting our own American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 5th from 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Katie in the church office if you are available to help for any part of the day or if you can provide a pan of bars.

German Supper Work Groups

3:30-5:00	C
5:00-6:30	A
6:30-Done	B

St. Paul Lutheran Church

German Supper

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Serving from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

In the Fellowship Hall

Sauerkraut with Pork, Dumplings, Brats,
Mashed Potatoes, German Potato Salad,
Green Beans, Cake and Beverage

Advance tickets available at the church office
and at Springfield Advance Press.

\$11 in advance; \$12 at the door

Take Outs available.

Delivery to shut-ins only, call 723-5880

**St. Paul Lutheran
Church, LCMC**
303 N Cass Avenue
Springfield, MN 56087

Postmaster: Dated material
Please Deliver Promptly
Address Service Requested

Calendar Highlights - March 2019

6 - Ash Wednesday
8-10 - Confirmation Retreat
17 - Bowling Party
30 - ALICE Training
30 - German Supper

We are on the Web!
www.splcspringfield.org

Phone: 507-723-5880

Fax: 507-723-8712

Office Hours

Pastor: Tricia Mattson

Monday & Thursday 9-noon

Wednesday 1-4

Or by appointment

pastortriciamattson@gmail.com

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon

Email: stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

Housekeeper: Lisa Prechel

Maintenance: Ed Meidl

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net

St. Paul EPISTLE is a publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs and ministries of the church.



Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content.

Worship:

SUNDAY

Worship at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Talk at 10:00 a.m.

Springfield Area Food Shelf hours
Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am
804 East Rock Street - Springfield, MN 56087
507-723-4120