



A Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

The Messenger

*"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word of Christ."
(Romans 10:17)*

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

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"Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again. The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about." – Luke 18:31-34

Do you know what Jesus was talking about? Of course you do. You've heard these words spoken every Lenten season. Christ had to suffer and die on the cross in order for our sins to be forgiven. It's the same message year after year.

Yet do we ever tire of hearing this old, old story? Our Old Adam does. It thinks of Jesus' passion as just a "story." It doesn't satisfy our sensual pleasures. "Arghhh, the start of midweek services. You mean *I have to go to church twice a week?!*" Our Old Adam doesn't understand any of Jesus' passion. Nor does it care to.

We can only do one thing with our Old Adam. Kill it. We do that by hearing this historical account. Learning what price Jesus had to pay in order to free us from bondage to Satan, death, and our sins. Through this powerful Word of God, our consciences become more tender. We learn how even the smallest offenses in our eyes warranted Jesus' beatings, insults, and death. His passion strips us of our excuses and exposes our nakedness in the sight of God's law.



Understandably, at this time in the church year worship services are a little more solemn. It is appropriate to use this time and atmosphere to contemplate our sins and the Word of God, which is why our Lenten series is focusing on "Three Words of Truth." There are many well-known phrases that pop out of the text with pointed impact. These words will be beneficial to our self-examinations.

Yet, let us not forget how lovely this story is. It satisfies our longings as nothing else can do. Jesus accomplished everything written in the law of

God. He suffered for our sins and then died as the prophets had foretold. This means we have been justified. God has declared the whole world, including us, not guilty of any of our sins.

By faith in Jesus' suffering and death, you reap all the benefits of his passion. You are forgiven. You cannot be judged or condemned. Jesus was judged and condemned in your place.

May this peace be with your spirit this Lenten season. May it grow in you as you deepen your understanding of what Jesus' passion means for your body and soul. Eternity with God has been won for you on the cross. Nothing in life can take that comfort from you. Jesus' resurrection has made sure of that.

So do you know what Jesus' was talking about? Yes! Thanks be to God that you do! Let us go and hear of this old, old story, of Jesus and his love.

- Pastor Schrimpf



The Lord in his wisdom took the souls of two of our sisters in Christ home to heaven during the month of February.

On Tuesday evening, February 19th, Catherine Lang was taken to her home in heaven. Visitation was Sunday, February 24th, at Schoedinger Funeral Home in Grove City (3920 Broadway) where her funeral service was conducted by Pastor Sims on Monday, February 25th. Entombment followed at Green Lawn Cemetery.

On Sunday morning, February 24th, God called Inez Behnke home to heaven. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 5th from 5:00-8:00 PM at Newcomer Northeast Chapel. The funeral will be held at Newcomer Chapel on Wednesday, March 6th, at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at Kingswood Memorial Park.

We pray for comfort for their families in the knowledge of the resurrection to eternal life.

Lent Midweek Services

The season of Lent starts on March 6th this year with Ash Wednesday. We will have our normal soup supper at 6:00 PM and our worship service at 7:00 PM. You can participate in the Imposition of Ashes during the worship service.

Once again, the Columbus pastors and vicars will rotate throughout the six week season. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know the other area WELS pastors and vicar. We also have the blessing of worshipping with fellow Columbus believers and having time to fellowship with them over a bowl or two of soup. This is a great way to build up one another.

The theme for this year is: **Three Words of Truth.** In the gospel accounts of Jesus' passion, there are many three-word phrases which pop out of the texts, often with pointed impact. The themes for this Lenten sermon series make use of several of these well-known three-word phrases.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9th.



Donations for Food Pantry Still Needed

The food pantry is still depleted. There are people who need a little help to get by in difficult times. Suggestions for donations are: canned fruit, applesauce, canned vegetables, soup (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable), spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles, tuna and tuna helper, instant mashed potatoes, crackers, cereal, etc.

Consider watching for the "Buy One Get One Free" sales. Share the free one to help those in need! Donations can be left in the church kitchen at any time.



Ed Choice Scholarships

The Educational Choice Scholarship window is now open. If you know of anyone interested in Christian education for their children, please share our school information with them! The state deadline for new applications is April 30th.

Social Studies Fair

The date for the Social Studies Fair has been rescheduled to March 29th at 6:00 PM. The students are working on their projects. Each classroom has a theme for their projects. Please note the date change, and plan to come and see the work of the children.

Tennessee Trip Report

We are getting into the final planning stages for the Smokey Mountain Trip. 29 fifth-eighth grade students are signed up to go on the trip during the Easter break from school. They will be

chaperoned by Mr. Galecki and several parents. The charter bus is secured and tickets for various shows are purchased. If you want to help these students out in any way, please contact Mr. Galecki!

CO-ED Basketball Tournaments

St. Paul's co-ed team took 1st Place in the WELS Grade School Basketball Tournaments at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) at the beginning of February. They will be traveling to Watertown, WI to participate in the co-ed tournament at Luther Preparatory School (LPS) on March 8th and 9th. Pray for safe travel and a beneficial experience as they visit another one of our WELS preparatory high schools!



March 15 End of 3rd Quarter
 March 20 School Field trip to COSI
 March 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 Dismiss at 12:00 noon
 March 22 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 No School
 March 29 Social Studies Fair – 6:00 PM
 April 12 Jump Rope Contest – 12:30 PM
 April 19 Good Friday – Gr.K-8 sing for
 The Good Friday Service –
 School dismissal is at 2:00 PM
 April 21 Easter Sunday
 April 22-26 Easter Break – No School
 Tennessee Group Trip
 April 29 School resumes after Easter break
 May 3 Track Meet sponsored by
 Trinity Lutheran (Jenera)
 May 10 PTO Talent Night
 May 13 Teacher Professional Day –
 No School
 May 17 School Picnic
 May 24 Last day of School
 Closing Service/Graduation-7 PM

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will meet on Thursday, March 7th, at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. Women of St. Paul's are invited to join the Altar Guild and serve by helping to take care of the altar flowers and altar paraments as well as carrying out other responsibilities.

There are still many openings on the Altar Flower Calendar for 2019. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in the coming year, please check it out and sign up. The cost is \$25.00 for the Altar vases and \$15.00 for special flowers after the altar vases are taken.



Easter Lilies: Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin boards for people to sponsor Easter Lilies to beautify our sanctuary on Resurrection morning. You can sign up for a plant or for lilies to be placed on the rustic cross outside in memory of loved ones or in thankfulness for blessings, etc. The plants will cost \$12 and you can designate an amount for the lilies on the rustic cross.

The Altar Committee for March is Pam Bivens, Mercedes Wiley, and Lori Witt.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evangelism

“What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs” (Mt 10:27). The gospel was always meant to be made public. In fact, it began as a public declaration to two fallen creatures in the Garden of Eden. In turn, Adam and Eve passed it along orally to their children, grandchildren, etc. Not until Moses came was the gospel message written down for the people to read and even then, it was read orally to the people.

Although we study the gospel in enclosed spaces, Christ calls on us to make it public. He wants us to speak it from pure motives. Not from coercion or guilt, but from pure love and thankfulness to Christ. Such a love as this can only

come by believing the Father is at peace with us for Christ's sake. Furthermore, this love increases in us if we believe we have been forgiven many sins.

For this reason, let us consider the countless daily sins our Savior has forgiven us. Let us meditate upon the love our Father has for us by not letting Jesus' cup of suffering pass from him. May we believe what the Holy Spirit teaches us, so that our hearts burst forth with the gospel proclamation!

Brothers and sisters, every one of you is an evangelist. Speak publicly about what you learn at St. Paul's. Look for opportunities to tell what Christ did for you personally. Come to the **Game Night on Friday March 15th at 6:30pm**. Talk about your faith with each other at this event. Tell one of the school parents of the great joy given you by the Holy Spirit. We've spent enough time talking about the weather and sports.

Another way to be an evangelist is to help distribute **Invitation Cards for our Easter Services**. We have a permit secured to use the Amphitheater. So we want to invite as many people as possible to our **Sonrise Service (6:30am)** and **regular Easter services**. More information on that will come to you soon. We need volunteers, young and old alike.

Finally, I ask that you older men and women take a sincere interest in talking about your faith with the younger members. Genuine joy and excitement for the gospel is contagious. If they hear you speaking it, they will learn that the gospel message isn't simply part of a church function but a way of life.

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. – Pastor Schrimpf



Evening Women's Guild

Evening Women's Guild Meeting on Friday, March 8th

The ladies of the congregation are in the process of planning for the May 2019 Mother/Daughter banquet. Our theme is: Run the Race. We extend a warm invitation to all women of the congregation to join us on Friday, March 8th at 6:30 PM. The March meeting will take place in the fellowship hall of St. Paul's. Those attending can bring their Bibles for

the Bible study portion of the evening and then plan to stay after the meeting for food and fellowship.

Cooks and Clean Up Help Needed for Lenten Meals

Starting with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 6th, our Evening Women's Guild will host the annual Lenten meal each week. A soup supper has traditionally been provided at St. Paul's. If you have a favorite old family recipe for delicious homemade soup, consider signing up to share your tasty creation with fellow church members. Desserts can be brought by those attending the meals. Questions? Contact Kathy Glende at 614-570-1685.

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

LWMS Rally at Beautiful Savior in Grove City on Saturday, March 30th

This month the ladies of our congregation are invited to the spring rally of the Heartland Circuit of LWMS. Our guest presenter is Home Missionary Pastor Philip Loescher of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Cadillac, Michigan. The event runs from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 30th. A free breakfast and lunch are included for those attending. All are invited. In the morning we will hear about the mission of Crown of Life. In the afternoon we will make blankets for Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center and have a Bible study. Questions? Contact Melinda Sims at 614-991-5697.

Gas Cards for LWMS Home Mission Church

One of the biggest requests Home Missionary Pastor Philip Loescher gets from prospects every year (especially during the winter months) is for money -- they are out of a job or need help paying for gas to get to work. So, the members of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Cadillac, Michigan usually purchase a gas gift card for them. Those members of St. Paul's who are interested and able to also pass along gas card blessings to the Crown of Life prospects can help these mission efforts by purchasing Speedway or Meier gas cards themselves or passing along a monetary donation to Melinda Sims by Friday, March 29th. She will bring all gifts from St. Paul's members to the LWMS rally at Beautiful Savior on Saturday, March 30th.

LWMS 2019 Convention in Des Moines, Iowa

This June approximately 1,000 individuals are headed to the annual LWMS convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 27-30, 2019. Three ladies from St. Paul's plan to attend this event. Several missionaries will be featured as speakers throughout the convention. Missionary speakers this year will include:

Rev. Pheng Moua, Immanuel Hmong Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
Joel Sutton, Latin American Missions Team
Paul Nitz, Malawi, Africa

Anyone else interested in going to the convention can still sign up. There are convention registration forms available on the credenza in the narthex of the church. Feel free to take one and fill it out. The early bird deadline is April 1; however, later registrations are still welcome.

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, March 21st, at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will continue our studies of other Christian churches led by Vicar Swiderski. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.
(Joyce Larger, coordinator)

Pollyanna Party

This year's Pollyanna party will be held on Sunday, March 3rd at 12:00 PM in the upper room. All are welcome to this women's Secret Pal group so bring a friend to join us! This year's hostesses are Dawn Howell, Mindy Sayre & Kathy Glende.



The first big event for the Teens in 2019 was the annual Valentine's Day dinner, held February 10th. The event was a great success, as the teens prepared a spaghetti dinner for the members of St. Paul's—many of whom even opted to take meal boxes to go! A big thank you to all the teens and parents who came to help set up, cook, serve, and cleanup afterwards. With Bible Class, the teens continue to study *This Changes Everything*. Most

recently, we discussed not taking God's Word for granted, but understanding that there's always something we can learn and study in Scripture. Join the teens for Bible Sundays at 9:15 A.M. in the auditorium to begin with devotion. Guests and visitors are welcomed. Stay updated with the teens in the church bulletin, our newly revamped youth group page on stpaulcares.org, and on Facebook!

Respectfully submitted,

Vicar Swiderski

Every Member Visits With Pastor Schrimpf

Dear members of St. Paul's,

I thank the members who have called me and made appointments for a visitation. I have enjoyed getting to know who you are. For those who have yet to make an appointment, feel free to call me anytime (614-817-2812). Please know that we do not need to meet at your home. I can visit you at St. Paul's, a café, the park, etc.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Schrimpf



Church dedication in Puerto Rico

On Sept. 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria swept over the island of Puerto Rico causing great devastation and destruction.

WELS members responded generously with gifts to WELS Christian Aid and Relief. But the devastation caused by the storm made communication with fellow Christians in Puerto Rico difficult. It was hard to know what needed to be done to help and how that help could be delivered.

Early last summer WELS Christian Aid and Relief sent retired missionary Rev. Larry Schlomer Sr. to the island. He was asked to stay for up to a year to help the church leaders determine what needed to be done and then to help organize relief and rebuilding efforts.

God has graciously taken care of the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico and restored their church in Humacao. On Feb. 10, 2019, this church celebrated the completion of the rebuilt church with a dedication service. Many of the national pastors were in attendance along with Rev. Larry Schlomer Sr., WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder, and Rev. Tim Satorius.

Women's ministry conference highlights being "living stones"

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

The focal point of the upcoming 2019 WELS Women's Ministry Conference, being held at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., July 18–20, is "living stones" and how Christian women are called to be a part of something bigger.

Mrs. Dawn Schulz, conference coordinator, says the committee chose 1 Peter as the conference's

inspiration because it's a great encouragement to women. "A 'living stone' is a woman who uses her God-given talents and gifts to build up God's kingdom and to bless those around her, wherever that may be," Schulz says. "Just like Jesus, we are special to God. We are chosen for a reason."

A range of speakers will discuss the topic of living stones in keynote addresses and breakout sessions. One of the main points of the conference is how Christians fit together, like stones on a building. Each stone possesses unique qualities to serve God's kingdom. To emphasize this point, the speakers have a range of backgrounds, including a lawyer, a pastor, and a ministry coordinator.

"We wanted to provide opportunities for a wide scope of presentations," Schulz says. "The speakers who were chosen are people who have been speaking and researching God's Word and will bring light to the fact that God uses every single person in his kingdom."

The conference also will dive into how Christian women should look at the individuality of each person to more effectively share the gospel. For example, a young adult ministry professional as well as a panel of college students will emphasize how to reach younger generations today.

At the end of the conference, Schulz hopes women walk away feeling more confident in their purpose as a part of God's spiritual house. She says, "This conference is going to nurture women in God's Word, encourage them by bringing them together with other Christian sisters, and equip them with resources."

For more information on the Women's Ministry Conference and to register, visit wels.net/wmconferen

