



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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Preparing for the big day(s) by Pastor Sims

We have begun the season of Lent. It happens every year. People pledge to give this or that up for Lent. But what is it really all about? Why spend six weeks of preparing? What benefit is it for me?

We celebrated Ash Wednesday on February 26th. The congregation participated in the imposition of ashes. Some of the palm branches from Palm Sunday 2019 were dried out, burned to ashes, mixed with some olive oil and then imposed (put on the forehead or the back of the hand).

This was a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance. As the ashes are imposed the words "*dust you are and to dust you will return*" are spoken. What a reminder of what we deserve because of sin that was brought into the world! This is where we begin the journey.

The worshippers heard the following words read at the beginning of the service: *During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*

The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Some people give up items to which they enjoy in order to "suffer" for awhile as they reflect on Christ's sufferings. Others spend more time reflecting on the trials that our Savior endured for us. No matter what you choose to do, Lent is a time for preparing for two of the greatest days in the Christian church year; Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.

Lent prepares us for Good Friday as we hear the passion history of Jesus each Wednesday. As we hear of the betrayal, capture, trials, beatings, suffering and ultimately, the crucifixion on Good Friday; we can't help but feel the pain our Savior went through for us. He did it so that we don't have to experience it.

On that Friday, the victory over sin was won. Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world in full. "*It is finished!*" His sacrifice in our place was acceptable and accepted by our Father in heaven.

We get to rejoice in that big day for the entire world, recognizing that our punishment has been removed. That was the first day for which Lent prepares us.

The second big day is Resurrection Sunday. With the alleluias are removed from our worship; after all the suffering and sacrifice, Jesus rises from the tomb. We remove the purple of repentance from our altar. We remove the somber tones in our hymns. We get to sing our alleluias again. How sweet that will be to bask in the glow of Christ's resurrection, because his makes ours a sure thing.

We prepare for six weeks to understand the words of the Lord speaking through the prophet Isaiah: *1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. (Isaiah 61:1-3)*

Lent - The Son of God Goes Forth to War



Many picture Jesus in robes, holding a shepherd's staff and guiding his sheep. Others see him crowned and bright, sitting on a throne in heaven. This season, we recognize him as the brave and often-opposed soldier the Word tells us he is. We will

look at Christ's role as a warrior by reflecting on Scripture's telling of the battle against sin and death that Jesus fought and won for us. Most important, they help you and your church members focus on the tremendous courage, humility, and power of our Savior--and his ultimate victory!

St. Paul's pastors and vicar will be rotating again with the pastors and vicar of Beautiful Savior and Lamb of God.

Service Themes

February 26 - Ash Wednesday/Midweek 1:

Skirmishes

March 4 - Midweek 2: The Promised Warrior

March 11 - Midweek 3: Hidden Warrior

March 18 - Midweek 4: Reconnaissance Report:

Know Your Enemy

March 25 - Midweek 5: The Warrior Faces Satan's

Ally - the World

April 1 - Midweek 6: The Warrior Rejected by

Many Followers

Avanelle Baker Leithart

Avanelle Lucille Baker, age 95, was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, February 17, 2020. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years, David Baker and her second husband Dr. Paul Leithart.

She is survived by her children, Dale (Debbie) Baker, Philip (Cindy) Baker, Janet (John) Mizera; grandsons, Paul (Viktorya) Proffitt, Joey, Tyler, Steven and Scott; and great-granddaughters, Vivienne and Alexandra; as well as many loving extended family members and friends.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff at Sage Park Alzheimer's Special Care and Kindred Hospice of Gahanna. A memorial service was held at 4pm on Sunday, February 23, 2020.



Teacher Call

On February 23rd the voters of St. Paul's Lutheran Church issued a Divine Call to Mr. Micah Walz to serve as the 5th & 6th grade teacher and Athletic Director. We ask that God would give him wisdom as he considers the two calls he is now holding.

Please keep Mr. Walz and his family in your prayers as he works through the deliberations of where the Lord can best use his gifts to serve the kingdom at large.



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9th.



Class Trip

This Year's Class Trip to New York City is coming soon - March 12th-16th. We thank everyone who has helped support this trip by buying candy bars and coupon books and by donating snacks. Thanks also to those who helped sponsor students.

Co-Ed Basketball Tournament

Our Co-Ed basketball team will travel to Watertown, WI to compete in a tournament at Luther Preparatory School (LPS) on March 5th - 8th.

Great Migration

During the last two weeks in February, Dr. Viola Newton spent time in the classrooms educating the children on Black History Month. This ended on Friday, February 28th, with an all school assembly, at 10:00 AM. Dr. Newton also provided a hot lunch for the children on that day. We thank Dr. Newton for sharing her time and her experiences with us! There were many things that we did not know about! We are always happy to learn.

SAVE THE DATES

- Mar. 5-8 Co-Ed Tournament at LPS in Watertown, WI
- Mar 12-16 Class Trip to New York City
- Mar. 13 Pi Day
- Mar. 20 End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 26 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Noon Dismissal from School
- Mar. 27 Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School
- Apr.10 Good Friday – School out at 2 PM
- Apr.13-19 Easter Break
- May 1 Track Meet
- May 8 Talent Show
- May 11 Teacher In-Service Day
No School
- May 15 School Picnic
- May 22 Last Day of School
Closing Service & Graduation at 7:00 PM

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will have their next meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.

The Altar Guild is arranging for the palms on Palm Sunday and Easter and for the Easter Lilies.

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 Flower Calendar for 2020 is posted and still has many open dates. The cost of flowers is \$25.00 for the altar vases and \$15.00 for special flowers after the altar vases are taken.

The Altar Committee for March is Lucille Ortziger and Audra McDonald.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evangelism

In the past month the Evangelism Team met and discussed a number of items. We talked about the Harvest Plan and the important

responsibilities that the Evangelism Team has in the congregation. We also did a “SWOT Analysis” in which we discussed all the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Evangelism Team. This was a neat way to evaluate our efforts.

Our bowling night on the 23rd was a success. There was non-stop bowling, pizza, pop, and fun. Everyone involved had a wonderful time and it’s safe to say that we will continue this tradition.

We also have set a date and time to reach out to our community about our Resurrection services this year. Our Resurrection Evangelism effort will take place April 4th at 10 AM. We would love for you to help us give our community an invitation to hear the life-changing, life-saving gospel of Jesus’ resurrection for the world.

Our next meeting is set for Monday, March 9th at 6 PM. We’d love to see you there!

Vicar Matthew Steinfeldt,
Evangelism Team Member



Evening Women's Guild

March 13th Evening Women’s Guild Meeting

The next Evening Women’s Guild meeting is scheduled to take place at church. Tammy McFarland will serve as host. The 6:30 PM meeting on Friday, March 13th will include a devotion, a Bible study on women of the Bible, and a discussion of other church business.

Additional input from others is also welcome in the planning for the Mother/Daughter banquet in May. All ladies are welcomed and encouraged to come.

Cooks and Clean Up Crews Needed for Lenten Meals

Each Wednesday throughout Lent, our Evening Women’s Guild will host an evening soup supper. 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 also be dropped off in the kitchen.

Additional kitchen help is always needed to set up and clean up after the meal. Questions? Contact Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

Thank you for the February LWMS Door Collection

St. Paul's Lutheran Church continues to support mission projects in the United States and other parts of the world. On Sunday, February 23rd, a door collection of \$205.00 was taken up by the church. 100% of the monies collected will go directly to the mission field. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of missions.

Interested in hearing about the WELS mission outreach to the Hmong in Vietnam?

You have the opportunity to hear from WELS Director of Mission Operations Sean Young about how God's grace has opened doors for a mission opportunity in communist Vietnam on the morning of Saturday, March 28th. A carload or two of ladies will be traveling to Centerville, Ohio to attend the LWMS Spring Rally at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

We plan to leave Saturday morning at 7:30 AM from the parking lot of St. Paul's and return by 4:30 PM. First-time attendees are always welcome. To register or to get a ride, contact Melinda Sims at 614-271-2089 or you can register yourself at www.tinyurl.com/lwmsheartland. Breakfast and lunch will be served to all attendees the day of the rally. A \$5 meal donation is requested.

Befriend a Mission/College/High School Student Cards

As members of St. Paul's we have the opportunity to send some loving words of encouragement and support to our home & world mission contacts as well as our fellow church members who are studying in high schools and colleges away from home.

Please take the time to write your personal greetings and/or share your favorite Bible passage in their cards. Greeting cards will be available in Bible class or in the narthex of church starting on Sunday, March 15th through Sunday, March 29th. We have the following individuals to encourage:

Pastor Mark Panning in Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa
Pastor Paul Biedenbender in Denver, Colorado
Cody Stewart at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan
Christopher Baumann at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin
Jennalee Strous at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio
Jonathan Strous at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will continue our study of Church Fellowship led by Vicar Steinfeldt. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.
(Joyce Larger, coordinator)



The Youth Group thoroughly enjoyed serving you spaghetti at our annual Valentine's Day Dinner. Our purpose for this event was to raise funds for our Youth Group Activities, especially the 2020 WELS Youth

Rally in Knoxville, TN this June. We greatly thank you for all of your donations in support of our efforts. It's so comforting to be encouraged by such a loving congregation. Your help is much appreciated. Thank you again.

Our teen Bible study began a study entitled "Angels and Demons" in February. This topic was suggested by the teens themselves. So far, it has been a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the unique ways God protects us from physical and spiritual danger in our daily lives.

In late March the Youth Group plans on doing an escape room! Hopefully we can figure out what the "key" is to escaping. Get ready Youth Group! We've got fun plans coming soon.

-Vicar Steinfeldt



Youth rally registration opening soon

It's time for congregations to round up their teens and start planning for the 2020 WELS International Youth Rally. The theme for this year's rally is "Vision 2020."

"We want thousands of teens to see Christ clearly, and seeing Christ clearly will be the motivation to serve Christ boldly," says Rev. Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Commission on Discipleship. "This rally will position Christ and the cross in front of teenagers for clarity of faith and motivation to boldly serve."

The 2020 youth rally will be held June 23-26 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Registration opens March 2 and is \$375 per attendee through April 30. Registration from May 1–May 29 is \$395 per attendee.

In addition to a wide variety of workshops and fellowship opportunities with more than 2,000 fellow Christians, the rally features two keynote speakers. Rev. Joel Russow, Faith, Tallahassee, Fla., will present "Focused Living" based on Colossians 3:12-14. His address will focus on the characteristics with which Christians should clothe themselves: "Instead of stressing over concerns like 'What will I do with my life?' or 'How can I make a difference?' what if we put on the outfit God has given us to wear and then serve? God has already given you the perfect outfit for a heroic life of faith and for a difference-making life of service. Wear it!"

Rev. Jon Bare, Pastoral Studies Institute, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will present a keynote on a Christian's "Clear Purpose," based on

1 Peter 2:8,9. His presentation will discuss: "As God's children, we live with a clear purpose—to praise God! . . . But what about when we face the realities of living in a broken world? What about when all we can see is very real persecution for who we are? What about when our own failures or lacking blur our sight?"

Contact Youth Leaders—the main point of contact between your church's group and the youth rally office—can preregister their group members starting March 2. After preregistration, members of the group will receive personalized links to complete their registration and payment.

Detailed registration and rally information is available in the youth rally registration book.

