



St. Paul News

The Newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
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MARCH

2024

An Easter Journey Worth Taking

My final year of seminary, I took myself on quite the journey. A journey, not of time, but an Easter journey. I made absolutely sure that I attended all of the holy week services. It proved to be quite an exhausting week, but spiritually filling.

The journey really began with attending the Maundy Thursday services at my field work church, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Missouri. It was the first time I had ever experienced the stripping of the altar. In this case, I actually was taking part in the service. My task was to lead in the liturgy, including reading Psalm 22 while altar was stripped.

It was a sobering experience, to be reading "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" and the rest of the Psalm while here these parts of the altar area stripped away. Then to turn around and see everything gone, was haunting. It was however a powerful image. I don't know what it is like for a congregation member, but it is a striking reminder of Christ being stripped of his glory for me.

The following day, I attended Good Friday services at a church on the other side of the river, into Illinois. The pastor gave such a great sermon, his final words still stick to my mind. "Jesus says, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." And the Father does. Amen."

I remember sitting there waiting for more, but those words were everything. The sermon itself was pretty hard law, it was difficult not to see the ugly image of my sinful nature inside that mirror. But the Father forgives me! He forgives me! He does this on account of his son.

Saturday night, I attended worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Des Peres, Missouri. It was the first time I had ever attended an Easter Vigil. From the burning of the palm branches in the parking lot, to the candle light processional into the darkened sanctuary, to the growing light of the Easter joy in the midst of the stories of God's deliverance in the Old Testament. The service was beautiful.

Later that night, at 11:30am to be exact, I attended a Midnight Pascha service at a Greek Orthodox church in Des Peres. This was an almost 3-hour service. The service alternated between Greek and English. Admittedly, this was pretty long, even for me. However, the service was still deeply poetic. The incense, plus the ringing of the bells every time they sang Paschal troparion. "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling death, and to those in the tombs, granting life!"

With what little energy I had left, I still made it to an Easter sunrise service, and sat in on a great Bible study on 1 Corinthians 15 lead by Dr. Joel Biermann. This was followed by lots and lots of sleeping.

I tell this story as encouragement to you. We are venturing closer and closer to Holy Week and Easter. I strongly encourage you to come along for all of the journey. Notice the different movements and changes within the weekend services. What does this tell you about your God, how does it enrich your faith.

Be in church on the Sunday of rejoicing, March 10th. Hear of God's rest in the Feeding of the 5,000. Attend Passion Sunday on March 17th, watch as the crosses are veiled, ponder the unknown love of our God. Join in on the Palm Sunday procession on March 24th. Ponder the institution of the Lord's Supper, see the altar stripped on March 28th. Here of your Lord's extravagant love as it is recorded the Gospel of John, as the church turns to black on March 29th.

Witness the church slow brighten to an Easter joy on March 30th at the Easter Vigil. Let the alleluias ring out in exultation and jubilation on Easter Sunday, March 31st. If you are so bold as to attend

both the 6:30 and 9:00am service, the sermons will be different, but each service will have their own character.

Partake in this journey and I pray that the Holy Spirit would fill you with forgiveness, mercy, joy, and love. I look forward to seeing you as we journey through this season.

In his Holy Service,
Pastor Neil Wehmas

Suffered Under Pontius Pilate



Wednesday, March 6th @7pm

Herod & John

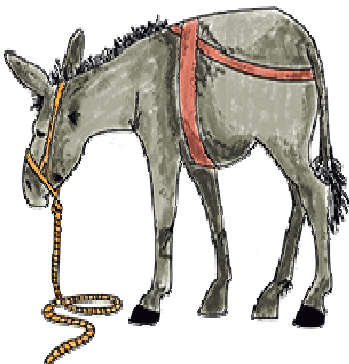
Wednesday, March 13th @7pm

Better that on Man Die

Wednesday, March 20th @7pm

No Friend of Caesar's

Be the donkey



Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame. "When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor." Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

Suffered Under Pontius Pilate



Weekend of March 24th (Palm Sunday)

There was darkness over all the land.

Saturday @5pm & Sunday @9am

Daily Chapel Services

Monday-Friday @12:15pm

Thursday, March 28th (Maundy Thursday)

Poured out for Many

Divine Worship Service w/Communion @7pm

Friday, March 29th (Good Friday)

Crucified, Died, and Buried.

Chief Service w/Tenebrae @7pm

Saturday, March 30th (Holy Saturday)

Easter Vigil w/Communion @5pm

Sunday, March 31st (Easter Sunday)

Sunrise Service w/Communion @6:30am

Resurrection Celebration w/Communion @9am

*We encourage you to come and have Easter Breakfast with us, it is a Fundraiser
for our Jr High Youth*

There will be no Sunday School, High School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday

CHURCH NEWS

COMMUNITY BASKET NEEDS FOR MARCH- Beverages: coffee, tea, juices, hot chocolate, etc..., place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. *All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.* The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. **The mobile food pantry will be on March 21 from 4:30-5:30PM, at the Battle Creek Fire Station.** If you're able to help, with sorting or carrying a box, it would be appreciated.



COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM is in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us! If you would like to help or provide, please let Deb Clausen or Kathy Edsen know.

The High School Youth will provide & serve on the 1st Sunday's of the month and the Junior High Youth will provide & serve on the 3rd Sunday of the month.



WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets at **7:00AM** at Zimmy's

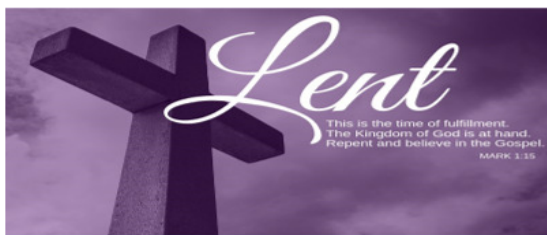
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from **9:30-10:30AM** in the Conference Room in the lower level.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY AT SUBWAY will meet at **6:00PM**

SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH in the youth room from **10:15-11:15AM**

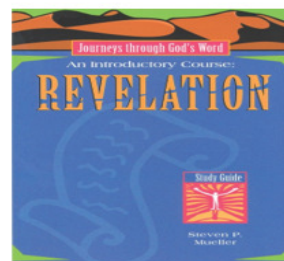
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS join us in the Fellowship Hall **10:30-11:15AM**

Bible Studies w/Pastor Neil



A Liturgical Journey

Wednesday's @9:30am



Sunday's @10:30am

WATCH FOR DETAILS COMING FOR MOVIE NIGHT TO RETURN IN APRIL !!



Lutheran Youth Fellowship March 2024

Mercy Meals and Drop Zone in Sioux City for grades 6th -8th on Saturday, March 23, watch for more details

Youth E-Blasts

Follow and pay attention to the Youth E-blasts that are sent out throughout the week in order to keep up-to-date of High School and Middle School youth happenings/activities.

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR MARCH

RUTH (2) will meet on March 7 at Zimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM.. Linda will be BSL. We had 11 present for our February meeting.

LOIS (3) will meet on March 7 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Janice will be BSL and Mary will be hostess. We had 7 present for our February meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on March 7 at the Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Clara will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 7 members present for our February meeting

JOHANNA(12) will meet on March 7 ? at 6:30PM, in the fellowship hall. We did not meet for Feb.

LWML EXEC. BOARD MEETING will meet on **Tuesday, March 19 at 4:30PM**, in the Conference room.

LWML ZONE PRAYER SERVICE is **Thursday, March 21 at 9:00AM** (rolls and coffee) at St. Paul Hanover (south east of Ricketts) if there is interest for a car pool please let the church office know or arrange with your circle ladies.

LWML MITEBOX CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024

At the November 2023 meeting of the LWML Executive Board a decision was made about how the LWML Mite box contributions for 2024 would be distributed.

The Executive Board decided to designate the funds from each quarter would go to the National LWML Mission projects and local mission projects in our community. The distribution of each quarter's funds will be one-fourth to the National LWML Missions and three-fourths of each quarter's contributions would go to local missions.

For 2024 the local mission distribution will be as follows:

1st Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Ambulance

2nd Quarter will be supporting the Community Basket

3rd Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Fire Department

4th Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Orphan Grain Train

Your coins will make a difference on the national level as well as in Ida Grove in 2024! Please drop your coins in the large Mite Box located in the Narthex whenever you visit our church!

Take time to “examine”

I'm grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV). Each change of season also lends itself to *examen*, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God's presence or when he seemed distant. Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at work? What was life-giving to me?
- In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering. Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind.

Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith. In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night. "All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."





March 2 Sharon Bennigsdorf
March 3 Christine Krager
March 4 Sharlene Osborn
March 5 Chase Miesner
Dean Rath
Dennis Sykes
March 6 Denise Chisholm
Ava Wellendorf
March 8 Zach Ehrig
Jayne Harrington
Chad Sharkey
March 9 Ryan Moser
Walt Rehse Jr
Brent Wessel
March 10 David Groth
March 12 Jaron Miller
Jenna Miller
March 13 Kasey DeVine
Mason Roberts
Maverick Roberts
Rebecca Shomo
March 14 Silvia Buns
Blake Christiansen
Donna Hansen
Elliot Vohs

March 15 Kya Ladwig
Neil Senhen
March 16 Sandy Sykes
March 17 Byron Godbersen
March 18 Jared Bogue
Brent Rohlk
Wesley Swanger
March 19 Jeanne Bell
Preston Hinkeldey
Trey Riessen
March 21 Angela Goodman
March 22 Julianna Mefferd
March 25 Todd Jepsen
March 26 Madelyn Brimeyer
Kurtis Krager
Chance Sweeden
Eric Zimmerman
March 27 Justin Gross
Kristina Miller
March 28 Tony Bennett
Delores Borchers
March 29 Mary Clough
March 30 Jennifer Hoffman
March 31 Vicki Gorden
Beau Hanson
Chris Knudsen



March 6 Ron & Zanet Thies
March 19 Doug & Vicki Linman

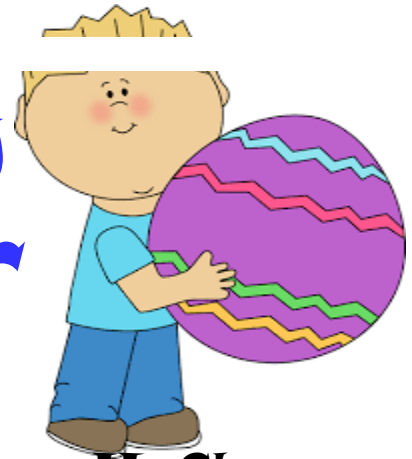
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UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc.to make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries. Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know. stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918

Monthly newsletters and calendars are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is www.stpaulig.org
If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form”

Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS will be notified via local tv stations (NBC, ABC & CBS/FOX, Sioux City) and also our Facebook page, St Paul Lutheran Church Ida Grove, IA LCMS (it has a profile picture of the front door/tree and a cover photo of Communion) to help with any confusion as to other St. Paul Lutheran Facebook pages.

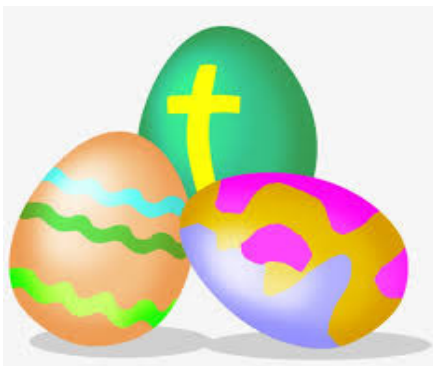
LYF Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser



We will bring your Easter Eggs to you!! Choose the amount of eggs you would like us to hide and we will scatter them in your yard filled with yummy treats!

Eggs will be delivered Saturday March 30th

Order by: Wednesday, March 20th



24 Eggs - \$20

48 eggs - \$30

Name _____

Address _____

Delivery Time: 10-12_____ 12-2_____ 2-4_____

Special Instructions/placement of eggs _____

of Eggs _____ Total \$ _____

High School LYF fundraiser 2024

If you want to donate empty eggs to use that is always welcomed

You can return of the empty eggs to reuse for next year