



# ST. PAUL MESSENGER



Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2017

## News and Notes

3/8: Lenten Dinner, 5:30-6:30. Parish Hall.

3/15: Lenten Dinner, 5:30-6:30.

3/22: Lenten Dinner, 5:30-6:30.

3/25: School Auction, 6-10:30 pm. School gymnasium.

3/26: Enjoy Fellowship, "Fill your Cup" 1-3 pm. Parish Hall.

3/29: Lenten Dinner, 5:30-6:30.

4/5: Lenten Dinner, 5:30-5:30.

4/8: Easter Fair/School Open House, 1-3 pm.

4/16: Easter Sunday.

4/24: Monday evening services resume, 7 pm.

5/19: Spring Musical/School Open House, 6:30-8:30 pm.

7/31-8/3: Vacation Bible School.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There is a song Brett Luginbill would play in worship every now and then. It has the lyrics, "And I'll fall face down as Your glory shines around." It is called "Facedown." It gives such an awesome description of how I feel during worship. Possibly how we all should be thinking as we gather. We come into the presence of the Almighty, offering our praise. We hear and behold the mighty love and mercy of Christ. How can we not fall facedown before Him?

Isn't that just an awesome picture, falling down before our gracious God? Then I remember what Lent is all about. It is the time leading up to Christ's death. Oh, what He gave up for us so that we can feel beautiful, whole again in His sight. We have been washed by the sacrifice that was given on our behalf.

Lent is an amazing season for me because of these two facts. That I am not worthy to stand in God's presence but He still saved me and washed me clean. Every day when I get upset with someone or lose my cool I am so humbled just by thinking about who God is and what He did for us leading up to that empty tomb of Easter. And then we remember the hope we have, because **His resurrection is now our resurrection!** I thank God for each of you, as His glory continues to shine through you.

Be sure to invite your family and guests to join us for Lenten service at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent.

### Weekly Readings & Themes

Ash Wednesday: Life-Giving Fruit (Genesis 3:1-15; Revelation 22:1-5, 14; Mark 1:9-13)

- Midweek 1: Bread from Heaven (Exodus 16:1-15; John 6:27-35; 48-51)
  - Midweek 2: Healing Medicine (Isaiah 52:13-53:5; Luke 10:25-37)
  - Midweek 3: Blest Communion (1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Acts 2:42-47)
  - Midweek 4: Rest for the Weary (Exodus 31:12-18; Matthew 11:27-12:8)
  - Midweek 5: Nuptial Feast (Isaiah 61:10-62:5; Matthew 22:1-14)
  - Holy Thursday: Covenant Meal (Exodus 24:3-11; Hebrews 9:11-22; Matthew 26:17-30)
  - Good Friday: Sacrificial Banquet (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 or John 19:17-30)
- Easter: Feast of Victory



LENT



Doing Good Deeds for  
Jesus

We claim abundant Hope in Christ, *Pastor Fairbairn*

**Q: What is the significance of Lent?**

**A:** Early in the Church's history, major events in Christ's life, His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension were observed with special observances. A period of time came to be set aside prior to the celebration of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" and the Alleluia are commonly omitted from the liturgy. By not using Alleluia--a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord"--until Easter, the season is set apart as a distinct time. Lent provides a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

In addition to the penitential character of Lent, in the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter was a time of intensive preparation of the candidates to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. 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 live as a child of God.



# School Auction Event March 25, 2017



This year's auction will have a Tuscan flair. The date is Saturday, March 25th, from 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM. The price is \$30 per ticket, or \$270 for a table of 10. There are many exciting items for auction, including a matted original print by the famous artist, Linda LeKinff, restaurant gift cards, and (4) Park Hopper passes to Walt Disney World in Florida. We'll enjoy a gourmet dinner prepared by Marsha Bauer.

The monies donated go the school's operating budget.

## Save the Date Vacation Bible School July 31-August 3,



### What is an Elder?

The following statement comes from our congregation's constitution. The Board of Elders shall: Assist the pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

Consider complaints and grievances of members.

Make every effort to induce members who have been negligent in their attendance of services, use of the Sacraments, and financial support of the church, to fully enjoy the rights & privileges of their membership

Foster an attitude conducive to worship among those in attendance.

Assist pastor in arranging pulpit assistance, special services, and guest speakers.

Appoint and support ushers.

Discover the needs of individuals in the congregation, and bring these needs to the attention of the Voter's Assembly.

Be an example of Christian conduct and conversation.

The elders at St. Paul are servant leaders of the congregation in spiritual matters. We work together with the pastor, other elected officers and board members to serve the Lord. We ask for your prayers as we joyfully serve you, the congregation at St. Paul.

Respectfully yours in Christ, the Board of Elders

### Enjoy Good Fellowship

Fill your Cup! Come be filled with God's love and be inspired to overflow into others' lives! **Sunday, March 26, 2017, 1-3 pm.** in the Parish Hall. Event is open to everyone who enjoys chocolate baked goods and coffee/tea. Participants will enjoy good fellowship. Childcare is provided.



### Thrivent Dollars

Welcome March! This is the month to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars. As a member, you can either do this online or by phone before the end of the month. **Your contributions in 2016 provided \$2508 to the church and \$2268 to the school.**

We are most grateful that you use this opportunity to live generously in support of our ministry and mission. If you have questions about this process, please contact Marsha Bauer, Thrivent Congregation Advocate.

### Easter Fair

The Board of Evangelism, along with our Parent/Teacher League, will host the 2017 Easter Fair and School Open House on **April 8, from 1-3:00 pm.** There is a poster for signing up to volunteer and a box to deposit candy and prizes. We look forward to sharing our church and school with our community. Your participation is welcome. Volunteers needed for many tasks.

Please sign up to help. Donations being collected include: juice, water, candy for inside the eggs and prizes.



### Saturday Events

The Women in Christ group invites all of the women of the church, and friends, to the First Saturday of the Month series planned for the next three months. These events will take place in the Parish Hall at 10:00 am. unless otherwise noted, and will include breakfast foods and beverages. On Saturday March 4th, Nancy Berg presents on the topic of Essentials Oils. On April 1st, Jan Paver demonstrates how to decorate eggs, Ukrainian style. On May 6, the topic is gardening. Please plan to join us for one or all of these events.

### Jr./Sr. Youth

The St. Paul Board of Christian Education has some fun activities planned for junior and senior youth. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. WHY: Make new friends, enjoy fun activities, learn new things and grow in your spiritual faith. Friends are invited. Activities include: Escape Room Adventure on March 19. Saturday mornings community service. Scavenger Hunt in May. Youth house/garage makeover in Spring. Jr youth Frankenmuth on June 2-4. Sr. youth Mackinac Island on June 25-28. Reformation service hosted by youth.

### Council Notes

At our November Voters Meeting new members were elected to our various Boards. Voters also approved additional funding towards our Phase 3 Capital Improvements, which have since been completed resulting in wonderful lighting upgrades for our school building as well as some areas of our church building including the Parish Hall. Also, we reviewed our "Executing the Vision" report, which is a status of all the actions we have underway to improve both our ministries and operations at St. Paul. More recently in Council we are beginning to focus our attention on planning for the next fiscal year. In addition, we are working on revisions to our By Laws to improve our governance and overall ministry effectiveness. Both these areas require Voter approval, so stand by for more communications on these topics in the future.

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### STAFF:

Pastor:  
Rev. Christopher Fairbairn  
248-348-5563

Deacon:  
Jim Frusti, 734-453-5937

Principal:  
Jared Weiss, 586-904-2217

Director of Operations:  
Marsha Bauer, 248-349-3140



### Church Officers:

President:  
Dave Werman

Vice President:  
David Grimmer

Secretary:  
Carole Crete

Treasurer:  
Michael Williamson

### **St. Paul Lutheran Vision statement**

**St. Paul Lutheran -  
a place to go for  
comfort, support,  
answers, opportuni-  
ties to serve, and to  
strengthen a salva-  
tion relationship  
with Jesus.**

## Board of Christian Education

The Board continues to encourage youth participation in Sunday school. We average about 12 children each Sunday in our K-6th grade program. We are organizing several activities for our junior and senior youth between now and June. See related article on page 3. The board continues to search for a Family/Youth director. The board has designated July 31-August 3 as dates for Vacation Bible School. The theme for VBS is Mighty Fortress, which connects with the 500 year anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Watch for a volunteer sign up sheet.

## Board of Finance

Do you count! Of course you do – but can you count one Sunday each month? Can you contribute one hour each month to helping assure that the contributions supporting our congregation are accurately counted, recorded, and deposited?

If you would like to count please speak to Jan Paver, Chair of the Board of Finance. Even if you would like to be a substitute counter for the time being, your help will make a difference. Counting the weekly contributions and depositing them in the bank is important work.

## Board of Social Ministry

The Board of Social Ministry thanks all those who contributed gifts to our Christmas Ministry: *Gift's for Gods Children*. It was a great success! We are especially pleased that our gifts went to children of families affiliated with the *Family of God Ministry*. We recognize there were many people who were not able to participate. We plan to rectify this next Christmas by offering more names.

Our next function is a Lenten Dinner on March 8 at 5:30 pm. Dinner includes salad, sloppy joes, and dessert. The Lenten service begins at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Free-will donation appreciated.

## Treasurer's Note

I am pleased to report that contributions so far this fiscal year are on target with the Ministry Action Plan adopted by the congregation. Let us pray this continues.

In this Reformation year, it is a good time to pause and think about Martin Luther and the 95 Theses he posted on the Wittenberg church door. What were they about? They were about 'giving' for the wrong purpose. Buying 'Indulgences' were a means the church used to collect money – primarily to renovate St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in Luther's time.

So why should we give? Luther, in his writing and his sermons was clear. We give, not because God demands it, but because God deserves it. Luther encouraged us to not only donate to support our church, but to support our church community, especially those who are in need.

Luther is frequently quoted as observing that, "conversion takes place in the mind, the heart, and the purse". Let us pray we continue as good stewards of the blessings we have been granted.

## Power of Prayer

The Word of God is full of accounts describing the power of prayer in various situations. The power of prayer has overcome enemies ([Psalm 6:9-10](#)), conquered death ([2 Kings 4:3-36](#)), brought healing ([James 5:14-15](#)), and defeated demons ([Mark 9:29](#)). God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom ([James 1:5](#)). The power of prayer should never be underestimated because it draws on the glory and might of the infinitely powerful God of the universe!



Pray for all our members and especially, Sherri, Ted, the Lopez family, the Kleiner family, Dwight, Esther, Ed, Beth, Phyliss, Lorraine, Marilyn, Ai, Dorothy, Christina, Val, Ralph, Emily and the Neuendorf's.

Special private prayer requests may be made to Pastor Chris or Deacon Jim.