

April, 2022

**MARK: MY WORDS**

It is almost as bad as at Christmas. Lights, trees, decorations, and carols start popping up in stores and streets and neighborhoods even before Halloween. One summer not long ago I saw a display of Christmas trees already up in a “big box” store *in July.* It’s not surprising. It’s no secret that, for many businesses, the commerce connected with Christmas is what makes or breaks their fiscal year. So, the selling season is stretched out as long as possible.

This time around Easter is similar. Candy, bunnies, baskets with the “green grass,” and brightly colored eggs make their appearance long before the beginning of Lent. As we move toward the end of the season, the displays expand, taking up ever more space and demanding our attention. Once Easter Sunday is over, the next set of holiday items and sales (Memorial Day, 4th of July) will begin to show up.

As always, the Church moves in a different speed as the culture around us. After the renewal of the forty days of Lent we are in no hurry to rush past our celebration of The Resurrection. In fact, Easter Sunday is only the beginning of a *season* of Sundays that observe that Good News. It is *fifty* days long; and even then, that offers only a glimpse of how Jesus’ triumph over death continues to shape our lives and the life of the world for which He died and rose again.

Our lectionary readings for these Days reflects that process. As stated in an essay in our liturgical resource, *Sundays and Seasons* puts it:

“…The Easter season gives the church an opportunity to hear the voice of the Gospel of John. The first three Sundays of the season allow us to dwell on the appearances of the risen Christ, while the rest of the season takes us back before his death and resurrection, again with a familiar pattern: the good shepherd imagery of John 10, a short section from the Maundy Thursday footwashing, the coming of the Spirit in chapter 14, and finally, a concluding section from Jesus’ high priestly prayer.

The richness and progression of these gospel readings remind us that …the season is a gradual unfolding of the implications of Christ’s resurrection. Not everything has to be said on Easter Sunday; rather, …the season can be a long, slow turning of the gemstone in the light to see all the facets sparkle.”

Traditionally, attendance on Easter Sunday is greater than perhaps any other time of year. Notoriously, the First Saturday/Sunday *after* Easter is known as “Low Saturday/Sunday” because attendance drops off so dramatically. It is as though some feel that they have heard all there is to know, and there is no need to return again.

As the essay points out, “not everything has to be said on Easter Sunday”; and indeed, not all *can* be said on that Day. Just as Lent is a journey toward the fullness of Jesus’ suffering, death, and rising, so Easter is a continual passage into the meaning of the empty tomb for our lives and hopes and that of the world.

So, as we speak of the “Lenten discipline” of prayer, fasting, and helping the poor, let us also undertake the “Easter discipline” of worship, praise, and service that points to the Living Christ so that in us “all the facets” of The Resurrection might “sparkle.”

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Although this schedule was published last month, it might be helpful to repeat the list of worship services offered this Holy Week and Easter:

**April 9—4:00 p.m. Saturday of the Passion/Palm Saturday**

Procession with Palms; Holy Communion; the Passion according to St. Luke

**April 10—9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

Procession with Palms; Holy Communion; the Passion according to St. Luke

**April 14—10:00 a.m. Maundy Thursday Senior Communion**

**7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday**

Foot Washing; Holy Communion; Stripping of the Altar

**April 15—12:00-3:00 p.m. Good Friday**

Tre Ore worship on “The Seven Last Words of Christ”

**7:00 p.m. Good Friday**

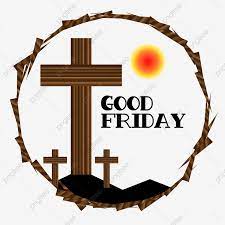
Service of the Word; the Passion according to St. John

**April 16—7:00 p.m. Holy Saturday**

The Great Vigil of Easter; the lighting of the new fire; Holy Communion

**April 17—9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday**

The Resurrection according to St. Luke; Holy Communion

 **TRE ORE SERVICE**

This special Good Friday afternoon service is an ecumenical venture offered to the community. For many years, we have invited pastors/preachers from various congregations and faith communities to participate and offer their reflections on the “Seven Last Words of Christ.” It is a favorite worship experience for many in our congregation and those whose pastors take part.

It is also one of the most difficult and stressful services of the year to arrange. Finding seven pastors whose schedules during the busiest time of the church year allow them to join us is always a challenge. It has been especially so in the last few years. Sometimes they are not able to fit it into their own worship schedule. Other times they agree to preach and then don’t show up, as happened last year.

But every year it is a struggle to get everyone to respond whether they will be part of the service. I always have to write, email, or call some of the pastors several times before receiving an answer. There have been occasions when, in spite of those efforts, they still never get back to me. This year, for example, I emailed twice and texted twice with one pastor asking to please let me know of their availability and did not receive an answer. I finally gave up.

So that left us with two “Words” without a pastor. After discussion with the Worship Team about what to do (one suggestion was to cancel the whole service), I offered to try and find some meditations on those “Words” that could be read instead of a homily by a pastor. I was able to find some material that, with some editing, I think will work. We are grateful to Worship Team members Jary Tannehill and Stacie Crozier for their gracious willingness to be readers of those meditations.

Therefore, this years’ service will look a bit different; but, hopefully, it will be no less worshipful and meaningful to those who attend or watch online.

Here is a list of the “Seven Words” and their times:

First Word 12:05 *Father, Forgive Them* (Luke 23:34)

**Pastor Ericka Kilbourne, First Presbyterian Church**

Second Word 12:30 *I Am Thirsty* (John 19:28-29)

**Pastor Mark Kloess, St. Paul**

Third Word 12:55 *Woman, Here is Your Son* (John 19:25-27)

**Pastor Dale Zylstra, Christ Lutheran Church, Hammond**

Fourth Word 1:20 *My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?* (Mark 15:33-34)

**Pastor Mark Reshan**

Fifth Word 1:45 *Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise* (Luke 23:39-43)

**Pastor Nancy Nichols, First United Methodist Church**

Sixth Word 2:10 *It is Finished* (John 19:30)

**Jary Tannehill, St. Paul Worship Team Member**

Seventh Word 2:35 *Father, into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit* (Luke 23:44-49)

**Stacie Crozier, St. Paul Worship Team Member**

**NEW MEMBERS**

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On Saturday, March 5, we were honored to receive three new members into our congregation (from left to right in the picture): Mark Przbylinski and Mike and Annette Scroggin. I asked them to write a brief bio to introduce themselves to us. Here is what they sent. Please make sure that you welcome them into our fellowship when you see them.

**Mark**

I was born in Barberton, Ohio, in 1974. Our family moved to Michigan City in 1978 and have lived here since. I graduated from Ball State in 1996 and received my MBA from Indiana University Northwest in 2003. Jamiee and I were married in 2001 and have no children. We have always been animal lovers; our current dog is a rescue named Widget. I enjoy golf, bowling, hiking, music, and watching almost any sport.

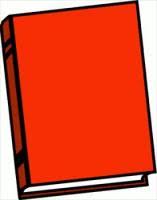
**Mike and Annette**

Annette and I grew up in Michigan City but did not know each other.  She was baptized at St. Paul’s, and I was baptized in Lake Forest, Illinois, where I was born.  We both attended Sunday School and catechism at St. Paul’s, but still did not know each other.  We both were confirmed as members of St. Paul after catechism, still not knowing each other.

I joined the Air Force in 1966 and spent most of that time in Germany, first working inside a cave under a mountain and then working on top of a different mountain.  I was discharged in 1970.  Annette was working at Jet Fabricators.  During this time Annette went to the office at St. Paul’s and asked for the name of a serviceman she could write to.  She was given my name and we started corresponding.  After I was discharged, we met for the first time and started dating.  In November, 1972, we were married at St. Paul’s.

Over the years we attended a couple other churches and in 2010 we moved to La Porte and attended a church there.  One day we were talking and came to the conclusion we both missed St. Paul’s and decided to rejoin there.

  Annette and I are both retired and live with Sunshine, our miniature dachshund.



**HYMNALS AND SONG BOOKS**

Beginning Palm Sunday, we will begin using the hymnals and song books which have been returned to the pews.  The songs will no longer be printed in the bulletins.  It certainly feels good to be getting back to normal after a difficult two years.



This Lent we rejoice to have one First Communion student, Micha Howard, daughter of Council secretary Carey Howard. After instruction she will be ready to join us at The Table on Maundy Thursday during the evening worship service. We thank God for her and look forward to sharing The Meal with her on that holy night.

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Pastor Reshan will be taking some time off after Easter to recuperate after all the Lenten/Holy Week services. If a pastoral emergency arises, you may still reach him on his cell phone at 630-450-1894.

Also, Pastor Pamela will be away April 28 to May 18. To be sure to get the May *Good News* published before she leaves, please have all information submitted to her at [splcgoodnews@gmail.com](mailto:splcgoodnews@gmail.com) **no later than Monday, April 18** (the day after Easter).

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**APRIL BLOOD DRIVE**

Our next Red Cross blood drive has been scheduled for **Thursday, April 28,** from 2-6 p.m.in the St. Paul Room. There is a critical shortage of blood right now, and one pint of blood can help up to three people. Please consider donating if you are able to do so. To schedule an appointment, Please call 1-800-REDCROSS to schedule an appointment for this drive or the blood drive scheduled for Tuesday, July 26.



**EASTER PLANTS**

A variety of spring plants will be available to order for decorating St. Paul’s Church on Easter Morning! The varieties and color available are Lily; Tulips in yellow or pink; Hydrangeas in pink or purple/blue;and new to order the 10” Hanging Fern Basket.

Cost per plant is as follows:

Lily - $9.50

Tulip - $8.50 (yellow or pink)

Hydrangea - $16.00 (pink or purple/blue)

Hanging Fern - $10.50

Please specify your choice of plant and your choice of color when applicable. **Orders MUST be placed by Monday morning, April 4.**

Your order may be placed ‘In Memory or Honor of a Loved One.’ Please call the Church Office, 219-874-7293, or place your order in an envelope and title it ‘Easter Flowers’ for ordering. REMEMBER, you must specify what type of plant and color, if applicable!! All checks should be made out to St. Paul Church.

Please plan on picking up your plant after the Easter Morning Service by 11:30 a.m.

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The Spring Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service.  This is a very important meeting since we will be voting on the church and school budgets.   In addition, the second of two votes will be held to accept the updated copy of our church constitution.   The two votes are required by the Synod.

A quorum of 51 is required for this meeting, so please mark this important date on your calendars.

**THIS JUST IN:** The Church Council decided at the March meeting to have a pot luck luncheon after the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2022.  The church will provide chicken.   All are welcome, so come to the meeting and stay for lunch AND start thinking of a delicious side dish to share.



**IN MEMORY OF SUE BIGGS**

**General Fund** from Rol Biggs on what would have been their 65th wedding anniversary

**IN HONOR OF PAUL LISAK**

**General Fund** from William & Pamela Hackett and family

**IN MEMORY OF JOAN COUGHLIN**

**General Fund** from Harmony Circle, Marge & Mike Bockover



**April Birthdays April Anniversaries**

1 Steve Baker 22 Timothy & Stacie Crozier

Marjory Bockover

Jana Thomas

2 Lyle Peters

3 Sarah McNabb

5 Connie Burgess

7 Kathryn Glanz

9 Andy Ziesmer

13 Drew Robbins

15 Richard T. Cains

Nancy Hawkins

Lucille Tryon

16 Karen Kiser

17 Megan VanGemeren

19 Diane Sunde

20 Jeffrey Furness

23 Jean Kleinschmidt

25 Marie Protas

26 Timothy Crozier

28 Ryan Krueger

Virginia Murray

29 Jason Howard

30 Sharon Hutchcraft

Sheryl Lubke

Bill Wilson



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Robert Atwood Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt

Donna Bostaer Sherry Brotsky Laura Dovey

Laura Eilers-Straight Marta Furness Diane Gielow

Jim Gleason Ed Gustum Dolores Hackett

Heidi Happel Patsy Humbers Terry Hygema

Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser Ryan Krueger

Tom & Larry Leuth Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning

Christian Martinez Laura Moore Ken Mulder

Shane Nevels Duane Ormsby George Ottersen

Jan Paholski Kay Peglow Cameron Rackard

Annette Scoggins Knox Shepherd Ryan Sirk

Wally & Betty Tarliff Erik Tannehill Jary Tannehll

Kathy Thielman Jean Thomas Lee Timm

Venia Wendt Chris Weninger



Monday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Staff**

Pastor Mark Reshan

Organist John Remmel

Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

Choir Director Lori Zylstra

Office Secretary Libby Pollock

Custodian Mark Kloess

School Principal Tracey McCay

School Office Coordinator Lisa Heddens

School Custodian Dennis Pugh



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Thank$ for $haring

Thanks to all who attended the Galveston give back in February. We raised $210 at that event.

This month,we will see you again at Galveston! We’re giving you two coupons so you can invite a friend and give them their own coupon. Remember, the coupon is required for the Give-Back bucks.

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