

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
818 Franklin Square
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the Good News

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March, 2021

MARK: MY WORDS

Lent has always been a time of teaching. In the early church, catechumens—those who had publicly declared their intention to become baptized—underwent a rigorous course of instruction in the essentials of the faith. Often that formal learning extended beyond the Easter Vigil when they were baptized and through the fifty days of celebrating the Resurrection.

That use of the season remains beneficial for us. Even before the restrictions of the pandemic limited group gatherings, participation in Bible study was low. Since in the Lutheran tradition we do not use the sermon time during the liturgy as an extended Scripture analysis, there is little opportunity for our worshipers to renew their understanding of the chief parts of our confession.

Therefore, in this Lent, we will use the five mid-week services to get “back to basics.” Our focus will be on one of Luther’s “Six Chief Parts” of his *Small Catechism*, The Apostles’ Creed. On each Wednesday, we will take one line from the Creed and through Scripture, hymn, and brief homily explore what we mean when we say, “I believe ...”

Here is the schedule for the series:

Wednesday, February 24	“I Believe in God the Father”
Wednesday, March 3	“I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord
Wednesday, March 10	“He Descended into Hell”
Wednesday, March 17	“I Believe in the Holy Spirit”
Wednesday, March 24	“I Believe in the Life Everlasting”

As in past years, all services will begin at **6:30 p.m.**; and this year the services will be broadcast/live streamed on our Facebook page and later posted to our YouTube channel. Unfortunately, these services will **not** be available for radio broadcast or to be shown on the local cable channel 99, as are our Sunday services.

We will also be using Marty Haugen’s “Holden Evening Prayer” as the musical setting for the services. We received permission from the executive team of the Church Council to allow a soloist, Stacie Crozier, to sing the congregational parts from the balcony while I sing the leader portions from the chancel. We consulted with our organist, John Rimmel, about his comfort having someone singing in the vicinity of him; and he felt fine with the arrangement.

The only remaining issue is how to get the bulletin with the music for the Haugen setting to the congregation so that people might follow and sing along at home. I am still working on that

solution as of this writing; but when we decide on a method, we will be sure to publicize it well so that as many people as possible may have access to the liturgy.

We hope that if you have the capability to tune into the mid-week services you will use this opportunity both to worship, pray, and refresh your understanding of the faith. Through these times together may God grant us a joyous, renewing, and fruitful Lent.



MYSTERY AUTHOR

We have not been able to identify the person who wrote the original article about the “drive-up” Imposition of Ashes and submitted it to the newspaper. Please let Pastor or the church office know who you are so that we might thank you and recognize your creativity that called attention to our effort and drew people from the community to hear and experience the Word of the Day.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Normally, Lent would be the time for First Communion classes for students of any age whose parents feel they are ready to begin receiving the Sacrament. Although we are not currently meeting in person for worship, by the end of Lent or early Easter we may be back in that happy circumstance. Therefore, if there are any parents who wish their children to receive the instruction, please contact the church office (874-7293) and register them. Pastor will contact the parents and arrange for instruction that will meet everyone’s schedule.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

A reminder that we change clocks again on Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 a.m. and “spring forward” into longer days and sunlight.



IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Last year we made it through the first two weeks of Lent before the spreading pandemic forced us to postpone in-person worship. This year, we knew that we would not be gathering for the beginning of Lent. That posed a special challenge for how to observe Ash Wednesday. If we were unable to impose the ashes on worshipers even the name of the Day seemed lost.

Our Council Vice-President, Janet Bakken, raised a creative solution at our January meeting. She had seen and heard of other congregations using a “drive-up” method for receiving Communion and other practices, so she suggested adapting that for the ashes. Worshipers would come to an appointed place in the church parking lot and remain masked in their cars. The pastor, masked, would then approach the driver (and passenger) windows, and impose the ashes, after which the worshipers would return home.

The Council welcomed the suggestion and referred it to the Worship Committee to work out the details. At its meeting the following week, the Worship Committee enthusiastically set about deciding how best to carry out this rite, knowing that it would be cold (and perhaps snowy) and that there would be some who would not want to come out if the roads were icy and slippery.

It was decided that we would offer The Imposition on Ash Wednesday afternoon from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Jan had also suggested that we provide an opportunity for people to bring non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Pantry and loose change for our “noisy coin” offering, neither of which we had been able to continue during our time away from in-person worship.

Quickly we had a plan: we would bring the shopping cart from the narthex to the parking lot for the food items and have buckets available for the coin offerings. Members of the Worship Committee also volunteered to help direct traffic and be at the food and coin stations. We were set to go.

The practice went better than we could have imagined. In spite of the bitter cold, we had many members and a number of non-members from the community who had read of the plan in the newspaper come for The Imposition. We collected two full shopping carts of food, and the buckets for the coins were loaded with them as well as bills (three \$20 bills within the first half-hour). We received a total of \$304.00 in the noisy offering. That money will go to the Community Soup Kitchen ministry currently being run out of the First United Methodist Church and led by our own Erik Tannehill.

We even had the staff photographer and writer Kelley Smith from the newspaper come, receive ashes, and then stay for about 45 minutes taking pictures and talking to people. You may have seen some of the pictures and her story in the paper a few days later.

We are extraordinarily grateful to those who braved the snow and cold to come out. It was wonderful to see so many of you, even if it wasn’t the kind of Imposition to which we are used to doing. It helped immensely to give a more “normal” feel to the Day. And, as always, we are humbled by your deep generosity of donations for the food pantry and soup kitchen. Thank you.

Most of all thank you to our hearty volunteers: Virginia Murray, Jan Bakken, Dan and Sarah McNabb, Tim and Stacie Crozier, and Dave and Nancy Squires. Many of them were out in the bitter cold the entire time, greeting and welcoming people, directing them to where they needed to go, and making sure that this ran as smoothly as possible.

It was a powerful experience for all involved; it raised our presence in the community in a good and helpful way; and it provided needed assistance to programs that help feed the hungry in our neighborhood. Our First Reading from Isaiah for the Ash Wednesday liturgy proclaimed that the “fast” for which God is looking from His People in these Days is precisely to help the poor, the homeless, and the hungry. Thank you again to all who took part in this Imposition to help us accomplish just that. God was pleased, and many were helped.

What a good, faithful, and fruitful way to begin Lent!





Holy Week

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Because Easter (April 4) falls shortly after the April newsletter will be delivered, it might be helpful to have an early preview of Holy Week and Easter worship services. These times and this schedule is based upon the assumption that we **will not** be meeting in person. If that changes, the schedule will be revised for the April newsletter and in bulletin announcements.

March 28—9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms; the Passion according to St. Mark

April 1—7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

Foot Washing; Stripping of the Altar

April 2—12:00-3:00 p.m. Good Friday

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

April 2--7:00 p.m. Good Friday

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

April 3—7:00 p.m. Holy Saturday

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

April 4—9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday

The Resurrection according to St. Mark

Congratulations, Pastor Dale Zylstra!



Congratulations to Pastor Dale Zylstra, pictured here with Bishop Bill Gafkjen and Lori, on his ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament and installation as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Hammond on January 30, 2021. May his ministry be a blessing to the people of Christ's Church, and may they, in return, be a blessing to him as he follows God's call in ministry.



Thank you to all who remembered me with the many prayers, lovely cards, and calls during my recent illness. Thank you, also, to Pastor Reshan for his visits and calls during the year.

Judy Matchler

In the Spotlight

What do a retired Director of Operations, a retired Policeman, and a retired Postmaster do during a pandemic? At St. Paul, they spend weeks, days, and hours redecorating the church basement.

Just like most projects, one thing leads to another. The Council, with direction from the Finance Team, had all of the old asbestos tile in the church basement sealed and new tile professionally laid. That led to stripping the wallpaper, cleaning the walls, patching the bad spots, painting and trimming, washing the blinds, etc., and making decisions about the ceiling tiles. You get the idea.

Bob Kiser, Larry Litchford, and Dave Squires, together with Pastor Mark Kloess, Richard Fleming, and Chuck Payne, have beautified and modernized the St. Paul basement. Hopefully, it won't be long before we can once again enjoy our gathering place.

Although the labor was free, the materials were not. The money for this project came from the inheritance we received last year from Richard and Mavis Collins. Thanks to that inheritance we also have been able to install a new computer system, computers, and programs for the church and school offices, update our phone system, and install outdoor security cameras.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Michigan City, Indiana is truly blessed by our people past and present. A big thank you to all of them, and let us not forget to thank God!



(Left to right: Bob Kiser, Dave Squires, Larry Litchford)



Celebrating ELCA Schools and Early Learning Centers



Lutheran Schools Week
2021
March 7-12



www.elcaschools.org

Did you know that St. Paul Lutheran School is the **only** ELCA K-8 school in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod? Please support our school with your prayers and encouragement for our students and staff.



IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DETTMAN

Capital Improvement Fund by Bob & Karen Kiser, Janet Bakken, Wayne & Suzann Dolson
General Fund by Maxine Powell

IN MEMORY OF EUGENE PRYBYLLA

Capital Improvement Fund by Wayne & Suzann Dolson
General Fund by Michael & Jean Gaulke, Donald & Mary Gulbransen

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DALE ZYLSTRA'S ORDINATION

General Fund by Beverly Johnson

IN MEMORY OF BETTY LUBKE

General Fund by Jim & Bernadette Krueger

IN MEMORY OF CONRAD LUBS

General Fund by Norman & Diane Egilski; Ron, Tammi, & Tania Durre;
Jim & Bernadette Krueger

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD K. FISCHER

General Fund by Fred & Carol Weiss



March Birthdays

- 2 David Sutor
- 5 Madeline Henderson
Jedediah Otterson
- 6 Gail Leffew
- 11 Judy LaBorn
Casey Neulieb
- 14 Jean Warner
- 15 Lora Brooks

March Anniversaries

- 23 Wayne & Suzann Dolson
- 24 Marvin & Diane Dirks



PRAYER CHAIN

The members of the Prayer Chain at St. Paul have made a commitment to pray for any and all who request their prayers. Let us pray for you! To activate the Prayer Chain, contact one of the members on the list below and tell her of your need. You may give as much information as you wish. Your request will be kept in strict confidence.

Prayer request forms are also available in the pew racks during worship. These forms include prayer categories such as Healing, Comfort, Guidance, etc. Simply fill out the form (please include the date of your request) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a deacon. The form will be forwarded to a Prayer Chain member. When using the e-mail addresses, please note "Prayer Chain Request" on the subject line. If the subject line is not filled in, the e-mail will not be opened

Vivian Zellers	872-8780	vteach2006@sbcglobal.net
Carrie Ziesmer	872-6541	carrie124@comcast.net



Long-Term Prayer List

Robert Atwood
Andy Hipkind
Tom & Larry Leuth
Nora Schultz

Sherry Brotsky
Terry Hygema
Duane Ormsby
Chris Weninger

Laura Eilers-Straight
Ryan Krueger
Bert Pauluhn



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St. Paul Lutheran Church is now on Amazon Smile. 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be returned to St. Paul. Help us spread the word! Link your Amazon account through the following link—<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1239301>. When prompted, sign into your account to make sure you are choosing St. Paul for Amazon Smile. There’s no extra charge to your purchases.



OFFICE HOURS

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 Rimmel
Accompanists	Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill
Office Secretary	Libby Pollock
Custodian	Mark Kloess
School Principal	Christy Smith
School Office Secretary	Tracey McCay

Thank\$ for \$haring

The Holly's Give-Back in January raised \$106.73. Thank you for participating!

See you at Hacienda this month! Remember to cut out this coupon, because it is required for the Give-Back bucks. **If you can't make it to eat at Hacienda**, please note that you can purchase a Hacienda gift card or a carry-out order that day; and it will count toward the give back.



HACIENDA
MEXICAN RESTAURANTS
GIVES BACK
Fiesta

Group: St. Paul Lutheran Church
Date: 3/16/21
Location: Hacienda - Michigan City

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-To-Go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number 219-879-4404

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN