

March, 2023

**MARK: MY WORDS**

‘Back to basics.’ That has always been the intention of Lent. Originally the forty days were the time when those wishing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil (catechumens) were instructed in the essentials of the faith. They were taught about the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and the Ten Commandments.

 That paradigm has been used by Lutherans for centuries in our catechism/confirmation studies utilizing the writings of Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism.* Just as newcomers to the faith were taught foundational principles of our confession so that they could publicly make theirs at the Vigil, so Luther wrote his *Catechism* primarily for parents to teach their children the basics of the faith.

Although Luther arranges his “six chief parts” (the five mentioned above plus the topic of “The Office of the Keys”) in a particular way there is no “correct” order in which to study them. For our purposes we will take our cue, as always, from Jesus.

 In the appointed Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday from Matthew 6, Jesus *assumes* that prayer, fasting, and acts of charity are a routine part of our spiritual life (“*when* you pray …*when* you give alms …*when* you fast …”). Although He does not prioritize these spiritual acts, since “prayer” is mentioned first, it seems logical to begin our review of to what we are called to do with it.

 It may well have been a long time since we looked at Luther’s commentary on *the* family Prayer of the Church, so considering portions of his explanations of some of the Prayer’s petitions will be instructive and renewing.

 As we have done for the past number of years, we will frame our study of The Prayer with Marty Haugen’s setting of “Holden Evening Prayer.” Its length fits perfectly with our schedule of worship each Wednesday during Lent **at 6:00 p.m.** before choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. (providing the preacher doesn’t drone on too long ☺). **Please note the time change from previous years** when the service was held at 6:30 p.m.

 Here is the schedule for the mid-week services and their themes:

Wednesday, March 1 “Our Father in Heaven”

Wednesday, March 8 “Your Will Be Done, on Earth As in Heaven”

Wednesday, March 15 “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”

Wednesday, March 22 “Forgive Us Our Sins As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us”

Wednesday, March 29 “Save Us From the Time of Trial and Deliver Us From Evil”

 We hope that you will make these brief but meaningful services an integral part of your Lenten observance this year.



**FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION**

**First Communion classes** for students of any age whose parents feel they are ready for instruction will begin following Ash Wednesday. There will be three sessions on Sunday mornings following worship: **February 26, March 5, and a third session to be determined** with Mrs. Schacht to help bake the communion bread for our Holy Week Worship. The classes on the 26th and 5th will begin at 10:15 in the Luther House. Please contact the church office to enroll your child.

As we have done for the past several years, the celebration of First Communion will take place during the Maundy Thursday service on **April 6 at 7:00 p.m.**



**KATIE’S PURSE**

 Just a reminder that we have a fund meant to help those within our congregation with utility bills, groceries, medical costs, prescriptions, or other need that might arise for which they do not have sufficient funds. The process for applying is simple: contact Pastor Reshan (630-450-1894 or seniorpastor@stpaulmichigancity.com). Everything is held in the strictest confidentiality.

 Once a request is received, the Executive Team meets to discuss it and decide how much to give. Currently we have just under $3,400 in the fund. In fairness to others who apply, we can only grant one request per person/family. The money is sitting there right now not helping anyone. Please feel free to contact Pastor Reshan if there is a need for help.



Because Easter 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 will be repeated in next month’s edition as well.

**April 1—4:00 p.m. Saturday of the Passion/Palm Saturday**

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

**April 2—9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

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

**April 6—10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday**

 Senior Communion with luncheon following in the St. Paul Room

**April 6—7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday**

Holy Communion; First Communion; Foot Washing; Stripping of the Altar

**April 7—12:00-3:00 p.m. Good Friday**

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

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

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

**April 8—7:00 p.m. Holy Saturday (NO 4:00 worship that Day)**

The Great Vigil of Easter; the lighting of the new fire; Affirmation of Baptism; the first Eucharist of Easter

**April 9—9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday**

 Holy Communion



**COMMUNITY PADS OPEN HOUSE**

This email was recently sent by Harrison Holtkamp, Executive Director of our Interfaith Community PADS program. As you remember we hosted both the men and women’s homeless shelter in the St. Paul Room for over 15 years. Because of our heavy investment in this ministry, we thought our members would be interested to see the progress they have made since moving into the old Sacred Heart Church on Eighth Street. We hope you will take time to stop by and also to continue to support this important work in our community.

“As you know, beginning in June, 2022, we started a “Phase Two” campaign to raise funds to replace the doors and windows in our shelter (the building formerly known as Sacred Heart Church).

The large windows, 5’ wide by 10’ tall, were the backing for the stained-glass windows that were removed when we obtained this beautiful building. We wanted to keep the look of the building while making it more energy efficient.

Thanks to all who donated to “Phase Two” and to those who care about our mission. At the end of the year, we reached our goal and ordered the windows. During the month of January, the Lord blessed us with warmer weather; and the timing of this coincided with the installation of our new windows and doors.

 We are so proud to be using this building in a manner that mirrors the same outreach that Sacred Heart Church always had, care and compassion for the community.  Their doors were always open to those in need and those seeking refuge; the meals they shared were for all who wanted to experience friendship and compassion.

You are invited to our **open house on March 5, 2023, from Noon until 3pm.**Please invite your friends and family to join you as we open our building and share our mission. Light snacks and soft drinks will be provided.

  Thank you! We hope to see you on **March 5th.”**

Harrison Holtkamp

Executive Director

Interfaith Community PADS



**ARCHIVE NEWS**

A few months ago, it became apparent that the Archive Room had its Confirmation photos spread out in too many places. It has been an ongoing project since then to get them all in one area and is now 99% complete. It is complete enough that you may enjoy stopping by Archives and taking a look at all the fascinating photos from years past.

As you enter the Archive Room, the box of Confirmation photos is straight ahead, on the table, in a decorated box. All the photos are in date order! There are just a few that remain unidentified, and they are in a manila folder in the back of the box. Please try to keep them in date order as you enjoy a trip in the past.

The Archive Room seems to be missing many current photos along with a few from over a hundred years ago. It is noted in a log that we have Confirmation photos for 1890, 92, and 96; yet they are not to be found. We are also missing photos from 2000 through 2005 and 2010 until now. Can you help out? If so, please leave an identified copy on the table.

The archives also store all past records and news pertaining to the church. Years ago, originals were kept in the room once the year was over. From about the year 2000 until now, there are no records for most groups at church. Help is needed locating and donating to the Archive Room records for finances, club meeting notes, voters' meetings, ladies' aide, council minutes, photo directories, school yearbooks, the church music and service group, and on. If you can help in this matter, again, please leave originals and copies on the table. Archives have use of a locked cabinet that they can be stored in.

Two items from years past have been donated: an eternity candle, on display on a shelf; and a part from our very first steam heater for the church. It is mounted on antique wood that has been squared and cleaned up. You can find it on the display case right as you exit the elevator on the bottom floor.

And last, a huge thank you to Warren Schacht, who has so kindly volunteered to put many of our audio tapes, cassettes, and VHS tapes to media that a computer can understand. If you would like to contact him about updating your materials, he has generously offered. He can be reached at 219-448-1444 or w.schacht230@comcast.net.



**GOD’S PURLS**

God’s Purls, the knitting/crocheting group, meet regularly on Wednesday mornings in the St. Paul Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon.  The group is small; however, they manage to provide warmth to members of our community during the winter months.  This year, still thanks to the money received from the family of Betty Lubke, many items were made and given to various organizations.  St. Paul School received close to 60 hats and mittens, which were given to the students.  Joy School students, the Women’s Homeless Shelter, the Soup Kitchen, and Franciscan Health Nursery received hats, scarves, mittens, slippers, and newborn hats.  The women of St. Paul who distribute the Sunshine Baskets at Christmastime delivered prayer shawls, lap robes, and slippers to the shut-ins.  There is a basket located in the Narthex containing prayer squares for anyone to take.  The prayer squares have an inspirational note attached to them.

If you are interested in spending a few hours a week knitting or crocheting, please feel free to come out on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.  Yarn is available to make these projects.



**JANUARY, 2023, SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

* Several members were present to make comments regarding the school closing.
* Minutes, Financial Report, and Pastor’s Report were reviewed and approved.
* Spring annual congregational meeting will be held May 21.

A full copy of the approved minutes are available in the Narthex.

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**IN MEMORY OF FRANK FROEHLKE**

**General Fund** from Dolores F. Vanulzen

**IN MEMORY OF LYLE PETERS**

**General Fund** from Mike & Marge Bockover, Al & Sue Green, Robert & Christine Caddo,

Kathryn Barnes, Dale & Lori Zylstra

**IN MEMORY OF VALERIE WALTZ**

**General Fund** from Kay Peglow & family

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE OTTERSEN**

**General Fund** from Bob & Karen Kiser, David & Nancy Squires, Jim & Sandy Galinowski,

Carol Radke, Dale & Lori Zylstra, Dan & Sarah McNabb, Jean Kleinschmidt,

Mike & Marge Bockover

**IN MEMORY OF DIANE GIELOW**

**General Fund** from Lori & Dale Zylstra

**IN MEMORY OF LEE TIMM**

**General Fund** from David & Nancy Squires

**IN MEMORY OF MARY HELEN PETERS**

**General Fund** from Al & JoAnn Sydow, Al & Sue Green, Bob & Karen Kiser,

Mike & Marge Bockover, Robert & Christine Caddo



 **March Birthdays March Anniversaries**

 2 David Sutor 23 Wayne & Suzann Dolson

 4 Andrew Hahn 24 Marvin & Diane Dirks

 5 Madeline Henderson 26 Larry & Judy Litchford

 Jedediah Ottersen

 6 Devin Devereaux

 Gail Leffew

 11 Judy LaBorn

 Casey Neulieb

 12 Thomas Thomas

 14 Jean Warner

 15 Lora Brooks

 16 Brian Summa

 24 Megan Osowski

 25 Mary Bennett



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt Donna Bostater

Laura Dovey Marla Furness Ed Gustum

Dolores Hackett Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser

Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning Christian Martinez

Michael Mellen Shane Nevels Jan Paholski

Kay Peglow Erik Tannehill Mark Tannehill

Kathy Thielman Jean Thomas Margie Torres

Venia Wendt



 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/Choir Director Dr. Vernon Carey

 Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

 Custodian Mark Kloess

 School Principal Tracey McCay

 School Office Coordinator Christina Woodard

 School Custodian Tara Soto-Garcia

Thank$ for $haring

This month,we will see you at Swingbelly’s on Tuesday, March 14! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

 