

May, 2023

**MARK: MY WORDS**

It bears repeating. In my Easter homily, I pointed out that for all the Gospel writers, Matthew especially, Easter is not a “one-and-done” event. Quoting the late Lutheran seminary professor and scholar Donald Juel, we said that Matthew’s account of the Resurrection could be entitled, “To be Continued.”

 The announcement is made twice: once by the mighty angel who descends from heaven and rolls back the stone in front of Jesus’ tomb, and by Jesus Himself to Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary,” who are told to direct the disciples to “go to the Galilee and there they will see (Jesus).” The Galilee, of course, is the northern part of The Land in which Jesus spent most of His ministry in Matthew. It was populated largely by non-Jewish peoples and was where Jesus encountered many who were sick, diseased, possessed, poor, hungry, and oppressed deeply by the Romans who occupied their territory.

 Once in the Galilee, Jesus meets the disciples and gives them “The Great Commission:” to go “to *all* nations, teaching them to observe what (He) had commanded them, and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Now, through the disciples, the power, life, and hope of Easter would continue to be brought to the sick and diseased and all the rest who lived under the constant shadow and grip of death.

 In them, Easter *was* “continued.” And so it has continued down through the centuries within and through the Church as disciples of every time and age are continually sent by the Risen Jesus out into this sick and dying world to bring new life, new hope, new promise, and new possibilities. We are constantly being called by Jesus to arise from disappointment, discouragement, failure, and defeat to proclaim and embody His presence that has overcome every form of death.

 It is fitting, therefore, that our annual spring congregational meeting falls during this time of “continuing Easter.” Besides receiving and acting upon the proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year we will also hear an update from the Property Evaluation Team and their progress about what to do with the school building.

 A major part of that report will be a presentation by the commercial real estate agent with whom the Team has been working, Michael Siwietz from McColly-Bennett Commercial. He will answer any questions about the Team’s report. We believe that this will be a good and important first step toward discerning what can be done with the property that will enable us to “continue” to serve our neighborhood and community with the Easter message.

 So, as always, we need your presence, your wisdom, and your input in that discussion so that we might move forward in faithful and fruitful ways. Join us on **Sunday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.** in the St. Paul Room so that moved, inspired, guided, and strengthened by the Spirit of the Risen Lord, we might discover new and exciting ways to bring the Gospel to our “Galilee.”

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**FILL THAT CART**

We are starting a campaign to fill our grocery cart every weekend during May. Our goal is to fill the cart with canned goods, paper products, etc., to be delivered to our local Salvation Army. Our members, Steve and Darlene Baker, volunteer at the Army every week and provided us with a list of frequently requested items which are always in short supply.

 Besides canned goods, please consider donating laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent, Kleenex, shampoo, etc. Let’s all work together and show our generosity and goodwill towards our good neighbors in need. Starting May 6, we will empty the cart each week and have it ready to refill each week. Fill that cart!!

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**CLEVELAND TRIP**

I will be gone on Wednesday, May 10, and Thursday, May 11, to pick up our son Dan from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. His finals end on the 10th, and we will move him back home for the summer the following day.



**SCHOOL GRADUATION**

As we have done for the past several years, we will hold our school’s 8th grade graduation at our Saturday evening worship service on **Saturday, May 27.** This, of course, will be the final graduating class, so it will be an especially important occasion. Even if you do not normally attend the Saturday service, we encourage you to be present to offer your support to our graduates and their families as they celebrate this important educational milestone and prepare for their high school journey.



**CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL**

On **Sunday, June 11,** we will formally close the school during our worship service. Bishop Bill Gafkjen will be present to preach and preside over the service and join us in giving thanks for the nearly 150 years of educating children. The School Board will host a reception following the service. More details will be forthcoming in the June newsletter but mark the date on your calendar now.

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**The Donald A. Zalac, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund II**

The Donald A. Zalac, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund II is a fund held, administered, and distributed for the benefit of students attending or admitted to Butler University.  The following criteria shall be followed in the awarding of scholarships:

a.       Academic achievement shall equal or exceed 3.0 points on a 4.0 scale.

b.       A demonstrated financial need by the applicant.

c.        Preference shall be given to Michigan City, Indiana, residents, or those who have attended Michigan City High School for the last two years preceding the award of the scholarship.

d.       If there are no persons meeting the criteria in paragraph c above, preference shall be given to residents of LaPorte County, Indiana.

The scholarships shall be awarded annually based on the net income of the trust and may be renewed upon application by the recipient student.  The scholarship may be in addition to other scholarship assistance, except when contrary to state or federal law.  In no event shall the scholarship, when added to other financial aid, exceed tuition for the academic year of the scholarship.

To apply, please submit transcripts, FAFSA form, and information including the amount of other scholarship assistance on or before July 31, 2023, to:

Horizon Trust and Investment Management

ATTN:  D. Zalac Irr Trust fbo Butler U

P. O. Box 1125

Michigan City, IN 46361-9903

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**OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, the 30th, at 8:00 a.m.



**MARCH, 2023, SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

* $25,000.00 loan to school was paid back
* Work is to begin to update our member records
* The church roof is in need of repair.  A motion was made to sign a contract with adjusters to expedite the repair process.
* Judy Hunt handed out a list detailing work needed to be accomplished at the school beginning the months of May through July
* Janet Bakken reported that two appraisals will be ready by May 1 on the school
* The Annual/Spring Congregational meeting will be held May 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. followed by a potluck luncheon
* Synod Assembly will be held June 10, 2023; Pastor Reshan, Donna Knoll, and Bob Kiser will attend virtually
* A blood drive will take place April 27, 2023, in the St. Paul Room

Please note that copies of Council meetings are placed in the Narthex after approval at the monthly meetings.

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**MISSED PHONE CALLS AND VOICEMAILS**

 I have had this issue on and off with the last several phones I have, had but it has gotten particularly bad with my current cellphone. I can have it next to me while working; and regardless of whether the ringer is on or muted, suddenly I will get a notification that there is a missed call even though I never heard or saw that the call was taking place.

 Worse yet is the situation with voicemails. I regularly check to see if a voicemail has been left. The other day when I looked it indicated there were no messages. Shortly thereafter, I received an email in which the sender said that they were following up the voicemail they had left with this message.

 When I checked for the voicemail, it still said there were none. A little while later, I looked again; and there were 13 voicemails in the box going back seven weeks! As I checked them, they were from calls that I had no idea had been placed. I am working with Verizon to find the reason for this and for a solution to this problem.

 In the meantime, if you leave a voicemail and I do not respond within a few hours, *please call again.* I am not ignoring your message. I apologize to those who have left messages I have not returned. Hopefully this will be remedied soon. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



 **May Birthdays May Anniversaries**

 2 Isabella Robbins 1 Leigh & Beverly Coburn

 4 Tim Mellen 2 Charles & Carol Thomas II

 William Seedorf 5 James & Bernadette Krieger

 Kimberly Payne 19 Fred & Judy LaBorn

 5 Rachel Sutor 26 Steve & Darlene Baker

 6 Charles Payne 29 Clay & Kimberly Payne

 Brittany Strelesky

 7 Marcy Petri

 8 Mandy Robbins

 Abby Haring

 9 Loretta Hapke

 11 Audrey Henderson

 15 Adaline Gebbink

 Nancy Hawkins

 Lucille Tryon

 16 Patricia Miller

 17 Melinda Nagle

 20 Donna Collins

 21 Hallee Petri

 24 Bonnie Ziesmer

 25 Charles Thomas, Sr.

 Marvin Dirks

 Pamela Kienitz

 Chandler Fisher

 26 Emma Robbins

 27 Kerry Steinborn

 Krysten Fratgillo

 30 Charles Ponder, Sr.

 Sally Timm

 31 Audrey Claussen

 Pamela Hackett

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**IN MEMORY OF RONALD JOHNSON**

**General Fund** from his daughters, the Johnson women

**IN MEMORY OF BROTHER, ALLEN KRING**

**General Fund** from Sue & Al Green

**IN MEMORY OF NANCY POLAREK**

**General Fund** from Ken & Ruth Baker

**IN MEMORY OF MARY HELEN PETERS**

**General Fund** from Esther BVenice, Kathryn Barnes

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE OTTERSEN**

**Altar Guild** from James & Susan Tomsheck

**IN THANS FOR EASTER BLESSING AND FOR MY BIRTHDAY ON APRIL 12**

**General Fund** from Kathy Loetz



**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 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

Thanks to all who attended the giveback at Holly’s in April. The church received $297 from that evening.

This month,we will see you at Galveston on Thursday, May 11! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

  