



MARCH EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND KINDER PLACE

MARCH 2017

"I WAS GLAD..."

St. Paul's Church Building at 100 Years Old

Standing on the sidewalk in front of church and looking through the open doors, we see the statue of Jesus Christ with his arms extended in blessing. Fifteen steps up from the sidewalk, it forces us to look up to Him who died on the cross for us and for our salvation. That was not an accident. It was planned that way so that with the Israelites we would sing, **"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"** (Psalm 122:1)

The church was built that way to help people realize that, in a special way, they were entering the presence of the God who revealed His glory in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. This was never intended to be a frightening experience, but it was to be an awesome and joyful encounter with the God who loves them so much **"that he gave his only Son"** (St. John 3:16)! It is only getting closer to the altar that they are able to see the imprints of the nails in Jesus' hands and feet to remind them that He is not a dead Savior but the living Lord. Risen from the dead, He lives and reigns (note the present tense)!

That confirms what we confess: this house is a hospital for sinners like us where miracles happen. Bruised and beaten by life in this world, we regularly come with joy because here we receive the salutary medicine of grace in Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament to be healed. From here we leave renewed and strengthened to resume our mission in the world God so loves. We are His mouth, His hands, His feet, bringing His message of acceptance and hope to others.

People have said it often: "St. Paul's looks like a church." Its traditional beauty is simple, and in that simplicity we meet the sublime – things heavenly and things earthly join to reveal the mystery of our salvation. It is no wonder that we treasure this building and care for it. Even at 100 years old, we continue to see it as a refuge and a mark of stability which we and our families call "home."

Those who dedicated St. Paul's in 1917 believed that lofty vision and wanted to perpetuate it for generations to come. Yet it was never to be a building that could not be approached, cold and impersonal. Its beauty was to be enhanced by the warmth and generosity of the people who worship there, who make it clear that this is **"a house of prayer for all people"** (Isaiah 56:7).

In other words, St. Paul's sanctuary is a tool to help its members to be the people of God, who reveal the mercy of Jesus Christ to a world of people living in desperation. Many of them do not even know that they are living that way. Without judgment and with real compassion, we reach out to embrace them and offer them the same freedom and hope we have in Jesus Christ. This lofty vision and this mission go hand-in-hand. It is not possible to have one without the other and still be called the people of God.

Always glad to come to this house, here is our confession and resolve:

Christ, you are the same forever, seeing those who yet will be
Help us now prepare your coming that those people too will see:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – ever blessed Trinity.

(Stanza 3 of St. Paul's 150th Anniversary Hymn, *Grace God's Gift to Generations*)

I am with you in Christ, *Pastor Paul*

2017 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

You hear it all the time: "We all worship the same god," "All paths lead to god," "All these people can't be wrong," "It's just a matter of interpretation," etc.

We, however, believe in "one God, the Father Almighty... and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God... God of God, Light of Light, very God and very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made...And [we] believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified..."

Egads! Do we really need to say all those words?

Well... as it turns out: Yes.

The Nicene Creed affirms that God has come into human history in Jesus Christ, that He is fully and eternally God, the final Word, the "Alpha and Omega"; therefore, there cannot be someone else more like God that might appear. He--Christ--is the way, truth, and life.

Indeed, the Creed is not an obscure assortment of words. During Lent 2017 we will show how those words--the confession they make--stand as a necessary, stark contrast to nihilistic secularism, many-god pantheisms, the indifference of the modern coexist movement, the progressive revelation monism of Islam, ancient and modern pharisaic Christianity, potpourristic Mormonism, and big box consumer Christianity.

We will attempt to draw these distinctions in ways that children and adults can understand and use in their witness of Christ.

- 1) Wed, Mar 8, 2017. Behold, a Mystery! What is a creed and why do we say this? (i.e., "What you say can matter eternally.")
- 2) Wed, Mar 15, 2017. Glory to God in the Highest: Jesus is God (i.e., "Yes, Arius, this is actually pretty important.")
- 3) Wed, Mar 22, 2017. Glory be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God in Three Persons. (i.e., "No, Charles, you can't re-write the text to make it fit your presupposition.")
- 4) Wed, Mar 29, 2017. Watch Out for the Watchtower: The Trinity and the Resurrection of the Body (i.e., "Charles, Arius was wrong 1700 years ago, and he's still wrong.")
- 5) Wed, Apr 5, 2017. Who Cares about The Cross? The Perils of the Prosperity Gospel (i.e., "Dude, you've got a nice smile, but you're cheating people to make money.")

Divine Services at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m., with 15 minute Lenten hymn-sing beforehand.

CHURCH CARPETING

St. Paul's Ladies Aid has a goal of replacing the carpeting in church this year. They have pledged \$10,000 of their own money towards the project. To date they have received \$2,610 in donations from members. As the Church Properties Committee has offered to help remove the old carpeting, in order to save on the cost, we are already over halfway there!

A SAMPLE OF THE NEW CARPETING IS ON DISPLAY IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX. Please take a moment to view the sample.

As we still need about \$8,400, we are asking members to prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's Ladies Aid with a memo of "Carpet Fund". Watch the church bulletin for updates on funding and thank you for your help.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PRESENTATION

Do **YOU** know the difference between Alzheimer's and Dementia?

- + Are they the same?
- + How would I know if I had either one?
- + What can I do to help a loved one who has Alzheimer's?



Come and hear our speaker, Joni Barrie-Hoffman, speak on Alzheimer's disease. She is a certified Dementia Practitioner.

Date: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th**

Time: **RIGHT AFTER THE 12:15 PM MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE**

Place: **ST. PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by St. Paul's Stephen Ministry.

Let's Talk! The Pastor Is In.



NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT! Imagine yourself sitting in a rocking chair on your front porch with your favorite beverage and Pastor O'Donnell sitting across from you, and he's answering all of the questions you have about anything you can think of. Sounds

pretty great, right? Well, now you can send us those questions and our guest pastors will answer them on our NEW program, "Let's Talk!" Listen in beginning Friday, March 3rd at 2:00 pm CST at kfu.org and send your questions to letstalk@kfu.org.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS



Support Dominican Republic Mission Trip
Wednesdays in March, 5:30 pm - 6:15pm

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptisms

Evan Robert, son of Kurt & Amy (Kluck) Ahrens
Nola Mae, daughter of Lance & Sarah (Hansen) Laugavitz

Death

Helen Kitzman

LENT ~ HOLY WEEK ~ EASTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday Worship	12:15 pm	Worship
	Journeyman Ash Wednesday Dinner	5:00 pm	Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
	Ash Wednesday Worship	6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday, March 8	Midweek Lenten Worship	12:00 pm	Hymn Sing
		12:15 pm	Worship
	Lenten Soup Supper for DR	5:30 pm	Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
	Midweek Lenten Worship	6:15 pm	Hymn Sing
		6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday, March 15	Midweek Lenten Worship	12:00 pm	Hymn Sing
		12:15 pm	Worship
	Lenten Soup Supper for DR	5:30 pm	Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
	Midweek Lenten Worship	6:15 pm	Hymn Sing
		6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday, March 22	Midweek Lenten Worship	12:00 pm	Hymn Sing
		12:15 pm	Worship
	Lenten Soup Supper for DR	5:30 pm	Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
	Midweek Lenten Worship	6:15 pm	Hymn Sing
		6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday, March 29	Midweek Lenten Worship	12:00 pm	Hymn Sing
		12:15 pm	Worship
	Stephen Ministry Presentation	1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Lenten Soup Supper for DR	5:30 pm	Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
	Midweek Lenten Worship	6:15 pm	Hymn Sing
		6:30 pm	Worship
Wednesday, April 5	Midweek Lenten Worship	12:00 pm	Hymn Sing
		12:15 pm	Worship
	NO SOUP SUPPER THIS WEEK		NO SOUP SUPPER THIS WEEK
	Midweek Lenten Worship	6:15 pm	Hymn Sing
		6:30 pm	Worship
Monday, April 10	Holy Week Worship	12:15 pm & 7:00 pm	Worship
Tuesday, April 11	Holy Week Worship	12:15 pm & 7:00 pm	Worship
Wednesday, April 12	Holy Week Worship	12:15 pm & 7:00 pm	Worship
Thursday, April 13	Maundy Thursday Worship	12:15 pm & 7:00 pm	Worship
Friday, April 14	Good Friday Worship	12:15 pm	Chief Service
	Good Friday Worship	7:00 pm	Tenebrae Service
Saturday, April 15	Holy Saturday Worship	12:15 pm	Worship
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunrise Worship	6:00 am	Worship
	Easter Breakfast	7:00 am	Breakfast served by Youth
	Easter Traditional Worship	8:00 am	Worship
	Easter Contemporary Worship	10:30 am	Worship

MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 9:20 am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	6:30 pm Lord's Open Party 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	7:00 pm LWML 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	2:15 pm Ash Wednesday/Worship 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		7:30 am Journey Men 8:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-12th)	6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	2:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 2:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		5:30 pm Traditional Worship 6:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-8th)	NO SCHOOL 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	NO SCHOOL 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	NO SCHOOL 2:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 2:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	NO SCHOOL 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		7:30 am Journey Men 8:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9th-12th)	6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	2:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 2:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:00 pm Stephen Ministry Presentation 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	6:00 pm SPLS Open House 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	4:30 pm Fish Dinner 7:00 pm Youth Lock In	

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER



Ash Wednesday is on March 1st. There will be a 12:15 pm worship service and a 6:30 pm worship service. Prior to the evening service, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, St. Paul's Journeymen will be serving dinner. The menu is as follows:

Chicken
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Desserts
Beverages

(Free-will donation—proceeds to go to Larry Hansen)



Lutheran Women's
Missionary League

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML meets on Tuesday, March 7th, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making plans to host the Spring Rally.

Help is needed for simple sewing of quilt tops or backs. Material and thread is available. Contact Pat Menden (262-646-3508) if you would be willing to help.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 2nd, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for fellowship and help us plan our next 2 BIG events: Fish Dinner on March 31st (see details on back page) and the Mother~ Daughter ~Friend Banquet in May.

Thank you to Pastor O'Donnell for being our guest at our last meeting—also to his daughter, Siobhan, for coming to the meeting.

Please consider coming to our meeting as we will need many helping hands for our projects. Blessings to all of you and thank you for any help.

Please bring cereal for our Lord's Cupboard.

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

Worship Time Survey

Some members asked the elders to consider moving the Saturday evening service to 3:30 pm. After much discussion, that was deemed too early; however, the Elders would consider a slightly earlier time, if there is considerable interest. Survey period: February 25 -March 12, 2017. Please place in offering plate or return to the church office.

Please vote only ONCE during the survey period.

Please provide your name and the service you attend regularly.

Which service do you most regularly attend? 5:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Please select your preferred starting time for Saturday Evening Worship:

5:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Comments:

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1st
Peggy McClintock
Chip Zastrow

March 2nd
Sandra Reddelien

March 4th
Jean Buss

March 6th
Darlene Adams

Sheila Rams
Virginia Schlender
Dennis Zastrow

March 8th
Diane Gartzke
Sue Lindemann

March 9th
Duane Peterson
Dale Weber

March 10th
Duane Olson

March 13
Richard Allen

March 18th
Carol Lenz

March 19th
James Holzhueter

March 20th
Gerri Zwieg

March 21st
Rev. Paul Borgman

March 24th
Ann Duggan

March 25th
Werner Franz
John Simaras

March 30th
Priscilla Eaton

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Carleen Werth Somrud \$50.00
 Helen Kitzman \$125.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
 CHURCH AND SCHOOL
 (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
 210 E. Pleasant Street
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
 262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217
 Pastor Steven Schamell 567.5001 x216
 Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001
 Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001
 Principal - Jon Pickelmann 567.5001 x213
 FAX 567.1207
 Website: www.splco.org

RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
 Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
 & www.wtkm.com

THE KINDER PLACE

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
 Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
 2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
 ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Kinder Place
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Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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St. Paul's Fish Dinner



Friday, March 31, 2017
4:30-7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium

Fried Fish	Baked Fish	
French Fries	Potato Pancakes	
American Potato Salad	German Potato Salad	
Coleslaw	Rye Bread	Applesauce
Coffee	Milk	Water

Hot Dogs
will also be
available!

All
homemade!

12 year-olds and up: \$10.00
4-11 year-olds: \$5.00 (under 4: free)

Desserts & Soda will be \$1.00 each

Monies earned will go towards the "New Carpet Fund" for our Church Nave.