

# SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

## Worship Time Survey

Some members asked the elders to consider moving the Saturday evening service to 3:30pm. 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. You can hand the survey in to an usher, bring to the church office or put it in the offering plate.

***Please vote only ONCE during the survey period.***

***Please provide your name and the service you attend regularly.***

What 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:



To our dedicated, capable, flexible and very kind volunteers:  
Thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to support the  
guests of Family Promise this week.

You, the volunteers, make a big difference in the hectic days of  
these families.

From February 26-March 4, we hosted three families.  
We were able to encourage Tarie and her two daughters as  
they nervously moved out into their new home in Racine on  
Friday. She was especially on edge this week as she faced a  
huge change in her future living situation and in the lives of her  
girls. Thank you for being patient with her as she faced her fears  
of leaving the Family promise safety net and starting her new life  
in Racine.

We were able to support Melissa, a new mom who had given  
birth to her fourth child just a week before she came to OSLC.  
We helped her have some time to spend with new baby while  
entertaining and "wrangling" her other kids who were in need of  
mom's attention as well. We are excited that with the support of  
Family Promise volunteers, she will be moving into her own  
apartment next week. Thank you for giving her the extra love  
she needed.

Finally we welcomed Ann and her two children into the Family  
Promise program for the first night. She was apprehensive about  
this new step towards improving the lives of her children. She  
told me that the volunteers have made her feel welcome and  
less nervous and more determined to make a positive change  
for her family. Thank you for your continued prayers for their  
success in the program.

Thank you all again for making a difference in the lives of these  
families.

With appreciation,  
Ann Coming and Laura Seipel

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc  
Lent 2 – March 12, 2017  
“NOT GUILTY!”  
Romans 4:1-8, 13-17  
Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

*Use this insert for home study of the text for today,  
and for personal assessment of your faith*

In our sinful world, there are many unfair things. Others seem to get the advantage, we see ourselves paying the price for inequity. Just once it would be nice for us to get a break. We might even think that Christians are at a disadvantage. Persecution – physical, verbal and mental seem to be burdensome crosses we bear for claiming the faith. We find ourselves jealous when others – Christian or not, get something we think we deserve. We get angry when others don't seem to suffer as much as we do. We want justice and fairness across the board. We might even say, “If it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me!”

- 1) Think of a time in your life when you were angry that you didn't get something you felt you deserved?
  - How did you resolve the issue?
  - What makes you still remember the incident today?
- 2) Think back to newsworthy events (local-national-international) that you felt an injustice had been done with inadequate consequences.
  - How would you have “judged” the injustice differently?
  - How did you talk about this with your friends?
  - How important is “evidence” and “opinion” in your judgment?

How do you think God sees and deals with the “injustices” of this world? Sometimes we wonder if God is even paying attention. So much is changing and happening contrary to our faith, we wonder if God has let things get out of control. (Christians do ask this question!) When is He going to bring judgment upon the sinful world? Many of us pray, “Come Lord Jesus, come quickly” with the hopes of ending personal and world suffering. But with His eventual and promised coming also comes joy for some, and eternal sorrow for most. He WILL deal with the “injustices” of this world – some of which WE have brought upon ourselves and others. Someone once told me, “You should be careful what you pray for.”

Now let's narrow our focus on OUR PERSONAL LIFE. If Christ were to return today, and you were asked to account for your faith and life...

- Have you made a mental list of all your "accomplishments"?
- Are you pleased with the course and product of your life?
- Any thoughts, words, or actions you need to "justify"?

The Romans text today reminds us that if we stood before God to plead the merits of our case, we would be found guilty. Even Christians think their piety and life count for something. When we come to the reality of our sin and life – we always fall short of the glory of God. GUILTY! In fact, as Paul reminds us, "The wages of sin is death!" But, "Thanks be to God, He gives us victory through Jesus Christ!"

I just love that BUT! That "but" is our justification – being able to claim NOT GUILTY in the sacrifice of Christ – Who came to pay my consequence – not with gold or silver, but with His holy, innocent and precious blood. This is truly and exclusively Christian thinking and theology.

- How do you feel now about not receiving what you deserve?
- How do you explain this faith "not guilty" to others?
- How do you explain its availability to them?

Our sinful human nature puts us amid a dying world that is running toward eternal destruction. The finish line is coming near and Jesus is there. We are not the first to have finished the race, but finishing is paramount to our faith. Incomprehensible joy will overwhelm us when His face sees and hand takes hold of us. The injustices end and the joys begin!

*"But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the One Who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."* Romans 3:21-26

**- To God Be the Glory -**

## Operating Statement Summary

as of February 2017

Detailed financials are available at the office

<u>Church</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$644,289	\$638,267
Expense	<u>\$461,733</u>	<u>\$458,430</u>
Net Income	<u>\$182,555</u>	<u>\$179,837</u>

<u>School</u>		
Income	\$573,875	\$573,266
Expense	<u>\$730,874</u>	<u>\$748,082</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$156,999)</u>	<u>(\$174,816)</u>

<u>Total</u>		
Income	\$1,218,164	\$1,211,533
Expense	<u>\$1,192,608</u>	<u>\$1,206,512</u>
Net Income	<u>\$25,556</u>	<u>\$5,021</u>

## 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 29<sup>th</sup>**

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.



*Christ caring for people through people*

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**