

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc
Easter 2 – April 8, 2018
“The Benefit of a Second Opinion or Second Look”
John 20:19-31
Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

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

Unbelievable News

All of us have aches, pains and illnesses that lead us to a doctor for relief. In most cases, our symptoms aren't terminal, but irritating and debilitating. After examination, the doctor tells us what's wrong, prescribes medication, and within days we feel better as the suffering goes away. I doubt we would seek a “second opinion” for such things. We trust the doctor's first diagnosis and plan for our care. We do as he says and move on with our lives.

But what if our illness is far more serious? We may sense something is terribly wrong, and expect the worst from the doctor we have trusted for years. And then it comes – our illness, which we had hoped was curable through medication and special care is TERMINAL! Those words spoken by a trusted friend, are now called into question, and we openly seek (or the doctor even recommends one) a “second opinion” or “second look” at the test results from another expert. The first diagnosis was not enough – not good enough.

- Think of a time in your life when both scenarios were present – you trusted the first diagnosis and treatment; and the time when you sought additional verification and care. How far will you go to get the opinion you want to hear? Two, three, four or more before you accept the original or final diagnosis?

Many times, Jesus spoke the diagnosis of what was going to happen in His life prior to the Holy Week events. His words seemed so unbelievable, most ignored the impact of what He said. How the rush of that Maundy Thursday evening in the Garden changed all that. Within 12 hours of that “prayerful” night, Jesus was hanging and dying on a cross in full view of mourners and mockers. The reality of His forewarned death was now beginning to sink and soak in. It was terminal! Many times the words we hear from our trusted doctor are the same – unbelievable (maybe even unacceptable) news! It comes too fast and furious for us to comprehend and believe.

Many of us have heard, read, and told the story of Christ's suffering and death on the cross – it's even part of our weekly statement of faith in the Creeds, but until we visibly relive it (ex: watching the Passion of the Christ movie) it catches us all breathless.

Words are easy to speak and hear, but mentally & physically taking them to heart is a different matter.

- Think of a time in your life when the reality of the diagnosis hits home; It is terminal, suffering will remain, life will end. How do you prepare for that journey? How did Jesus prepare? How can we find comfort in that?

Believable News

As Christians, we know the rest of the story; *“and on the third day He rose again from the dead.”* Most of the disciples (and the Jews) missed that part of the diagnosis. They got wrapped up in their moment – Jesus was living and walking with them now, things aren’t going to change. But things did change – just as Jesus foretold.

A few of the disciples and women rushed to the tomb to view an empty cave. The reality of words they previously heard finally meant something to them, but they still needed to see for themselves – a “second opinion” or “second look”. They weren’t willing to accept what their trusted friends said. Jesus had to return and stand before them physically – and show them His *wounds for their (our) redemption* before they would believe. I can only imagine they watched every move He made, making sure He was alive and not a ghost, and peered often at the marks of crucifixion. Jesus changed the minds of unbelieving friends to living reality.

Sin causes us to seek a second opinion, to even take a second look into the tomb. Maybe like Thomas, we will sneak a glance at the hands of Christ once we enter eternity – just to make sure. Thomas wouldn’t believe until he saw them.

- How about you? Is your faith strong enough to believe what Christ has done for you without having to take a second look? Or, to question the complete grace He offers you in receiving the “crown of life” unconditionally?

The resurrection caught many – believers and unbelievers – by surprise. That’s human nature. We need proof – to see it for ourselves – to check, recheck and double check before we believe. With all of the distractions in the world around us and Satan finding new ways to deceive us, God wants us to be sure and not deceived. It’s OK to be like Thomas. I’m sure there will be absolutely no question Who will be welcoming and standing before us at the gates of heaven. In knowing the world from which we have come, I truly believe that Jesus will not wait for us to ask for a “second opinion or look”, He will just show us His hands – undeniable proof of His love for us and the truth of all He said.

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29

CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

CONNECTED TO CHRIST

Why Membership Matters

PETER SPECKHARD

LIFE TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY

5 Wednesdays, beginning April 18th

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm (Room 219)



Connected to Christ by Peter Speckhard

Being a member of a church isn't just about tithing and having your name on a roster. It's about supporting our brothers and sisters, holding them accountable, and regularly receiving God's Word and Sacraments with them.

You are a part of the body of Christ. You matter. Membership matters.

LIFE TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY

Dates: April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16

Time: 6:15 pm—7:15 pm

Place: Room 219

"A Christian is called to be a living, working part of the corporate body of Christ. The personal relationship (with Him) and the corporate membership (with each other) are two sides of the same coin, inextricably linked."

Connected to Christ: Why Membership Matters presents biblical reasoning for why church membership is a crucial aspect of Christianity. Every believer - regardless of one's gender, ethnicity, economic class, political party, or level of education - is part of the Church.

Being a member of a church isn't just about tithing and having your name on a roster. It's about supporting your brothers and sisters, holding them accountable, and regularly receiving God's Word and Sacraments with them.

The book may be purchased at Amazon.com (paperback or Kindle version) or at cph.org. Enter "Connected to Christ: Why Membership Matters" in the search bar. The author is Peter Speckhard. If you need assistance ordering the book, please contact Heather in the church office at 262-567-5001 by Friday, April 13th.

The Bible Study will be led by Pastor Scharnell. **Please have the Introduction and Chapter 1 read by the first class on April 18th.**

The graphic features a blue background with a white dotted pattern. On the left is a red superhero cape with a yellow shield on the chest that says "BE A HERO". The text "ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL" is written in a blue, stylized font at the top. To the right of the school name is a blue star with "New Ticket Prices!" and a yellow star with "NEW! Extended Deadline: April 13". The words "HERO" and "CRUSADE" are written in large, bold, red letters with a yellow outline. Below this, it says "Fundraiser to benefit our technology initiative & scholarship program, Fund-A-Family".

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

New Ticket Prices!

NEW! Extended Deadline: April 13

HERO CRUSADE

Fundraiser to benefit our technology initiative & scholarship program, Fund-A-Family

**Registration deadline has been extended to
Friday, April 13!**

Ticket prices now are \$55/person!

For more information on the Hero Crusade including the menu, sponsorship opportunities, become an event donor and register to attend, please visit our website at <http://www.splco.org/church-3/hero-crusade/> Extra invitations are also located in the church office.

Special thanks to everyone who is involved to help make this evening extra special! Your hard work, dedication, and talent are a blessing and appreciated!

Hero Crusade RSVP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Guest Name: _____

DINNER SELECTION:

(\$55/person)

- | You | Guest | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Duet Entrée: Beef Tenderloin & Almond Chicken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vegetarian Entrée: Cheese Ravioli
w/ spinach & button mushrooms |

DONOR LEVELS:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superman
(\$1,500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Batman
(\$1,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wonder Woman
(\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiderman
(\$250) |
|--|--|--|---|

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Sponsor
(\$7,500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Table Sponsor
(\$500) |
|---|---|

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- Visa MC Check (payable to St. Paul's Lutheran School)

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: (mm/yy) _____ CVC#: _____

Name on card: _____

WOULD YOU LIKE RESERVED PARKING FOR ONE YEAR?

Support the **Fred Boldt Fund-A-Family Scholarship Fund**
and you will have a chance to win **RESERVED PARKING**
in St. Paul's parking lot.

How it works: For every \$25 donation you make to the Scholarship Fund, your name will be entered into a drawing for the reserved parking spot on the southwest corner of the building. If you donate \$50, you are entered twice, \$75 is three times, etc.

THIS DRAWING IS OPEN TO EVERYONE

The winner will have reserved parking from May 1, 2018 – May 1, 2019. The drawing will be held on Friday, April 20 at 2:35pm in St. Paul's gym. You do not have to be present to win.

Not interested in the parking spot? Feel free to make a donation in honor of a teacher, pastor, or staff member! They will truly appreciate being the lucky winner of that coveted spot!!

How to enter: Complete the information below and return this form, with your donation to the school office. Entry forms are also available in the school office and on our website. Forms submitted without a minimum \$25 donation will be disqualified.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Donation amount \$ _____

Checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran School

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Lutheran School and the Fred Boldt
Fund-A-Family Scholarship Fund!!

“Let There Be Bees on Earth”

Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet



Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Oconomowoc Golf Club



Adults: \$20.00

Children: \$10 (3-11 yrs)

Menu: Pork Tenderloin

Menu: Chicken Tenders

Twice-Baked Potato

Mac ‘n Cheese

California Blend Veggies

Fruit

Salad, Rolls & Dessert

Ice Cream

Coffee & Milk

Milk

Fellowship

6:00 pm

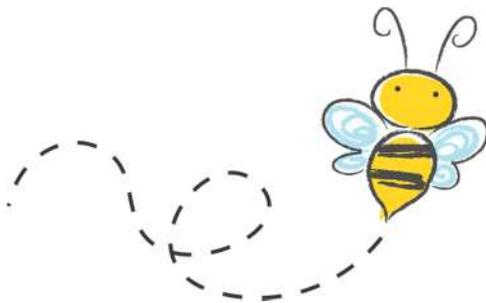
Dinner

7:00 pm

Entertainment to follow dinner!

Get your Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet tickets from the church office (262.567.5001) or one of our officers: Judy Braatz (262.567.7787), Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262.354.3010), Sue Lindemann (262.567.8985) or Sharon Peterson (262.490.8671) no later than *Tuesday, May 8th*.

Bring a bag of Hard Candy for



Preferred flavors:

Root Beer

Peppermint

Lemon

Ginger