



St. Paul's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ



Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm traditional • Sunday: 8:00 am traditional

Sunday: 10:30 am contemporary

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066 | 262-567-5001 | www.splco.org

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School & Early Childhood Center

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steve Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, The Church Triumphant
Jill George, Principal
Michelle Oddsen, Deaconess Intern

Amanda Rosenberg, Middle School Youth Director
Adam Tanney, High School Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, ECC Director

Volume 25

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Number 13

Please fill out an attendance card
and place it in the offering plate.

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome! If you are a guest, the following information may help you:

If you have questions, or would like more information about St. Paul's, an usher will be happy to help you.

Please fill out an attendance card, located on the pew in front of you, and place it in the offering plate.

If you have small children, there are activity bags located behind the back pews that might be helpful for your child.

HOLY COMMUNION

Please read our confession found on page 329-330 of the Lutheran Service Book and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.

Those who share in our confession of faith of the Lord's Supper are welcome to receive.

If you hold a confession differing from this congregation, please speak with a pastor or elder.

Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

If you are physically unable to come to the table, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you and give you communion.

Communion Wine

The wine glasses in the center of each tray contain **one drop** of communion wine. The glasses that contain more wine are rose in color.

As the prelude begins, worshipers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare for worship.

March 31, 2019

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Focus: *Fight the Good Fight, Part 4*

Theme: *The Foolishness of Grace*

Traditional Worship

LSB, Divine Service 2 pg. 167

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

5:00 pm – 80 **Total: 301**
 8:00 am – 101 **Members: 290**
 10:30 am – 120 **Visitors: 11**

Scan the QR code and give electronically. This is a safe and easy way to offer your gifts to God.



THIS WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Music Leaders	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	In His Light
Special Music	George Menden	George Menden	
Acolytes	TBD	Bobby Edwards	Nadine Tanner
Altar Guild	Margie Hertneky	Dorothy Duchow	Sarah Neff
Elders	Todd Leonhardt	Arno Kirchenwitz	Scott Kalien
Greeters	John & Margie Hertneky	Jim & Marlene Steinberg (church) Shirley Smart (school)	Karen Meyer
Lectors	Russ Meyer	Jim Steinberg	
PowerPoint	N/A	N/A	Jacob Chang
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Todd Leonhardt	Bob Bratz	Scott Kalien

SPONSORS

Radio Broadcast: Pauline Bemis in honor of her grandchildren's (Carli and Alec) birthdays

Our 8:00 am Worship Service is broadcast live on WTKM 104.9 and at wtkm.com

Families with small children:
 There are activity bags located in the back of the church that might be helpful for your child.

Public Reception of Holy Baptism

During the 10:30 am Worship Service, we publicly recognize the baptism of **Erin Rae**. She is the daughter of Adam & Tammy (Lindenstruth) **Rumler**. Her sponsors are Ben Bahnson & Kristina Albert. We will keep Erin in our prayers.

Flash photography is not allowed during a baptism which takes place during the worship service. The pastor may reenact the baptism after the service for picture-taking opportunities

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Sunday Sermon Series:

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, PART 5

Learning to Go on "Spiritual Offense" for Lent

The Fifth Sunday in Lent.

7 Apr 2019.

Luke 20.9-20.

Parable of the Wicked Tenants. "I'm Going In."

Sometimes there's just something you have to do. Jesus and the prophets have a lot to teach us for these moments.



Easter food bags

The Lord's Cupboard is in need of donations for Easter: canned corn, brown gravy packets, packets and boxes of instant potatoes, cans of mixed fruit, Jell-O, boxes of scalloped potatoes.

We need help putting bags together Friday, April 12 (due to funeral) 3pm-4pm and youth delivering bags Sunday 11:45-1:00pm.

Please call Jamie Stache 608-444-3556 with any questions!

St. Paul's Lutheran School

7th Grade Happenings

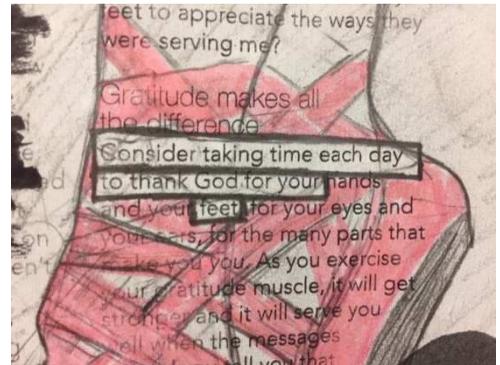
Finding Meaning Within



This past month, students in middle school language arts learned about blackout poetry. A blackout poem is a type of poem that a poet writes by blacking out words to reveal a poem hidden within the words on a page. The beauty of blackout poetry, is that each poet can take the same article, book page or other piece of writing, and find their own meaning within the words on the page.

Blackout poems can be created from anything that has words on it. The

poem can be short, or it can be long, depending on what the poet is trying to convey. In addition to finding the meaning within the words on the page, students created an illustration to represent the idea behind the poem, and blacked out the rest of the words with that illustration.



Pictured is an example of poem and illustration by Caelynn Syner

Mission Statement: Helping God's children grow to be energetic servant leaders for HIM through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 24-Thursday, June 27, 2019



We are looking for volunteers for our Vacation Bible School Program this summer. We need people for the following positions:

- Arts and Crafts Leader (1) (Requires choosing crafts from Leader Guide, ordering all materials, and leading crafts during VBS week)
- Arts and Crafts Helpers (3-4) (Requires assisting children with their projects)
- Music Leaders (2-6) (Leading kids in songs during opening and closing with actions)
- Opening and Closing Leaders (2) (Requires speaking in front of the large group and getting them pumped up for the day ahead. Also, closing the day out with a review of what we have learned. Some skits and acting may be involved.)
- Technology Leader (1) (Running power point during opening and closing)
- Group Leaders (10) (Requires taking children to their sessions, responsibility, energy, organization, and enthusiasm)
- Group Helpers (10) (Requires taking children to their sessions, responsibility, energy, organization, and enthusiasm)
- Bible Teachers (1 for elementary and upper elementary, and 1 for Preschool and 5K; requires teaching a Bible lesson to a group of 15-30 students in two sessions.)
- Game Leader (1) (Requires choosing games from leader's guide, organizing equipment, and running games each day)
- Game Helpers (2-4) (Requires helping run the games and involving the kids)
- Decorating Leaders (Most of this work is done ahead of time, so there is no commitment the week of VBS. Decorating ideas are provided in leader's guide)

Our VBS will be June 24-27 from 8:30-11:30am. If you would like to serve at VBS this summer, please contact Sara Benes at sara@splco.org. (Leaders must be 15 or older and Helpers must be age 12 or older.)

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Fight the Good Fight, Part 4: The Foolishness of Grace*

March 31-April 7, 2019

Fight the Good Fight, Part 4: The Foolishness of Grace

Lent 4. 31 Mar 2019. Lk 15.1-3, 11-32. Parable of the Prodigal Son. "The Foolishness of Grace." This parable is not so much about the prodigal son or the hard-hearted son. It is about the graceful father, who made a fool of himself—to his older son and to his community—by running to his prodigal son and welcoming him back to the family. Likewise, what looked like His humiliation—Christ's cross—was actually the ultimate display of grace. You've received this grace from Christ. Who needs you to be "a fool for Christ"?

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christ-Centered Theme: Christ's grace overwhelms us, covering even the most egregious sins.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalm: Psalm 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

Daily Psalms	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: Table of Duties—*Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4*

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1	1 st grade+
Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:2	2 nd grade+
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. Romans 13:3	3 rd grade+
For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4	4 th grade+

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Fight the Good Fight, Part 4: The Foolishness of Grace*

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15	Gen. 41:28-57	Mark 11:20-33
Mon.	Luke Passion: Peter Denies His Lord— Luke 22:54-62	Gen. 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
Tue.	Luke Passion: Jesus Before the Sanhedrin— Luke 22:63-71	Gen. 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
Wed.	Luke Passion: Jesus Before Pontius Pilate and King Herod—Lk. 23:1-12	Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
Thur.	Luke Passion: The King of the Jews Is Mocked— Luke 23:13-38	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
Fri.	Luke Passion: Jesus' Death and Burial— Luke 23:39-56	Gen. 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS – Dennis Zastrow; Chad Eberhardt–recovering from brain surgery (again☺); Ken Dinnauer; Ann Duggan; Pastor O'Donnell–recovering from knee surgery and blood clots in his lungs; Margie Hertneky; Wilbur Pieper; Barb Pieper; Carolyn Pankow–Shorehaven; Don Gauerke; Peggy Lauber–liver and bone cancer; Shirley Dibble–cancer; Laura Gruen–brain tumor; Lucille Campbell–cancer treatment; Mary Buss–cancer; Marilyn Marohn; Katie Waldorf; Glenn Gartzke–Melanoma; Larry Hansen; Timothy John Bratz–cancer; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Mabel Fredrick; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Rick Ware–swollen right knee & leg; Crystal Parker

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – **Those with cancer:** Bill Duchow Jr.; John Henke (Skye's dad)–stage IV Melanoma; Fran Meyer (Chris Hesse's aunt)–Multiple Myeloma; Tanya Schoenberger (Richie & Lucy Fredrick's daughter)–breast cancer; Betty (Heather Scheuer's aunt); Erin (Mileager)–Rayborn–Hodgkins Lymphoma; Mark Jorgenson–pancreatic cancer; Peg–breast cancer; Mary Sprague–breast cancer; Sandy–kidney cancer; Debra Thurow (Dona's daughter); Kathy Berkbigler (Pat Borgman's cousin)–breast cancer; Beth–Lymphoma; Tom–stage 3 bladder cancer; Mike–bone cancer; Roy Hyatt–cancer returned; Quinn–breast cancer; Kim B.–breast cancer; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)–Lymphoma; Dan (stage-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain–kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski–throat cancer; Nancy–breast cancer

Other: Luigi Guadagno (Celeste Abel's dad)—recovering from a fall; Joyce Litzau—hospice; Brennan; Carli Boyer (Pauline Bemis's granddaughter)—skiing accident; Nicki (young mother)—awaiting heart transplant; Charlie (3 year-old)—victim of child abuse; Jake Albright—consistent migraines; Dan George (Jamie's brother)—awaiting liver transplant; Charlie Vitrano—open heart surgery; Ray Kugler (Crystal Parker's friend); Audrey (Sheila Rams' sister)—Alzheimer's; Yvonne (Sheila Rams sister)—stroke; Gracie Brehm; John Meisenheimer; Sharon—circulation problems; Rev. William Meyer; Merita Dinnauer; Sue Jansen (Shirley Dibble's niece); Bob Back (friend of Scharnell's)—Lou Gehrig's disease; Anna Mae (George Urban's mother)—hospice; Jeffery Barney; Gail Albright; Dan; Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Shawn—vascular problems; Doug—CCL; M Barb (Dave Schlomer's mom)—severe headaches; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Pat—afib; Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Clarence; Pam; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Justin Michener; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

Those serving God as missionaries: Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; Alli—suffering from severe depression; the family of Pastor Emeritus Paul Borgman—who passed away; Chuck—strength; Charline—strength; a member struggling with anxiety and depression; Teddy; David; those struggling with addiction—Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri, Sam

Baptismal Affirmation: Erin Rae Rumler—March 31st

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
Hymn of the Week: "Amazing Grace"

LSB 744

Looking forward to The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 7, 2019

Hymns: 575, 430 (543, 638, 753) 912

Fight the Good Fight, Part 5: I'm Going In (Pastor O'Donnell)

Lent 5. 7 April 2019. Lk 20.9-20. Parable of the Wicked Tenants. "I'm Going In." The parable here is about the love of the landowner and his son, who risk all to call their tenants to repentance. But how about the second servant? And then the third? The third guy, especially, had to know what was coming. These represent the prophets, who were called to be participants in grace. The Son represents Christ, who knows that His death awaits, but goes forth willingly, for the "joy set before Him." (Heb 12.2) Sometimes, in Christ, there's just something you have to do. Jesus and the prophets have a lot to teach us for these moments.



Luke 15:12 “*And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them*” This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. Give me my inheritance now! Which is to say, you are better off dead in my eyes. This is the sin at the heart of all greed – valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

Angela Bleke vocal recital

Come see Angela Bleke’s benefit recital on Sunday, April 28th, at 5:30 pm here at St. Paul’s Church. This brief 30 minute concert will feature the works of Mozart, Puccini, Rachmaninoff, Menotti and Amy Beach! This is a freewill offering recital to raise money for Angela to attend an educational, youth summer opera program in Italy, called *La Musica Lirica*. This program has offered Angela the role of *Susana* in Mozart’s opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*, her biggest role yet! Through this program, she will also take Italian language classes, receive private voice lessons with voice teachers from around the world and have vocal coaching with Italian opera coaches like Ubaldo Fabbri (one of Pavarotti’s own coaches). The total cost to attend this four-week program is \$7,000, which includes all lessons, coaching, classes and housing. Anyone is welcome to attend and enjoy some music! Any freewill donations are welcome to help her allocate this cost, and will receive documentation for tax deductions. Please come to support her and hear beautiful music!

St. Paul’s Journeymen are looking to do a service project

Our men’s ministry group, St. Paul’s Journeymen, is looking to do a service project. If you, or someone you know, needs some help with something, please contact the church office at 262.567.5001. This group is open to all men, confirmed-age and older. Please join us at Maxim’s on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month for Bible Study, as well!

LWML scholarship opportunities

Scholarship applications are being accepted for women preparing for church work in the LCMS. Active female members of South Wisconsin District congregations who are preparing for “full time service” * and are an undergraduate at one of the Synod’s educational institutions are eligible to apply. *(Full-time service in the church is any position available through the Board of Assignments of the Synod). Forms are available at www.lwml-swd.org. Deadline is April 30, 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Doctor Paul Lyle Borgman funeral arrangements

Pastor Borgman joined the Church Triumphant on Tuesday, March 26th. His funeral arrangements will be held at St. Paul's. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 12th, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm and on Saturday, April 13th, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. The funeral service will be on Saturday, April 13th, at 11:00 am, with a luncheon to follow in the gymnasium. ***Due to the potential number of people anticipated for the luncheon, salads and desserts are being requested.*** In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church are appreciated.

Guide Book & Directory advertising opportunity

We have partnered with Guide Book Publishing to provide a Guide Book & Directory for our congregation that we will update & publish annually. This book is delivered directly to every member at no cost to our congregation. Local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book, but we want to make sure our members have first access to prime locations in this new directory.

This is a great opportunity for your business because our members prefer to support businesses that support our congregation. Recent results of a survey taken by GBP show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize an advertiser over a non-advertiser and 70.9% consciously look to see who is advertising. If you are interested in advertising in our new Guide Book & Directory, please call the office at 262-567-5001.

Thank you for your support!

Update membership information

Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred over the past year. So...

Have you changed your phone number? Moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home, and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

If you have not already informed the church office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the new Guide Book & Directory is correct.

The church office number is 262-567-5001.

Thank you for your help!



Saturday, April 6, 2019

9am – 2pm

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

1205 S East Ave., Waukesha



*Join us in celebrating together,
a church service, fellowship,
delicious ethnic food, entertainment, and door prizes.*

Register today @ lwml-swd.org.
For more information, contact Mai Thao
at 414-531-3661 or mnthao1@gmail.com

EASTER FLOWERS

Help beautify our Easter Worship with spring flowers. You can choose Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils or Hyacinths.



Easter Lilies	\$12.00
Tulips	\$12.00
Daffodils	\$12.00
Hyacinths	\$12.00



Deadline for ordering is SUNDAY, March 31st

Please make checks payable to **St. Paul's Altar Guild (payment must accompany order)**

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

Please indicate number of each type of flower:

_____ Easter Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Daffodils _____ Hyacinths

Total amount: _____

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY April 1	Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry Parish Choir Stephen Ministry Leaders Stephen Ministry Supervision	Hallway Balcony Room 201 Room 201	5:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
TUESDAY April 2	Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meeting LWML Praise Team Practice	Room 219 Fellowship Hall Church	6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY April 3	Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Adult Choir	Church Church Church Church Balcony	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:30pm
THURSDAY April 4	Ladies Aid Praise Team Practice	Fellowship Hall Church	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
FRIDAY April 5	Youth Lock-In	Divine Redeemer	7:00 pm
SATURDAY April 6	Women of Joy Bible Study Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Whelan's Church Fellowship Hall	8:00 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY April 7	Traditional Worship Service Blood Pressure Screening Public School Confirmation Time to Grow (Sunday School) Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Service	Church Church Office Room 219 Meet in Gym Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Adult Bible Study

Sunday: 9:15 am - Fellowship Hall
262-567-5001

Women of Joy

Saturday (1st & 3rd) - 8:00 am
Whelan's

Journeymen

Saturday (2nd & 4th) - 7:30 am
Maxim's

NEXT WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Readings	Is. 12:1–6	2 Cor. 5:16–21	Luke 15:1–3, 11–32
Acolytes	Levi Benes	Bobby Edwards	Mia Thurow
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Ashworth	Barb Hentz	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwieg
Elders	Arno Kirchenwitz	Dave Meyer	John Melvin
Greeters	Roxie Gerlach	Ralph & Donna Andrus (church) Jim & Judy Braatz (school)	Anne Fait
Lectors	Amy Hackbarth	Dave Meyer	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Whitney Fleischfresser
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	TBD	Mike Papa	John Melvin

April 7, 2019

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O’Donnell

Focus: *Fight the Good Fight, Part 5*

Theme: *I'm Going In*

Traditional Worship

LSB, Divine Service 1, pg. 151

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 12:1–6

You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”