



Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

St Paul Lutheran Church
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March 2017

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Our service on that day will be at 6:30 pm. in our sanctuary. Starting on March 9 we will have our Thursday evening Lenten services at 6:30 pm each Thursday. There will be five of these services – they will be held in our sanctuary, and the theme of the messages will be “Journey through the darkness, Christ’s and ours”. The Thursday services will last about 35 minutes, or maybe 40 minutes. We will consider our Lord’s journey through the darkness of His passion, and we will consider the resources that God gives to each of us to sustain us in our own walk through the darkneses of this present life.

Projecting forward to the coming spring and summer I would like to attempt to have a little time of prayer with each of our households that would care to have me do that. I’m still formulating that in my mind, but wanted to mention this now in our newsletter. At least that way you’ll know what I’m

thinking about “A little time of prayer”. More to come on this later.

May the Lord continue to bless you in the faith,

Pastor Turanski

March 1st - **Ash Wednesday** 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 9th - Midweek Service
6:30 pm

Thursday, March 16th – Midweek Service
6:30 pm

Thursday, March 23rd – Midweek Service
6:30 pm

Thursday, March 30th – Midweek Service
6:30 pm



The President's Pen

To: St. Paul Members and Friends;

God's blessing to you all. I am so thankful that Spring is right around the corner and will be upon us before we know it. It is God's way of replenishing the earth and starting the renewal process all over again. I believe we all need to be rejuvenated after the cold winter season. Coming to church is another way of rejuvenating ourselves with God's wonderful blessings and being thankful for the many gifts that he gives us daily. God tells us to come to Him with all of our needs and also with thanksgiving.

Some thoughts to ponder:

Due to our financial situation we are not able to issue a call at this time. The prospective candidate had items to be completed before he would have been available also.

The creation of a Stewardship Committee to address the spiritual and financial health of St. Paul. Jim Whitten and David Schlaack have graciously volunteered to serve on this committee. They will be looking for additional members to serve.

I highly recommend reading an article written by Dr. Bubba that is in the NALC newsletter. He talks about the inability to correct issues within the church that are similar to what we are dealing with. Success as we see it, may not necessarily be God's plan for us. Filled pews that are overflowing with people may be what we see will correct the problem, but keeping GOD, the Word, at the center of our ministry should be our focus.

We all need to continue to keep our church in daily prayer and ask God for his direction.

Thank you to all who serve our Lord at St. Paul.

Sincerely submitted,

Deb Elliott

Council Corner



St. Paul Lutheran Council Meeting

Minutes

February 19, 2017

Present: Deb Elliott, Jim Whitten, Peg Booher, Peg Walters, Don Waker, Jim Reider, Pastor Turanski, Dave Schlaack

Absent: Steve Mishler

Call to order by President Deb Elliott at 11:27 am in the Church Basement

Opening Prayer: Pastor Turanski

Congregational Comment: None. Carol Roberts and Vera Bailey were guests

Agenda Additions: 500th Anniversary Program is added to new business

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve minutes of 1/15/17 and special 2/6/16 meetings by Don Waker, 2nd Dave Schlaack. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

January Income: \$4,300, Expenses
\$2,208.94 = Variance \$+2091.06

Jan. 31 Ckg Bal: \$23,810.41, Spec. Acct
Bal. \$7,557.65.

Council Corner cont.



Peg Booher advised that we received a \$73 refund of our 2017 Workman's Compensation premium.

We agreed to modify our mileage reimbursement rate to the 2016 IRS amount of \$.535/mile.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Don Waker, 2nd Dave Schlaack. Approved.

Pastor & Elders –Written Report received noting plans for Lent and thanks for January sabbatical leave.

Worship and Music – Submitted verbally by Jim Whitten. A written report will be put in March newsletter.

Property: - Submitted verbally by Dave Schlaack. New eaves will be added when contractor is available. Several doors need repair/replacement of latch/locks. Lawn repair is planned for the spring.

Community Dinner – Submitted verbally by Peg Walters. At 2/8 dinner, we had 90 who dined in, 17 take-outs and 17 volunteer workers. Donations received were \$556.

Call Committee: Verbal report by Deb Elliott. See old business.

Motion to accept Reports by Dave Schlaack, 2nd by Don Waker, carried.

Old Business:

Call Committee met on 2-12 and agreed that, due to our financial situation, we would be unable to issue a call to any Pastor candidates now. Terese Whitten will write our prospective candidate with this information. Forthcoming info and

suggestions from committee members will be submitted about the direction that St. Paul needs to take for the future.

New Business:

Stewardship. President Elliot read from a letter by Dr. Bubba from the NALC newsletter. It centered on the story of the Disciples' inability to catch fish in their boat until they heeded Jesus' instruction where to cast their nets. Once they began fishing where Jesus indicated, their catch was too great to haul in by themselves. Dr. Bubba pointed out there is a parallel between churches who seem to try everything they can think of, working long and hard, but with little to show for it. He concluded that hard work without Jesus is not going to give us any result. We need to keep the Word at the center of our mission and our ministry.

A long discussion about St. Paul's current financial and spiritual health was held with nearly each member expressing their opinions and concerns. A committee of Dave Schlaack and Jim Whitten will be started to begin addressing our needs and how best to communicate with the congregation about meeting them.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Jim Whitten advised that we have heard from a group at the Institute of Lutheran Theology who is offering to present a day-long program to congregations on the story and significance of Luther's role in the Reformation. They are seeking congregations who are interested. Anyone can be invited to this event. Cost per attendee is \$25. A discount is available for couples and families. Council asks that information be given to them for further study. Jim W. will provide copies.

Council Corner cont.



Correspondence:

Several Thank-you letters were received for recent donations. New requests for donations were forwarded to the Benevolence committee. A yearly update letter was received from the national NALC office and read to the council.

A letter to council from Ruth Mowat with her suggestions regarding the situation with our search for a new Pastor was read to council by President Elliott.

Suggestion Box:

Carol Roberts verbally suggested that St. Paul consider donating unused books and bibles to the Army Chaplain working with soldiers in the mid-east, noting that many bibles are not being used regularly during services any more. Jim Whitten will contact the Chaplain to learn more about what is needed and how to donate.

Meeting adjourned as 12:42 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next scheduled meeting is March 19, 2017.

Submitted by Jim Whitten, Secretary

Getting in the mood for Lent

Worship & Music Committee Report – February 23, 2017

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

We will be going back to the Green Book liturgy for Lent. **Special music** during Lent includes:

- Our Song of Praise will change to “O Lamb of God” by Twila Paris (replacing “This Is the Feast”).
- Also, during Lent, we sing “Return to the Lord Your God” as our Gospel acclamation (in place of “Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go.”)
- One final change: during the passing of the peace we will sing “Peace is flowing like a river” (in place of “Let there be peace on earth”.)

Midweek Lent services will be held each Thursday at 6:30 pm during Lent **beginning March 9**. The theme will be “Journey through the darkness – Christ’s and our own.” This will be a formal liturgy in sanctuary with readings, sermon, and hymns.

Our **Holy Week** celebration centers on Palm Sunday (April 9), Maundy Thursday (April 13), Good Friday (April 14) and Easter Sunday (April 16). More detailed plans for these dates will follow.

TELESCOPE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



While we do not look at things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4:18

Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity

As we look forward to the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses, it is perhaps helpful to remind ourselves of the beliefs that make Lutherans different from other Christians. The following is the first in a series based on a book by Alvin Schmidt.

The "Solas" – *"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"*. John 14:6

Solus Christus – Christ alone, sola gratia – by grace alone, sola fide – by faith alone and sola Scriptura – by scripture alone, these became the first slogans of the Reformation. The first and foundational Solus Christus reflects Luther's description of the Bible as the cradle of Christ. He believed that the Bible was revealed by God in order to make Jesus known and without Christ the Bible would be an unclear book. In fact, Christ himself taught the same thing. Walking with the two men on their way to Emmaus, Christ said to them, everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44). Again in John 5:39, Christ says, the scriptures bear witness about Me. To Luther the Bible was only valuable because it proclaimed Jesus Christ and His redemptive work.

The second part of solus Christus is that God can only be known through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus himself told Philip, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father". John 14:9 Seeking God anyplace but in Jesus Christ is of no use because God can only be known through Jesus Christ. "For in Him the fullness of the deity dwells bodily". Colossians 2:9 To think that God can be found apart from Jesus Christ is not a bigoted doctrine but rather just what Christ taught and the early Christians believed and proclaimed.

The third part of solus Christus for Lutherans is that no one can obtain eternal life without faith in Jesus Christ's work of salvation. As Peter declared, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved". Acts 4:12 If it were possible to be saved by any other name, why would Jesus Christ be crucified for us?

The fourth part of solus Christus deals with our prayer life. Jesus said, "whatever you ask in My name, this I will do" John 14:13. Using the name of Jesus Christ in our prayers is important because firstly they follow Christ's command (John 14:13) and secondly because it gives a Christian witness to all present. Thirdly, it tells those hearing the prayer that Christians pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Using Jesus full title accents His messianic role. We do not pray calling upon the name of saints but to the one Jesus Christ, as the mediator, atoning sacrifice, high priest and intercessor.

Luther in his strong accent on solus Christus said anything that diminishes Christ is heresy. He is diminished when people think they can obtain eternal life without Him; when they think all religions honor and pray to the same God; when they believe they can be saved by good works, or by works combined with faith, or when they see Jesus Christ primarily as a good teacher but not as God.

As Lutherans, we hold to the hallmark of solus Christus because the Holy Spirit has convinced us that there is no salvation outside of Him. In the words of Luther's great hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, "You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He!, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son adored. He holds the field victorious."