

ST. PAUL'S TROY LUTHERAN

APRIL, 2020

Thoughts from Pastor Collver

Newsletter –April, 2020

Ash Wednesday (26 February) ushered in the season of Lent. Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. (To get 40 days, the Sunday's are not counting during Lent.) Lent is a season of repentance and its color is purple. For centuries, people have fasted or denied themselves of decadent things like chocolate or alcohol. Some have resorted to giving up television or the Internet. An article in the Chicago Tribune dated Ash Wednesday titled, "Lent in the age of the Impossible Burger: Do rules against eating meat on Fridays apply to fake meat?" asks if eating a vegetarian hamburger violates the Lenten fast. Perhaps not surprisingly, religious officials gave a variety of answers from "yes" to "no." Others tried to distinguish between the letter and spirit of the Lenten fast, saying, technically no it doesn't but since you are trying to get around the rule, it does. Notice that the Lutheran church based on Scripture Alone and the Gospel, doesn't argue about these things. While external practices might be helpful for some people, they are not commanded by God. The Ash Wednesday reading from Joel tells us, "Rend your hearts and not your garments." (Joel 2:13) Lent calls us to true repentance and not the performance of external demonstrations. So eat your hamburger (a real one), if you want! Nevertheless, repent!

At St. Paul's, midweek Lenten services are held on Wednesday at 7 PM. The theme of the Lenten series is "Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The sermon series goes through the Gospel of Saint Mark, beginning with chapter 1 and finishing with chapter 15. Each week will look at who recognized that Jesus is the Son of God (and who didn't). The goal is for us to grow in our recognition that Jesus as the Son of God for us. You are encouraged to bring your Bible to follow along.

Finally, my first couple of weeks at St. Paul's have been very nice. Thank you for your hospitality. I hope to get to meet you in the coming weeks. My family (Terra, Christopher, and Kaitlyn) plan to visit on a regular basis and also look forward to getting to know you. God's blessings during the coming month.

Pastor Collver

During this time of crisis and uncertainty, please continue to contribute your offering as you are able. The church still has an obligation to pay salaries and has bills to pay. There are four ways to continue to send your offering to St. Paul's:

- 1) Drop your offering at the church office.
- 2) Mail a check.
- 3) Make a debit or credit card donation by visiting our online donation site (<https://saint-pauls-troy-il.square.site/>).
- 4) Download a form to make recurring ACH payments from your checking account (<https://www.saintpaulstroy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Auto-Pay-Application-Form-1.pdf>).

During this time of coronavirus crisis, the church office will be open on a limited basis. Lana will be in the church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. You can reach her at 618-667-6681, option 2, or at 618-520-7068. Also, Portals of Prayer booklets are available in the church office, and anyone who wants one may pick them up .

If you need assistance, or know of another member who needs assistance obtaining groceries and basic necessities, please contact Lauren McLaughlin (618-977-2744) or Karen Kilzer (708-942-4403) or the church office (618-667-6681, option 2).

Our Homebound Members

Mrs. Lila Goedelman
St. Paul's Senior Community
1021 West E St. Room 2055B
Belleville, IL 62220

Mrs. Fran Hosto
MorningSide Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Barb Wright
MorningSide Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. LaVerne Boeshans
123 W. Throp
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Jean Tieman
San Gabriel Memory Care
2509 Frank Watson Parkway
Highland, IL 62249

Shirley Schnoeker
300 South Station Road Apt. 8303
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Lois Rodenbaugh
714 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234

Those Serving in the Military

Amanda Alvis
Ethan Baumgartner
Carolyn Brynildsen
Austin Counts
Natalie Emmons
Tonya Hupp

Nathan Kohl
Cole Long
Chris Payne
Darren Roberts
Kelly Sawielski
Ian Sikes

April Anniversaries

John & Kathy Nehrt April 9
David & Pat Peverly April 24
Todd & Heather Kenison April 29
Randy & Debbie Jones April 30
Jim & JoAnn Kesterson April 30

April Birthdays

April 1: Grant Unger, Jo White
3: Sam Italiano, Claudia Loethen, Philip Weatherspoon
5: Aubriella Moody, Joan Spencer
6: Dexton James
8: John Nehrt, Hazel Neumann
9: Susie Merkel, Shawen Rampold, Beau Sievers
10: JoAnn Harris
11: Andrew Carruthers, Jamie Miller
12: Frances Kohl, Gary Koval
13: Cory Graddy, Jordan Reynolds, Shawn Schlemmer
14: Bill Kohl
15: Danny Davidson, Lori Hasquin, Mark Ponce
16: Nikki Morland
17: Joshua Hunt, William Kriemeyer, Carter Powell

18: Gibson Hunt, Madelyn Hunt
19: Donna Bloemer, Christopher Gierse,
21: Sawyer Payne
22: Jeff Merkel, Monroe White
23: Amanda Lading, Derek Lyle, Yvonne Rieger, Darren Roberts
25: Bev Wooldridge
26: Stella Sollberger, Elizabeth Watson
27: Fred Patterson
28: Brianna Butler, Ian MacKenzie, Brynlee Missey
30: Alex Engelbrecht, Jim Kesterson

Hi Everyone,

Here we are in April. My hope and prayer is that everyone is well and will stay that way. Who would ever have thought that in this day and age a virus could stop the whole world in its tracks! And yet, here we are... practicing social distancing, isolating ourselves. Businesses are losing money and people are losing jobs and we are all wondering what will happen. I know we are all worried, and that's normal for us humans.

As usual, I have a song that I sing to myself sometimes. "His Eye is on The Sparrow" reminds me that I should not worry, but let God take care of me.

"Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home.
When Jesus is my portion my constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me."

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear;
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubt and fear,
Though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free;
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me."

Love,
Lana

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April Newsletter Article

How much is too much control?

The LCMS Foundation encourages God's people to respond to the presence of God's gifts in one's estate by putting together a gift plan that looks to bless the family we love and the ministries that are close to our hearts. Without planning, such desires are only wishes and may not happen, unless they are spelled out in wills/trusts or detailed in beneficiary designations for investments, IRA's, insurance contracts or even one's house.

The two most important questions you want to answer are:

- 1) How do I want this gift (inheritance) to bless family members? Starting from that goal, you can construct a plan of blessing.
- 2) How do I want this gift (bequest) to bless the ministry or ministries I care about? You might think of placing restrictions on how those gifts will be used.

There is a fine line between Godly planning and trying to become God ourselves. We don't want family to waste God's gifts. We want to make sure that future needs of family are addressed. We want to make sure that gifts to ministry will do more than purchase new bushes for the parking lot. But how do I know when I am getting too restrictive about the gifts I am planning, either withholding family gifts well into the future that could really jumpstart an education or career today or planning gifts for ministry that reflect values that are not widely held by others in that ministry, potentially orphaning my gifts with too many restrictions?

There is no easy answer to these questions. The process begins and ends with prayer, with prayer throughout, as we seek God's will. In a perfect world, a family inheritance will include discussion with children, grandchildren or other heirs. Planned ministry gifts will include discussion with ministry leaders to gain a clear vision for future ministry plans. Connecting gifts with those plans will maximize their effectiveness.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be helpful with all of this, asking you the right questions in your quest to put together the right plan for family and ministry. Most of all, we desire this process to recognize throughout that all of these gifts are the Lord's gifts. Our questions center around the theme, "How can these gifts of the Lord bless others in the best way?" For help with this journey in faith, contact Scott Radden, your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News for April:

LWML Dates to come:

Cancelled: Wednesday, April 1, 5:30 pm: LWML Lenten Meal cancelled.

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 Check in, 9:00 Prayer Service with Communion, 10-2:00 Program with Lunch: Metro-Central Spring Rally at Trinity Lutheran in Edwardsville. Guest Speaker will be Julie Tracy from Equipping the Called ministry for foster families. Election and installation of Metro-Central Zone Secretary/Treasurer will be at this rally. In-gathering for Equipping the called: Diapers (any size), pullups/overnights, wipes, socks and underwear, bath towels, sleepers, onesies. Registration is \$10 and due by April 16 with the form, which is available on the LWML table in the narthex. Also, the zone is wanting more ladies to be included in the planning of their events. Please let Carol Oldinski (618-830-5090 or carol.oldinski@gmail.com) know if you are interested.

Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm: Bi-Monthly Meeting in the church basement Fellowship Hall. Devotions will be shared by Shirley Rood. Our activity will be decorating lunch sacks for the Ministries Unlimited summer lunch program. Our in-gathering for the meeting birthday boxes (cake mix, frosting, candles, napkins, plates, etc. Could be in a photo box.) Our congregation in-gathering will be peanut butter and jelly for Ministries Unlimited. Our meeting refreshment servers will Shirley Schmitt, Mary Ann Bonneville and Kathy Nehrt. Please come join us!

Preparing for Sunday Worship

Sun. Apr. 5, Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50: 4-9

Psalm 118: 19-29, or

Psalm 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 26: 1-27: 66, or

Matthew 27: 11-66, or

John 12: 20-43

Mon., Apr. 6, Monday in Holy Week: Isaiah 50: 5-10

Psalm 36: 5-10

Hebrews 9: 11-15

Matthew 26: 1-27: 66, or

John 12: 1-23

Tues., Apr. 7, Tuesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalm 71: 1-14

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 (26-31)

Mark 14: 1-15: 47, or

John 12: 23-50

Wed., Apr.8, Wednesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 62: 11-63: 7

Psalm 70

Romans 5: 6-11

Luke 22: 1-23: 56, or

John 13: 16-38

Thur., Apr. 9, Maundy Thursday: Exodus 24: 3-11

Psalm 116: 12-19

Hebrews 9: 11-22

Matthew 26: 17-30

Or

Exodus 12: 1-14

Psalm 116: 12-19

1 Corinthians 11: 23-32

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr 10, Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22 or Psalm 31

Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9

John 18: 1-19: 42, or

John 19: 17-30

Sat., Apr.11, Holy Saturday: Daniel 6: 1-24

Psalm 16

1 Peter 4: 1-8

Matthew 27: 57-66

Sun., Apr. 12, Easter Sunday: Exodus 14: 10 - 15:1

Psalm 118: 15-29, or

The Song of Moses and Israel

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

John 20: 1-18

Sun., Apr. 19

Acts 5: 29-42

Psalm 148

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

Sun., Apr. 26

Acts 2: 14a, 36-47

Psalm 116: 1-14

1 Peter 1: 17-25

Luke 24: 13-35