ST. PAUL’S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

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March 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

 Ash Wednesday is upon us and with it the beginning of the season of Lent. This season is often viewed as a time of preparation, reflection, and penitence, but none of these are things we do alone. When we prepare we do so together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on what He has done for us, we remember together. And as we confess our sins in penitence we confess with the rest of the church that, “we are by nature sinful and unclean.”

 It is for this reason that God created us to be the body of Christ, that we might do things together. We can build each other up. We can encourage and support one another. We can even just spend time together. The writer of Hebrews encourages this very thing as he tells us:

**“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” - Heb. 10:24-25**

To this end, during the season of Lent we add additional worship opportunities on Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00pm to which all are invited.

 In addition to these worship opportunities we also have the opportunity for fellowship. Prior to these evening worship services, we will be having Lenten suppers hosted by both the LCW and LYF from 5:30pm - 6:45pm. These suppers serve as an opportunity for us to gather as the body of Christ outside our regular worship times. As well as being a great opportunity for us to support these groups within our congregation.

 Throughout the Scriptures, food is often used as a means of bringing people together. When Abraham was visited by the Angel of the Lord, he invited him to stay and eat. When a sacrifice of thanksgiving was to be made, the people were to eat the sacrifice together, in fellowship. When Jesus met with his disciples after he had risen from the dead, he broke bread with them, cooked fish for them, and asked them for something to eat: all on separate occasions.

 But we all know food isn’t the only reason for us to get together. We gather for worship each Sunday remembering what Jesus did for us: how he suffered, died, and rose to free us from sin and death. This year our midweek services will focus on the theme, “Behold the Man.” This statement made by Pontius Pilate as he presented Jesus to the people proclaimed the truth of Jesus: God in man made manifest.

 And so we gather this Lenten season to worship our God who came down to earth, took on human flesh for us, ate, drank, had fellowship with his disciples, suffered, died, and rose, all to redeem us. As we gather in fellowship, in worship, even in our own homes for devotional time, we do so at God’s command and to continue to remember all He has done for us.

 And as we continue to gather in God’s house, singing His praises, hearing His Word, receiving His gifts, we remember the words of the psalmist:

**“O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.” - Ps. 26:8**

God’s house is the place for us to be. Jesus acknowledged this to his parents when they found him in the temple at age 12 saying,

**“[Jesus] said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’” - Luke 2:49**

Jesus knew he ought to be in his Father’s house, just as we ought to be. So let us not neglect meeting together. Instead let us gather as often as possible, for Bible study, for worship, for food, and for fellowship. That we may continue to build each other up and that we, as God’s people, might be built up into the body of Christ that we have been called to be. May God bless you this Lenten season and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Don’t forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

**MidWeek LENTEN SERVICES**

Lent begins on March 6. Midweek services continue until April 10. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday, with supper to be served from 5:30-6:45 pm. The Lenten suppers will be hosted both by the LCW and LYF.

Free will donation

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” On March 6th we will have our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. During the service we will place ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to reflect on the prayerful and penitential season of the church year.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the LYF room.

**LCW MEETING**

LCW Meeting is Wednesday, March 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

**LWML ZONE PRAYER**

The Spring LWML Prayer Service will be held at Midway on March 21st.  Coffee & rolls will be served at 9 AM with the Prayer Service beginning at 9:30.  ALL Ladies are welcome

**LYF MOVIE NIGHT**

There will be a LYF Movie Night on Sunday, March 24th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the parsonage. All 7th – 12th grades are welcome.

**“THY STRONG WORD”**

**‘**Thy Strong Word’ is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a.m. Monday through Saturday on KDSN 107.1FM).

**Mar. 4-9 Rev. Nathan Peitsch**

 **St. Paul’s, Ute**

Mar. 11-16 Rev. Mark Kluzek Faith, Deloit

Mar. 18-23 Rev. Josh Keinath

 Zion, Denison

Mar. 25-30 Rev. Merle Mahnken

 Immanuel, Schleswig

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

 Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Lenten devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up from the back table in church.

Centuries before Christ, God was preparing the way for His Son’s arrival. From mankind’s original sin through the children of Israel’s on-again, off-again obedience, God was faithful, honoring his promise to Eve (Genesis 3:15), which first pointed to Jesus. In *People of the Passion*, you will see God working through the lives of ordinary people to achieve His ultimate aim; our salvation. There are prophets, priests, and kings, servants, soldiers, and civilians -- each with a role in the high drama of Christ’s passion. You may see yourself in some of these people -- ordinary individuals who, like us, need a Savior.

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH**

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in March are:

Amy Riddle 4

Loretta Hinrichsen, Jaxson Thies 5

Emilee Meadows 8

Kade Ohlmeier 10

Norma Berens, Alyssa Thies 12

Lisa Thies 13

Gregory Hinrichsen 14

Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens 15

Ryan Goslar 18

Kevin Savery 19

Landon Mohr 20

Carter Leitz, David Pohlman 21

Bryan Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Logan Vinke 24

Sharon Gosch, Virginia Keating, 25

Carolyn Seieroe, Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto,

Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen

Duncan Purcell, Amanda Thies 26

**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families.

Please contact the office if you’d like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is $37.