

My Brothers and Sisters in Jesus the Christ,

Lent is a time of preparation and anticipation. This year all of March is Lent, concluding the month with The Three Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil on Saturday night. Originally Lent was a time of intense preparation for baptism at Easter. Folks prepared for life to be **transformed into a new life in Christ**. The preparation is **hope filled** as we contemplate what wonderful things God will accomplish through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we anticipate the arrival of new life we look for signs of spring, of new life and new hope. Have you heard birds singing? Have you seen any crocus or daffodils popping up through the ground? My favorite Easter carol is "Now the Green Blade Rises."

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain.
Love comes again, that with the dead has been;
Love comes again like wheat arising green.*

Both the melody and words suggest hope, renewal, new life. But the fourth verse reminds us of grief:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again.
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green. ELW #379*

While most of us were celebrating shrove Tuesday or Ash Wednesday or Valentine's Day this year, another community confronted the slaughter of holy innocents in Parkland, Florida. Hearts were grieving. On December 28 each year, the church commemorates the children of Bethlehem, two years old and younger, who were killed by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of a new king. Our nation has continued to ignore the slaughter of holy innocents since the 1998 Columbine High School massacre. The Sandy Hook tragedy just before Christmas claimed the lives of young holy innocents. This February's images of Parkland are still fresh in our minds. The students are demanding that adults make schools safe for students, parents are crying out how long must we wait, it's been 20 years. When are we going to wake up as a society? No other nation on earth has witnessed the slaughter of holy innocents in schools year after year. The slaughter of holy innocents is not a partisan political issue, it is a national crisis. The Book of Common Prayer offers the following prayer:

We remember today, O God the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil and establish your rule of justice, love and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Our prayer for Good Friday is: Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find **new life** in you now and in the world to come. Amen."

Death is not the final world. Death has been conquered through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That, my friends, is our hope. We are people of hope.

Shalom,

Pastor Bev+

Dear members of St. Paul's,

I hope many of you attended the congregational luncheon and had the opportunity to ask any questions you many have had and more importantly received the answers to them. Our Call Committee has currently met with Pastor Sarah and is preparing our church profile. As we have said this will probably take a couple of months to prepare and receive final approval on. Pastor Sarah will also be furnishing us a list of churches currently looking for a minister and possibly interested in joining with us in doing so. Please be assured we are going to look at all of these options to make sure we are selecting the best fit for our congregation both in joining with other churches and of course in our final selection of a minister to lead us. We are certainly not looking to leap into this situation quickly or with no thought or consideration of how this will affect our congregation.

During Lent we will be having a weekly Wednesday get together to go over various topics for discussion and questions. If you haven't attended one of these evenings, please plan to join us at 6:45 p.m. You're welcome to bring a snack to share and we promise you the evening will be over within an hour.

Hopefully you had the chance to come out to the Willing Workers Soup and Sandwich Supper on February 1st. If not you missed the opportunity for some delicious warm and tasty soups as well as some hearty and good sandwiches. The weather may not have been great, but the food sure was. We can all look forward to the upcoming Smothered Chicken Dinner, always a favorite among everyone. This will be on May 3, 2018.

The season of Lent is now upon us. I am sure many of us wonder whether we would like to fast for the Lenten season. Maybe we should consider this type of fasting.

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

I would hope this type of fasting would make us a better person when Easter arrives.

*Linda
Council President*

WILLING WORKERS

Thanks for all your support for our soup and sandwich evening. The weather wasn't that great so the turnout was light. We had soup left so we put it in the freezer and used it on our Third Sunday Fellowship Luncheon. We put \$430 in the bank. We still have bills to pay so I'm not sure what we made.

We do not have anything scheduled until May 3rd. That is the Smothered Chicken Dinner. I will cover that in the next newsletter.

Marty Goetz



SPAGHETTI DINNER

English Lutheran, 200 E. Grandview, Zelenople, will be having a Spaghetti Dinner on March 10 from 4:00 to 7:00. Adults \$8.00 and Children \$5.00, takeout available [Gluten free available upon request]. Benefitting their youth's attendance to The National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX this summer. For questions or donations, please call Jenn Kaufman at 724 766-0817.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – 9:00 AM
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Souper Bowl Sunday. We ended up with a car packed full with food to take to the food bank. I know it will be greatly appreciated.



Tiny breeze or mighty wind,
swirling round as God commands.
Hats go flying. Branches bend.
Little seeds spread through the lands.

God Almighty makes the wind;
great big gusts can shape the sands.
Awesome is the power of God,
when even wind obeys his plans.

—MaryAnn Sundby

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – 6:45 PM

Did you ever wonder why we worship the way we do? Things like why we baptize? Or why we say confession? Wednesdays during Lent, we'll be exploring these and other questions about the Lutheran faith. We'll meet from 6:45 to 7:30 in Strobel Hall on Wednesdays, February 28, March 7, 14 and 21. No meal will be served, but feel free to bring a snack to share.

Discussion schedule:

Week Two – February 28 – Why do we use Christian Creeds? Why do we use them when we do?

Week Three – March 7 – Why do we confess our sins?

Week Four – March 14 – Why do we pray?

Week Five – March 21 – Why do we attend church?
Why do we attend St. Paul Lutheran?



FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.

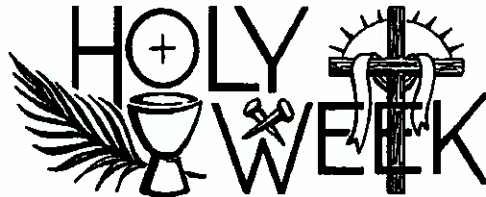
CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS: Tom Baker, Brad Bartley, Ann Boben, Landon Brewer, Carol Bulger, Nancy Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Nellie Chmara, Kim Christy, Jake Dietrich, Rick Dickerson, Don, David English, Mark Fox, Bernie Fedorka, Barbara Frantz, Mikey Graham, Brett Greenhill, Andrienne Haegg, Cindi Hunter, William Loveridge, Anita Lynch, Bobbie Marchlenski, June Marshall, Nolan Nachriener, Don Nielsen, Terry Oakes, Cheryl Oday, Verna Patscko, Lois Peeples, Mark Pollack, Jax Ramirez, Jim Rape, Erin Roman, Dawn Swidorsky, Louise Spithaler, George Stout, Dr. Mark Tarter, Becky Tomei, Bud Weber, John Wherry, David Williamson, Lilly Wolfe, Ruth Wolfe and Ron Zinkham.

Please keep the church updated on your prayer request. All updates and request may be emailed to spicofzelie@gmail.com Also if you would like to be notified of any needed prayers, please email the church office, with your email address.



Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close. Then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some godly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.

—John Ruskin



Palm Sunday – March 25 – Join us for the procession of palms starting in Strobel Hall at 10:15.

Maundy Thursday – March 29 – Service with Holy Communion and stripping of the Altar 7:00 PM.

Good Friday Service – March 30 – 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday – April 1 - No Sunday School – Worship with Holy Communion at 10:15 AM.



Blessed Creator, as we see the earth come alive with amazing beauty, may we, too, be touched by your hand.



REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP 2018!

It is time to register for Camp Lutherlyn!
Visit www.lutherlyn.com or contact the camp
Office (724-865-2161) for summer brochures.

\$100 off for FIRST TIME campers!

This coupon code entitles FIRST TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer, 2018. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Half week programs (Young Folks & Sampler) get \$50 off for FIRST TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camp, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Register at www.lutherlyn.com

Enter coupon code: ELCA18.



2018 Summer Camp brochures and registration forms are located downstairs on the table by the office and in the narthex on the bookshelf. If you have a child interested in attending a camp and is in need of financial help, please see Pastor Bev about the campership program.

