

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MINISTER OF MUSIC

Melissa Cheyney

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a journey of 40 days. Technically there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but since we don't count the Sundays *in* Lent as part of Lent (Sundays are always a celebration of the Resurrection), by removing the 6 Sundays in Lent, our journey adds up to 40 days.

In the past, Lent was seen as a time of self denial—we would “give something up” for Lent. I often joke that as a child I was happy to give up something for Lent, as long as it was something I didn't like to begin with, like brussel sprouts or lima beans. But as people who are dedicated to growing in our walk with Jesus—which is what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus—our Lenten journey should be less about some artificial sacrifice—which can be quite meaningless—and about making some important choices.

In the Old Testament book of Joshua, Joshua, the successor of Moses, places a choice between the people of Israel. “Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15) That choice is ours as well. Whom shall we serve? What values do we want to promote in the world? What kind of legacy do we want to leave? If our choice is to serve Jesus, then we must act on that choice, or our devotion to Jesus is meaningless.

Lent is a journey comprised of choices—simple decisions made each and every day; each and every moment. To this end, in order to make the right choices, we need to intentionally spend time focused and reflecting upon the one whom we choose to follow—Jesus.

This Lent we are offering a number of opportunities to do just that. There will be a natural rhythm to what we do. And while each part of the journey will offer much to nurture our spirit and help us along the journey, all the parts are designed work together, to complement each other.

ASH WEDNESDAY: WE *EMPTY* OURSELVES TO *OPEN* OURSELVES TO CHRIST

Our Lenten Journey starts on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th** with a service at 7PM. During this time of worship we will explore the meaning of those haunting, almost disturbing words, “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall

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return." It is only by emptying ourselves through humility that we are able to become filled by Christ.

A LIFE OF JESUS: FIVE EPISODES from the Miniseries, "The Bible."

On 5 Sundays in Lent (and repeated on 5 Wednesdays) we will gather together to view 5 episodes from the TV miniseries, *The Bible*. The 5 episodes are those that cover the birth, mission, betrayal, passion and resurrection of Jesus. Each episode is approximately 50 minutes long. Following each viewing will be approximately 20 minutes of discussion in the hope of deepening our understanding of how the life of Jesus, our risen Lord, can lead us from darkness into light. For those unable to attend on Sunday, these viewings will be repeated the next Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. These dates and times are:

Sun.: 12:15 to 1:30 PM, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

Wed.: 10:00 to 11:30 PM, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

In order to approximate the number of handouts needed, a signup sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall. People are also welcome to phone in or email their intentions to the church office.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Our journey continues each Wednesday night in Lent with a time for a light meal and fellowship and then a time to gather in worship. As we have in the past, for our Wednesday Evening worship we will be celebrating Evening Prayer, following the "Holden Evening Prayer" that was composed by Marty Haugen. The dates for these are: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Our meal will begin at 5:30PM and our worship will start at 7:00PM. The theme for each evening will reflect one key question into the meaning of Jesus' life as reflected in the episode viewed that week.

PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY SUNDAY, APRIL 13, AT 9:30AM

Please note the important time change.

On Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, we will combine our 8 and 10:30AM services together into one at 9:30AM. We will start with a festive celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (the *Palm* part of this Sunday), to be lead by

our children singing "Hosanna!" Then our service will then turn on a spiritual dime as joyful "Hosannas" turn into angry shouts, "Crucify him!" At the heart of the *Passion* part of the Sunday worship, we will read the whole of the Passion Narrative according to Matthew.

How does a crowd that is lauding Jesus one moment turn against him with murderous rage the next? And, as a natural follow-up: What would we have done?

But wait, there's more:

"EMPTY BOWLS" LUNCHEON SUNDAY, APRIL 13, AFTER THE PALM/PASSION SUNDAY SERVICE

One can not claim to follow Jesus and not be passionate about the condition of the poor and hungry, especially those who live nearby. Through a program called "Empty Bowls" we will be given an opportunity to learn more about these realities in our midst, and what to do about them. We will also be given the opportunity to actually *do* something about them.

Chrysalis Center has invited St. Paul's to participate in a program called, "Empty Bowls," in an effort to raise money and awareness around hunger and their program called Freshplace. Freshplace is a food pantry like no other, as they provide case management and job/education development alongside perishable and non-perishable food. Freshplace has been serving the residents of the Upper Albany neighborhood for just over three years.

The clients and volunteers of Chrysalis will paint bowls made by a local potter. The people of St. Paul's are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a suggested donation of \$20 per person, guests go home with their hand painted bowl, which will serve as a reminder of those in our community and around the world who have empty bowls. (Please note: St. Paul's Outreach Team has earmarked some of its funding to help cover part or all of this amount for those would like to participate, but for whom \$20 would be a financial barrier.)

During the meal a speaker from Chrysalis will talk about food insecurity and the impact Freshplace is making in the Upper Albany neighborhood.

In an effort to ensure that all who would like to participate can go home with a bowl, there will be a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Coordinating the "Empty Bowls" program are Jim and Tracy Newmark. If you have any questions about this event, they would be more than happy to answer them.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES.

Our season of Lent will conclude with our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. While more details will be given in the April edition of the *Epistle*, we can assure you that these services will add essential elements to our journey. Maundy Thursday will focus on the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples and how this meal continues to nourish us as we gather together around the table of our Lord. This year our Good Friday service will be a meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ through readings, prayer and song.

40 days to grow in faith? We hope and pray that we will all make a choice this Lenten season. Let us be able to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

SPECIAL SINGING OPPORTUNITY DURING LENT

Singing Christmas carols is something most of us love to do. And bringing this Christmas cheer to those who are homebound or in a nursing home by going caroling is a well loved tradition. But what about singing . . . during *Lent*? Plans are being made to identify a date and time for such an adventure. If you would like to participate, please talk to Missy Cheyney.



WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

On January 26, 2014 four new members were received into St. Paul's family. They are from left to right: Jennifer Simcik (mother of Natalee Kate), Aileen Casey (with daughter, Jade), Kathy Edison DiMartino and Linda Johnston.

Please say hello and introduce yourselves to our new sisters!

Those who were unable to join St. Paul's in January, and would like to, should talk to Pastor Hugh.

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ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

After a few months of dormancy, our Giving Tree has once again sprouted leaves! The leaves on our tree provide an opportunity for members to give some extra dollars for those items in our budget that need an extra boost. Envelopes are provided near the tree in the Fellowship Hall so a leaf can be picked and inserted into the envelope and then placed in the offering plate.

Beginning in March, each month we will be highlighting one of the branches of the tree that represent our work here at St. Paul's. All branches of our ministry will benefit from extra donations to help make up the reduced or eliminated dollars from our 2014 budget. Giving Tree envelopes will also be placed in the pews in church to make it easier to place in the offering plate during Sunday Worship.

Our first focus is Worship. Extra support is needed for all things that make our Sunday Morning Worship happen. These things include Sunday bulletins, music for the choir, altar candle oil, eternal candles, organ and piano tuning, vacation coverage for Pastor and Missy, and wine and grape juice for Communion.

Please consider making a donation towards these items . As always, the Giving Tree remains with many leaves to choose that include other areas of our Ministry that will be a focus in the upcoming months. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions, please give Sue Agne a call (860-563-0776).

CHURCH



CHAPTERS

St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 11th to discuss the book, ***Heaven is for Real*** by Todd Burpo. The book is about a little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back. Please join us to discuss this interesting telling of 4 year old Colton Burpo's experience. We will meet this month at Carol Bruce's home at 6:30 on the 11th. Please give Carol a call if you can make it. We would love to have you join us!

Our April meeting will be held on April 8th at the home of Sue Agne. We will be reading ***The Orphan Train*** by Christina Baker Kline . Books are made available for check out at the Wethersfield Public Library a few weeks before our meeting. This title will prove to be another compelling read with the opportunity for much discussion. Hope to see you!

MARK YOUR APRIL CALENDARS


SPRING MOM2MOM/CHILDREN'S TAG SALE WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM

Our Spring Mom2Mom/Children's Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, April 5th. We still have room for more sellers. Please share our flyer (available in fellowship hall) with your family and friends. We also need volunteers to help with setup on Friday (day and/or evening), day of event tasks such as, St. Paul's table, food sales, large equipment area, and clean up. Please contact Cathy Evans for more details. 860-478-6918 cathyfevans@hotmail.com.

Not familiar with a Mom2Mom/Children's Tag Sale? Here is how it works: Moms can rent a table to sell their new and gently used items pertaining to maternity, infant through preteen clothes, toys, and miscellaneous to other moms, dads, grandparents from the general public. Shoppers can get a wide variety of clothes, toys, equipment and miscellaneous at a fraction of the cost of retail. New items from specialty vendors, also, such as, taggie blankets, tutus, hair bows, crayon wraps, baby carriers and much more are also sold. A Large Item Area is a great place for moms and dads to compare the condition, price and benefits of multiple similar items from strollers, high chairs, pack n' plays and more that they need for a new baby and growing families.

EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 19

We need one more person to coordinate this event with Wendy Weston. We also need candy donations. Candy needs to fit in plastic Easter eggs. Please put candy donations in box in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Cathy Evans for more details. 860-478-6918 cathyfevans@hotmail.com.



BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

March 16 will be "Bring a Friend" Sunday. Invite your family and friends to worship and enjoy refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for March 2014

ACOLYTES:

March 2 - Arden Adamo
5 - Celia Cheyney..... Ash Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Jared Christensen
16 - Brayson Bernard
23 - Max Gentino
30 - Breen Bernard

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

March 2 - Patty Bengtson
5 - Deb HoweAsh Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Jennie Dotts & Deb Howe
16 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French
23 - Deb Howe & Donna Camillo
30 - Mary Procyk

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

March 2 - Debbie Viola8:00 AM
Patt Bengtson.....10:30 AM
5 - William Fischer, Jr.Ash Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Jim Newmark8:00 AM
Jerry Valliancourt10:30 AM
16 - Art Bruce.....8:00 AM
William Fischer, Jr.10:30 AM
23 - Jim Newmark8:00 AM
William Fischer, Jr.10:30 AM
30 - Art Bruce.....8:00 AM
Patty Bengtson.....10:30 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

March 2 - Lillian Doerschler
5 - Walter RuppapAsh Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Sue Agne
16 - Curt Leonard
23 - Carole Hughes
30 - Sue Agne

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

March - Erica DeBlois

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

March 2 - Jackie Fischer & Pam Speno
9 - Heidi Boutin & Winnie Sawrun
16 - Art & Carol Bruce
23 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun
30 - Patty & Russ Bengtson

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

March 2 - Art Bruce
9 - George Howe
16 - Bob Bowman
23 - Dick Agne
30 - Lois Woy

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

March 2 - Lillian Doerschler
5 - Joan Kratzer Ash Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Winnie Sawrun
16 - Bill Fischer, Jr.
23 - Lillian Doerschler
30 - Sue Agne

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator; 8:00 AM, 860-798-8874

March - Brian Beckwith

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30 AM, 860-529-3079

March 2 - George & Debbie Howe
5 - Wm. Fischer, Sr. Ash Wed. 7:00 PM
9 - Max Gentino & Curt Leonard
16 - Russ Bengtson & Curt Leonard
23 - Bryce Gentino & Curt Leonard
30 - Russ Bengtson Curt Leonard

MARCH 2014 | EVENT CALENDAR

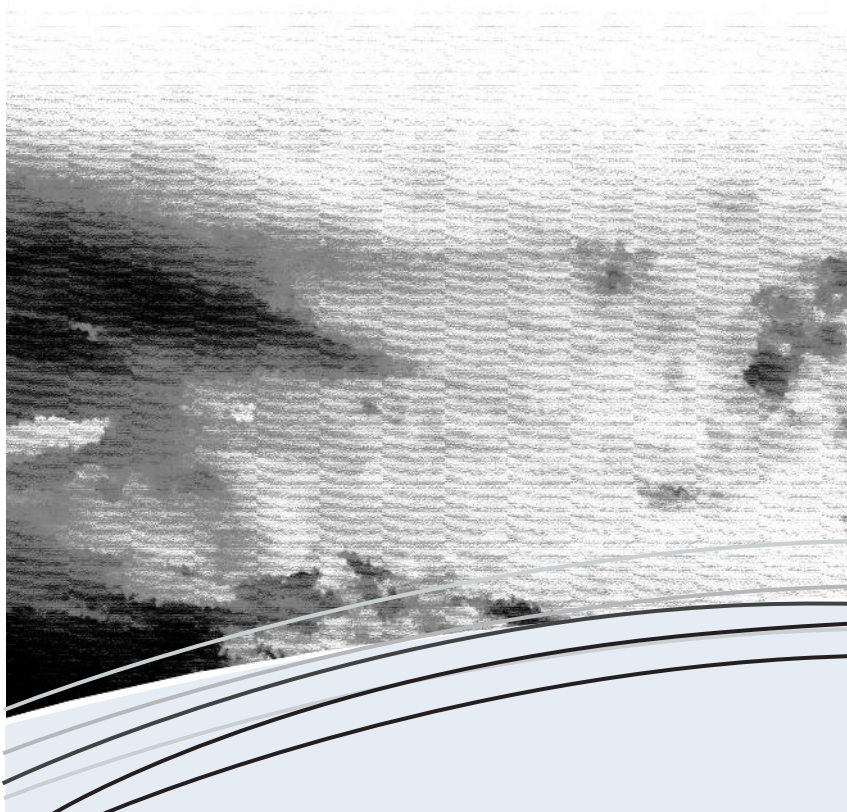
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>DON'T FORGET!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Service, March 5 at 7PM Lenten program, "A Life of Jesus," starts Sunday, March 9 at 12:15PM and repeats Wednesday mornings at 10AM. Wednesday Evening Prayer starts Wednesday, March 12 at 7PM. Light supper at 5:30PM 						
<p>2 Transfiguration Sunday Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Family Sunday: No Sun. Sch. First Communion <i>A Time for Healing shall follow each worship service.</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Outreach 7 PM</p>	<p>5 Ash Wednesday AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Ash Wed. 7 PM Choir 8:00 PM</p>	<p>6 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>7 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>8 Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>9 First Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM</p>	<p>10 Cub Scouts 6 PM</p>	<p>11 Church Chapters 6:30 AM</p>	<p>12 Lenten Prog. 10 AM AA 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM</p>	<p>13 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>14 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>15 Epistle Deadline Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>16 Second Sunday in Lent Bring a Friend Sunday Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Lenten Prog. 10 AM AA 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM</p>	<p>20 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>21 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>22 Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>23 Third Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM</p>	<p>26 Lenten Prog. 10 AM AA 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM</p>	<p>27 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM</p>	<p>28 AA 10 AM</p>	<p>29 Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>30 Fourth Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><i>A Time For Healing</i> will be offered on the first Sunday of each month following each service. April Calendar: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 13, one service at 9:30AM, followed by the "Empty Bowls" luncheon.</p>				

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Volume 72, Number 3



What's inside:

Pastor's Message: "Our Lenten Journey"	pgs 1-3
News & Notes Our New Members	pg 3
etcetera... Giving Tree Church Chapters April Dates Bring a Friend Sunday	pgs 4-5
Members in Service	pg 6
March Calendar	pg 7