



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Praise & Patter – March 2023

Since the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. It is a time to “return to the Lord our God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” Many Christians observe the forty days of Lent by giving up certain things. Others decide to take on a new discipline – study, prayer, fasting. Each of these practices can be a very beneficial thing.

On Sunday mornings during the Season of Lent, we will examine the “stones” in our lives that get in the way of a relationship with God and others. The title of our sermon series is “The Stones Would Shout.”

During the Passover celebration, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. According to Luke's gospel: “As he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.’” *Luke 19:36-40*

Each week we will consider two biblical references to stones and seek to learn from their lessons.

Ash Wednesday: “Hearing the Word of God and keeping it” has Adam considering the dust from which he was made and to which he will return, while Jesus instructs us to build upon the rock of God's Word.

Lent 1: “Look to the rock from which you were hewn.” Like Isaiah's hearers, the slaves making bricks in Egypt needed assurance that the God of their ancestors was still truly present.

Lent 2: “Am I my brother's keeper?” asks Cain after slaying Abel. Jesus asks whether one would give a stone to a child who asks for bread. Both stories deal with hardness of heart.

Lent 3: “Dealing with fearsome foes” has David using a stone to defeat Goliath, while Jesus refuses the temptation of the old evil Foe to turn a stone into bread.

Lent 4: “Stones that fall” reminds us that the walls of Jericho tumbled down for those who trusted the Lord. Jesus warns that for those who fail to do so, “not one stone will be left upon another.”

Lent 5: “Law given – Law fulfilled” considers at Sinai, the Law was given on two stone tablets. At Gabbatha (“The Pavement”) stands One who has come to fulfill the Law.

Maundy Thursday: “The Lord provides” water from a rock for the thirsty children of Israel as they journey in the desert, and for Jesus as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Easter Sunday: “All doors are open” considers the stone that is rolled away from Jesus' tomb and the precious stones of the new Jerusalem from the book of Revelation.

On Wednesday evenings we will gather for soup at 6:00 pm, followed by worship at 7:00 pm. This year, we will welcome pastors from the Washington County Conference to deliver a message. I know that I enjoy visiting other congregations and bringing them a message of challenge and hope. And, I trust that you will appreciate the gifts of other pastors as they share the good news of Jesus here at St. Paul. Our series this year is called “Shadows of the Cross.” Each week will focus on a particular event in Christ's journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight. Throughout the series, we will reflect on the truth that real life is neither neat nor easy.

I look forward to our journey to the cross, and I invite you reflect upon the “stones” in your life that get in the way of relationships with God and others. *Pastor Lee*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 am EACH SUNDAY!

Livestream www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

Telephone 978-990-5000, Access Code: 811703#

Tithes and Offerings

Lord God, thank you for upholding our lives. As we give our gifts and tithes to you, we are reminded of your great gift. We give you praise and honor for giving us the indescribable gift of your son, Jesus. It is too wonderful for words that Jesus laid down his life so we could be translated from death to life. We are so blessed that Jesus redeemed us from the curse and set us free to live for you and with you for eternity. Amen.

THANK YOU for your faithful and generous giving, which helps us to share the good news of Jesus. Please visit our website www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org and click GIVE to learn about electronic giving options. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off during office hours, which are 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

January Receipts \$ 23,536.93 January Expenses \$ 28,177.42

Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month. Our Noisy Offering for March will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Second Mile offering for March will go to Holly Place.

Giving for our 2022 Lutheran World Relief campaign was truly amazing. Together we raised \$1628.00. Thank you so much for giving to help those people who are poorest in the world, for those experiencing hardship, and those who are refugees. Our gifts will make a difference in the lives of families by helping parents provide nutrition and income for their families, while promoting sustainability and independence. These gifts equip people with education, training and support, encourage health and hygiene, and give stability to families as they go through difficult times. It is through these gifts that we express the love of Christ to our neighbors. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, and I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25: 36, 40

One exciting thing about this year's giving is that it gave each of our individual youths the choice of which gift they wanted to give from their heart. Sadly, LWR did not offer the choice to get a cow this year. However, we did get to give a wonderful Herd of Hope. This is the complete list of gifts the kids chose:

- A Herd of Hope of 13 animals, including one hen, 6 chicks, 2 pigs, 2 goats, and 2 sheep
- Milk and Eggs, including one goat, 3 hens, and 18 chicks
- Two Covid-19 defense kits
- 16 Mission Quilts
- Medical Supplies
- School Supplies
- Eye Surgery to prevent blindness and relieve pain from Trachoma
- A tablet for virtual classes
- Emergency Response Assistance for refugees and for those experiencing natural disasters
- Personal hygiene kits for refugees
- Two sanitation material kits and cleaning supplies for refugees
- A microwave for refugees
- A small refrigerator for refugees
- Two cookware sets for refugees

If you are interested in learning more about Lutheran World Relief, how they allocate their money, and the peoples and countries they serve, or if you would like to make an additional gift, please visit www.giftsoflove.org. With thanksgiving, Tori Brumback

Our prayers are with the family of “Tucker” Shaw who died on February 12, 2023.

Prayer Ministry

Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers:

- March 5 Carol Eavey, John Eavey Jr., Peggy England, Karin Engstrom, Elizabeth Everhart, Mary Ann Eckstine, Kendra Forcino, Michael, Kerri, Kennadi, Kamilyn, and Michael Fotta Jr., Travis Fouche, Travis and Jennifer Fournier
- March 12 Catherine Fox, Lennie Frey, Stephanie Frey, Spencer Frey, Shirley Gardner, Hilary, Paige and Peyton Gesell, Guy and Janice Greene, Brenda, Sierra and Brianna Oberholzer
- March 19 Brenda Hamilton, Tracey Hammersla, Jackie Harbaugh, Cindy Harbaugh
- March 26 Catherine Harris, Willian Hatton and Jeanne Doney, Amy, Benjamin and Zoe Haught, Delores Hawbaker, Jim and Connie Hebb, Peggy Hebb, Scott Hebb, Brian Hebb

Newsletter News deadline to receive information for the April newsletter is NOON March 21, so we can publish it by the end of March.

Night Out will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at Hoffman’s All American Grill at 6:00 pm. Come and have a relaxing, casual dinner and fellowship with your fellow disciples. Remember, all men and women of the congregation (and your friends) are invited to participate.

Soup is back for Lent. Please join us as we bring back the soup supper before the Wednesday night Lenten service. The meal will begin at 6:00 pm with a time for fellowship until the service begins at 7:00 pm. You are welcomed to come anytime between 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm for the meal. This year only soup will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a sandwich if you prefer one as well. We are asking for donations of soup for each week. Coffee and water will be provided. A sign up sheet is posted on the information board outside the Mission Center across from the office. No meal will be shared on Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week. If you have questions, please ask Karen Lighter or call the church office.

March Birthday

1	Rachel Smith Jennifer Fournier	14	Robin Folmer Catherine Fox*	25	Connor Shank
3	Kaitlyn Hollinger	16	Amanda Hollinger	26	Bill Morningstar* Clayton Unger
4	Carlin Blash	17	Andrew Reichard	28	John Eavey, Jr. Tom Renwick*
9	Donna Trovinger*	19	Meghan Luther	29	James Collins, II
10	Tamara Ridenour	20	Robert Moats, III	30	Michelle Copenhaver
11	David Unger, Sr.* Margaret White*	22	Andrew Volz Pastor Lee Brumback Eileen Renwick* Connie Hebb	31	Tracey Hammersla Amy Haught
13	Chase Jacobs Stephanie Leonard	24	Sharon Poffenberger Patty Johnston		

*=80 years and over

March Anniversaries

- 24 Michael & Karen Pierce

Sign up Charts for 2023 Altar Flowers Eternal light and Communion Elements are posted on the bulletin board. Altar Flowers are \$60.00 for both vases or \$30.00 for one. Please indicate if you are purchasing one. The Eternal Light is \$10.00 per week and Communion Elements are \$10.00 per week.

Winter Cancellations

In the event that it is necessary to cancel a Sunday worship service or any other church activity due to inclement weather, we will announce the cancellation on radio stations, WARK, WHAG, WJEJ, on television station WHAG, on our website and on the answering machine at the church office. While every effort will be made to provide as much advance notice as possible, decisions sometimes cannot be made until the last minute. During the week, if Washington County Schools dismiss early or are closed due to inclement weather, St. Paul's will also cancel activities on those days. Please always use your best judgment when determining if it is safe for you to travel to attend a scheduled event.

2023 Offering Envelopes have been delayed in coming due to mechanical problems at the printers. An announcement will be made when they arrive.

Up Coming Events

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6:00 pm Lenten Dinner, 7:00 pm Lenten Worship
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
March 7,14,21,28	Bible Study, 10:00 am
March 12	Noisy Offering
March 14	Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
March 21	Newsletter Deadline, Noon
	Night Out, at Hoffman's All American Grill 6:00 pm

Church Office Hours	Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Church Secretary	Carol Ann Rossman office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org
Pastor	Lee Brumback prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org
Director of Music	Cara Price
Council President	Lennie Frey