



THE PROCLAIMER

March 2023

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

***"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121: 1 (NRSV)***

Dear friends in Christ,

Here in the Texas Hill Country we appreciate the beauty of the landscape. We enjoy looking up at the hills from below, and we enjoy the opportunity to walk or drive to the top of a hill and look down on God's creation and the valleys below. The views are awesome and inspiring. In the words of Psalm 121:1 above, when we look out upon the marvels of creation, the vistas we see point our hearts and minds to "the Lord who made heaven and earth."

Many times in the scriptures the Lord spoke and did mighty acts on hills and mountains in what we call the Holy Land today. As we journey this Lent toward Mt. Calvary, our Wednesday Lenten series is called *The Hills of Lent*. On Ash Wednesday, a fine cast of characters helped us to visualize Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah, where God provided a ram, whose horns were caught in thorns in a thicket, to be a sacrifice for sin that day. This was God's way of saying that God's people would stand apart from the pagan religions whose gods required the sacrifice of children and youth. The Lord God of Israel would provide humanity the mercy and grace needed for forgiveness in many and various ways throughout the ages. Ultimately that mercy and grace would come through the one we call our Messiah, the sacrificial Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we journey toward Mount Calvary, here are the mounts we will hike to and learn about on Wednesdays during Lent 2023:

- 2nd Wednesday of Lent, March 1: Mount Sinai
- 3rd Wednesday of Lent, March 8: Mount Carmel
- 4th Wednesday of Lent, March 15: Mount Zion
- 5th Wednesday of Lent, March 22: Mount Olive
- 6th Wednesday of Lent, March 29: Mount Calvary

Lenten fellowship suppers on Wednesdays will be served by our church committees at 6:00 PM.

Brief 25 to 30 minute *Hills of Lent* services of worship begin at 6:30. Offerings at these midweek services have been designated by our St. Paul Congregation Council to be evenly divided between Mason Senior Center and the Peruvian Lutheran Churches in South America.

For those who are available at noon on Wednesdays, the Mason Ministerial Alliance is continuing the annual Mason tradition of community Lenten luncheons and devotional services at various churches in the community. An offering is received toward the Mason Food Bank and other services provided by the Mason Ministerial Alliance. These noontime events offer wonderful conversation and fellowship with friends and neighbors. The first one was held on Ash Wednesday, February 22, hosted by Hilda UMC but held here at St. Paul. The remaining schedule is as follows:

- March 1: St. Paul Lutheran Church
- March 8: St. Joseph Catholic Church
- March 15: River of Life Church
- March 22: St. Martin Episcopal at St. Joseph
- March 29: First United Methodist Church

Sundays are always meant to be "little Easters" because Jesus rose on the first day of the week, Sunday. Therefore Sundays are not actually counted when we number the 40 days of Lent. They are called Sundays "IN" Lent rather than "OF" Lent. Even so, on these Sundays "IN" Lent, our themes will focus on Jesus' great compassion toward people he ministered to and his love and concern for all the people of the world. Come on Sundays to begin your week well in the Lord. Come on Wednesdays for good fellowship at meals and to deepen your faith as we climb together *The Hills of Lent*.

Grace & Peace in Christ,

Pastor Fred Krebs

40 DAYS OF LENT

2023 LENTEN THEME: "The Hills of Lent"
(All midweek Lenten Offerings will go to ELCA Peru & Mason County Senior Center.)

Schedule: (All services begin at 6:30 PM)

- Ash Wednesday, February 22
- Wednesday, March 1
- Wednesday, March 8
- Wednesday, March 15
- Wednesday, March 22
- Wednesday, March 29

Holy Week:

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 2 at 10:45AM
Maundy Thursday: April 6 at 7:00 PM
Good Friday: April 7 at 7:00 PM
Resurrection Worship: April 9 at 10:45 AM

Lenten luncheons for 2023:

February 22 (Ash Wednesday)	Hilda UMC (at St. Paul Lutheran)
March 1	St. Paul Lutheran
March 8	St. Joseph Catholic
March 15	River of Life
March 22	St. Martin's Episcopal (at St. Joseph Catholic)
March 29	First UMC
April 6 Maundy Thursday, April 7 Good Friday, April 9 Easter	No Lenten lunch service during Holy Week

LENTEN SUPPER SCHEDULE - FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 6:00 PM

With the start of the Lenten Season just around the corner, preparations for the Lenten suppers have begun. Each of the church committees will host a light supper for those attending the Lenten worship services. The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m. with the worship service following at 6:30 p.m. The schedule for serving meals for Lent is:

- Mar. 1 - Worship & Music Committee
- Mar. 8 - Parish History & Evangelism Committees
- Mar. 15 - Parish Life & Stewardship Committees
- Mar. 22 - Property Committee
- Mar. 29 - Parish Education & Children's Church Committees



MASON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Mason Ministerial Alliance is asking congregations and faith-based organizations to pray for each other during the year, on a rotating basis monthly. For March 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Mason Community Church/Grace Christian School.

EASTER LILIES



The Altar Guild will decorate the church sanctuary again this year using Easter lilies. Order envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday bulletins on

March 12 and 19. Please fill out the information on the envelope, place your payment inside and drop it in the marked box in the narthex. Cost per plant is \$10. Deadline for orders will be Thursday, March 23.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Property Insurance has increase on an annual basis of \$3,818 above current premium.
- Standing Committees Group Meeting and Covered Dish Luncheon held on Sunday, Feb. 26th was discussed. Evangelism & Parish History Committees in charge of set-up/clean-up.
- Delegates to the Synod Assembly were discussed (to be selected at a later date).
- Council Retreat was scheduled for March 5th.
- Approval of Administrator position modification of hours/salary.
- Designated Council Officers and Church Administrator to sign checks
- AED Training for Council to be conducted next meeting.
- Annual Fish Fry scheduled for Aug. 27.

THE CHOICES WE FACE: SAYING YES OR NO

There are special memories associated with each month, and for me, February brings remembrances in the cards I send and the pain associated with the people I've lost, but for me the overwhelming theme is love, not only because of Valentine's Day, but the place that my daughter Mendy, my Dad, and our little neighbor at London, Lexi Cardwell will always have in my heart as their birthdays and Dad's death date show up on life's calendars. I think back to the life of Jesus and the days of February always draw us closer to the season of Lent where we walk with Jesus to the Cross of Calvary. I love to think for the next 6 weeks about God's lavish and undeserved gift of grace. I often ask these questions: What is grace? How is it ours? What does it mean to have it? And what is my response to God's gift? Reading in Ephesians 2:8 tells me the "Good News". "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith." Grace is meant to be shared. God revealed it to the world through His Word. I want to share the "Good News" of Lent with people of all ages. I want to keep the good news of God's grace going and growing. What an amazing truth to start Lent with. If we believe in Christ Jesus, we are saved from sin and death. Eternal life is OURS with Him, and I know that the people I have lost that have February birthdays will be together with us in their eternal lives.

Many times, when talking with others about grace, we will hear them say, "What about sin? It just keeps happening over and over. The world is such a bad place. What can we do about sin?" I love to think of the word TEMPTATION and the story of Jesus in Mark 1: 12-15. Jesus had just been baptized by John

the Baptist and introduced to the world by God from heaven as His Beloved Son. Shortly after, Jesus stayed in the wilderness for 40 days where He was tempted. He went into the desert without food or water. He was very thirsty and hungry and tempted by the devil. The devil tried many times to get Jesus to obey him rather than God. But each time, Jesus JUST SAID NO, and finally, the devil left Him.

February can also be a month of temptation. Dear friends give us candy that we enjoy and appreciate. I have 2 boxes sitting on my bar as I write about temptation. Sometime we think of no as a negative word and yes as a positive word. But as we enter the Season of Lent and decide to give up some things, I invite you and myself to take Jesus as our guide. Jesus knows what it is like to be enticed by the powers of sin. Jesus can help us say no. In this way, no becomes a positive word as well. And if I am not able to say no and I fall prey to the power of sin, I need to tell Jesus that I am sorry. He will forgive us and still love us...and that is Grace!!!

Many times, we intend to take the Lenten journey, but the temptation to do other things gets in the way. Here are a few examples:

“I don’t really need to go to church on Wednesday. It’s a pretty day. I will go for a walk instead.”
Exercise is important, but nothing is more important than drawing nearer, nearer to our precious Lord.

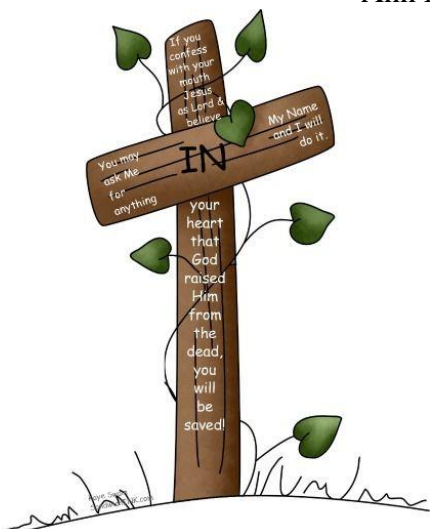
“No other churches really do the Lenten routine, so why should I?”

Doesn’t God expect us to be Kids of the Kingdom and not just follow the world?

So, starting on Ash Wednesday and for the following 6 weeks, we can Just Say Yes to walking with Jesus as He starts His journey to the cross! And on this journey, we will feel the Amazing Grace that is ours and temptations to sin will be lighter as we embrace the perfect love of our Savior. Just say no to excuses in this Holy Time and say yes to taking the Lenten journey with God’s Son.

Dear Jesus, we know that You are powerful to say NO to temptations. Help me say no to temptations that keep me from you. Please forgive me when I fail.

In Christ’s Love and Grace,
Ann Mahnken



ST. PAUL CELEBRATES MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Gammill
- 2 Yuna Mun
- 6 Alett Rosberg
- 8 Jessie Gierisch
- 13 Helen Hahn
- 14 Caleb Reichenau
- 15 Alberta Birk
Hunter Geistweidt
- 17 Wesley Nebgen
- 20 Hux Geistweidt
Cannon Rabon
- 21 Pastor Bill Hill
- 26 Deb Probst
- 27 Hunter Wenzel
- 28 Linda Owen
- 29 Kathy Hill
- 31 Adley Ann Martin

If your birthday or a family member’s birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY

Congregational Giving: \$20,597.86
Expenditures: \$19,845.13

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR MARCH

Lay Reader: Jerry Bearden
Communion Assistants: Jeff Owen & Mark Lehmborg
Council Rep. on Duty: Janet Schmidt
Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg and Mike Goff
Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg
Ushers: Bill Grace, Mike Goff, Cindy Bowden, & Cathy Grace
Property Person on Duty: Glenn Ruthven
Acolytes (3/1-Ash Wed.) Reece Evans
(3/5) Camille S. (3/8-Ash Wed.)
(3/12) (3/15-Ash Wed.)
(3/19) (3/22-Ash Wed.)
(3/26) Hudson T. (3/29-Ash Wed.)
Altar Guild:
Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson
Parament Chairman: Connie Smith
Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt
Women’s Bible Study:
Morning Bible Study (not meeting in March)
Evening Bible Study (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)
Location: Fellowship Hall
Memorials: Church Office 347-5582
We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Krebs Pastor
Mrs. Heather McFarland Church Administrator
Mrs. Ann Mahnken Youth Coordinator
Church Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
(325)347-5582 (Office) (325)347-8420 (Fax)
Email: stpaulmason@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulmason.com