

***The Messenger***

March 2019

**Invitation to Lent from Interim Pastor O. Wayne Shelksohn**

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: ♣ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). ♣ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter. ♣ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284). ♣ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th. We will have a service at 11:00 am with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion for those who are unable to come out at night. Followed by an invitation to the community to receive the imposition of ashes in front of the church in” Ashes on the Go from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Then at 6:30 pm we will have our evening service with imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 6:30pm.



Lent is an opportunity for us to have a closer walk with God. There are some practices that are traditional to lent that enable that closer walk they include:

*Fasting Special Commitments*

*Good Deeds Alms giving*

*Prayer Studying the Scripture*

*Participation in church worship services*

In the early church baptism and penance were key Lenten themes. During lent candidates prepared for Easter Baptism Today we can enrich our preparation for our spiritual life by participation in Lenten events. The Worship Leadership of St. Paul has chosen the theme **BUILD** to frame our Lenten life together. Week one **B**elieve strengthening our faith. Week two **U**se our spiritual gifts. Week three **I**nvite those around us to this life of faith. Week four **L**ove God Love others. **D**o by serving others. Wednesday evening services will begin March 13 and will use Holden Evening prayer a light supper will be served at 5:30 pm and service will begin at 6:00 pm.



April 14th is passion Sunday and will have a dramatic reading of the passion in the Gospel of Luke. April 14th will be Maundy Thursday service of Holy communion and stripping of the Altar. April 15th Good Friday will be the stations of the cross called the way of the cross. April 21st will be our celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord with a 9:00an Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt followed by our Easter Celebration. April 28th will be our service of Confirmation

**Opportunities to Serve**

**March Birthdays**

**March 2 – Tammy Oliver**

**March 3 – Amanda Schumm**

**March 5 –Brenda Russow**

**March 5 – Adalyn Renken**

**March 8 – Avery Renken**

**March 9 – Kylee Claypool**

**March 11 – Bryce Claypool**

**March 13 – Brad Solberg**

**March 14 – Carley Nourie**

**March 16 – Corey Harris**

**March 18 – Carl Thorson**

**March 21- Sue Curtiss**

**March 21 – Max Gschendtner**

**March 23 - Mil Girard**

**March 26 – Izabella Estes**

**March 29 – Jake Abry**

**March 30 – Mary Leach**

**March 31 – Jennifer Bauknecht**

**March 31 – Sarah Bibo**

**March 31 – Brian Swanberg**

**March Anniversaries**

**March 9 – Don and Mary Lou Bevers (1995)**

**March 16 – Hermie and Janice Schmidt 1985)**

**March 19 – Jeff and Darla Dixon (1988)**

Boys and Girls Club Ministry!

Fourth Fridays of Each month

3:15-4:15 @Boys & Girls Club

Play Games and Enjoy Treats!

See Julie Mehlberg for more information!

Come Join Us!!





Thank you for continuing to remember the Food Pantry.

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&tbo=d&biw=1920&bih=955&tbm=isch&tbnid=xwELvZfmR_odoM:&imgrefurl=http://www.stlukerichmond.org/Pages/TimeandTalents.aspx&docid=iipBMrcnyTy0AM&imgurl=http://www.stlukerichmond.org/siteimages/Altar_Flowers.jpg&w=372&h=298&ei=AOu8UNSOK42ByAGjhYHwBA&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=569&vpy=156&dur=1135&hovh=201&hovw=251&tx=90&ty=112&sig=104538642006477646809&page=1&tbnh=137&tbnw=171&start=0&ndsp=58&ved=1t:429,r:4,s:0,i:149)

Pat Lund is the flower chairperson for the months of **March and April**. If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday in memory of or in honor of someone, please sign your name on the Flower Chart located on the kiosk, and write a check, payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, for $25.00, noting on the check that it is for altar flowers, and County Market will deliver the flowers to the church. If you have questions, contact Pat.

**Please do not take the vase home when your weeks are completed. The vase belongs to County Market. Thank you!**



**Reminder:**

**Health and Wellness Sunday is the third Sunday of each month.**

Mary Leach or one of our many parish nurses will be on hand before and after worship on these Sundays to check blood pressures, blood sugars, and help you form questions for your health professional should you have need.



***Our Mission Statement:***

*The People of St. Paul*

*Gather to worship,*

*Reach out,*

*and serve the Lord.*



March 31 - Rogation Sunday – Blessing of the Seeds

Everyone is invited to bring seeds to be blessed on March 31.



**Helping Hands Ministry!**

As a part of our Lay Caring Team, we have volunteers who can make meals for you in time of need. Please let Pastor or Julie Mehlberg know if you would like help in some way!

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**Prayer Chain and Prayer Requests…..**

Just a reminder that if you would like to have someone added to our prayer chain, please contact Pastor Wayne and Julie Mehlberg. If your prayers are answered, we would appreciate knowing that as well, so names can be removed when it is appropriate. Thank you in advance!

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**Lenten Schedule:**

* **March 6 - Ash Wednesday** 
  + 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM services
  + 12:00-1:00 PM -“Ashes on the Go”

You are invited to drive in the parking lot for a blessing and imposition of ashes if you are unable to attend either of the two services.

* **March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10** – Light supper at 5:30 and Holden Evening Prayer from 6:00-6:30 PM
* **April 18** – Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM
* **April 19** – Good Friday at 6:30 PM
  + Stations of the Cross Service
* **April 21** – Easter Worship at 10:00 AM

Breakfast/Egg Hunt at 9:00 AM

**\*\*\*\*\* Please note Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday**

**And Good Friday evening services begin at 6:30.**

**2019 Lenten Journey: BUILD!**

Let’s BUILD! Take some time this Lenten season to meditate on the Lenten disciplines and set aside one hour on Wednesday night for fellowship and a time of worship!

**“Tons of Points for a Ton of Good 2.0”**

Sign up for our **team challenge** for “works of love” which will involve a friendly competition of food collection for the food pantry! A list of points and food needed will be shared! Renew old and new relationships by joining a team this Lenten Season!



The Bibles & Bagels group will meet on Thursday, March 14th at 9:30 am at Edinger’s Filling Station. Any woman who would like to attend an informal bible study is welcome to come to this meeting.

**Want to be an EME?** That is an Extraordinary Minister of The Eucharist. Since Pastor Wayne is only ¾ time, he could use help taking communion to shut-ins he would like 3-6 people to volunteer to take communion on Sundays after church to our shut-ins. You will be provided with a communion liturgy and a communion kit. Also if you could write down the names of people you think might benefit from this ministry and give it to Pastor Wayne, this would be much appreciated.



The Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, March 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Maurine Gentes will be the hostess. Carol Thorson will give the devotions. Lucy Kehinde will be giving the lesson, “Meetings with Jesus-By Night and Day: Coming to Faith in Jesus.” We ponder the mystery of God with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, two people seeking healing and a hungry crowd. Through their encounters with Jesus, we reflect on how Jesus meets us in our spiritual hunger and thirst. Marian Brown will be giving the offering meditation. If you would like to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study, we would invite you to join us at this meeting.



While it has always been the desire of St. Paul to celebrate and support the congregation as members celebrate marriage or the arrival of a new baby, the council also recognized the need for changed as we continue to grow and welcome new members. In order to be a more inclusive community of believers, the council has decided that wedding and baby showers are best handled privately by an individual in the congregation rather than having church-sponsored showers. If an individual would like to use our facility to host a private shower, he or she should contact the administrative assistant to confirm a date on the church calendar and complete a facility-use sheet.





Anyone who has pictures that can be shared on Facebook, please text or email Jake or Blayne Dixon. Please use the church directory for their numbers and email! Thanks for sharing! Let’s get “social!”

Remember that our website for St. Paul ([www.stpaulpontiac.org](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org)) contains sermon videos, copies of the newsletters and bulletins. If you miss a Sunday, check it out!





**LEO (Let’s Eat Out!)** will begin in January. The 3rd Wednesday of each month anyone **not** wanting to cook supper is welcome to join other church members in eating out. Each month we will pick a different place. All are welcome! The more the merrier. The next outing will beon March 20 at 5:30 PM at the church for our Lenten meal and worship!

**Reminder…**

If you are using the church facility for a church-related meeting, please remember to add it on the calendar in the office or let the Administrative Assistant know. All other functions or community-service organizations please fill out a Facility Use Sheet. Thank you!



**Council 2019**

President – Sara Solberg

Vice President – Julie Mehlberg

Secretary – Lori Bristow

Building Community – Mary Leach

Finance and Stewardship – Jake Dixon

Lifelong Learning – Tonya Wilcox

Worship and Music – Shelly Heller

**March 2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | ***Tue*** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| **9a.m.** Adult Sunday School  Conf. Class  **10a.m.** Worship  *“Around the Rail”*  *Communion*  Baptism |  | Administration Team Meeting at **noon** | Ash Wednesday  **11 a.m.** service  **12 -1 p.m**. Ashes on the go  **6:30 p.m**. service |  |  |  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| **9a.m.** Adult Sunday School  Conf. Class  **10a.m.** Worship-  ***“Red bag offering”***  **2-4 p.m.**  N.E. Conference Meeting – Bourbonnais  Daylight Savings Time | Council meeting **6:00 p.m.** |  | **5:30 p.m**. supper  **6:00 p.m.** Holden Evening Prayer | Bibles & Bagels **9:30 a.m.** |  |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| **9a.m.** Adult  Sunday School  Conf. Class  **10a.m.** Worship  ***Health & Wellness*** |  |  | **5:30 p.m**. supper  **6:00 p.m.** Holden Evening Prayer | Rebecca Circle **1:30 p.m.** | Boys & Girls Club  **3:15 p.m**. |  |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| **9a.m.** Adult Sunday School  Conf. Class  **10a.m**.  Worship |  |  | **5:30 p.m**. supper  **6:00 p.m.** Holden Evening Prayer |  |  |  |
| 31  **9a.m.** Adult Sunday School  Conf. Class  **10a.m.** Worship  *Rogation Sunday*  Baptism  Parish hall in use 1-3 p.m. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**WORSHIP SERVERS – March**

MARCH 3, 2019Minister—Pastor Wayne  
Steward—P. Lund  
Musician—S. Erickson  
Lector—K. Lambert  
Psalms—K. Delheimer  
Acolyte—K.Delheimer  
Ushers—J & L Bristow  
Greeters—C. Delheimer & A. Klein  
Prayers—P.Lund  
Comm. Prep—J. Cahill  
Comm. Asst—N. Joerndt & A. Klein  
Guest Amb.—P. Lund  
Hospitality—M. Leach & L. Harms

Counters – Jean Harrison & Dennis Leach

MARCH 10, 2019Minister— Pastor Wayne  
Steward— B. Solberg  
Musician— S. Erickson  
Lector— T. Leach  
Psalms— S. Edinger  
Acolyte— S. Edinger  
Ushers— J & B Edinger  
Greeters—T & G Bauknecht  
Prayers— J Mehlberg  
Comm. Prep— G. Bauknecht  
Comm. Asst— L & T Leach  
Guest Amb.—Ji Rapp  
Hospitality—M. Girard & S. Solberg

Counters – Mark Mackinson & Marvin Miller

* **PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS NOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE IF FOR ANY REASON YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON THE DATE ASSIGNED. IF YOU ARE FILLING IN FOR SOMEEONE, PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU LET THE WORSHIP STEWARD KNOW WHO YOU ARE FILLING IN FOR AND WHAT POSITION YOU ARE FILLING. THANK YOU.**

MARCH 17, 2019Minister—Pastor Lelleid  
Steward— M. Mackinson  
Musician— J. Mehlberg  
Lector— R. Suton  
Psalms— T. Hendershot  
Acolyte—T. Hendershot  
Ushers—S. Curtss & A. Klein  
Greeters—J & B Edinger  
Prayers—L. Kehinde  
Comm. Prep— J. Harrison  
Comm. Asst— B & S Solberg  
Guest Amb.— L. Kehinde  
Hospitality—P. Lund, S. Erickson,  
C. Thorson

Counters – Jake Heller & Marty Heller

MARCH 24, 2019Minister— Pastor Wayne  
Steward— J. Mehlberg  
Musician— J. Mehlberg  
Lector— S. Erickson  
Psalms—M. Wilcox  
Acolyte— M. Wilcox  
Ushers— S & J Rapp  
Greeters—J. Heller & S. Heller  
Prayers— K. Rygh  
Comm. Prep— M & S Heller  
Comm. Asst—M. Heller & J. Heller  
Guest Amb.—Je Rapp  
Hospitality—J. Mehlberg & Je Rapp

Counters – Jill Rapp & Cody Leach

MARCH 31, 2019Minister—Pastor Wayne  
Steward—P. Lund  
Musician—S. Solberg  
Lector—B. Edinger  
Psalms—E. Schumm  
Acolyte—E. Schumm  
Ushers—D & S Gschwendtner  
Greeters—P. Lund & C. Thorson  
Prayers –B. Solberg  
Comm. Prep—Ji Rapp  
Comm. Asst—D & M Leach  
Guest Amb.—P. Lund  
Hospitality—D. Miller & J. Cahill

Counters – Dennis Leach & Mark Mackinson