



# Good News

## Connecting People to Jesus

### Please pray:

- for Christian parents, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.
- for our churches, that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.
- for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.

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### Good News

April 2018

## Words of Easter *by Pastor Gaertner*

**Sin** - The self-centered failure to trust in God. God holds us accountable for what we do with the life He has given us (Romans 3:19). Sin is not just a minor flaw we can overcome with some good habits or some occasional booster shots of grace. Specific sinful behaviors are only symptoms of a much more dangerous and deadly problem that denies God.

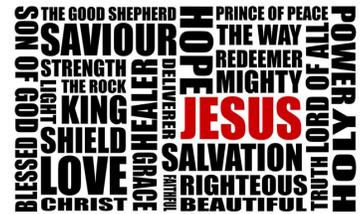
**Death** - The Bible says that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Sin causes both physical death and eternal separation from God. Isaiah the prophet wrote, "Your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). Death was not God's plan for creation, but it is the consequence of sin.

**Sacrifice** - The Old Testament contains many references to sacrifices which were established by God. There were sacrifices and offerings that gave thanks for blessings received, sought forgiveness for sins and trespasses, and demonstrated reliance on God. The sacrifices ceased at the temple in Jerusalem with its destruction in 70 AD. More importantly, the sacrifices have been fulfilled completely in the sacrifice of Jesus. "God put forward [Jesus] as a

propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Romans 3:25). The sacrifices seeking forgiveness in the Old Testament were a shadow of the complete and necessary sacrifice of Jesus. "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12).

**Passover** - The major Jewish festival that commemorates the rescue of the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. The tenth plague that God brought to Egypt brought death to all the firstborn in Egypt. The Israelite households killed a lamb and painted the blood of the lamb on their doors trusting in God's promise that the angel of death would pass over their homes. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus saying, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)! We trust that through the blood of Jesus death no longer holds any threat against us.

**Paschal** - A word used to describe Easter or Passover and is from Latin Paschalis. Pascha or variants of this word is, in most European languages, except English and German, the term used to refer to the festival of resurrection. The paschal candle is lit



at the Easter Vigil and remains lit through Ascension Day. This candle is also lit at baptisms and funerals. The paschal candle is not the same as the Christ Candle which is the white candle lit on the Advent wreath.

**Passion** - To modern ears, the word passion is attached to describing the strength of emotion about a particular subject. In Christianity, the word is used to describe the suffering and death of Jesus recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. From the Latin *passionem* "suffering, enduring."

**Cross/Crucifixion** - The Romans used the cross as a means of execution to convince witnesses of the execution from attempting similar crimes. Victims were often left on display after death as a warning. The cross is the most well-known symbol of our faith. The relief of a bearded man strapped to a cross on a jasper gemstone with the invocation of the redeeming Christ crucified is the oldest existing depiction of the cross in Christian art and comes from the second century or early third century. The cross became

*Continued on page 3*



**“coffee hour ...  
can be one of the  
most hostile  
environments on  
earth”**

## Joining Hands *by Tim Hurst*

We all cringe when we think about embarrassing moments in our lives. One particular moment we may remember is being an outsider in a room full of strangers, when one of them approaches us with a smile as if they intend to greet us. We ready ourselves to respond when suddenly we realize that they intend to greet another person, located just behind our left shoulder. How humiliating to realize that you are invisible, not just loved or hated, but nonexistent to those around you. Often we would be more comfortable being insulted or reprimanded, rather than simply being ignored.

Someone has said that coffee hour at a church can be one of the most hostile environments on earth. The joyful camaraderie of friends greeting friends, while preparing to worship God, should be a happy highlight of the week - unless you are an outsider. The stranger has no accustomed place to sit; the crowd breaks into traditional groups who continue the conversations of many past weeks together on subjects of mutual interest. They all know each other's parents and siblings and children; there are strong currents of friendship flowing from one to another - except for the outsider. The visiting stranger needs an escort, an advocate who will introduce them and prepare them for integration into the group. Every visitor needs to meet members of the inside group who are truly interested in him and curious about his opinions and lifestyle and needs.

Most lives consist of many commonplace events stacked

end to end, punctuated by small or large triumphs or tragedies. We want our friends to understand our experiences, to celebrate or sympathize, to understand and approve our actions. We all want to be righteous and successful people, and we hope that our companions in life would endorse our behavior, or guide us "gently" if we seem to be veering off course. This attachment to a group is, hopefully, a more positive action in the church atmosphere than in the corner pub or the school basketball game. In the church, we can strip away pretense or greed or anger, and present ourselves to others in a basic way, as another pilgrim trying to find the right way through life, reminding us that we are forgiven children of God.

We come into the world as a singular individual, and we leave it the same way. At both ends and in between, we all want to have people near us who love us and are willing to help us when we stumble or are buffeted by circumstances. And we enter into this contract: as we receive from others, we should give to others in need, not just materially, but from a reservoir of affection for others which should be expressed in a way that meets their needs. Some people need more nurturing and help than others. The Christian friend does not keep score.

Who is that stranger, standing alone in our parish hall? The odds are good that he is at a pivot point in his life. Otherwise, why would he come to our church today? Perhaps he is just hungry for human com-

panionship. Many Christians have come for the fellowship and stayed to become disciples of Christ. That stranger is a created child of God. Does he know that the forgiveness and grace extend to him if only he will reach out and grasp it? Is this my opportunity to be a part of God's plan for salvation? Take the plunge!

At St. Paul, we would like to believe that we are a friendly church. And so we are; we deal with each other, for the most part, without contention or rancor, cooperatively, constructively, affectionately. Outside our walls, within a few miles, there are people who would enrich their lives and ours, and stimulate their souls by becoming a part of our community. We don't need the ten organizational steps to increase church membership. We need to say to our friends, "Come and see what we have here. You will be welcomed."

Back in elementary school, we all knew what to do when someone said, "Join hands and form a circle." For some reason, we all joined hands looking in, across the circle at the other members of our class. Perhaps we need to join hands with our friends so that we are looking out - at the people not in the circle - not holding hands. Then we can break our connection and invite them into the gap, joining with both of their hands and making them a part of the circle, a member of the group. Then they will not be strangers, a unit, a statistic. They are already children of God; now they will be part of our fellowship at St. Paul.

## Planting Seeds, Reaping the Harvest *by Paul Wills, Vice President – Marketing*

Planting a seed. That's all it takes. Each and every "seed" invested with the Church Extension Fund (CEF) serves a ministry purpose. While providing

financial opportunities for our investors, these funds help ministries and church workers in the Michigan District. Call the CEF Rate Line for this

month's rates or for more information at 800.242.3944 or visit [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org)



## Words of Easter *Continued*

widely adopted as a Christian symbol after the Emperor Constantine declared Christianity a legitimate religion in the Roman Empire with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD. Martin Luther encouraged the continued use of the crucifix, writing, "The cross alone is our theology."

**Easter Vigil** - The Easter Vigil is a service held as the first official celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is historically the service when people preparing for baptism and entrance into membership in the church would be baptized and received into full communion with the Church. It is held between sunset of Holy Saturday and sunrise of Easter Day. The service marks the first use of the word "Alleluia" which has been muted during the season of Lent.

**Easter** - In Old English the month of April was once called Eostre, named after an Old English goddess. It was during this month that people held feasts and celebrations in her honor.

The 7th to 8th-century English monk Bede refers to this month as the time when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Modern Dutch and German also use a word related to this Old English word to describe the festival that celebrates Jesus rising from the dead.

**Easter Egg** - Sharing decorated eggs around Easter dates back to early Christian practices in Persia. The practice of decorating eggs as a symbol of death and rebirth has been a part of different cultures for over 5,000 years. Traditionally during Lent, eggs were not eaten. Mardi Gras is connected to feasts that used up eggs and dairy before Lent began. The chickens did not stop producing eggs during Lent, but the surplus eggs were hard-boiled and decorated. The eggs were enjoyed with the arrival of Easter and the end of Lent.

**Resurrection** - Jesus died and rose from the dead. The dying and rising of Jesus is the central

focus of our faith. We also believe that through our baptism we are connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus so that we will enjoy on the last day the resurrection of our bodies (Romans 6:1-11).

**Alleluia or Hallelujah** - A Hebrew word that means, "Praise the LORD." This word is used as an expression of thanksgiving, joy, and triumph for the good news that Jesus is risen from the dead. This word is a compact prayer of celebration.





## I am a C (IMAC) 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Youth Group

Our April event will be serving our families.  
Watch for details.



## St. Paul's New Family Ministry Resource Center

The family resource center is being developed to connect faith and home through intentional conversations and practices. These beginning resources are now available:

Cost \$20

### Faith Talk with Children

This resource encourages parents, grandparents and other adult faith mentors to wonder about God's presence in their lives and begin faith discussions. There are 24 share cards in each of four categories:

#### Memories Growing Together Actions & Feeling Wondering

They are designed as a discipleship-training tool to help families follow Deuteronomy 6:6,7: "Keep these words that

I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."

Cost \$30

### Faith Talk Conversations

This resource is a new edition of faith-sharing cards for families or any small group to begin to engage in meaningful conversations of God's presence and faithfulness in their lives. It is designed with 192 faith-sharing cards from four categories:

#### Caring Conversations Devotions Service Rituals & Traditions

It comes with a strong, long-lasting canvas carrying pouch so that you can use these at home or away from home as

families travel, on vacation, at family reunions, for wedding gifts, or for any small group to grow in telling the stories of God's faithfulness and presence in one's life.

For teens through sr. adults

Cost \$20

### The Story Bible

This Bible keeps the focus on Christ by presenting stories with Old Testament prophecies about Christ, presenting one story for all of Scripture - God's gift of the Savior. There is a user's guide included to explain how to use this Bible with children at different stages of development and reading levels.

Other unique features included in this Bible are discussion questions, learning activities, and prayers. These bring each story to life, making a meaningful and lasting impression on children from ages 3 to 8.

## Family Ministry

by Miriam Yakimow

## Prayer Faith Milestone Workshop—Sunday, April 22



### For 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade children and a parent

Our focus in this milestone is prayer and talking with God. Children and parents will learn about prayer in special hands-on activities and learning stations. Each child will have a prayer partner.

In order to make sure there are enough supplies for each participant, and to match up prayer partners, please fill out this google form:

<https://tinyurl.com/stpaulprayerworkshop> ASAP.

As you register, please indicate

your time preference (majority rules), and any prayer partner requests.

On Sunday, April 29, at the service you normally attend, all children who participated in the prayer workshop will receive a special blessing in the front of the church and a special gift.

## Librarian Reviews

### **The Bridge of Peace** by Cindy Woodsmall (Fiction)

Lena Kauffman is a young Old Order Amish schoolteacher who has dealt all her life with attention raised by a noticeable birthmark on her cheek. Having learned to move past the stares and whispers, Lena channels her zest for living into her love of teaching. But tensions mount as she is challenged to work with a rebellious young man and deal with several crises at the schoolhouse that threaten her other students. Her lack of submission and the use of ideas that don't line up with the Old Ways strengthen the school board's case as they begin to believe that Lena is behind all the trouble. One member of the school board, Grey Graber,

feels trapped by his own stifling circumstances. His wife Elsie has shut him out of her life, and he doesn't know how long he can continue to live as if nothing is wrong. As the two finally come to a place of working toward a better marriage, tragedy befalls their family. Lena and Grey have been life-long friends, but their relationship begins to crumble amidst unsettling deceptions, propelling each of them to finally face their secrets. Can they both find a way past their losses and discover the strength to build a new bridge?

**Dinner with a Perfect Stranger** by David Gregory  
Cincinnati businessman Nick Cominsky is startled when his dinner companion claims to be

Jesus. Over the next few hours, Nick is amazed by how much this man knows and how deeply he cares about Nick's successful, yet unsatisfying life. Will Nick mark this night up to "strange coincidence" and carry on with his life or will he be eternally changed by this encounter?

### **Redeeming Love** by Francine Rivers (Fiction)

Sold into prostitution in childhood, Angel is a bitter woman who trusts no man. But when God tells Michael Hosea to marry her, she learns to love until fear overwhelms her and she returns to her former life. Can she be redeemed? A skillful retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Ann Arbor Zone  
Spring Rally

### **Healing in the Hospital**

Saturday, April 21, 2018 ~ 9:00 AM – 12 Noon  
Living Water Lutheran Church  
of Whitmore Lake  
200 Barker Road, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

All ladies of St. Paul are invited to attend the Spring Zone Rally. The speaker and special guest will be Joel Maier and Denver the Therapy Dog, C.S. Mott Hospital Child Life Specialists

The event schedule is as follows:

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Registration  
Suggested Donation  
\$5.00

Free-Will Mite Offering  
Mission Grants

9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon  
Worship, Business Meeting,  
Program, Lunch at Noon

RSVP is appreciated to  
Linda Murdock, 734.761.6150

There will also be donations taken for:

### **C.S. Mott Hospital:**

- Uno Card Game
- Crayola Crayon/Pencils
- Secular Coloring Books
- (Child & Adult)
- Kohl's Cares Plush
- New Stuffed Toys
- Super Hero Action Figures
- Small Lego Kits

Wish List Links to check out are at:  
Amazon: [amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/JDMBTCG7VOOY](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/JDMBTCG7VOOY)



# Youth News

by Mike Hausch

## Easter Breakfast

The Confirmation class of 2018 is serving Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 1, beginning at 8:45 a.m. The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash

browns, sausage, bacon, fruit salad, cinnamon rolls, donuts, and bagels. Beverages will include orange, apple, and cranberry juices as well as coffee,

tea, milk, and water. And this year we will also serve Breakfast Smoothies!

## LAC For 7th and 8th graders

Our April Activity is a Lock-In on Friday, April 20. We will start at 7:00 pm and conclude by 8:00 am on Saturday – right after breakfast. The program

will end at 11:00 pm on Friday for those who do not want to stay the night. The theme is "Who Is My Neighbor?" Bring

\$5 for food and a snack to share. Beverages will be provided. Sign up by Wednesday, April 18, 5:00 pm.

## Tool Time

Tool Time for Confirmation students is April 14-15 at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. This is a reminder for those

who have signed up. We will meet at St. Paul at 10:45 am on Saturday, check in is 11:30am. Closing worship starts at 1:00

Sunday and we should return to St. Paul at 2:00 pm on Sunday.

## Senior High

The activity this month is on Sunday, April 22. We will grill some hamburgers and have complimentary side dishes.

We will play some games – we have a couple of really good ones! If you have a fun game you would like to share, bring

it on! We will start right after church and wrap up by 3:00 pm! Sign up by Friday, April 20, 5:00 pm.

## Camp Concordia: engage. encounter. enrich. *by Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg, Camp Director*

By now we have all read about the need for children NOT to be in front of screens in order for healthy development. Even those who make a living by having people engage in their internet sites are stepping up and saying - LESS! Yes. Less. Children with attention deficit disorders need to be outdoors more. In order to achieve better in school, kids need to be outdoors more. Shrinking the gap between what children perceive as reality and knowing their actual limits requires experience in the outdoors.

This is why my family moved

with me from Colorado back to Michigan. It is not that Michigan lacks camps. There are plenty of those. The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) is the largest district in the LCMS, loves families and kids, and needs to have a strong functioning children's overnight camp. Camp Concordia compliments the 70+ Lutheran Schools in Michigan. Camp Concordia gives our children the outdoor experiences they need to understand their limits and their faith in Jesus Christ, surrounded by

many young adults who care about their faith.

The 2018 summer camp schedule is designed to provide many varied opportunities that can fit your child's needs. If they are sports oriented, science oriented, musically oriented, animal oriented - there are summer overnight camp sessions designed to allow them to lean into these areas out away from screens. It's **REAL CAMP**. Spread the word.

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg  
Camp Director



# April 2018

## St. Paul Special Events

## Daily Readings

4/1	8, 9:30, 11 am	Easter Festival Divine Service
	8:45 am	Easter Breakfast No Tough Issues or Confirmation
4/5	9am	Hymn Selection
4/14	10:45am—2pm	Tooltime
4/16	11am	Britt Odemba visits Bible Study
4/17	7pm	Church council
4/20	7pm-8am	LAC Lock-in
4/22	12pm-3pm	High School food and games
4/29	7:30pm	Meeting for Confirmands with Prayer Partners

4/1	Exodus 14:10-31	Hebrews 7:23-8:13
4/2	Exodus 15:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-28
4/3	Exodus 15:19-16:12	Hebrews 10:1-18
4/4	Exodus 16:13-35	Hebrews 10:19-39
4/5	Exodus 17:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-29
4/6	Exodus 18:5-27	Hebrews 12:1-24
4/7	Exodus 19:1-25	Hebrews 13:1-21
4/8	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
4/9	Exodus 22:20-23:13	Luke 4:16-30
4/10	Exodus 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
4/11	Exodus 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
4/12	Exodus 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
4/13	Exodus 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
4/14	Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-28
4/15	Exodus 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
4/16	Exodus 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
4/17	Exodus 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
4/18	Exodus 34:29-35:21	Luke 7:36-50
4/19	Exodus 38:21-39	Luke 8:1-21
4/20	Exodus 39:32-40:16	Luke 8:22-39
4/21	Exodus 40:17-18	Luke 8:40-56
4/22	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
4/23	Leviticus 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
4/24	Leviticus 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
4/25	Leviticus 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
4/26	Leviticus 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
4/27	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19.8	Luke 11:1-13
4/28	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36
4/29	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
4/30	Leviticus 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12

### Weekly Schedule

**Sunday**

- 7:30am Fresh Brew Bible Study
- 8:30am Divine Service
- 9:45am Education Hour
- 11:00am Divine Service & Kids' Connection
- 5:00pm Tough Issues
- 6:30pm Confirmation Class

**Monday**

- 9:00am Quilters
- 11:00am Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday**

- 9:00am Old Timers

- 1:30pm Knitting Group
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Thursday**

- 11:00am Knitting Group
- 6:30pm Bucrek Life Group

**Saturday**

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study
- 9:00am Altar Preparation
- 10:30am AA/Alanon
- 11:00am Knitting (downstairs)





St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 490  
 Hamburg, MI 48139  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Worship Times**

**Sunday**

**8:30 am** Traditional Divine Service

**9:45 am** Christian Education Hour for all ages

**10:45 am** Fellowship Time

**11:00 am** Blended Divine Service

**11:00 am** Kids Connection for preschool-2nd grade after the Children's Message

**Monday (During the Summer)**

**7:00 pm** Traditional Divine Service

Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner, Pastor  
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