

T H I R D

Sunday in Lent



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – March 3, 2024 **3rd Sunday in Lent**

120 North 8th Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 9am-12pm, 1-5pm

Phone: 419-294-2831, Fax: 419-294-5542

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.: 419-852-9823

Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or watch on Facebook Live

*=stand as you are able

Assistive listening devices are available. Ask an usher.

Introduction to the day

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Wood

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*GATHERING SONG: <i>"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"</i>	Hymn 324
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*GREETING

p. 138

*KYRIE (spoken)

p. 138-139

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHOIR ANTHEM

+ WORD +

DISMISSAL TO JR. CHURCH

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Lenten version - sung)

p. 142

*GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*Canticle of the Turning*"

Hymn 723

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

p. 105

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

"*Remembrance*" *Martin*

*OFFERING RESPONSE: "*Praise God from whom...*"

Hymn 885

*OFFERING PRAYER

COMMUNION LITURGY (spoken)

p. 144-145

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's table – All baptized persons are welcome at the table. If you do not desire to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. Your wish to receive the Sacrament is indicated by your upturned hands. Those with an aversion to wine may receive grape juice (in the center of the ring) or commune in one kind (bread only). Those with a wheat allergy may commune in one kind (wine only) or request a piece of rice cake. The Lord has prepared the welcome table. Come and eat.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

*BLESSING

*SENDING SONG: "*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*"

Hymn 335

*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"*Ever Faithful, Ever Near*" *Ritter*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN LUNCHEONS continue this week. Each Wednesday at noon, all are invited to St. Paul for a delicious lunch and then listen to an inspirational speaker. The speaker this week will be Steve Sturgeon. The entrée provided by Trinity Evangelical's women will be soup and a salad. A free will offering will be accepted for your meal.

WORD ON WEDNESDAY is taking a break during Lent. If you would like to study the lessons on your own, they are Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; and John 3:14-21.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY continues with midweek services each Wednesday during Lent. We will focus on the spiritual practice of lament. Our midweek gatherings begin with a light meal at 6:15pm followed by service at 7pm. The meal this week is baked potato soup. If you would like to volunteer to provide a light meal for a Lenten midweek service, a sign-up sheet is at the crosswalk.

DURING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY you will also have the opportunity each Sunday and Wednesday to participate in our Lenten project. A basket with broken tile pieces will be available for you to write a lament or prayer. These will be anonymous and can be brought forward during communion on Sundays and during the reflection time on Wednesdays. The tiles will then be affixed to a cross at the front of the sanctuary. We hope you will join us.

NEXT SUNDAY is 2nd Sunday which means middle and high school kids meet at 8:30am in the Youth Room for 4 S's, Friends in Faith kids are singing, we wear our St. Paul or Thrivent shirts, the band plays! Don't miss it!!!

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting paper towels during March. Please place your donations up front. Thanks!!!

NEXT SUNDAY is Mission Sunday! We will be stuffing Easter eggs and prepping for our Finding Jesus outreach project for the eclipse. We are waaaaaaaay short on candy for this so please bring individually wrapped candy that will fit inside a plastic Easter egg. We'll also have a potluck lunch! Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

EASTER CHOIR: A rousing group of singers is needed for Easter morning. We will be practicing following worship on March 3rd, 17th and 24th. We'll practice Easter music first so joining us does not obligate you to every Sunday, although YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY! We really would like to be able to sing the Hallelujah Chorus but we need more men in order to do that. Singers PLEASE prayerfully consider this and join us.

THE SEWING LADIES are in need of items to be used in the middle of the quilts. Things like mattress pads, sheets or flannel sheets, old blankets, drapes, etc. Please keep them in mind when you are decluttering your linen closets!!!

NEEDED: items for our Lenten Luncheon on March 20. A sign-up sheet is at the crosswalk. They would like them to be delivered on March 20 by 10am. Thanks in advance!

BIRTHDAY BAGS are needed once again! The list of items is available on the crosswalk table. Please put your filled bags under the table. Thank you to all who help with this ministry!

THE MISSION OUTREACH money budgeted for March will go to the Luke Swavel Memorial Scholarship. We encourage you to join us in donating to them directly throughout this month if you feel so moved. Please send directly to: Luke Swavel Memorial Scholarship, c/o Scott Morris, 18270 Twp Hwy 125, Harpster, OH 43323

Prayers, Concerns and Joys

(Each prayer request will appear for four weeks)

Andy Lavery ♥♥♥♥

Maddy Nichols ♥♥♥♥

Emily Swihart ♥♥

Shannyn Swinehart ♥

Sue Fox ♥♥♥♥

Barbara Stief ♥♥♥

Deb Rife ♥♥♥

Dean & Dixie Baumann ♥

If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office.

Names can be extended for additional weeks as requested.

MARCH DUTIES:

Acolytes: 3 – Harper Fahle & Ian Seal

10 – Caroline Baker & Adrianna Ray

17 – Brody Mays & Robert Roszman

24 – Erica Ruhlen & Adrianna Ray

28 (Maundy Thursday) – Abbi Ault & Drew Leightey

31 (7am) – Caroline Baker & Ian Seal

31 (10am) – Jocelyn Leightey & Brody Mays

Assisting Ministers: 3 – Sheryl Clinger

10 – Abbi Ault

17 – Ben Ault

24 – Jim Ruhlen

28 (Maundy Thursday) – Matt Schultz

31 (7am) – June Eier

31 (10am) – Robbi Sigler

Ushers: Brent Gottfried, Jim Gatchell, Rick Kraus, Gary Ault

Greeters: Bruce & Sue Decker (west)

Readers: 3 – Jane Bricely

10 – Lauren Baker

17 – Marcia Geary

24 – Courtney Thiel

28 (Maundy Thursday) – Russ Lee

31 (7am) – Becky Vaughn

31 (10am) – Sally Stansbery

Communion Assistants: David & Rosemary Craig

Emily & Erica Ruhlen on the 10th

Bread Baker – Michelle Halter

Host in The Gathering Place: 3 – Rick & Rinda Kraus

10 – Bill & Jane Bricely

17 – Kelly Mays

24 – Bill & Jane Bricely

31 (10am) – Michelle Ohler



This Week at Our Church

Today

- 11am – Choir practice
- 11:20 am – E&S Team meeting
- 5-8pm – 4H meeting in Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 4

- 8:30am – Pinning & knotting

Tuesday, March 5

- 6:30pm – Cub Scout Committee meeting

Wednesday, March 6

- 8am-12:45pm – Wyandot Cares classes
- 12pm – Lenten Luncheon
- 12-2pm – Christian Food Center accept donations
- 6:15pm – Lenten Supper
- 7pm – Lenten Worship in The Family Space

Thursday, March 7

- 1-3pm – Christian Food Center distribute food
- 6:30pm – Dartball banquet @ John Stewart

Friday, March 8

- 1:15-2:15pm – Wyandot Cares classes

Saturday, March 9

- 10am-1pm – Fellowship Hall in use

Sunday, March 10

- 9am – Adult Sunday School
- 10am – Worship
- 11am – Mission Sunday event & potluck

God's Zeal Makes Us Clean

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.