

F I F T H

# Sunday in Lent



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## **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – March 17, 2024** **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

120 North 8<sup>th</sup> 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

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

## + GATHERING +

PRELUDE

*"Forty Nights and Forty Days" Callahan*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*GATHERING SONG: <i>"Restore in Us, O God"</i>
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Hymn 328
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\*GREETING

p. 138

\*KYRIE (spoken)

p. 138-139

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"We Are Not Alone" Choplin*

soloist – Beth Collins

## + WORD +

DISMISSAL TO JR. CHURCH

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 119: 9-16

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Lenten version - sung)

p. 142

\*GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Now the Green Blade Rises"*

Hymn 379

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED

p. 105

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

## + MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

*"Jesus, Thou Dying Love"* Lowry

\*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: *"Lift High the Cross"*

Hymn 660

\*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

*"Agincourt Hymn"* Callahan

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Barbara Gottfried. She was called into the arms of the Lord this past week. Please keep her family in your prayers.

THANK YOU to everyone who stayed last Sunday to help stuff eggs and Finding Jesus baggies and for the delicious food we got to eat!

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 David & Laura Bacon. The entrée provided by the Lutheran women will be chicken casserole. 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 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11 and Mark 14: 1-15, Mark 15:1-47.

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 breakfast casserole. All are welcome!!!

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.

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!

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

**EASTER CHOIR:** A rousing group of singers is needed for Easter morning. We will be practicing following worship today and the 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**NEXT SUNDAY** is Palm Sunday. Kids of all ages will once again be doing the Procession with the Palms so please bring them so they can participate! Have them meet in The Gathering Place at 9:50am to get their palms and to get lined up and ready to process. Thank you!!!

**TEDDY BEAR FUND CAMPAIGN** items are being collected at the crosswalk. This is Jacob Halter's National Honor Society project. He is collecting items for Wyandot Memorial to hand out to children. There is a box for monetary donations for this fund as well. Stop and check it out!

**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!!!

**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)*

Barbara Stief♥♥♥♥♥

Emily Swihart♥♥♥♥♥

Deb Rife♥♥♥♥♥

Shannyn Swinehart♥♥♥♥♥

Dean & Dixie Baumann♥♥♥♥♥

Gene & Sheila Roszman♥♥♥♥♥

Betty Knowlton♥

The family & friends of Barbara Gottfried♥♥♥♥♥

The family & friends of Barry Beidelschies♥♥♥♥♥

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:** 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:** 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:** 17 – Marcia Geary

24 – Courtney Thiel

28 (Maundy Thursday) – Russ Lee

31 (7am) – Becky Vaughn

31 (10am) – Sally Stansbery

**Communion Assistants:** David & Rosemary Craig

**Bread Baker** – Michelle Halter

**Host in The Gathering Place:** 17 – Kelly Mays

24 – Bill & Jane Bricely

31 (10am) – Michelle Ohler



# *This Week* at Our Church

## **Today**

- 11am – Choir practice
- 11:30am – Staff meeting
- 12-4pm – Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall

## **Monday, March 18**

- 8:30am – Pinning & knotting

## **Tuesday, March 19**

- 6:30pm – Cub Scout Pack meeting
- 6:30pm – Beginning Bell Choir
- 7pm – Advanced Bell Choir

## **Wednesday, March 20**

- 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 21**

- 1-3pm – Christian Food Center distribute food

## **Friday, March 22**

- 1:15-2:15pm – Wyandot Cares classes

## **Sunday, March 24**

- 9am – Adult Sunday School
- 10am – Worship
- 11am – Choir practice
- 5-8pm – 4H meeting

# Called Where Jesus Goes

It isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our "life in this world," we will miss God's gracious intention for us. Christ's judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ's death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, "Whoever serves me must follow me." Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world's terms.

Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord's table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, "We wish to see Jesus." God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God's unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.