

St. Paul News

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April 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Luke 9:51 - When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

I've been thinking a lot about time in the last few weeks. First of all as I'm writing this letter we just came off a time change. Had to do the old, "spring forward" thing. I don't know about you, but this really messes me up for a few days. When I get up in the morning I have to keep looking at the clock to make sure I didn't get up too early! After all **it's still dark outside!**

The second reason I've been thinking about time is it has now been just over a month since I arrived here as your new pastor. It just **does not** seem possible that a month has passed already. So much has happened. I've met so many

of you and have gotten to know many of you, I look forward to getting to know each of you better as I continue with my home visits. Just a quick PSA, if you haven't scheduled your home visit with me yet, please be sure to do it right away.

The final reason why time has been on my mind recently is Easter. Now it's not because Holy Week is a busy time of year for pastors that I've been thinking about Easter. It's not because time is at a premium for pastors during this time of year. All of that is true but that's not why Easter has been on my mind. No. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are my favorite times of the year. It's the time of year that I look forward to the most. It's the time of year I live for as a pastor. Why you may ask? Why with all the hustle and bustle of Holy Week would I look forward to Easter? Because I get to preach the Gospel! For a pastor there is no greater joy than that!

Preaching the Gospel gets me fired up as I believe it gets most pastors excited. I feel it's what we as pastors live for. To look out at our congregations and boldly pronounce to them, "in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I

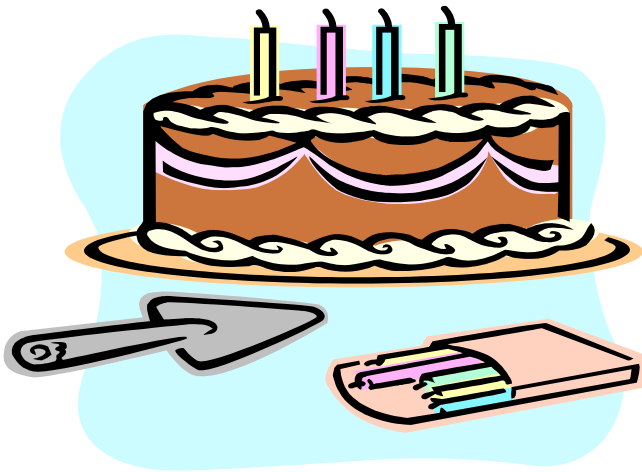
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” What greater joy can there be for a pastor than to proclaim God’s forgiveness. Especially during Holy Week!

Actually, I can think of one. Proclaiming the cross. Preaching to each and everyone of you on Good Friday. What a joy that is. Now you might be thinking “wait a minute pastor! How on earth can our Lord’s crucifixion be a joy. How can you get excited about preaching on Good Friday?!?” Think about it. Without Good Friday there is no Easter. Without the cross there is no empty tomb. You can’t possibly have one without the other. We don’t like to hear that though, do we? So many people want to look past Good Friday, they may not even come to church on Good Friday. They want to ignore the pain, ignore the sorrow, ignore the suffering. Look past all of that and only see the joy of the angels at the tomb saying **“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen”** (Luke 24:5-6a). That’s what we want to focus on. Not the death. Not the loss. But you can’t see the tomb without the cross. You can’t have one without the other.

Jesus of course knew that, and that’s exactly why as Luke reminds us, **“he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”** As our Lord entered Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday He knew what awaited Him. He knew what He was facing and still He rode on. He faced it all for you. Took the pain, took the humiliation, died the death that you will never have to. So yes, we as pastors get to proclaim the gospel. We get to proclaim you are forgiven, but the only reason we can do that is because of the cross. So as the days, weeks and months ahead progress, I encourage you to take some time to not only ponder the empty tomb, but also to remember the cross on which your Lord and Savior died for you.

In His service,

Pastor Matt Montgomery



Kirby Reifsteck	4/24
Jeffrey Nugent	4/25
Cassidy Kamradt	4/26
Nancy Kerkhoff	4/26
Dwaine Merriman	4/28
Lori Woodworth	4/28
Amanda Reifsteck	4/29
Ryan Ritter	4/29
Gina Foltz	4/30
Suzanne Kamradt	4/30

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Keith Craft	4/01
Tyler Foltz	4/01
Tom Boas	4/02
Joey Gady	4/02
Fred Koss	4/02
Kyle Schultze	4/06
Ruth Reifsteck	4/08
Sheila Stoerger	4/08
Dave Tendick	4/12
Maci Richmond	4/13
Doug Buoy	4/16
David Gady	4/17
Shirley Schroeder	4/17
Jason Little	4/18
Terri Bingaman	4/19
Tracy Gady	4/21
Paityn E. Peach	4/21
Bonnie Reifsteck	4/22
John Kamradt	4/23
Justin Little	4/24



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kathryn & Larry Craft	4/01/1962
Amber & Jeff Nugent	4/12/2008
Brandon & Chris Reifsteck	4/29/2006
Judy & Lynn Montgomery	4/30/1966

Ladies' Aid Society

The members will meet on Thursday, April 5 at 1:30 AM. Don't forget we have our "*Blind Bake Sale*" in April.

LWML

The Quarterly **LWML** meeting will be on Thursday, April 26th at Noon

The Spring LWML District Convention for all wishing to attend will be on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Illinois. Please let Loretta Stoerger know if you are planning to attend no later than Monday, April 9, 2018

COMMUNION WARE

April 2018

Debbie Montgomery	1 st & 3 rd
Judy Montgomery	1 st & 3 rd
Loretta Stoerger	2 nd & 4 th
Ruth Karcher	2 nd & 4 th

May 2018

Bonnie Reifsteck	1 st & 3 rd
Janet Tendick	1 st & 3 rd
Brenda Dively	2 nd & 4 th
Cindy Jean	2 nd & 4 th

April 1, Worship/HC 7AM

Easter Sunrise Service

Elder: Doug Bialeschki
Organist: Sandra Chesnut
C.A.: Jim Reifsteck and Chris Tempel
Media Shout: Janet Tendick
Acolyte: Maegan Rothe

April 1, Worship/HC 10:00 AM

Elder: Doug Bialeschki
Organist: Mary Schultze
C.A.: Keith Craft and Delbert Reifsteck
Media Shout: Mark Montgomery
Acolyte: Ashley Rennels

April 8, Worship/HC @ 10 AM

Elder: Nathan Reifsteck
Organist: Mary Schultze
C.A.: Mark Montgomery and Bob Ritter
Media Shout: Chris Snodgrass
Acolyte: Amelia Rinella

April 15, Worship @ 10:00 AM

Elder: Mark Montgomery
Organist: Sandy Chesnut
Media Shout: Janet Tendick
Acolyte: Jaxson Rothe
C.A.: Chris Tempel and David Tendick

April 22, Worship/HC @ 10 AM

Elder: Dexter Reifsteck
Organist: Mary Schultze
C.A.: Delbert Reifsteck
Nathan Reifsteck
Media Shout: Joey Gady
Acolyte: J.D. Rennels

April 29, Worship @ 10:00 AM

Elder: Doug Bialeschki
Organist: Sandra Chesnut
Media Shout: Haley Daily
Acolyte: Cody Daily

ADULT INQUIRY CLASS

Pastor Matt will begin an **Adult Inquiry Class** on Sunday, April 8th. The class will be held from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM and will run six weeks. This class is for those who are interested in becoming members of our church and also for those who just want to learn more about what the LCMS teaches, preaches and confesses. It is open to all members of the congregation. If interested in becoming a member of St Paul or if you're looking to reinforce your understanding of LCMS doctrine, please feel free to join us. This is a great class just to remind yourself what it was you learned during confirmation. If you would be interested in attending

please contact the church office to give us an idea of numbers to prepare for. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Matt.

CONDOLENCES

Thoughts and prayers are with the family of Joyce Wilson whom God called home on **Thursday, March 1, 2018.**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to my friends of St. Paul's and my family members for their thoughts, prayers, food, cards, and considerable help following my knee surgery. I am progressing well, and hope to be back worshipping with you soon.

Nancy Kerkhoff



Thank you to everyone who supported us in our Bowl-a-thon in March. It was a huge success. All the children had fun and we raised a good amount of money.

We will be having our Easter party on Tuesday, March 27th and then we will be gone for spring break until Monday, April 9th. After we return from spring break we will be practicing hard for our Spring Concert and Graduation. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th beginning at **6:30 PM**. Everyone is invited to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

g Anniversary celebration for Lynn Montgomery will be held on April 30, from 2-4 pm in the church

