



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 North Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

February – March 2016



WHY LENT

Once again, we enter the season of Lent. Lent displays a totally different character than other seasons of the year. For forty days (not counting Sundays) we do things differently. We may have more devotions, more Scripture reading, more prayer and fasting. We may give something up

or eat less; maybe even fast. We may practice almsgiving in which we show care for the poor and needy. Everyone does things according to their own choosing. Why? For no other reason than to focus on Jesus Christ and be led to deeper contrition and repentance. This is the way of preparation for the great celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Come join us in our special Mid-week worship services as well as Sunday services to see what The Lord has done for each of us.



When Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them. As we view the passion, we see Jesus in many places. Though each is part of His suffering for our sake, each is also a place exhibiting His amazing grace. Through it all, Jesus really says us "My place is with you!"

A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU

Luke 22:1-13

February 10 - Ash Wednesday

A PLACE OF SERVICE

THE UPPER ROOM: Luke 22:14-38

February 17

A PLACE OF STRENGTH

GETHSEMANE: Luke 22:39-46

February 24

A PLACE OF ETERNAL LOVE

THE BETRAYAL: Luke 22:47-53

March 2

A PLACE OF RENEWAL

THE COURTYARD: Luke 22:54-62

March 9

A PLACE OF GOD'S WILL

THE TRIAL: Luke 22:63-23:25

March 16

Services each Wednesday are at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Each morning service is followed by an informal continental breakfast and each evening service is preceded by a pot-luck supper at 6:30 p.m.



PALM SUNDAY

March 20

9:45 a.m.

Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 24

9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 25

12:00 Noon

Service of the Cross

7:30 p.m.

Tennebrae

Service of Darkness



EASTER SERVICES

Sunday March 27

The Resurrection

Of Our Lord

6:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

9:45 a.m.

Easter Festival Service



“THE GREAT EXCHANGE”

Believe it or not, that is a term or phrase that theologians use in their conversing with one another. You might wonder, just what does that mean. We common folk, might think of it as “swapping” or “trading.” We do it all the time. Folks may do favors for each other. Others may trade items of property. The goal usually is that each person receives something of equal value to what was traded. In other words, everyone comes out “even-Steven.” No one is gaining an advantage over the other.

We know that it does not always work that way. Most people will try to work things to their advantage in any swap or trade. That is what is happening in “The Great Exchange.” It is the story of Jesus Christ and all that He has done for each of us. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness.

Really, that is the story of all we do in the Christian Church; everything we preach and teach; our celebration of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. “The Great Exchange” is the very center and focus of our faith. We will very soon begin the Lenten Season. Lent is indeed an interesting time of the Church Year.

Quite often people will get wrapped up in “What are you doing for Lent?” Seemingly, doing something will make you a better person or make you more worthy of salvation. Such thoughts couldn’t be farther from the truth. If you do something for Lent, it ought to be something which draws you closer to “The Great Exchange.”

We are helpless, hopeless, even damnable people. Our sin has totally ruined us. We are lost and condemned. There is no way we could participate in a swap or trade to benefit our soul. That is what makes “The Great Exchange” so great. Christ, in His total perfection took our total imperfection in trade; as a swap; as an exchange. We who are unrighteous are made

righteous. This exchange is unequal and certainly not fair. Yet Christ did it for us.

We certainly got the best end of this deal. We came out ahead; far ahead. That is what we will proclaim once again this Lenten Season. Come to Sunday and Mid-Week services this Lent. Devote extra time to prayer, meditation, and Scripture reading. Take a long, hard look at the work of Christ. See what He has done. “The Great Exchange” has been made and it was made for you.

In Christ’s Name

Pastor Wahl



Sunday School Corner

Sunday School Staff and Students are excited to welcome our newly elected Sunday School Superintendent Kathy Dejonowski and Sunday School Assistant Superintendent Dana Krieger. Thank you for leading our Sunday School into the new year.

Ash Wednesday is February 10 which means our Lenten Pot Luck dinners will begin after Confirmation class at 6:30 with Church at 7:30. We encourage all the Sunday School Students and their families to attend the Wednesday services as well as the Holy Week services. This is wonderful opportunity to invite a friend or family member to visit our church.

Easter is March 27 and there is no Sunday School on Easter Morning.



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

This sounds like a tall order and no one person could even entertain the idea of doing this on their own, that's why there were 12 disciples with Jesus!!

We are currently in the process of forming an Evangelism Board, no strike that (Board sounds to formal) how about Committee (no sounds like lots of work), maybe Group, better yet Prayer Group, our goal is to share and witness about Jesus, so yes we are currently in the process of forming and Evangelism Prayer/Share Group, well we can figure that out later. Our main focus is to have people get together to pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us to share our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with other people.

Please prayerfully consider joining us in discussing ways we can Witness (yes that can be a scary word) and share what Jesus has so freely given us.

God has blessed us all with different talents. We all have ideas we feel passionate about! A great way to help our Talents and Passions come together is to boldly proclaim them! We are not in this alone, we have the Holy Spirit leading the way. So let us let our Light shine.

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you: and lo I am with you always even to the end of the Age. Matthew 28:20



You may give offerings and donations at www.splcms.org. (click "Donate") by PayPal, credit and debit cards, and gift cards. Email receipt provided. Bank & Church statements will show Your gift also.

Live streaming and Recorded Broadcasts of our worship services are available at www.splcms.org



On December 13, we had the unique opportunity at St. Paul to have two missionaries with us, Tim and Michelle Miller with the Lutheran Bible Translators organization. They have been faithfully serving the Khon people of Cambodia for the past seven years. While they are on furlough, the visit various congregations telling the story of Lutheran Bible Translators; especially the work that is done by that organization. That work involves going to areas in the world where the Bible is not present for the people to read and learn. Often the people speak a language that has not been developed into written form. The translators must first decipher the language; develop an alphabet for the language, form words and phrases which can be pun onto paper; then teach the people to read their language. It is a very slow, painstaking work. The Millers will be continuing their work in 2016 as they return to South East Asia, going this time in Communist Laos.

We have supported Tim and Michelle with the special offerings gathered during the Advent Season from the coin folders distributed throughout the congregation. We will again support them this Lenten Season with offerings from the Lenten coin folders.





On Sunday, December 27, we bade a fond farewell to Paula Steuernagel, who has faithfully served our congregation as organist for the past three years. She really has been more than an organist in that she worked with the choir, singing groups, and individuals in developing musical talent. She also worked with the Sunday School and lead the students of Vacation Bible School in fun, action music. Paula displayed an enormous amount of talent at the organ and piano. She will be missed by all.

Paula has accepted a full time position with Trinity Lutheran Church and School in St. Joseph, Michigan. She will be a definite blessing to the people of Trinity. We pray the Lord's continued blessings on Paula as she serves Him faithfully.

For those who wish to remain in contact with Paula, her new address is Paula Steuernagel, 2906 Veronica Court, St. Joseph, MI 49085



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on December 27, 2015 for

Camden Trace Wisely
 Born: June 25, 2015
 Infant son of Robert Wisely
 and
 Jennifer Marie (nee Middleton) Wisely
 Sponsors: Meggin Venem and Holly Busse



Dorothy L. Skalka (age 90) of our congregation entered eternity on November 19, 2015. Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian Burial for Dorothy on November 29, 2015. We extend our deepest sympathy to her children, Frank, Jr., Susan (Bill) Tomasek, and Christine Skalka. "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

September - May

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Harold Wahl, Pastor
508 N. Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476
Voice & Fax (708) 877-6564

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Church Office Hours
9 to Noon Monday thru Friday.

Bulletin Deadline
Thursday by 10 a.m.

Contact the church office to submit
personal testimonials about what God
has done for you. Or original art that is
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman Bill Sommer
Vice Chairman David Bloom
Recording Sec. Tracy Middleton
Financial Sec. Robert Brandy
Treasurer Chris Carr
Elder Ed Hoeksema
Steven Michels
Henry Sella
Jack Swan
Brian Wiltjer
Jerry Wiltjer
Trustee Dean Bloom
Earl Bloom
Jerry Smith

Stewardship

Evangelism Debi Brandy
Social Ministry Norma Allen
Sandy Budde

S. S. Super. Kathy Dejonowski

Asnt. Super. Dana Krieger

Adult Director

Youth Director

February

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Tiffany Reichert | 19 Jayme Jarden |
| 2 Emily Hudson | Mike Pfeifer |
| 4 Connie Bambulas | 20 Harold Wahl |
| William Middleton | 21 Sarah Nixon |
| 8 Jenna Wiltjer | 23 Joshua Baumgart |
| 12 Ed Baumgart | Zachary Tatgenhorst |
| Sondra Budde | 24 Brandi Baker |
| 13 Lisa Sheridan | 26 Robert Hall |
| 14 William Rich Jr. | 27 Jack Swan |
| 15 Dean Bloom | Nicole Wiltjer |
| 17 Cindy Eastman | 28 Earl Bloom |
| 18 Richard Niemann | |



March

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Kymberly Krass | 13 Nicholas DeCamp |
| 5 Marlin Carr | 16 Irv Roberts |
| Denise Riordan | 20 Steve Kipley |
| 10 Wendy Gibson | 22 Karen Diekelman |
| 11 Sally Heiwig | 26 Nathaniel Conway |
| Emily Hoeksema | 27 Dorothy Graves |
| 12 Rikki Chiattello | 30 Aiden Conway |

THE FAMILY TREE

Many people have worked on their family trees gathering data about the generations that went before them. This can yield some helpful information about health issues in a family and reveal connections with other families that were unexpected.

Have you tried charting a spiritual family tree? Who were the people who have helped you grow in faith? Perhaps you had a Sunday school teacher who was especially important to your faith development. Interview that person. Find out who was important in their growing up as a disciple of Jesus. Ask about books as well as people. You will be amazed at the number of folks who are in your "tree." What a wonderful gift God has given us in those who have passed the faith to us.

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30pm Elders Meeting	3 6:00pm Confirmation Class	4	5	6
7 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	8 7:00pm Council Meeting	9	10 9:30am Ash Wednesday Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	11 7:00pm Book Club	12	13 9:00am Parish Hall In Use 9:00am Trustee Work Day
14 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	15	16	17 9:30am Lenten Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Lenten Worship Service	18	19	20
21 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	22	23	24 9:30am Lenten Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Lenten Worship Service	25	26	27 11:00am Parish Hall In Use
28 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	29					

MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30pm Elders Meeting	2 9:30am Lenten Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Lenten Worship Service	3	4	5
6 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	7	8 1:00pm LWML Meeting	9 9:30am Lenten Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Lenten Worship Service	10 7:00pm Book Club	11	12 9:00am Trustee Work Day
13 2:00am Begin Daylight Savings Time 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	14 7:00pm Council Meeting	15	16 9:30am Lenten Worship Service 10:30am Lenten Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lenten Pot-luck 7:30pm Lenten Worship Service	17	18	19
20 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	21	22	23 6:00pm Confirmation Class	24 9:30am Maunday Thursday Worship Service 7:30pm Maunday Thursday Worship Service	25 12:00pm Good Friday Worship Service 7:30pm Good Friday Worship Service	26
27 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service 7:30am Easter Breakfast 9:45am Easter Worship Service	28	29	30 6:00pm Confirmation Class	31		