



# March April Christ's Calling Card



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Wilton, Wisconsin  
ELCA

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
401 Mill Street  
Wilton, Wisconsin 54670  
A member of the LaCrosse  
Area Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

March April  
2018

Bi-monthly Newsletter

## Interim Pastor Brad Lindberg



*"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ... But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." ~Psalm 13*

Life can be weird sometimes, can't it? For



example, I am writing this on Valentine's Day, which is a day of frivolity and excesses. Today is also Ash Wednesday, which is a somber day of repentance. The timing of this newsletter is such

that it will cover a month of Lent and a month of Easter. How is a pastor supposed to speak to both of those?

Maybe this is a call to read the Psalms. There is a psalm for nearly every single mood you could imagine. For some reason I'm particularly drawn towards what we call the lament psalms (i.e. Psalm 13), which are probably fitting for Lent. These lament psalms are beautiful poems that cry out to God in heartache, frustration, anger, etc. Yet they always come back around to praising God. They are a beautiful reminder that in the midst of our brokenness we will not remain there forever.

Pastor Brad Con't

### Inside This Issue:

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Website - <http://www.stpaulswilton.com>

### Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday: 7pm March 29**

**Good Friday: 7pm March 30**

**Prayer Vigil: 8pm Friday March 30**

**Saturday 6am March 29**

**Easter Sunday, April 1:**

**6:00 am Sunrise Worship**

**6:45 am Easter Breakfast - 9am Sunday School**

**10:15 am Worship**

**Pastor Brad Con't**

**As much as I like the Psalms and I hope that you read them, I don't know that's what this strange timing is calling us to. It feels like there is something more, doesn't it?**

**Perhaps the calendar just might give us the answer. This year Easter Sunday also happens to be April Fool's Day. Isn't that awesome?! True, this hasn't happened since 1956 but I just love the juxtaposition of these two days coming together. The last few years I've gotten to join in a new tradition of celebrating Holy Humor Sunday the week following Easter. The idea behind Holy Humor Sunday is that in Jesus' victory on the cross He got the last laugh and we now laugh in the face of the devil knowing that in the end we know who wins the war. Honestly, doesn't that sound like an April Fool's Easter?**

**I don't know about you, but I sure am grateful that God has a sense of humor. I am grateful because humor adds to joy to our lives. I am grateful because humor allows for grace when we're able to laugh at ourselves. I am grateful because life can get pretty weird sometimes and humor helps it all make sense.**

**Come join us for worship and maybe we can share a laugh together!**

*Pastor Brad <><*

**p.s.**

**Knock, Knock Who's there? Lettuce Lettuce who?**

**Let us pray. Dear God, thank you for all that You are and all that You do. Thank you for having a sense of humor and calling us into an abundant, joy-filled life. Amen**

## **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Minutes**

Respectfully Submitted by: Ginger Arndt, Church Council Secretary

January 28, 2018

11:15 a.m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wilton, WI

### **Call to Order**

Caitie Stanek, Council President

### **Welcome and Prayer**

C. Stanek provided opening prayer

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Lindberg is excited for his time with St. Paul's and is very impressed with the congregation's strength of a generous heart and encourages us to continue to do so.

### **Approval of annual meeting minutes (January 29, 2017)**

Annual Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2017:

The congregation was given a chance to review the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes. John Ornes made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Leonard Arndt 2nd. All ayes, MC.

### **Financial Reports**

Auditing Committee Report: Arlis Ballwahn presented for the auditing committee noting that the report is \$1.00 off on page 7 of the Annual Report the bank balance as of 12/31/2017 should be \$10,394.

**Review of Financial Reports:** Pastor Lindberg's contracted benefits were explained.

Approval of Financial Reports: Karen Artz made a motion to approve the Financial Reports as presented, Justin Arndt 2nd. All ayes, MC.

### **Presentation and approval of the 2018 Budget**

The 2018 Budget was disseminated and the pastoral pay was clarified as recommended by Synod. Lois Reineke made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget as presented, Joel Arndt, 2nd. All Ayes, MC.



The committee reports were given in the 2017 Annual Report of the Congregation.

**Council Positions:** All council positions needing to be filled were approved jointly with positions as follows: Council Board Position vacated by Tyler Brandau, replaced by Steve Brandau. Marcus Buchholz 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Treasurer, Rachel Conner 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Council Member. With Steve Brandau already on the call committee he will not be considered the Council On Call Liaison. *Nalani Bever asked that the secretary close the nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast electing the Council positions, Arlis Ballwahn 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. All ayes, MC*

**Committee Appointments:**

*Cemetery Board Position* to be filled- Steve Brandau

*Assembly Delegates:* Joel and Lori Arndt *Alternates:* John & Barb Ornes

*2018 Nominating Committee:* Justin Arndt, Larry Ballwahn & Tyler Brandau

*Auditing Committee Members* Lori Brueggen, Arlis Ballwahn, Pam Brandau

*Nalani Bever make a motion that the secretary close the nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast electing all open positions in committee, Karen Artz 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. All Ayes, MC.*

It was reported that the roof project was paid off.

**Parsonage Project:** A proposal was submitted to the congregation for a remodel of the parsonage kitchen and some other minor repairs. Council is requesting \$15,000 for the project. *Larry Ballwahn made a motion for council to use their discretion and go ahead with the project with the \$15,000 budget. Lois O'Rourke 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Leonard Arndt opposed, majority in favoring stating aye, MC.*

**Interior Renovation Survey:** Upon hearing the needs for other necessary repairs to the interior of the church, as well as the possibility of changes needed to the interior due to the architectural design of the front steps project, Marcus Buchholz will be handing out a survey to the congregation requesting priorities and ideas about changes needed. Please fill out that survey thoroughly so all voices can be heard.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Feedback is requested regarding the time of service or services for Christmas Eve.

**Offering Envelopes:** It was suggested by President Stanek and Church Secretary Nalani Bever to consider changing the donation envelope system. After discussion it was suggested to continue to monitor the use and reevaluate need but to continue system as is currently. Barb Ornes reiterated to the congregation the need to write the amount of money and where you would like it to go on the front of the envelope on the space provided.

**Adoption of updated/revised Constitution:** The constitution was presented and reviewed *Larry Ballwahn made the motion to adopt the Constitution as presented, Carolyn Dougherty 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All ayes, MC*

Bud Osteboe presented a resolution:

*WHEREAS*, Tyler Brandau has served this congregation as member of the Church Council, and is now leaving his position.

*THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED*, we of this congregation wish to express our appreciation by saying thank you for his time and efforts on our behalf and look forward to his continued participation with us in worship.

Caitie Stanek appreciated her thanks to the congregation and the council for their continued support.

John Ornes made a motion to adjourn following the Lord's Prayer, Arlis Ballwahn 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion,

All Ayes, MC

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL

The following are the Scripture readings that we will be sharing in worship during the months of March and April, 2018.

### March 4 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17: Psalm 19:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25: John 2:13-22

### March 11 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Number 21:4-9: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22:

Ephesians 2:1-10: John 3:14-21

### March 18 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-14: Psalm 51:1-12:

Hebrews 5:5-10: John 12:20-33

### March 25 - Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a: Psalm 31:9-16:

Philippians 2:5-11: Mark 14:1—15:47

### April 1 – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11: Mark 16:1-8

### April 8 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35: Psalm 133:

1 John 1:1-2:2: John 20:19-31

### April 15 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19: Psalm 4:

1 John 3:1-7: Luke 24:36b-48

### April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12: Psalm 23:

1 John 3:16-24: John 10:11-18

### April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40: Psalm 22:25-31:

1 John 4:7-21: John 15:1-8



## THOSE SERVING IN MARCH

**Greeters:** John and Barb Ornes

**Ushers:** Leonard Arndt, Greg Bever,  
Jerry Von Haden, Steve Brandau

**Altar:** Steve and Pam Brandau

**Readers:** 4<sup>th</sup> Rhonda Cook, 11<sup>th</sup> Lori  
Arndt,

18<sup>th</sup> Barb Ornes, 25<sup>th</sup> Kathy Cale

**Communion Server:** Steve Brandau

## THOSE SERVING IN APRIL

**Greeters:** Anita Steinke and Lois  
O'Rourke

**Ushers:** Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt,  
Barb Ornes, John Ornes

**Altar:** Lori Brueggen and Barb Ornes

**Readers** 1<sup>st</sup> (early) Dan Buchholz,  
(Late) Justin Arndt;

8<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Dougherty, 15<sup>th</sup> Tyler  
Brandau, 22<sup>nd</sup> Kirstin Arndt;

29<sup>th</sup> Joel Arndt

**Communion Server:** Barb Ornes

## SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Openings are still available at Sugar Creek for the 2018 Summer Camp sessions. Camp brochures are available in the narthex. St. Paul's pays 50% of the camping fee for children.

Also: Students entering grades 1-5 can attend a one-day Day Camp. Information went home with Sunday School students.

Contract the church office for more information.

**Help us spread the word! Invite a friend to  
attend camp along with you!**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday	4	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
Wednesday	7	Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Sunday	11	Church Council	9:00 AM
		Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
Wednesday	14	Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Thursday	15	W-ELCA Meeting	10:00 AM
Sunday	18	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
		Noisy Offering	
		Children Sing	
		Fellowship	11:15 AM
Wednesday	21	Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Thursday	22	Quilting	9:00 AM
Sunday	25	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
Thursday	29	Maunday Thurs-	7:00 PM
Friday	30	Good Friday	7:00 PM
		Prayer Vigil	8:00 PM
Saturday	31	Prayer Vigil	6:00 AM
Sunday	1	Easter Sunrise	6:00 AM
		Breakfast	6:45 AM
		Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
Wednesday	4	Confirmation	6:30-8:00 PM
Sunday	8	Church Council	9:00 AM
		Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
	9	W-ELCA-SCBC	8:00 AM
Wednesday	11	Confirmation	6:30-8:00 PM
Sunday	15	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
		Noisy Offering	
		Children Sing	
		Fellowship	11:15 AM
Wednesday	18	Confirmation	6:30-8:00 PM
Thursday	21	W-ELCA Conf.	T.B.A.
Sunday	22	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM
Wednesday	25	Confirmation	6:30-8:00 PM
Thursday	26	Quilting	9:00 AM
Sunday	29	Sunday School	9:00 AM
		Worship	10:15 AM

### BIRTHDAYS AND

### ANNIVERSARIES

2	Pat VonHaden
3	Krista Cook
	Dennis Dougherty
5	Matt Bever
	Katie Pagel
9	James Brandau
11	Darren Gruen
15	Callie Fleming
	Galetta Sterba
16	Vanessa Ornes
17	Don /Gail Riedesel
19	MaKenzie Powell
20	Joel Arndt
21	Curt Dougherty
22	Dean Brandau
	Jan & Phyllis Brandau
23	Bria Gruen
	Lila Speicher
28	Ken Koebernick
	Gary Bever
	Kaylin Gruen
1	Caitlyn Stanek
2	Vicky Pasch
5	Pam Brandau
	Kim Buchholz
9	Madelyn Dougherty
	Richard & Kathy
11	Cale
	Jack & MaryAnn
12	Arndt
16	Louise Buchholz
17	Julie Acker
	Mildred Radke
18	Rick Brueggen
	Jaren Gruen
	Ron Savall
	Dave & Jen Gruen
21	April Arndt
	Katie Gruen
24	Eloise Evans
	Scott & Tanya Niedfeldt
28	Carol Brandau
	Matt Ornes



### APRIL



### MARCH



## LENT

# LivingLutheran

**Lent; as you begin your journey toward the baptismal waters of Easter, consider taking up faith practices as a spiritual discipline.**

**St Paul's Mission Statement: As God's children we are Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love & Mercy.**



### Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

#### Faith Practices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Living Our Baptismal Covenant

The Faith Practices Team of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) encourages churches to nurture a culture of mission and discipleship by embracing faith practices that stem from our baptism. The team urges ELCA members and congregations to recognize that in response to God's action in baptism, our life is one of growth in the practices of discipleship: "Baptism inaugurates a life of discipleship in the death and resurrection of Christ. Baptism conforms us to the death and resurrection of Christ precisely so that we repent and receive forgiveness, love our neighbors, suffer for the sake of the Gospel, and witness to Christ."

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236). We are to:

*"... live among God's faithful people; **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth."*

The Faith Practices Team encourages these practices as guides for our discipleship,

## **St. Paul's Scholarship Program**

***Two scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are available to graduating high school seniors of our congregation or to other members pursuing their post-secondary education who have not previously received a scholarship. You must complete or have completed one semester of post-secondary education and be enrolled in your subsequent semester to receive your scholarship. Applications are available on the table in the narthex or call Nalani at the church office and an application will be mailed to you. Applications must be mailed to or returned to the church office by Monday, April 2, 2018. Good luck!!***

## **Council Activity**

**Council Minutes are now posted on the web site after meetings. They may be clarified as they are reviewed and approved at the following meeting. [www.stpaulswilton.com](http://www.stpaulswilton.com)**

## **Online Giving - A Possibility?**

**For many folks, weekly visits to the church are part of their normal routine. For others, the demands of raising a family, jobs, etc., make weekly attendance difficult. Let's be honest, absence in the pews directly affects our financial support to the church, and make-up contributions are rarely made. But just as with our households, the bills of the church are in the mailbox.**

**Many of us pay our bills online, so why not consider offerings to the church online as well? This would allow support of St. Paul's and insure the continuing presence of St. Paul's in our Wilton community, as well as the ELCA worldwide.**

**This is an important budgeting tool for you, as well as the church. The frequency and amount are easily set-up. You might consider giving \$5.00 or \$10.00 per week and possibly supplementing that amount with an envelope offering throughout the year.**

**If this seems like a program you would want to participate in, please stop by or call the church office and you can begin the process. For several years Thrivent Financial provided a vehicle for online donations, however, they transferred their program to VANCO Financial. Both programs allowed for members to directly initiate their online offering, which allowed for privacy with regard to members account numbers.**

**Submitted by Nalani Bever**

**Church: [wiltonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonchurch@gmail.com)**

**\*Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>**

**\*Facebook Home Page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI**

**\*The Website & Facebook page were developed & are  
administered by April Arndt**

## W-ELCA

### W-ELCA NEWSLETTER MARCH APRIL 2018



The ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity Breakfast was held at St. Paul's in January. The presentation by Sister Marlene Weisenbeck on the serious problem of human trafficking in WI, the USA and the world was very informative. YES, it does happen in our area. There was a good representation from several area churches. Thank you to all who helped coordinate this event.

The 2018 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is now history. It was a busy 2 hours and we saw a lot of fellowship among those attending. Hope you all had an enjoyable evening.

Valentines and cookie plates were assembled and delivered to over 20 senior members of St. Paul's. Thank you to all who donated cookies and helped prepare the plates. They are much appreciated by the recipients.

There will be a General Meeting on March 15 at 10:00 am in the church basement. All are welcome. Quilting continues through March and April. Watch the bulletin for dates. We are also working on quilts for our High School graduates.

W-ELCA members will be helping at the March birthday party at Heritage Manor at Elroy.

The Spring Rummage sale will be coming up in May. Since we haven't been holding a fall sale, we expect a huge sale in the spring. This is one of the main fundraisers each year. Leave your items on the stage area of the basement.

**Remember:** Please check your mailbox in the narthex for your 2018 booklet or pick up one on the table there. **All women of St. Paul's are members of W-ELCA and new faces are always welcome at any and all events.**

The W-ELCA organization is again collecting items to complete **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. Baskets are on the south side pew to place your donated items. Monetary donations are also welcome for the purchase of items to complete the kits. Donations can be given to Carol Osteboe, Treasurer of W-ELCA. Needed items are: bars of soap; bath towels (lt. weight, between 20x40 and 52x27, dark color); toothbrushes (adult, in original package); Large tooth combs; nail clippers (metal);



## Christian Unity—Human Trafficking

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18-25, 2018

On Saturday, January 20, St. Paul's W-ELCA sponsored a continental breakfast recognizing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. About 50 people were in attendance from several area churches.

The program featured a presentation on human trafficking by Sister Marlene Weisenbeck. Sister Marlene, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, heads the La Crosse Task Force to End Modern Slavery. She titled her presentation "Merchandising Human Flesh." The La Crosse task force is a grassroots effort to raise awareness about human trafficking in the region and awareness of how it mirrors global experience.



Federal law defines victims of human trafficking as children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts and anyone forced into different forms of "lab services," such as domestic workers held in a home, or farm workers forced to labor against their will."

It is estimated that there are more than 20 million victims world-wide with 600 to 800 thousand of them in the United States.

Sister Weisenbeck explained that the first step in dealing with the problem is educating yourself and others (for example holding this type of program). Be alert to the possibility that human trafficking can be happening nearby and remember to pray for the victims. To learn more call 1-888-373-7888; National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

The program closed with a Christian Unity prayer service.

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It happens here; be aware.

Department of Justice: U.S. Attorney's Office: Western District of Wisconsin—Friday, July 15, 2016  
Sparta Man Convicted of Sex Trafficking & Drug Offenses

MADISON, WIS. – Monta Groce, 30, of Sparta, Wis., was convicted by a federal jury of three counts of sex trafficking by force, threats of force or coercion; one count of conspiracy to engage in interstate transportation for prostitution; one count of interstate transportation for prostitution; one count of maintaining a property for drug trafficking ....



Monroe County Anti Human Trafficking Coalition **FACEBOOK**

Our aims: to empower survivors, end victimization, prevent human trafficking, and raise community awareness via education, training, and legal advocacy



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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"

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