

March 2019

# St. Paul's Epistle

## Church Council Minutes—February 7, 2019

Those Present: Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Dave Wright, Leanna Hasbargen, Steve Rutkowsky, Tony Lucek, Sally Batdorf and Leonard Morrison

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. Opening devotions were by Pastor Quast on the topic: "Tell the World".

The minutes and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) Pastor Lee from the MN North District Office will be leading worship on Sunday, March 10th. 2) Steve Rutkowsky will lead the Lenten service on March 10th in Pastor Quast's absence. 3) Joint Parish Council Meeting was held on January 21st. 4) Applicant handouts for the summer vicar position were reviewed and an update given by Pastor Quast. 5) A financial review of the treasurer's books for 2018 was completed and found in order. 6) Sunday School students are holding a Pancake Breakfast on February 17th to raise funds for mission projects.

Membership changes: Removed by death: Jane Rosenthal on January 15, 2019.

Dave Wright motioned to adjourn, seconded by Leonard Morrison.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

## Ash Wednesday and Lent Schedule



March 6th: Ash Wednesday service 5 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran, 7 p.m. in Fort Frances

March 13th: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. Paul Lutheran

March 20th: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship in Fort Frances

March 27th: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. Paul Lutheran

April 3: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship in Fort Frances

April 10: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. Paul Lutheran

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## Those Serving Our Church—March, April and May 2019

March 2019: Altar—Michelle Hopkins and Susan Lucek Elders: Tony Lucek and Leonard Morrison

Greeters: March 3rd—Josh and Shelley Koenig 10th: Jean Houska 17th: Kyle and Jeanmarie Morrison 24th: Steve Rutkowski  
31st: Jenica Whitbeck

April 2019: Altar—Heidi Swenson and Lori Boquist Elders: All

Greeters: April 7th: Zelpha Crawford 14th: Rita Anderson and Doris Schattschneider 21st: Steve and Mary Bacon 28th: Harry  
and Sally Batdorf

May 2019: Altar—Mary Bacon and Leanna Hasbargen Elders: Ken Leerssen and Richard Christie

Greeters: May 5th: Marc and Kathy Gorden 12th: Heidi Swenson & Lori Baquist 19th: John & Michelle Hopkins 26th: Deb Larson

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### Personal Care Kit Collection During Lent

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. In light of this, we are again collecting items during Lent.

The schedule is as follows:

March 10: Bars of soap

March 17th: Toothbrushes, in their original packaging.

March 24th: Sturdy combs

March 31st: Nail clippers

April 7th: Dark, lightweight bath sized towels

April 14th: Bars of soap



*We will packing the boxes for shipment to Lutheran World Relief on Monday, April 15th at 10 a.m.*

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### March Birthdays

March 3: Ralph & Richard Christie

4th: Cheryl Toth

7th: Bill Bacon

9th: Chad Bacon & Robbie Leerssen

13th: Norma Blake

19th: Tristan Toth

21st: Brian Kelly

23rd: Gary Buffington

24th: Lori Boquist

27th: Dave Swenson

28th: Jeanmarie Morrison



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## Fargo Churches to Host National Creation Speaker



Brian Young (Creation Instruction Association) will be in the Fargo/Moorhead area Sunday, March 3rd. He is currently scheduled to be at: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Fargo Sunday morning, March 3rd @ 9:30am Brian will be presenting on **AMAZING ANIMALS** (that show creation)! This presentation examines many animals such as the giraffe, bombardier beetle, fly, whale, dog, boxfish, cuddle fish, octopus, spider, gecko, butterflies, bees and more to show that evolution could not happen.



St. Andrew Lutheran Church Sunday evening, March 3rd @ 6:30pm Brian will be presenting on **DINOSAURS, ICEAGE AND PRE-FLOOD WORLD**. Have you ever wondered how people could live to be 900 years old? Where did Cain get his wife? Are dinosaurs in the Bible? What about the Ice-Age? Did dinosaurs go on Noah's Ark? How old is the earth? How did coal form? Did dinosaurs live with man? All these and many more questions will be answered as we examine the world before Noah's Flood. These presentations are free and open to the public, with a free will offering being received to help cover speaker costs.

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### Do you know anyone in North Dakota?

Oil activity in western North Dakota has attracted people from all over the country for work. If you know of anyone who has moved to North Dakota for work, consider contacting or encouraging them to contact oil field missionary Rev. Zelwyn Heide at 701-300-4249 or [pastor@badlandslutheran.org](mailto:pastor@badlandslutheran.org)

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## THE URGENCY OF THE MISSION

It's time to run people - to run as hard as we can - bringing the good news of Jesus Christ and His mercy to our communities. There is no time to spare. If you don't know how to do it, ask your pastor or call the District Office and talk to Pastor Lee or Pastor Meyer. We will help you AND your congregation get prepared for this big push. The world is in a crazy place right now and people are looking for some sort of hope. They won't find it in politicians, in elections, in stuff or in money. What they need - what their soul hungers for - is the news that someone is for them. That there is a God who loves and cares for them more than they would ever know. So many people in the Minnesota North District need Jesus - His hope, the assurance of His promise of forgiveness and His peace which passes all human understanding. The time is now. Let's run as hard as we can bringing this powerful message of forgiveness to our communities. Matthew 3:2: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." John 4:35-37: "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.'" 2 Corinthians 5:17-21: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

We have the Good News - let's get the message out. We trust that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus and we know the Holy Spirit works through our witness of the Gospel to others around us. Let's run just as hard as we can with this message of hope and forgiveness. If you want to learn more ways of engaging your community with the Gospel, or just learn how to talk about the faith, please give us a call at 218-829-1781. Ask for Monte - I'd love to help you out! Now is the time! Let's run as hard as we can.

In Christ, *Rev. Monte Meyer* Parish Life Facilitator, MN North District



Beloved in Christ, March, at long last, brings us to the season of Lent. As you know, Lent is a season of "fasting" and prayer and alms giving to the poor. It is a special season of the church wherein we are blessed with opportunities to think and meditate upon the gravity of our sin, and what it cost our Lord Jesus to rescue us from our predicament. That is one reason why many Christians choose to "fast" during these forty days. As we discipline our body, we are strengthened in our faith to Christ, trusting in His sacrifice to save us from all sin. Indeed, St. Paul exhorts us to this practice (not just during Lent) in 1 Cor. 9:26-27, "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

This fasting can take many forms: skipping a meal(s), denying oneself a particularly favorite food or drink, abstaining from a certain beloved activity (ie television or movies), and then using the extra time to focus on Christ and His Word. Any money saved may also be donated to the church or some other charitable organization. It is a long and proud tradition within the church, which is NOT a requirement, but a blessed opportunity. I pray that you will contemplate this season on how best to focus on the Word of God and one's neighbor in need.

Of course, Lent brings with it more opportunities for worship as well. Join us for Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at 5 pm for our special Ash Wednesday Divine Service. Each week thereafter we will rotate between St. Paul and The Church of the Lutheran Hour for our midweek Lenten services at 7 pm. It is my hope and prayer that many of you will be able to take advantage of these services as we take up the theme "Behold the Man" which explores the various aspects of our Lord Jesus' human nature, and what it cost Him to save us from our sin. These more brief Vespers services are great opportunities to invite friends and family to church, wherein they may hear the Gospel clearly proclaimed. Let us join together in boldly sharing Jesus Christ crucified with all those in our communities.

To assist us in sharing the Gospel over the summer months, it was decided that we would request another summer vicar this year. We were overwhelmed with the interest of seven men who were interested in coming here. Of course, we can only take one. The successful candidate that has accepted our summer vicarage placement is Anthony Mandile IV. It is my belief that he will prove to be yet another superb candidate for the office of the holy ministry. Please join with me in praying for Anthony as he prepares to join us here in June. Also, keep all of our seminarians in your prayers, that they may be strengthened in their faith and understanding of God's Holy Word, in order to better proclaim it to others. What an exciting and joyous time for our congregation! Truly, we have been richly blessed by the Lord, once again.

In contemplating the many blessings and mercies of God to us and our congregation, let me exhort you, along with St. Paul (Philippians 4:4) to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." Are there challenges and difficulties that we face in this life? To be sure. But we are strengthened in the Lord Jesus to meet these trials with patience and trust, confident in the Father's tender mercy and care poured out upon us for the sake of His own beloved Son. So that we can face all things, even grief and sorrow and despair, with joy in our hearts. For we know that we belong to Him. His blood has washed us clean—and His life is ours, now and always.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:23-34). Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.