

St. Paul's Epistle

~ *March 2025*



Church Council Minutes—February 6, 2025

Those in attendance: Tim Anderson, Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Kristen Wold, Tony Lucek and RaNae Whitbeck

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer.

There were no changes to the agenda. The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) Church service schedules were discussed and Tim Anderson and Leonard Morrison agreed to lead worship on February 23 in Pastor Moeller's absence. 2) Pastor Vincent Moore declined our Call. 3) We need to schedule a Joint Parish Meeting to discuss the possibility of calling a spring Candidate. 4) Ladies Bible Study is beginning on February 11th. 5) Confirmation classes are going well. 6) We are waiting on a date for the installation of the new sound system.

There were no membership changes.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck, Acting Secretary

What is the significance of Lent?

ANSWER: Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation. During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

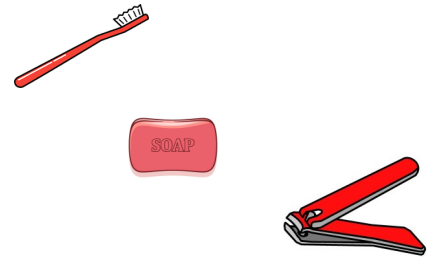
This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

Hygiene Kit Collection during Lent

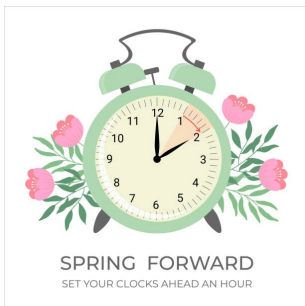
We will once again be collecting items for hygiene kits to be sent to those in need around the world. Each week during Lent we will be collecting a different item.

- Week of March 9: Bars of soap
- Week of March 16: Toothbrushes (no toothpaste)
- Week of March 23: Sturdy combs
- Week of March 30: Nail Clippers (toenail clippers are fine, also)
- Week of April 6: Towels, lightweight and dark colored if possible.
- Week of April 13: Bars of soap.



SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- All items should be new and in good condition.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead when you go to bed on Saturday, March 8th.

Also, make sure to check your smoke detectors!



Our **LWML Group** will be meeting on Sunday, March 9th at 4:30 p.m.

New members are always welcome!

March Birthdays

Happiest of birthdays is wished to these members celebrating during March!

3: Ralph Christie, Richard Christie

4th: Cheryl Toth

7th: William Bacon

9th: Chad Bacon and Robbie Leerssen

23rd: Gary Buffington

24th: Lori Boquist

27th: Dave Swenson



For the Next Generation

What kind of church do you want for the next generation? I would challenge you to respond without referencing food, friends, buildings, or kinds of music. The foods will change. People come and go. If you own a house, you realize there are no eternal buildings. Although some parts of the old TLH hymnal are still used today, many of the musical settings are different. Even in the church, it is unsettling at times to know how much change occurs.

There is an old tagline among Lutherans, “A changeless Christ for a Changing World (Hebrews 13:8).” If Jesus does not change, the Church should focus on making sure that His gifts do not change. We cling to His promises: the Word of the Lord endures forever (I Peter 1:25), salvation is in Christ alone (John 14:6), He continues to give washing of new birth in baptism (Titus 3:5-8), and He renews us in forgiveness through His body and blood (Matthew 26:28). These truths are worth the steadfast fight to preach, teach, study, and pray.

We pray for the next generation. I pray without ceasing for my children to be kept in the true Christian faith since their baptisms (and all the people I have had the honor of baptizing). I realize that in this broken world there are no guarantees, which once again can be quite unsettling. Yet, we can assure that the next generation will have a Church where the Truth is proclaimed, faith renewed, and they receive a clear conscience in the full sufficiency of His cross and resurrection.

Study the Scriptures, encourage your pastor, pray for your leadership, and be diligent in hearing the Truth of Christ and Him crucified (I Corinthians 1:23).

Fight the good fight (I Timothy 6:12)

MN North District President,
Rev. Brady Finnern

We will be holding a *Church Garage Sale* in the parsonage garage during May. The dates will be posted in next month's newsletter.

While you are doing your spring cleaning, don't forget to set aside your used treasures for the sale. We will be collecting them in the parsonage starting mid-April.

No clothing or shoes, please!



