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From Your Pastor

LENT IS LISTENING!

“Therefore consider carefully how you listen..” Luke 8:18.

Christians have their own vocabulary. There are words and terms we use that are completely foreign to other people. One such word is “narthex.” You know exactly what I am talking about. It is that room you enter from the front of church from the north parking lot. So if I said that something is in the narthex, you know exactly where.

But why do churches have narthexes? Look at ours; we use it for many purposes. You can hang up your coat there. It is where we can put posters and other bits of information. We use it as a drop off place when we gather items for the food shelf. Since most traffic goes through the narthex, it is a logical place for sign-up sheets, fliers, where you can pick up copies of the bulletin or sermon. And it is place where people gather to visit for a while.

All of this is good and makes sense, but when the early Christians discussed a building project for a new church, they designed it with a narthex, but not for any of the above reasons. The narthex was a quiet place. It was designed as a transition from the “outside” world to the “house of God.” You didn’t hang your coats there; instead you left any and all worldly concerns and troubles that came with you in the narthex. You tuned them out so you can concentrate 100% on God and his Word in the church area. Moms would shush their kids. “We are entering church. So be quiet and listen.”

Lent starts in March, March 6 to be exact with Ash Wednesday. As we step from the busy, noisy world of everyday life in the hush of the Lenten season, let us make sure we have closed the doors behind us. Let us leave behind all that would distract or disturb us as we concentrate on the Lenten theme and where it is leading us, to the cross where we see God give up his life to save us and then his tomb, empty because he took up his life again.

This is the Lenten message, a message from the Father’s heart to ours. It is a message of pardon, of courage and strength, of life and hope, through the wounds and death of Jesus Christ our Savior. This is too important. We can’t let anything distract us from it.

I am not prepared to suggest we empty our narthex of all those things and forbid any talking or laughing. Let’s still use our narthex for the purposes we use it for now. But also let this room serve as a transition for you from the world to God, not only in the entrance of our church, but also on a daily basis in your home, office or car. As we begin Lent, don’t let any busyness or distractions keep you from hearing the message of your Savior. “Therefore consider carefully how you listen.” Listen with an uncluttered mind and heart. See you this Lent.

MINISTRIES OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT

MINNESOTA DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



In the Minnesota District we have the ONLY worker training college for pastors and teachers in our Synod – Martin Luther College (formerly Dr. Martin Luther College). This jewel of the Synod is located a mere thirty-five miles away from us in New Ulm., MN.

This school began in 1884 with one building now called Old Main. This, interestingly, is the oldest building that is owned by WELS. When built, this building included faculty housing, student bedrooms and study rooms, classrooms, and a dining hall. Dr. Martin Luther College (DMLC) began on November 10, 1884 with eight students and three teachers. The first director of the college was C.J. Albrecht who was also pastor at St. Paul's, New Ulm. In 1892 when the Minnesota Synod became associated with the Wisconsin Synod, the management of the college was now taken over by the Synod. The college now had a teacher program, a preparatory (high school) department for students to transfer to Northwestern College (pastor training), and an academic department for a general college education. It is also interesting to note that the first female to graduate from DMLC was in the year 1898.

Many changes in curriculum and buildings have taken place over the years. Probably one of the most noticeable change was in 1995 when Northwestern College in Watertown, WI closed and amalgamated with DMLC to begin Martin Luther College. Theodore Olsen was called as its first president. The present president, Mark Zarling, took over in 2008. One of the most beautiful buildings – The Chapel of the Christ- was dedicated in 2010.

Students have a number of choices at Martin Luther College. Not only can they choose an elementary teacher program, but they also can choose a secondary education (high school) program, an early childhood education program, a parish music program, a master's degree program, staff ministry program, or a pre-seminary program.

Martin Luther College sits on 50 some acres of land. Enrollment of underclassmen is around 756 students. There are 86 faculty member which gives the college a 12:1 ratio of students to teachers. Those who live on campus is around 98%. The cost for one year is \$21,490. However, over \$2,000,000 is given out in aid with 95% of the students receiving financial aid. The college has been awarded "Best College for Your Money." It participates in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference with sixteen intercollegiate sports. (eight each for men and women).

Martin Luther College/Dr. Martin Luther College is approaching 135 years. It has been estimated that close to 13,000 men and women have gone on to serve their Lord and Savior preaching the Gospel as pastors and teachers in our congregations. We encourage our young people to consider attending Martin Luther College to become a pastor, teacher, or staff minister. May God continue to bless Martin Luther College in preparation of WELS called workers.



St. Paul's Lutheran School Arlington, MN
"Preparing Children Now and For Eternity"

March 2019

Lutheran Elementary School Week: March 11-17 is Lutheran Elementary School week. We celebrate the wonderful blessing we have of Christian Education using our elementary school. On the back of this sheet is the plan for the week. We hope to see many visitors/alumni/congregation members/friends this week (even just for lunch).

SAVE, SAVE, SAVE: Thank you for saving these items. Labels can be dropped off at school or use a collection container in the back of church. Aluminum cans to the trailer in alley by school.

1. Thrivent Choice dollars
2. Our Family UPC labels --->
3. Box Tops for Education
4. Aluminum Cans
5. Coborns/Cash Wise Reward Points
6. Country Hearth UPCs
7. MILK MOOLA– from Kwik Trip

KWIK TRIP-MILK MOOLA We have been notified that Milk Moola rewards will be ending after March. So please if you have any caps and labels at home bring to church or school by April

BE A SAINT PROGRAM UPDATES: The school office is beginning to scholarship donations for the next school year. If there are congregation members who would like to anonymously sponsor a student's tuition for the next school year 2019 – 2020 speak with Mr. Kaesermann. Our open house is coming and we would like to have funds in place to share with families.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME All former Saints players (any age) are invited to come for some pick-up games on March 16th beginning at 9:30. Bring former teammates and play again in the gym. At 11:00 watch our high school players face Hutchinson in a classic.

2019-2020 SCHOOL REGISTRATION: April 4th is our school open house and registration. We want all of our children of the congregation to be a part of our school. Parents with children going into grades PreK-7th will be receiving information to visit our school. Families are invited to visit with teachers and staff that will bring God's Word to your child every day. Use this as your first invitation to see what St. Paul's Lutheran School is all about!

CES SILENT AUCTION: Christian Education Society is planning for the annual silent basket auction to begin March 6th 1. If there are any individuals or groups that would like to create a basket speak to Jennifer Kistner, Angie Brau, or Judy Petzel. Forms are in the Narthex. Proceeds include 10% to endowment fund, CES budget items (Bibles/catechisms/PRE books) and a new AED for school.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK: Keep up-to-date with all school events and happenings online. www.stpaularlington.com/school click calendar. Like us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stpaularlington

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 1 Parent Basketball Night vs. Kids 5:30 game@ gym
- 11-17 LUTHERAN ELEMNTARY SCHOOL WEEK
- 11 Grandparents Day
- 14 PARENT VISITOR DAY
- 15 Swimming Day @ S.E. 12:45
- 16 Alumni Basketball Game vs. Hutchinson?? 11:00
- 17 SERVE FELLOWSHIP PREK-8th SING
- 19 MSU HISTORY DAY Grades 6-8th @ MSU
- 27 End of Qtr 3 Report Cards CES serves Lenten Meal

April

- 4 SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
- 5 MLC Children's Theater?
- 11 Track Season Begins
- 15-17 ACT Testing Week
- 18-22 NO SCHOOL EASTER Vacation
- 24 4th qtr Midterm

Psalm 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.

LENT – 2019

Midweek Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6. The theme this year is “Three Words of Truth.” Each service focuses on a strong three-word phrase from the record of Jesus’ passion and resurrection. Our service times are 3:45 PM and 7:00 PM. To make it convenient for you to attend church those evenings, various groups in our congregation will be serving supper after the afternoon service to about 6:30 or so each Wednesday. We will see you there.



LENTEN SUPPERS

Here is a list of the dates of Lenten services followed by the group and the tentative meal to be served.

March 6 Married Couples – Hot Beef Sandwiches

March 13 Porky’s Committee– Grilled Pork Burgers, Chips, Beans, Cheese, Pickles, Sauerkraut, Bars (All proceeds will be going to reduce the line of credit.)

March 20 Mission Society – Lasagna

March 27 CES – BBO’S

April 3 Choir – Various Hot Dishes

April 10 Sunday School – Hot Dogs

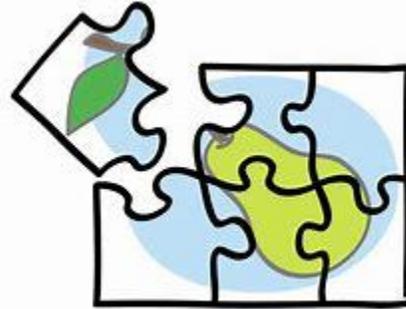
FOOD SHELF – MARCH

Thank you to all those who donate to the Sibley County Food Share. During the month of MARCH, the amount of food donated determines what the program can receive the rest of the year. This is a wonderful way for us to help those in need!!



A THOUGHT

If you can trust a puzzle company to make sure every piece is in the box to complete the puzzle, then why can’t you trust God that every piece of your life is there for a reason.



SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry will meet on Monday, **March 11**, at 1:30pm in the basement. We invite everyone (**never too young, never to old**) to join us for a brief Bible study, snacks, games, talk, fellowship and fun!!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting on Sunday, **March 10**, at 6:30pm at **CHURCH**. (Notice place change!!) This will be a regular meeting but planning for the year will take place so members should come with ideas for activities for the year. New leaders for the year are Jenny & Darv Scherer, and Nick Doetkott.



Join the
Youth Group

BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY FAMILY BIBLE Bible Study begins at 9:00am in the church auditorium every Sunday morning. All are invited. Coffee, hot chocolate, and fellowship are furnished. This Bible class is finishing up stewardship and then on to another topic.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY Do you like to decorate? God does too. You see, if you let him live long enough in a heart, that heart may change. God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be *Just Like Jesus*. This is our next series of Bible studies. During March we will meet at **2:45pm** and finish in time for afternoon church. Our topics are:

March 6 - A Heart Like His

March 13 – Loving the People You Are Stuck With

March 20 – The Touch of God

March 27 – Hearing God’s Music



CES BASKET AUCTION

The annual CES Silent Basket Auction will begin on March 6 and end on Easter Sunday. Part of the proceeds will go to purchase for a new AED.

FORWARD in CHRIST – MARCH

The March issue of Forward in Christ is here and ready to be read. Pick up your copy in the back of church. Lent starts in March this year and so this is the theme that runs through it. Check out some of the stories:

• **“Let’s Do Lent”** (p.10-11) Do you give something up for Lent? This article reminds that Lent is about what we originally did and continue to do as sinners?

• **“Close Enough to Love”** (p.7) A devotion on the Good Samaritan. This would be a good start for the day or the end of day.

• **“Light for our Path”** (p.9) This tries to answer the question, “What role does emotion play in contrition (sorrow over sin)?”

• **“Evangelism Lesson from the Savior”** (p.12-13) This article encourages us to share the Gospel with others even though our hearers may not readily accept it. This is no different from when Jesus sent out his disciples.

• **“Confessions of Faith”** (P.15-16) A woman in her seventies discovers the blessings of Baptism. What a heart-warming story!!

• **“KISS them”** (p.28-29) Got your attention?? Use those four letters – KISS- as an approach to tell others about Jesus. Read the article to Keep It Simple Sincere.

• **“A Gospel-Filled Life”** (p.33) Here is a short Bible study about praying in Jesus’ name.

• **“A Lutheran Lent”** (p.34) This one-page article reminds us of the emphasis we Lutherans have on Lent.

• **“The Book of Revelation”** (p.35) Here we have a Bible study on revelation 6 and 7: Comfort in the Midst of Conflict.

• **“Silent No Longer”** (Back Page) This finishes the issue with reminding us we should not be silent as it comes to confessing our faith. Nicodemus is our example.

This short magazine is packed with faith strengthening articles. It encourages and supports us in our faith. Pick up your copy this Sunday!!

MISSION SOCIETY

February Mission Society Notes:

Kate Tohal, MLC Resource Development Counselor, told our members of the blessing the congregational grant program has provided the college in terms of increased enrollment. She highlighted events on campus and encouraged a visit. MLC has won two national awards: Best Bang for your Buck and Best Place to Meet Your Spouse.

Twelve members answered roll call.

Old Business:

- * Purchase of new tables was put on hold.
- * Good Samaritan Center Birthday Bingo party went well in spite of a snowstorm
- * Materials for graduation quilts were purchased with Thrivent Action Team grant
- * Quilt tying will be Mar 20 from 9 a.m. to noon
- * Serving for the Petzel funeral went well. Thank you volunteers!
- * Work continues on compiling the volunteer list.

New Business:

- * Menu for our Lenten Supper Mar 20 will be lasagna and fixings
- * LWMS Spring Rally will be held in Belle Plaine April 27

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 12: 20 p.m..

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

The ladies of the Mission Society are in the process of compiling a list of St Paul's members (male and female) who would be willing to help at events such as a funeral lunch, potluck, or soup and sandwich luncheon. Many members have been phoned but many members have no phone listed. If you have not been contacted and would be willing to help with setting tables, serving, donating a salad or dessert, or helping with clean up, please contact the church office (964-2731), Barb Bening (964-2739), or Pat Grabitske (964-5878) to leave your name and contact information. Working together is fun for all!


Volunteer