

St. Paul Lutheran Church
235 Jefferson
Hanover, IL 61041



St. Paul's EPISTLE

Dateline: March, 2018

Notes from the Pastor's Desk

"Taggin' Along"

I grew up with just my brother and me and mom and dad. Dad was in the Navy so we were often far away from family and I never got to play with my cousins much. Since we moved so often and my brother and I were so shy, we often didn't make many friends in our short stays. So, what I remember of growing up and playing is that it was always my brother and me.

I am the older of us two by a little less than two years, so as the older one I was often the leader. My brother would always be there taggin' along. As we grew older play switched to hobbies and hobbies after school switched to careers. We played music professionally together. My brother still taggin' along.

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I am the older of us two by a little less than two years, so as the older one I was often the leader. My brother would always be there taggin' along. As we grew older play switched to hobbies and hobbies after school switched to careers. We played music professionally together. My brother still taggin' along.

It wasn't until my brother got married that the duo finally broke up. Then I realized how special it was to have someone I knew would always be there to play with, always be there to share things with, that was always there taggin' along as we pursued our careers. It was only after I was older that I realized that often my brother had sacrificed what he wanted to do, or what interested him, in order for us to do everything together.

Jesus calls for us to tag along with him because he saved us, he is the source of our life, and he has called us to help him with his work. Jesus is always calling us to tag along with his chores, with his mission to serve and save people. But I have had to learn to adjust. I was always the leader; I always made the choices for my brother and myself. It's not as easy when you're the one that is expected to do the taggin' along.

This Lent our mid-week services focus on following Jesus in our daily life. And Lent is always a great time for us to reflect and examine how we are doing as disciples, that is—followers in training, of our master. When you're taggin' along you may often not know where you are going or what the final goal is. When you're taggin' along you may have to sometimes skip side trips and stops for things you see along the way that you want to do. When Jesus calls us to the life of taggin' along we may have to adjust. We may not know where Jesus is taking us, or even all that he wants us to do except for this: He asks that we simply enjoy his company, taggin' along at his heels, letting him lead the way. And even though I like to be in charge, it's sometimes fun to just let go and follow along for the ride, taggin' along at Jesus' heels.

Lenten blessings on your journey with our Lord,

Pastor Bruce

Unpopular Christianity

We've had some good discussions about what our life individually and as a church looks and feels like now that regular church attendance is puts you in a minority today. Please join us and we finish up our study this month. We only meet the second and fourth weeks in March due to the pastor's schedule, so please check the calendar closely for our meeting dates.

Parish Women's Group

The group will meet at 11:30 pm at Charlie's Place on Thursday, March 22. All the women from the parish are invited.

Parish Men's Group Breakfast

March 24, 8:30 am, Welcome Inn

The group will meet on Saturday, March 24 at 8:30 am at the Welcome Inn in Elizabeth.

Community of Christians Hanover Meal

On Sunday, March 11, the Community of Christians will again host a meal in Hanover from 4-6 pm at the VFW in Hanover. Come for the free food and fellowship. All it will cost you is a smile! If you'd like to help out with the meal, please contact Linda Reitz or one of the pastors.

Community of Christians Meeting

The entire Community of Christians will meet at St. Paul Lutheran in Elizabeth on March 26, at 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Community of Christians Elizabeth Meal

The Elizabeth Community Meal continues on Tuesday, March 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This month the Elizabeth United Methodist Church is our sponsor and all volunteers are welcome to pitch in. Come to join the ministry, come for the food, check out the fellowship!

Lent Schedule

The theme for our midweek services is Walking with Jesus. Please note that there is a slight change in the schedule of where the services will be held. The correct schedule is as follows: March 7, 7 p.m. at St. Paul in Hanover, March 14 at 7 p.m. at Trinity, and March 21 at 7 p.m. at St. John.

Our services will use Holden Evening Prayer and each week will focus on an area of our day-to-day walk with Jesus. We've invited members of our churches to speak about how different areas of Christian practice and living have affected their walk with our Lord. Please come along for the journey toward Easter as we share our experiences of our ever newer life with our Lord!

Holy Week Schedule

We will have a Maundy Thursday worship service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. at both St. John and Trinity. Good Friday services will be at 3:00 p.m. at St. John and 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul in Hanover. The Good Friday service at St. John will

focus on the Cross and what it means to us, held at the hour of Jesus' death. The evening Good Friday service at St. Paul will be a traditional Tenebrae service. We will have readings and hymns about Christ's last hours on earth while we extinguish candles and follow his descent into the darkness of the tomb. Traditionally Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the service of light of the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday (which we are doing as part of our Sunrise Service) are considered one single service spread over three days. These three services form our journey with Christ from death to life and are even more moving if you can attend all of them together. Please join us for these special days.

Easter Sunday, we will have Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. and Festival service at 9:00 a.m., with breakfast in between the services, at both St. John and Trinity. The sunrise services will again start outdoors with a bonfire and service of light as we follow Christ from out of the tomb into the new light of the resurrection. The festival services will celebrate our resurrected life with Christ. Each service is different and you are invited to attend both, the sunrise service completing the three holy days and the festival service as our main Easter celebration. All Easter services include Holy Communion. St. Paul will have their Festival service at 10:30 a.m. as usual.

The 2018 Congregational - Resource Event (CRE)

The 2018 Congregational Resource Event is coming up fast, so mark your calendars for Saturday, March 10. This is a wonderful annual educational event that the Northern Illinois Synod offers to clergy and laity. The event is held in Malta, IL at Kishwaukee Community College and runs

from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. The presenter this year is Rev. Dr. Nathan Frambach from Wartburg Seminary, and he will discuss **Being Church, Now & Then: what the church of the future might look like...perhaps?** There are many, many offerings for you to choose from this year, including categories such as: Administration/Council/Treasurers, Education, Evangelism/Outreach/ Hospitality, Global/Inter-Faith, Leadership, Social Justice, Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness, Stewardship, and Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry. We pastors go every year, and we love it when some of our fellow workers for Christ from our churches can come too!

Registration with payment on or before March 1 is \$20 per person and includes lunch. Registration on or after March 1 is \$25 per person. For more information, go to the Northern Illinois Synod website's CRE page at [www. http://nisynod.org/cre/](http://nisynod.org/cre/).

Stockton Easter Cantata

The Stockton Community Choir will be presenting the cantata UPON THIS ROCK by Pepper Choplin. We look at Holy Week through the eyes of Peter. The "rock" refers to Peter. The cantata leads us through Peter's experience with Christ: his call, his confession, his denial, his restoration, and his sending out. We are then lead to ask "what is our passion? What is our call? Who do we live for?" Please join us Sunday, March 18 at 7pm at Calvary Methodist Church.

Chili/Beef Noodle Supper in Stockton

Christ Lutheran in Stockton's WELCA will host its annual Chili/Beef Noodle Supper on Monday, March 5 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join in the meal including soup, sandwich, veggie cup, dessert and beverage. Carry-outs will be available. Proceeds will benefit seminary students and local and regional mission projects.

Euchre and Dominoes Party

On Sunday, March 11, St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City will host their Euchre and Dominoes Party from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 at the door. Sandwiches, chips, dessert, drinks served after playing. For questions, call (815) 443-2555.

Pastors' Easter Break

Your pastors are going to take a mini-vacation from the afternoon of Easter Sunday through mid-day the following Wednesday. For emergency pastoral care during that time, please call Pastor Mark Oehlert, (815) 970-4780.

Holy Communion in March

Sun., March 4 - St. John - 9 am
 Sun., March 4 - St. Paul - 10:30 am
 Sun., March 11 - Trinity - 9 am
 Sunday, March 18 - St. John - 9 am
 Sunday, March 18 - St. Paul -
 10:30 am
 Sun., March 25 - Trinity - 9 am

Upcoming Meetings

Church Council Meetings

Sun., March 11 - 11:30 am - St. Paul
Thurs., March 15 - 7:00 pm - Trinity
Tues., March 20 - 7:30 pm - St. John

Mutual Ministry Meeting

Tues., March 6, 7:30 pm - St. Paul

Men's Group Ministry

Breakfast Prayer Meeting on
Saturday, March 24, at 8:30 am at
the Welcome Inn, Elizabeth.

Women's Group Ministry

Regular Meeting on March 22, at
11:30 am at Charlie's Place.

Prayer List

Please continue to pray for: The
ELCA Bishops Eaton and Clements, the
Church and Synod Councils, those serving
our country in the military or the diplomatic
corps, those who have served and returned
with wounds, scars and emotional effects of
war; all medical, aid and relief workers here
and around the world, firefighters, first
responders, doctors and nurses; and to
those grieving.

Also please continue to pray for
those with special prayer needs: Daryl
Riley, Rev. Ken Matthews, who was a
former pastor for the Hanover Presbyterian
Church, Tom Kmucha, Kay Watson, Loren
Ahmedi, Jackie Reusch, sister-in-law of
Anna Appleby (Raymond's wife), Karl
Croffoot, and Austin Nack.

Our shut-ins: Anna Appleby, Doris
Schaible and Sue Vandervate.

If you would like to serve as a
"prayer warrior" on the Prayer Chains and

pray for special needs OR know of
someone who needs prayer, please
call Barbara Schaible (815-591-3306)
at St. Paul. You may only get the name.

Thank you for helping to bring the
healing grace of our Lord into the lives of so
many people. Prayer touches and changes
the lives of those we pray for as well as the
life of the one who prays. Whether you are
on the prayer teams or pray by yourself,
please keep all those listed in your prayers.
Many of those on the list have already
received miracles and we must pray that
God grants many more.

James 5:15 - *"The prayer offered in
faith will make the sick person well; and the
Lord will raise them up."*

Contact Information

Pastor Lisa Burbank

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Pastor Bruce Burbank

Cell phone: 303-638-8716
Email: pastorbruceb@outlook.com

Parsonage Phone: 815-591-9970

Church E-mail:
churchsecretary@sandprairie.net

Parish Website address:
www.scenicillslutheran.com

Parish Calendar

- Sun., March 4 - 1 pm - Worship at Elizabeth Nursing Home
- Mon., March 5 - 4:30-7 pm - Chili/Beef Noodle Supper at Christ Lutheran, Stockton
- Tues., March 6 - 7:30 pm - Mutual Ministry Meeting at St. Paul
- Wed., March 7 - 7 pm - Lent Midweek Service at St. Paul
- Sat., March 10 - 9 am-3 pm - CRE at Kishwaukee College
- Sun., March 11 - 11:30 am - Council Meeting at St. Paul
- Sun., March 11 - 1:30-4:30 pm - Euchre/Dominoes Party at St. John Lutheran, Pearl City
- Sun., March 11 - 4-6 pm - Community of Christians Hanover Meal at the VFW
- Mon., March 12 - 7:30 pm - Unpopular Christianity at Trinity
- Tues., March 13 - 10:30 am - Unpopular Christianity at St. John
- Wed., March 14 - 7 pm - Lent Midweek Service at Trinity
- Sun., March 18 - 1:30 pm - Worship at Waverly Place (Stockton N.H.)
- Sun., March 18 - 7 pm - Stockton Easter Cantata at Calvary Methodist
- Wed., March 21 - Lent Midweek Service at St. John
- Thurs., March 22 - 11:30 am - Parish Women's Group Meeting at Charlie's Place
- Sat., March 24 - 8:30 am - Men's Group Breakfast Welcome Inn
- Sun., March 25 - 4:30 pm - G.I.F.T.S. Dinner Church at Trinity
- Sun., March 25 - 6 pm - Youth Group at Trinity
- Mon., March 26 - 1:30 pm - Community of Christians Meeting at St. Paul Lutheran in Elizabeth
- Mon., March 26 - 7:30 pm - Unpopular Christianity at St. John
- Tues., March 27 - 11 am - 3 pm - Community of Christians Elizabeth Meal at the Elizabeth Community Bldg.
- Wed., March 28 - 10:30 am - Unpopular Christianity at St. John
- Thurs., March 29 - 7 pm - Maundy Thursday service at Trinity
- Thurs., March 29 - 7 pm - Maundy Thursday service at St. John
- Fri., March 30 - 3 pm - Good Friday service at St. John
- Fri., March 30 - 7 pm - Good Friday service at St. Paul
- Sun., April 1 - 7 am - Easter Sunrise service at St. John
- Sun., April 1 - 7 pm - Easter Sunrise service at Trinity
- Sun., April 1 - 9 am - Easter Festival service at St. John
- Sun., April 1 - 9 am - Easter Festival service at Trinity
- Sun., April 1 - 10:30 am - Easter Festival service at St. Paul
