

M A R C H 2 0 2 3

NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST

HIS FINAL STEPS



Lent 2023

This year's Lenten series is entitled, "His Final Steps." Join us each Wednesday evening for a cozy supper and meditative worship. Services begin at 7:00 pm, with supper at 6:00 pm.

March 1 - Grace—Pastor DeGier, Trinity - Berlin: **His Final Steps Led to a Tomb**

March 8 - St. Paul's—Pastor Behm, Christ - Merrill: **His Final Steps Led to a Dinner Celebration**

March 15 - Grace—Pastor Bittorf, St. Peter - Rib Lake/St. Andrew's - Goodrich:

His Final Steps Led to His Father's House

March 22 - St. Paul's—Pastor Russow, Zion - Stetsonville: **His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree**

March 29 - Grace—Pastor Iwinski or Pastor Spaude, Immanuel - Medford:

His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

PACE to Craft Easter Cards

Our PACE group will be making Easter cards to send out to prospects, shut-ins, and those away at college or in the military. We use these holiday greetings to share God's love, and to invite all to our special Easter services. The craft day will be held on Saturday, March 18, at St. Paul's, beginning at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to come lend a hand!

As this project is one of our regular outreach efforts, we ask all of you to submit names and addresses of friends and neighbors who don't have a church. Forgiveness of sins and hope of heaven are the greatest things we can give them!



March
St. Paul's Greeters - Grace Ushers

March 1-Lent

Cory Neumann, Jacob Neumann

March 5

Joy Taylor

Keith Christian, Mike Fasse

March 8-Lent

DuWayne Zamzow

March 12

Mark & Joline Bartelt Duane Blaubach, Gerald Pagel

March 15-Lent

Dan Prazuch, Malachi Levich

March 19

Dan & Rita Pittsley Scott Christian, Bob Blaubach

March 22-Lent

Gene & Sharon Bartelt

March 26

Joy Taylor

Kevin Zellner, Bryce Blaubach

March 29-Lent

Darrell Neumann, Jeremy Sturm

Lilies



will soon be available for purchase for our Easter services. Please watch for the sign up on the table if you wish to place a lily.

Together We Shine

Northland Lutheran High School's primary fundraiser is coming up, noon on March 5! Set the date aside, and plan to attend—it's always a warm and wonderful day of fun, food, and fellowship. Alyse Neumann and Dawn Willitz are once again representing our parish in the Soup Cook-off, and there are many wonderful items to bid on in the silent auction. Thank you to our members who have contributed auction items! Come, join the fun and help support our area Lutheran high school.



A hearty thank you to all who prepare and serve the nourishing Lenten suppers! We all enjoy the food and fellowship.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- The Voters Assemblies agreed to set up a Joint Outreach Committee, which would serve both our congregations in an effort to bring back inactive members and attract new ones. Speak to Lee McCauley or Keith Christian if you would like to serve.
- Grace will celebrate her 140th anniversary next year! Could you help on a planning committee? Please speak to someone on church council.

Daylight Savings Time

begins March 12! Set your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** the night before.



Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be held July 24-28, 9:00-11:30 am at the Berlin Center.



Grace Financial Update

January Income:	\$ 8,979.79
January Disbursements:	\$ 6,600.17
2023 Mission Goal:	\$ 5,500.00
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 650.00
Percentage of Goal:	11.82%
Parsonage Garage:	\$ 4,160.00
Garage Goal:	\$ 20,000.00
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 5,430.32
NLHS:	\$ 0.00

St. Paul's Financial Update

January Income:	\$11,158.20
January Disbursements:	\$ 8,685.54
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 1,698.00
<i>(2023-2024, begun 7/1/22)</i>	
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 100.00
2023 NLHS Commitment:	\$ 4,750.00
NLHS Debt Reduction:	\$ 3,859.70
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 425.00
2023 Mission Goal:	\$ 4,000.00
Good Samaritan Fund:	\$ 1,340.00

JESUS' DEATH WAS GREATER

Dear members and friends of Grace and St. Paul's,

During this Lenten season we consider our Savior's bitter suffering and death for us. Crucifixion was the most torturous form of capital punishment the ruthless Romans could devise. Even without the gruesome details of flogging and crucifixion, we can barely imagine the horrendous physical pain. We can barely comprehend the mental and emotional anguish. We can barely fathom the most gory and degrading shame. And then death!

It is true that many others besides Jesus have been crucified, but Jesus' crucifixion was greater. It is true that many others have sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of others, but Jesus' death was infinitely greater. Let us carefully contemplate the following:

- Jesus was totally innocent. We and all others are sinful and rightly deserve punishment, finally, eternally. Jesus was the only one who was totally perfect and did not deserve torture and death.
- Jesus suffered and died not just to save one person or even a group of people. Jesus suffered and died to save all people of all time.
- Jesus sacrificed himself not just to win salvation from physical death, but to win salvation from eternal death in hell, and to open eternal life in heaven to condemned sinners.
- Jesus is the holy Son of God. No, we cannot comprehend his physical suffering. Far less can we begin to fathom what it meant for the Son of God (who cannot die) to suffer and die. He was forsaken by his heavenly Father because the world's guilt was laid on him. He was condemned by his heavenly Father because our guilt was laid on him. He was put to death by his heavenly Father because your guilt was laid on him. He was damned by his heavenly Father because my guilt was laid on him.

Though we can barely comprehend it, all this Jesus did for you! He did it to win forgiveness of sins for you! He did it to rescue you from hell! He did it to give you eternal life in heaven! "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." [2 Corinthians 5:21]

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me.
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden,
I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,
For thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise thee, Lord, on high. CW114:6,7

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree! CW127:1,4
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected, yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'tis the true and faithful Word.

Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, his the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

