



March 2018

ST. PAUL'S PRESS

The Cross



the Pastor's corner

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8 Evangelical Heritage Version

Who is ready for the end of March, for the last days of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? Peter was not ready. He wanted the month, the journey with Jesus toward the cross, to last so much longer. "Surely, this cannot happen to you and so soon," he might have said.

What is necessary for us to be ready? *"If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."* Jesus tells us plainly the requirement for following him: carry the cross.

Jesus says, *"But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."* The cross Jesus means is a life lost/given for the Gospel. A life of self-denial, suffering and sacrifice so that the Gospel is preached to and believed by as many as possible.

Peter had his own plan for Jesus; he did not want to carry the cross. Jesus rebuked him for having in mind human intentions, not God's intentions. We are like Peter too often, not wanting to carry the cross for the gospel. We want a cross of our own choice. We want one that is light or easy or doesn't take much of our time or allows us to still have our own fun or makes us look good in front of others or simply makes us happy. But the cross of a disciple of Jesus is not designed by us, but by Jesus. The cross is set: serve for the gospel and confess Jesus our God.

Regrettably, we also burden ourselves with other "crosses" we should not carry. We feel like we cannot serve, cannot worship, cannot pray because

we feel not holy enough, not talented enough, or not smart enough to do as others do. We feel eyes looking and judging us when we try to do what we want to do: worship, pray and serve. Such feelings crush us like a cross too heavy to bear. But that is not the cross we carry to follow Jesus, but one we feel or imagine ourselves. Jesus calls us to believe and follow him. He calls us to deny oneself, yes, even our fears and feelings of unworthiness. Deny them, take up the cross for the gospel and for Jesus, our God.

We carry our cross and follow Jesus because we have his promises in the gospel. Jesus gladly carried a cross on Good Friday and rose in glory on Easter. Our life under the cross here is followed by life empty of any cross, in glory with Christ. *"Whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."*



Pray for each other

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. –James 5:16

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the family of Ruth Burmeister, Klint Glander and Ronnie Iwen whom God called home to heaven in February.

Thank you for all your prayers on behalf of one another.

Worship the Lord

Let us not give up meeting together. –Hebrews 10:25

Upcoming Worship- Lent

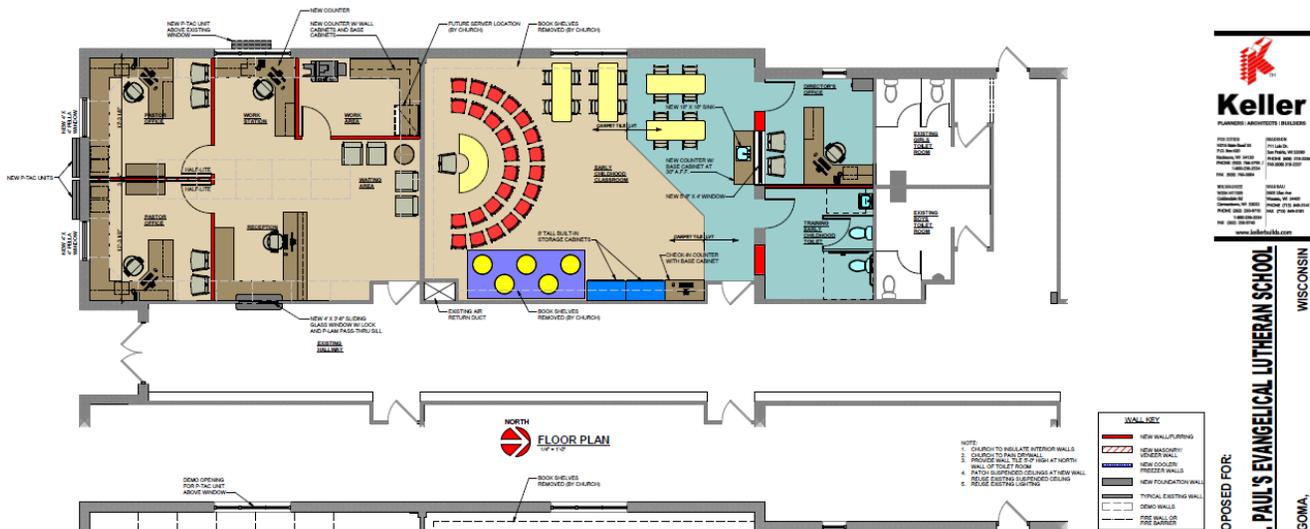
The theme for the 2018 Lenten series is "Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest." Through a study of selections from Hebrews, worshipers will see how Jesus was and is *the* High Priest of high priests and how his role as the ultimate High Priest affects the lives of his followers by faith now and for eternity.

Don't forget: March 11 is Daylight Savings Time, so move clocks ahead one hour.

Place your order at church for Easter lilies before March 25. The cost for each is \$10.

As we look ahead, please mark these special worship events on your calendar:

March 7, 14, & 21	Lent Midweek	1:00pm & 6:30pm
March 29	Maundy Thursday	1:00pm & 6:30pm
March 30	Good Friday	Passion of Our Lord 1:00pm & Tenebrae 6:30pm
April 1	Easter Sunday	7:00am & 10am Easter Worship





Come and Learn, Go and Share

Our mission as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

LWMS CONVENTION – The plan for the LWMS Convention in Green Bay, June 21-24, is at church. Please take one and sign up. St. Paul's will provide financial assistance for any member who attends.

CROSSCREW (5th through 8th Grade)– We will be having a Lock-in on March 16 at 6:30 at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Please check our Facebook page for more information. Forms are available at church and school.

EPIC PIZZA SALE – Order forms are available at church and school for only a few more days. They are due March 4 in the box at church or to the office at school. Volunteers of every age are welcome to make the pizzas on Saturday, March 10, at school, starting at 8am. Volunteers can sign up at school or church.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY – We plan to send many youth from St. Paul's to the rally this summer. Sign up, even if you are not sure you will be able to attend. Pastor will contact you and share more information to you. Registration starts on March 1 and early registration ends on April 30. Please sign up ASAP so that we can plan our transportation and any possible additional excursions. The rally is at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

The dates are June 26-29, 2018. Music by Koine. *Sign up:* Form available at church. *Information:* Packs are available at church and school. *Registration:* Begins March 1, Ends May 31.



PRESCHOOL UPGRADES AND OFFICE SPACE – Our council approved a committee to prepare plans for long-range improvements. This committee has a recommendation ready for council and congregation. Working with Keller Construction, we have plans and pictures of the remodeling. The plan includes a needed upgrade to our preschool facilities by remodeling the library into a larger preschool room which includes space for 25 children, the director's office, a bathroom, multiple learning stations,



and electronic sign in. The office at school will also be upgraded by moving into the larger computer room at the south end. The space will become multiple secretary stations, a work room for staff, new offices for both pastors, and a reception area. See the floor plan on the previous page.

LITTLE SPROUTS PLAYGROUP – We welcome new people any time. We meet at our school this month on **Thurs., March 4 & 18 at 9:30 am.** Please share this info with families who have children ages 0-5.





St. Paul's Lutheran School

BASKETBALL SEASON RECAP – February is our tournament month. Our B team boys competed in the Lakeshore Lutheran League Tournament on February 8-9, at St. Peter's, Sturgeon Bay. The A team boys then followed with their League Tournament on February 16-17, held at Manitowoc Lutheran High School. St. Paul's competed against 15 other schools from the Manitowoc area.

On February 23-24, we held the 30th annual St. Paul's Invitational Tournament. Schools from Menasha, Luxemburg, Algoma, and Sturgeon Bay came for the two days of exciting basketball action. The championship game was won by Shepherd of the Valley, Menasha. A big thank you to everyone who made our tournament run smoothly: the Tebons, Prices, all the parents and our staff.

Thank you to our A Team coaches, Amy Tebon and Lainey Price, and our B Team coaches, Bethany Waldschmidt and Nick Fallon, for working with our teams this year.

St. Paul's is forming a Co-ed basketball team, consisting of 6th-8th graders, to participate in the Luther Prep Invitational Tournament, held in Watertown the weekend of March 9th-10th.

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019 – We are now registering students for the 2018-2019 school year. Tuition has been set by the Board of Education for next year: \$300.00 for a 3-4 year old preschooler and \$500.00 for a child in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Tuition Assistance forms are available at school.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION – Saturday, March 3, our DI Team will be competing in the regional DI competition in Sturgeon Bay. The team "Shuff-la-Pods" will compete at 1:00pm in the auditorium.

EARLY CHILDHOOD – "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The 3K class is working through Psalm 23. Those sweet sheep are so eager to learn the words and their brains soak the passages up. What a blessing it is to have 14 3 years old hear about their loving Savior when they come through these doors.

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's through your gifts, encouragement, and prayers. God is blessing our ministry here.

SUMMER PROGRAM – This summer, we are providing child care in our summer program at St. Paul's! Two Martin Luther College students are coming to help run the program. Vacation Bible School will be an awesome week of Christian growth with the staff of Camp Philip. Lots of fun adventures are in store! Dates and times are: June 11-August 17, Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm. Lunch provided. Please call for more information or to enroll. Please share this news and promote St. Paul's to anyone.

FAMILY DANCE KNIGHT – St. Paul's School will host a family dance March 2nd from 6-9pm. Please invite your friends and neighbors and come to enjoy a free night of fun. We will have a DJ, photo booth, snacks, dancing, games and many more fun activities. There will be prize drawings with the grand prize being a night stay at a hotel. Raffle tickets are available at the school on Thursday and Friday.

