

THE Epistle from St. Paul



MARCH 2021

Words of a Crucified Messiah

Welcome to March, where the temperatures rise, we begin spending time outside (not shoveling snow) again, and most importantly (by the end of the month) there is more sunlight than darkness. March also means Madness, Spring Break, and Lent. Since this is a church newsletter, forgive me if I don't include NCAA prognostications or vacation recommendations and stick to our Lenten theme of the words of Christ from the cross. This is the first time I've preached on this theme (which is a popular theme in our LCMS community) and so the first thing that caught my attention about the theme "The Seven Last Words of Christ" is that 1) he says more than seven words and 2) they are not his last words as Jesus has plenty to say after his resurrection. Be that as it may, the series (so far) has proven beneficial to me for several reasons. First, the focus of the series is on the words of Christ. Second, the series is focused on the crucifixion of Jesus. Third, the series uses passages from the Gospels.



When it comes to our faith walk or discipleship, we can never spend too much time listening to the words of our Savior. This sounds simple enough, but too often (I think) we find ourselves listening to what other people say Jesus said and what Jesus meant by what he said than on the words of Jesus himself. (There's nothing wrong with listening to what other people think Jesus said and what they think Jesus meant by what he said; this is, after all, largely what a sermon is, but we should not do it to the exclusion of actually listening to the words of Jesus.) When Jesus is transfigured, the voice from the cloud tells the disciples to "listen to him." We would be wise to do the same, in this season of Lent, and all throughout the year.

The focus of our series centers around the crucifixion of Jesus. The Bible is a big book, and it's easy to want to spend time poking around in places not the Gospels and focusing on things that are not the death and resurrection of Jesus. Which is fine. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for our life of faith. But the anchor of our faith is the person and work of Christ. And there is no place in Scripture where we see more clearly who Jesus is, his love for us, and what he was willing to do to save us than in the crucifixion accounts in the Gospels.

Along the same lines, while it is good to spend time in the Scriptures in general, it is especially good to spend time in the Gospels. The Old Testament points forward to Christ. The book of Acts and the

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Indifference

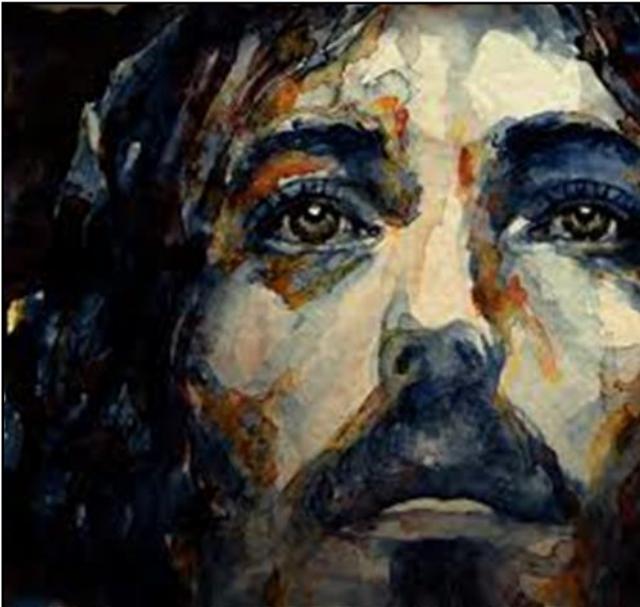
by Pastor Andrew Coop

Qoheleth, or the Preacher, states in Ecclesiastes 1:9, “*What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.*” Many have lamented over the indifference, whether real or perceived of some to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the time that this article is out, it’s expected deaths from COVID-19 in the United States of America will be over 500,000. But I don’t want you to think that this is going to be an article about my thoughts on the pandemic, or reactions and responses to it. My point in placing our opening verse from Ecclesiastes right next to our current context is that we see that this has been a timeless response. And while contemporary culture might try to convince us that we differ from previous generations, the truth, from Scripture, is that we are not.

G.A. Studdert-Kennedy was an English Anglican Priest at the beginning of the 20th Century, and he too lamented the indifference he saw in the English people he ministered to, especially in the midst of the First World War, which led him to pen the poem, *When Jesus Came to Birmingham*, made famous by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen here in the United States over half a Century ago.

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by.
They would not hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.



Still Jesus cried, ‘Forgive them, for they know
not what they do,’
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched
Him through and through;
The crowds went home and left the streets
without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried
for Calvary.

Scathing words from both a Century and half Century ago. Both envision the Lord Jesus Christ desiring to endure the pain of the cross rather than suffer the pain of indifference and apathy. So, in a world of indifference, and if we are being honest with ourselves, as we look into our own hearts and see indifference, as well, whether that be looking to provide for the needs of others, gathering together as the body of Christ for corporate worship, or to the suffering the loss that others around us have

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experienced due to the pandemic, what is our hope?

Is it not that Christ himself was not indifferent to the sin that was ravaging the lives of humanity and His entire creation? Is not our hope that because Jesus went to the cross, to suffer mockery from the world, abandonment from His Father, and the weight of the entire sin of the world on His shoulders, that we might not only have life eternal, but also experience His presence at all times until He brings us to be with Him forever? It is my prayer, this Lenten season, that Christ himself would dispel any indifference in our hearts that we might share with our indifferent world the hope that we have in our suffering Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Andrew



5:30pm & 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 3
Wednesday, March 10
Wednesday, March 17
Wednesday, March 24

Sign up not required.

Lent Challenge

Take time this Lenten season to consider and pray for individuals in your life who you know do not know Jesus! If you'd like to write their name down on the cross in the Narthex,



please feel free to do so, that we, as a Church, may pray for them, as well. Also, consider taking and giving one of the *Gospel of Matthew* books next to the cross to that individual, that they may see and read all that Jesus has done for them by His death and resurrection!

EVANGELISM



Valentine cards were mailed and delivered to our shut-ins. Members are reminded to say hello to those people in church you may not know.

We have completed repainting the cross that we will use during the Lenten season writing names on the cross of those we pray for and invite to our services. Matthew bibles with book marks are available to give to them.

Reminder to call those members you may not have seen in church lately, reminding them we are here for them if they need anything.

Lynn Hanselman
Evangelism Chairperson



Children's Church

Children's Church will continue on the first and third Sundays at the 9:00am worship service. Additional lesson materials can be found on the church website under Family Ministries and each week in the Resurrection Hallway.

Midweek Returns for All Students

We are happy to announce, after spring break, Midweek will return to a weekly schedule for all students. However, until then, we will continue to alternate between groups.

March 3	Midweek, Group 1
March 10	Midweek, Group 2
March 17	No Midweek , Spring Break
March 24	Midweek (All students)
March 31	No Midweek , Holy Week
April 7	Midweek (All students)

If you are interested in additional Midweek lessons, please contact the church office for more information.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for VBS June 14-18!

If you need additional information about any of the education programs at St. Paul please feel free to contact me anytime.

In Christ,
Cindy Twedt
Education Board Chairperson



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you have never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you have had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves by overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Learn more at LSIowa.org and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

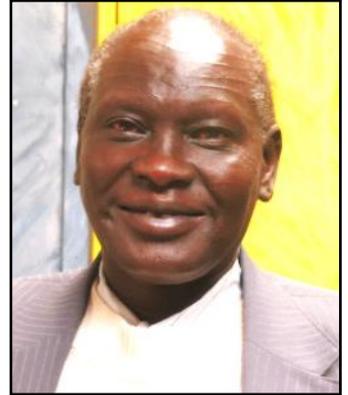


Sudanese Ministry Fund Established

The Sudanese congregation lost their spiritual leader last fall when Pastor Simon passed away. A layman from their congregation, James Both, has been filling in as worship leader and has expressed interest in becoming an ordained pastor.

James has enrolled in the Concordia Seminary Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIIT) program. Upon completion, this two-year academic program leads to ordination.

The tuition for the next academic year is \$9,600, with an additional cost of about \$1,200 for program materials. Iowa District West, Concordia Seminary and the local congregation share the cost of the tuition equally. This means the cost locally will be about \$4,400.



Pictured above: James Both

At the February meeting, the St. Paul Council approved the creation of a special Sudanese Ministry Fund. They encourage members and organizations in the congregation to donate to this fund for support of tuition costs.

Contributions can be made by a check to St. Paul or cash. Use a designated offering envelope or plain envelope with your name and offering envelope number. You can place donations in the offering plate or drop off at the church office. Contributions can be made monthly or quarterly and should begin now so that funds are available for the upcoming semester. All donations are tax deductible. You will be kept up to date on the contribution totals until the goal of \$4,400 is reached. If the goal is exceeded it will be rolled over for use the next year. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Shaltanis at 515-964-3768.

In Christ,
Dennis Shaltanis

Continued from page one

Epistles teach us what the result of Jesus' death and resurrection is, what it means to follow him, and how the kingdom of God grew following his death and resurrection. And Revelation tells us (among other things) what Jesus has yet to do. But if we want to get to know Jesus; what he did and what he said, there is no better place to go than to the Gospels!

To wrap things up, I hope that you will join us for our midweek Lenten series on what Jesus said during his crucifixion. But more than that, I want to encourage you to spend time in the Scriptures, and to consider spending time in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and take the time to listen to all that Jesus said, and contemplate all that Jesus did. It is here, in the Scriptures (and the Gospels in particular) that we have God's ultimate manifestation of his glory, love, grace, sovereignty, and righteousness. It is here that Jesus is revealed!

God bless you all as you follow Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Duncan

LWML Plans March Events

During this time of Lent we look forward to celebrating the rising of our Lord on Easter Sunday. As we prepare for His coming, I pray that we make our hearts ready for this celebration.

The LWML prayer service is Saturday, March 6 at 9:30am via Zoom. An email will be sent out with the Zoom link. We are hosting a watch party in the FLC for those who want to attend. Doors will open at 9:00am. A light breakfast and coffee will be available. Offerings will go to the Food Bank of Iowa. If you can't make the service but want to send an offering, send to Becky Sponsler by March 15.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00pm in the FLC. The hostesses are Joy Wehmas and Cindy Twedt. We will be seated socially distanced and masks are encouraged.

The March mission project is collecting gallon and quart Ziploc brand storage bags for Moulton Elementary. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Buttery at kbuttery@outlook.com or 515-963-1232.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the February mission project. We collected over 50 bottles of shampoo and conditioner for the students at Moulton! Looking ahead, April's donations will be crayons and colored pencils.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 9. Until then stay warm and stay healthy.

In Christ,
Betty McConnell
President



March Mission Project



We are collecting Ziploc brand
gallon and quart size storage
bags for Moulton Elementary.

Please place items on the LWML table.



\$12.00/ea

Order forms on the LWML table.

Make checks payable to St. Paul LWML.
Place orders in Kathy Olson's mailbox.
Orders due before March 14 .

Preschool Keeps Busy in February

February was another exciting month for the preschool! February's theme was "we love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19.

The preschool started attending chapel once a month, and have had several preschool families join their preschoolers in worship. The Family Life Center had lots of extra excitement as well. With all of this cold weather the preschool was using the FLC for some large motor activities, like bringing out the parachute and playing tennis with balloons.

Some of the fun classroom activities included: a science experiment showing how God's love is overflowing, heart shaped painting projects, the preschoolers wrote letters to loved ones (some were also written to Jesus), and of course had a Valentine's party.

Every classroom did something a little different for the Valentine's party. We had a classroom that did a heart shape pancake party, all of the classrooms did an art project themed "love you to pieces," and another classroom had root beer floats that demonstrated how Jesus' love is overflowing.

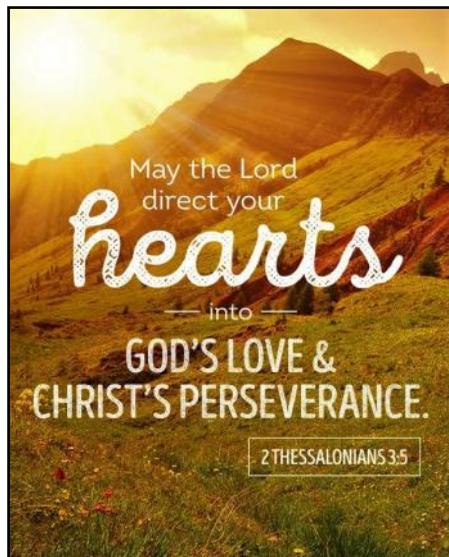
Please help us spread the word that the Preschool still has openings for the 2021-2022 school year. We greatly appreciate the referrals and thank you for all of your support in the preschool!

Respectfully submitted by,
Alyssa Wendzel
Preschool Board Chair

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
{ **PRESCHOOL** }



During preschool chapel, Pastor Duncan and Pastor Coop demonstrate why Christians receive ashes on their foreheads for Ash Wednesday. Also pictured, Arkay Brown, who lead the preschoolers in music.





Save The Date

The next National Youth Gathering is in Houston, Texas, July 9-13, 2022.

NYG Information Meeting

We will have a National Youth Gathering information meeting for youth in grades 8-11 and their parents, on Sunday, April 11 at 4 pm in the FLC. The NYG is great opportunity for youth to be in fellowship with other Christian youth from around the United States and Internationally.

Easter Sunday Bake Sale

In a normal year, our youth and youth parents host and serve the Easter breakfast. This is a major fundraising opportunity for our youth, but due to COVID we are unable to hold a sit-down breakfast. Instead, we are having an Easter bake sale.

If you would like to donate baked goods for the sale we ask that you drop off items the morning of Saturday, April 3 from 9:00am - Noon in the church kitchen.

Youth Group

Junior Youth are students in grades 6-8. They meet on Sunday, March 7 from 2-3pm and Wednesday, April 14 from 5:30-6:30pm

Senior Youth are students in grades 9-12. They gather on Sunday, March 7 from 3-4:30pm and Wednesday, April 14 from 7-8:30pm.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Malisa Davies, Youth Board Chairperson.

**EASTER
BAKE SALE**

April 3 & 4
before and after services

Proceeds go towards sending our youth to the 2022 National Youth Gathering in Texas.

Want to donate baked goods? Drop them off on Saturday, April 3 between 9-Noon in the kitchen.

Sunday, March 7
Junior Youth 2:00pm-3:00pm
Senior Youth 3:00pm-4:30pm

Wednesday, April 14
Junior Youth 5:30pm-6:30pm
Senior Youth 7:00pm-8:30pm

Council President's Comments

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE LED BY PRESIDENT-ELECT, BEN PIEPHO, AND INCLUDING BOB PETERS, TIM KREHBIEL, AND AMBER GIESE WAS ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY. THE COMMITTEE NEEDS CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT ELECT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, ELDER, AND THE HEAD OF SEVERAL BOARDS. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SERVING ST. PAUL IN ONE OF THESE POSITIONS.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: THE CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE IS CONTINUING TO UPDATE OUR 5 YEAR PLAN. PLEASE CONTACT BEN PIEPHO, ANY BOARD HEAD OR COUNCIL MEMBER WITH ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AS THEY DEVELOP THE PLAN WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY VOTERS MEETING.

SUDANESE MINISTRY: DENNIS SHALTANIS WAS APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY TO ACT AS OUR LIASON WITH THE SUDANESE CONGREGATION. HE HAS A SEPARATE ARTICLE IN THIS EPISTLE THAT DESCRIBES A SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EFFORT THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVED TO SUPPORT A CONCORDIA SEMINARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THEIR HEAD ELDER. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO THAT FUND AS PART OF YOUR MISSION SUPPORT.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER on TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021 at 6:30 PM.

YOURS, IN CHRIST,
GARY LOHMANN

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



Lutheran Laughs



January Council Meeting Minutes - January 19, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Gary Lohmann at 6:32. In attendance: Tim Krehbiel, Pr. Coop, Pr. McLellan, Dean Miller, Kaleb Grev, Jim Harvey, Malisa Davies, Cindy Twedt, Bob Peters, Alyssa Wendzel, Ben Piepho & Gary Lohman. Opening devotions by Pr. Coop on the Second Commandment: "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." How should we correctly use God's name? We look to Jesus to see how he uses his Father's name. He uses God's name in his teaching, and to use God's name to glorify God himself. Approval of December Council Minutes: Moved by Tim Krehbiel, seconded by Jim Harvey. Approved.

DCE Call: Gary spoke to the fact that the committee is interviewing 2 candidates and hoping to wrap up interviews with staff and committee by Feb 2, and hopefully take some direction to the voters shortly after.

Service Streaming: Gary commented that he thinks we are making good progress and he has heard comments that things have improved since its inception. Improvements continue to be made including new speakers for the sanctuary. Property will assist with installation of speakers. Currently using Pr Coop's phone for streaming. Working to change that in the event Coop is ever gone streaming can continue.

Sr. Pastor Report: Confirmation continues. 6th grade each week from 4:30-5:30 pm and 8th grade one Sunday a month. The Rite of Confirmation for the 8th grade class will be 5/16 at the latest service. The Gate will begin the buildout of their new space on State Street this month. The Gate member, Rob Clifton, will hopefully be starting the SMP program this fall. Sudanese Elder, James Both, is looking to start the EIIT program with the LCMS this spring in hopes of being ordained and carrying on the ministries of the Sudanese Church after Pr. Simon's death this past year.

Asst. Pastor Report: During Lent, we will use the big cross again that was used a few years back and stood in the narthex. In addition to praying for individuals to attend our services, we will hand those who do attend information about St. Paul and our ministries. Going forward, 6th grade confirmation will be 4-5 pm, and 7th grade will be 4:30-5:30 pm. Lenten services will be Wednesdays at 5:30 and 6:30 pm, except for Ash Wednesday which will be 5, 6 & 7 pm. Coop announced he has been approached to be the chaplain for On With Life in Ankeny. He has agreed to the job and will commit to 4 hours each week. He will serve there on his days off so as not to interfere with his responsibilities at St. Paul. Elders have discussed and approved taking the job.

Elder Report: Bob cited actions taken by the elders for the month included the baptisms of P. Miller & M. Doran, and the transfer out of Brian and Kim Hood. Bob made a motion to release Emma Hood, seconded by Malisa. Approved. Bob also mentioned that he has received several complaints from members about the conflict with the Saturday evening service and the Sudanese's recent gathering for Pr. Simon. Have requested more communication between pastors and Head Elder.

Treasurer Report: Basically the same trends that Jason has been reporting continue. Giving is down, and expenses are down. Yearly balances got put in Dec. 2020 dropbox instead of Jan 2021. Dean will move to January. Tim approved, seconded by Kaleb. Dean also made mention we need council approval to approve the pastor's housing allowance for IRS purposes. Dean made a motion to approve McLellan to be 50/50 and Coop to be at 60/40. Seconded by Bob. Approved.

Education: No report, no meeting this month. Midweek and children's church remains the same.

Evangelism: Absent. Lynn informed Gary her report will be in Dropbox soon.

Financial: Giving reports are finished. Working on moving info from Subsplash to Church 360.

Property: Report in Dropbox. Finishing some plumbing in bathrooms, door between pastors is in, replacing lights. New classroom partition will hopefully be complete by March.

Stewardship: Report in Dropbox. I pads were a struggle to get out to people due to Covid and the time needed to train people on them. Email went out today to ask members for help updating the online directory. May need elder help with that if we don't get a good response. Trying to plan things to do with members to come together in fellowship. Revisiting the idea of a church picnic maybe at Saylorville, also looking at the idea of a trip again possibly to Branson's Lights and Sounds Theater. An online Bible trivia via Zoom has also been discussed.

Youth: Report in Dropbox. Youth groups will meet on 1/27 to start, will switch over to Sundays during Lent and then will re-evaluate if we keep it there or move back to Wednesdays. The board discussed National Youth Gathering fundraiser ideas and Easter breakfast ideas. Also brought up a concern that basketball teams are using our facility without a member being present. That goes against our facilities use policy. Malisa asked if someone was cleaning the Family Life Center after the teams used it? Not objecting to their use, but policy

doesn't seem to be followed. Bob spoke to the fact that he had a conversation with Kathy to inquire for more information on who is using and what we require. Will ask Kathy to put a reminder in the bulletin and newsletter as to what our requirements are. Malisa asked that this also be mentioned at a voter's meeting so all know.

Preschool: Report in Dropbox. Alyssa stated they are off to a good start. Online registration is open. 32 of current students reregistered, 16 new students registered so far. Celebrating National Lutheran School Week next week. Looking into a future Kindergarten. May not be able to offer that this coming year, but considering idea.

Approval of Reports: Gary asked for approval of board reports. Ben motioned to approve, Tim seconded. Approved.

New Business: Gary announced he and Bob, along with Dennis Shaltanis, went to the Iowa District West offices to discuss our relationships with the Gate and Sudanese congregations. They talked about how we can support them with designated lay people verses utilizing only our pastors. Gary announced his appointment of Dennis Shaltanis as the liaison with the Sudanese. Dennis has a longstanding, relationship with the Sudanese and this would be a good step forward for relationship building. They have an Elder in their congregation who is looking into training to become the new pastor for them since Pr. Simon's death. He will be a part of the EIIT program through the LCMS. Ben has volunteered to be the liaison with the Gate to streamline communication with them.

Motion as presented to Council: *Dennis Shaltanis, Liaison to Sudanese Congregation*

Dennis Shaltanis is hereby appointed to the position of liaison, Sudanese Ministry, effective immediately upon Council approval. The entire scope of this assignment is being developed together with the Head Elder, James Both, of the Sudanese congregation and Pastor Keith Haney of Iowa District West. It will, however, involve redefining the Sudanese plans in light of Pastor Simon's untimely death. Part of Dennis' responsibility is to improve communications between the Sudanese and St. Paul's congregations. I hope you will support Dennis with your prayers and actions as he assumes this responsibility for St. Paul.

Gary explained that the hope is to avert conflicts like what happened a couple weeks ago. We don't want to have issues that lead to what lead to them leaving Trinity several years ago. Bob motioned to approve, Malisa seconded. Tim asked who Dennis would report to? After discussion, it was decided he would report up through Gary to Council. Vote: All approved.

Nominating Committee: Ben will be heading up the nominating committee. Those coming off please let Ben know who from your board would be a good candidate to fill those positions. Also, anyone else that would be good to contact for those open positions, please talk with Ben. Ben mentioned that the Planning Committee will be meeting Thursday, 1/21.

Membership Trends: Gary addressed membership, going back a few years our membership has not kept up with the growth within the community. Ben is going to try to spearhead an inquiry as to why. Gary asked council members to think about people we know who have not been to church, people we haven't seen for a while to check in with them. Call those and interact, ask if we can help with anything. Just let them know they are thought of and not forgotten. Gary will follow up next month to see how it went.

Ben also asked if there was any feedback from the Zoom voter's meeting? Malisa asked if we had to do it again, can we identify who is Zooming in? Coop said he knew who was on, and Cindy said she identified those in-person, and on Zoom, people on the attendance list. Coop mentioned that we didn't have an issue with the last meeting, but if we need a quorum we need to know how many people are needed and how we contact people to get that quorum, and how we communicate that to voters. Biggest change will be having the Zoom facilitator at the head table this time instead of in the offices like Coop did last time. Will need to figure this out since we may need to do this again. Malisa asked if there is a way for people to sign-in with their name? Coop explained that can be an issue if people didn't enter their names or are using a child's zoom account....something that we need to consider for next time.

Tim asked if the voter list is being kept up to date? Discussion was that it is the council secretary's job and currently that job is vacant. Bob reminded us that voters can not just be removed, but need to be sent a letter letting them know they will be removed. Cindy offered to identify those individuals in jeopardy of being removed but would like help/guidance following what is in the constitution regarding removal.

Kaleb motioned to adjourn, Bob seconded. Adjourned at 7:48. Ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by, Cindy Twedt

January 2021 Financial Summary

January 31, 2021 (In 000's)	Current Month		Year-to-Date		Yearly Chng	% of Total Budget	% of 2021 Fiscal Year
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>			
St. Paul Unrestricted Contributions	48.8	50.5	48.8	50.5	-3.4%	8.1%	8.3%
Preschool Income	17.6	19.0	17.6	19.0	0.0%	13.2%	0.0%
Total Income	# 66.4	69.5	66.4	69.5		9.0%	
St. Paul Operating Expenses	47.7	47.0	47.7	47.0	1.5%	6.7%	8.3%
Preschool Operating Expenses	8.0	11.5	8.0	11.5	0.0%	6.0%	8.3%
Total Operating Expenses	55.7	58.5	55.7	58.5		6.6%	
General Operating Fund (US Bank)			\$ 190.1	\$ 189.2			
Total Operating Funds			\$ 190.1	\$ 189.2			
Savings Balance (Edward Jones)			\$ 256.0	\$ 154.0			
Restricted Reserves Fund Balance (LCEF)			\$ 145.3	\$ 127.3			

Operating expense variances (as compared to 2020):

Worship Staff	-20.4%
Outreach	-160.0%
Property	25.9%
Ministry Boards	-12.7%
Administration	58.6%

How your unrestricted contributions have been spent:

Worship Staff (compensation, guest pastors, music ministry)	73.1%
Outreach (district pledge, The Gate support, scholarships)	1.5%
Property (utilities, cleaning, insurance, repairs/upkeep, etc.)	8.7%
Ministry Boards (evangelism, stewardship, education, youth)	2.7%
Administration (supplies, equip. maintenance, communications)	14.0%

February Elders Report

Received by Baptism:

Luke Turner McLellan, December 30, 2020

Received by Profession of faith:

Shawn, Rebecca and Jarrod Thomas

Tim, Charlene, Timothy, Benjamin and Tillie Fairchild

Received by transfer:

Mark and Barb Lauthen, from Bethany Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

Yvonne McLellan, from Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC

Calvin Uhlig, from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aiea, Hawaii

Average Worship Attendance for January: 2021 -- 219 2020 -- 356

Total Baptized & Confirmed Members (includes transferred new members listed above):

Baptized – 749 Confirmed – 598 Households – 302

MARCH 2021

ELDER OF THE WEEK

- 07: Jon Jero
- 14: Dave Brunelle
- 21: Eric Bradley
- 28: Ron Behrens

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 07: Steve & Sandy Townsend
- 14: Pottratz Family
- 21: Julie & Laird Hodges
- 28: Dan & Wendy Deppe

OFFERING COUNTERS

March 7

Kevin Kisker, Troy Marshall

March 14 & 21

Dewayne McGohan, Donna Stoelk

March 28 & April 4

Dan Deppe, Jennifer Dorfler

Wedding Anniversaries

- 03: Joe & Sharon Ausan
Gary & Mona Kretlow
Jeff & Tina Meissner
Larry & Sue Senne
- 07: Troy & Susan Marshall
- 08: Eric & Alyssa Forde
- 16: Lanae & Tim Rohwer
- 24: Paul & Barb Dietrich
- 27: Steve & Sandy Townsend
- 28: Mark & Sue Johnson
- 30: Dan & Wendy Deppe

Baptism Birthdays

- 01: Samantha Sloan
- 03: Christian Harken
Gary Hauge
Kathryn Reed
Charlene Shaw
- 04: Michael Giese
Alexander Heflebowser
Kevin Kisker
- 05: Steve Linn
Pat Livingston
David Thompson
- 06: Carol Schipull
- 07: Joshua Krehbiel
Bill Miller
- 08: Hailey Boeding
- 09: Troy Marshall

- 12: Noah Lamb
Zach Pool
Dennis Sturtz
Jody Voss
- 13: Ron Behrens
Nathan Retzlaff
- 14: Julie Hodges
16: Anna Brown
Viviane Kortlowski
Duane Mortensen
- 18: Stephen Hindman
- 19: Mark Johnson
- 20: Cindy Twedt
- 21: Alec Deppe
Rachel Deppe
Emma Snyder

- Barb Gattrost
Janet Kovacs
- 28: Donovan Chesnut
Marlene DaRos
Jerry Eimers
Cole Madsen
Lauren Madsen
Ken McConnell
- 29: Paul Dietrich
- 30: Matt Hayden
Eli Pool
Ella Pool
- 31: Lucas Juhl
Tim Krehbiel
Davis Swalla

March Birthdays

- 08: Russ Eastman
Matt Hanken
- 09: Caleb Ausan
Morey Juhlin
- 10: Marcia Hora
Isabelle Jolley
- 11: Larry DaRos
Ryan Marshall
- 12: Andi Acton
Nancy Byal
Paul Dietrich
- 13: Parker Grant
- 14: Sherman Gosch
Eli Pool
Ella Pool
Ruth Pottratz
Jane Thompson
15: Randy Anderson
Wendy Brunell
Georgia Musfeldt
Andrew Rohwer

- 16: Logan Weathers
- 19: James Harken
- 20: Wesley Kilgore
David Kortlowski
- Randy Sunderman
- 21: Chris Wood
- 23: Dorothy Marvin
Pat Peters
Julianne Sturtz
- 24: Erwin Aswegan
Malisa Davies
- 25: Jim Clark
Bryce Smith
- 27: Ruth Ann Burgess
- 29: Ella Wierson
- 30: Susan Marshall
- 31: Donovan Chesnut

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:30pm GriefShare	<i>2</i> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<i>3</i> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek Group 1 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	<i>4</i> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:30am LWML Prayer Service 4pm Mask Required Service in Sanctuary 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<i>7</i> Worship Services 8:00am, 9:00am (Children's Church), 10:00am, 11:00am Noon Sudanese Worship 2:00pm Homebuilders 2:00-3:00pm Jr. Youth Group 3:00-4:30pm Sr. Youth Group 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	<i>8</i> 6:30pm Board Meetings 6:30pm GriefShare	<i>9</i> 9:00 Circuit Winkel 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm LWML	<i>10</i> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion (and Preschool Chapel) 4:00-5:30pm Midweek Group 2 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	<i>11</i> 9am & 2pm Preschool Chapel 9:30am BASIC Bible Study 6:30pm BSF 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 4pm Mask Required Service in Sanctuary 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<i>14</i> Worship Services 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am Noon Sudanese Worship 2:00pm Homebuilders 7:00pm Zoom Bible Trivia	<i>15</i> 6:30pm GriefShare	<i>16</i> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Council Meeting	<i>17</i> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 5:30pm Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	<i>18</i> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 4pm Mask Required Service in Sanctuary 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<i>21</i> Worship Services 8:00am, 9:00am (Children's Church), 10:00am, 11:00am Noon Sudanese Worship Noon 8th Grade Confirmation 2:00pm Homebuilders 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	<i>22</i> 6:30pm GriefShare	<i>23</i> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<i>24</i> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Worship Service 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	<i>25</i> 9:30am BASIC Bible Study 6:30pm BSF 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 4pm Mask Required Service in Sanctuary 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<i>28</i> PALM SUNDAY Worship Services 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am Noon Sudanese Worship 2:00pm Homebuilders 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	<i>29</i> 6:30pm GriefShare	<i>30</i> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<i>31</i> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion	<i>April 1</i> Holy Thursday 5pm, 6pm, 7pm 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<i>April 2</i> Good Friday 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	<i>April 3</i> 5:30pm Easter Vigil