

February Newsletter 2016

To Know Christ,
To Make Him Known,
To Build His Kingdom.

From The Pastor's Desk:

It is that time again! We are entering in to the wilderness of lent as we prepare for the glory of Easter. I did not grow up observing lent and so I had to, as an adult, ask myself questions of why it matters. Here are some thoughts I found on why we should observe lent.

1. Lent affords us the opportunity to search the depths of our sin and experience the heights of God's love. With Good Friday approaching, visions of Jesus' gruesome death remind us of the dreadful reality of sin. Here, our individual and corporate brokenness is on display as the Lord of glory dies under the weight of our just judgment, inspiring personal introspection. But for such introspection to remain healthy, we must hold together two realities that converge at the cross—our sin and God's grace. If we divorce the two, then our hearts will either swell with pride and self-righteousness, losing touch with our sinfulness, or sink into anxious despair and uncertainty, failing to grapple with mercy.

2. Lent affords us an opportunity to probe the sincerity of our discipleship. Jesus bore the cross for us, accomplishing our salvation, yet he also bestows a cross on us. Following him, Jesus guarantees unspeakable comforts and uncertainties. Frequently, these uncertainties test the genuineness of our discipleship.

3. Lent provides us an opportunity to reflect on our mortality. Pursuing eternal youth, our culture seems to live in the denial of death. But ignoring death does not erase its impartiality—

everyone who draws a first breath will take a last one. It is a certainty we can't escape. Fortunately, death is not the last word. For all who belong to Christ, there is a promise stronger than death—we will die, but Jesus will return to raise our bodies, wiping the tears from our eyes and making all things new. Lent provides an unmistakable opportunity for disciplined reflection on this neglected certainty and God's radical solution.

4. Lent gives us the opportunity to move towards our neighbor in charity. Long misunderstood as a form of works-righteousness, Lenten fasting is not about scoring points with God, but rather emphasizes simplicity for the sake of others. By temporarily carving away some comforts or conveniences, good gifts from God himself, we hope to de-clutter our hectic lives, allowing us to focus. Simple living allows us to reserve time for others while also serving to curb our expenses. It is fitting to allocate these savings, along with other gifts, for charitable purposes, especially directing those funds to the poor and marginalized.

5. Lent prepares us to celebrate the wonder and promise of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Here, Jesus trampled down sin and death, defeating the Devil. After a season of depravation, highlighting the grim reality of our broken creation, Jesus' resurrection floods our grief with life and light. In other words, Lent prepares us to join the disciples in their joy and bewilderment on that strange morning long ago. Our Easter worship is a dress rehearsal for our Lord Jesus' return when he comes to unite heaven and earth, making all things new.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason Ford

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

"The Gospel Project"

Children's Sunday School ~ Infants - 6th grade
In the Fellowship Hall classrooms

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade
In the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study
In the Youth Room of the Parsonage

Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

Wednesday Night Bible Study

**Bible Study does not meet on the first
Wednesday of the month.**

In the Sanctuary at 7:00pm we will be studying
The Gospel of Mark.

Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible
study. Pastor Jason will be teaching.

Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall
classrooms, they are learning from The Jesus
Storybook Bible.

Lenten / Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 10th at 7 pm

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8 pm in the
fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome and
invited. Lenten studies run February 17th
through March 16th, except March 2nd.

Maundy Thursday Breakfast and Communion

March 24th at 8:30 am. Ladies from the
Women's Fellowship are asked to bring a
breakfast dish. If you have any questions,
please contact the church office at 210-658-
5874.

Maundy Thursday Evening

March 24th at 7 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service

Friday, March 25th at 7 pm.

Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise service at 7 am, followed by a pancake
breakfast. Worship service at 10:30 am.

We will attach fresh cut flowers to the "Living
Cross" at the 10:30 worship service.

Youth Update

Greetings! Thanks for following St. Paul Youth.
There are several exciting things happening in
the new year. First, I'm the new interim youth
intern. I'm ready to get the ball rolling on
several fronts. Second, we've been working on
plans for an improved youth space. This
project is projected to be completed over the
next few weeks. This space will provide for us
a much needed meeting place for events and
bible studies. Last, we're working on a calendar
of events for the year including a summer
camp. We want students to have opportunities
to grow spiritually while making lasting
friendships and memories. Several of our
young people are about to start confirmation
class as well. Please pray and encourage
these students as they complete such a special
process. If you are interested in contributing to
the youth in a variety of different ways, please
feel free to contact me. I look forward to what
God has in store for us!

Sincerely, Stephanie F

Upcoming Events

SPEC Supper Club

Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship

Thursday, February 4th at noon. Regular
meeting with pot luck meal. Devotion by Willie
S. For more information, please contact the
church office at 210-658-5874.

The Sewing Sisters

February 11th & 25th

They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the parsonage from 9-11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Council Meeting

Monday, February 15th at 7:00 pm

Community Breakfast & Bingo

Thursday February 18th at 8:30 am.

General Announcements

Directories

Are on the table in the hallway. They are labeled and arranged in alphabetical order.

Liturgy Sign Up

If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway.

Flower Calendar

Fellowship Servers / Ushers

For the 2016 year we have a sign-up sheet for each, flowers, fellowship serving and ushering. They are on the wall in the Fellowship Hall for your selection of a Sunday. Sign up early in order to choose the Sunday you prefer.

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2016 are available. If you do not already have envelopes and would like them, please see Beth Johnson, or one of the deacons.

Service Opportunity

If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers, we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. The computer

part is a simple program to use and the sound board is basic as well. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two in order to find out what all is involved. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach

Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand. Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D, or Willie & Ann S.

Women's Fellowship

Recycled Card Program

In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes
Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall. They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp., a program of the children at St. Jude's Ranch to learn entrepreneurship skills. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. For information on purchasing of cards go to http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php.
For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Prayer Team

If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Willie S your e-mail address or phone number.

Ushers and Greeters

If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Women's Fellowship

Cookbooks Available

The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall.

They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs:

Boxed Meat Helpers / Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce / Canned Fruit / Dish Soap
Toothbrushes

Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.

Read Through the Bible in a Year program
from Tabletalk daily devotional

(Tabletalk is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1-800-435-4343)

February Readings

Old Testament: Exodus 29 – Numbers 25
New Testament: Matthew 18:21 – Mark 6:29

March Readings

Old Testament: Numbers 26 – Judges 7
New Testament: Mark 6:30 – Luke 6:26

Notification of Events - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to admin@stpaulcibolo.com with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

Church Office Hours ~ Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 19

51 Q. How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

A. First, through His Holy Spirit He pours out His gifts from heaven upon us His members. Second, by His power He defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.

52 Q. How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A. In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very one who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All His enemies and mine He will condemn to everlasting punishment; but me and all His chosen ones He will take along with Him into the joy and the glory of heaven.

Lord's Day 20

53 Q. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

A. First, He as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, He has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, He makes me share in Christ and all His blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.

Lord's Day 21

54 Q. What do you believe concerning the "Holy Catholic Church"?

A. I believe that the Son of God, through His Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

St. Paul Staff

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Serving the Lord since 1876

A mission-focused, kingdom-building family of Christ-followers seeking to be faithful to
Jesus' Great Commission {Go and make disciples ...} Matthew 28:19 and
His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.} Luke 10:27