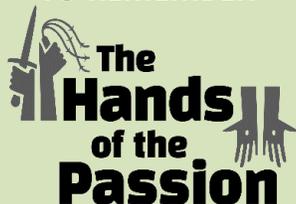




**DATES
TO REMEMBER**



March 3, 10, 17, 24

Lenten Worship
3:30 PM – Wonewoc
6:30 PM - Hillsboro

March 14

Daylight Saving Begins

March 15-19

Spring Break

April 1

Maundy Thursday Worship
3:30 & 7:00 PM

April 2

Good Friday Worship &
1:30 PM

April 4

Easter Dawn Worship
6:00 AM

Easter Breakfast
7:00 AM

Easter Festival Worship
9:00 AM



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From the Pastor

Getting Back to “Normal”

“I keep this in my heart. This is the reason I have hope: By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23).

People everywhere have been talking about getting back to normal. Some assume that when enough people are vaccinated or immune because they had the virus, then we won’t have to worry about masks or social distancing. Others are suggesting that we will continue to have to wear masks for another year or more. I’ll admit that it will take something extraordinary to convince me to keep wearing a mask through the summer. It’s OK if you don’t share that view.

I’ll have more about COVID in a bit, but let’s talk about normal. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that what is normal for one person may not be normal for another. Certainly, what is normal in Wisconsin on a Friday night—fish fries and supper clubs—is not normal in most other states. What is normal for American citizens in general is not normal for citizens of Uganda, or Pakistan, or Russia, or most anywhere else. Even some things that were normal in my family when I was a child were not the norm for my family when I became a husband and father.

The point is that things change. We’ve had to change to accommodate COVID in our lives, maybe more than we wanted to or thought necessary. But regardless of what you think about the last year and the current situation, there are times that the wise and loving thing to do is to go along with things—to change. And, not surprisingly, we survive change. We do want to go back to normal in the church, but we won’t be going back completely to what we did before. This is because there were some blessed changes that have come out of this strange year.

- We were pressed into doing something that we had wanted to do for some time—record services on video. This has been a blessing. There are people in different parts of the state and country that have tuned in to our worship services on YouTube. While it’s not thousands or even hundreds of people, on average it’s been better than 50 people who have watched each week. Between YouTube and the DVD’s we’ve produced, it’s a good way for those who can’t make it to church or don’t yet feel comfortable coming to church to stay connected.
- We also have video screens up in church so that we don’t have to use so much paper printing bulletins. We’ll continue to do this because it’s good stewardship.
- It was also very heartening to see how our people responded to the shut-downs/restrictions by continuing to faithfully give their offerings to the Lord. Financially, we have been very blessed so that we’ve been able to carry on ministry and without interruption and even add a pastor.

(continued on page 2)

(From the Pastor continued from cover)

Now we come back to COVID. Your servant-leaders at St. Paul's believe that it's time for us to start coming back to worship together in person. Some have been coming throughout, but others, understandably, have not. We're not saying that coming back must happen immediately. We understand that there are some people who have good reason to continue to be extra cautious for a while yet. But if you get vaccinated, and as more and more people are, COVID should not be a reason to stay away from worship. By this summer, there should be little to no hesitation in coming to church. Not only are the vaccines better than 90% effective, but the statistics from the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) show that even without the vaccine, for the vast majority of people, COVID is not something to worry about. Several people in our congregation have contracted the virus, including those over 60, and all have recovered. It was difficult for some, but they recovered. Consider the following:

Of the 609,000+ cases of COVID in Wisconsin and 27,700,000+ cases in the US since the start of the pandemic, 6,800+ in Wisconsin and 491,000+ in the US have resulted in death. That is a large number of deaths, and the focus on the news continues to be those raw numbers. But we also should consider that we don't know how many of those had serious comorbidities, that is, contributing health factors that made it too difficult to handle COVID, but certainly many did. It may also help to look at the numbers as a percentage. In Wisconsin, 1.1% of the cases have ended in death. Overall in the U.S., it's 1.5%. Again, a lot of deaths, but a small percentage.

Please understand that I'm NOT saying that it's not a serious virus. It is for some. But I'll let you draw your own conclusions on the statistics that follow:

- Ages 0-4: .02% of cases end in death
- Ages 5-17: .01% of cases end in death
- Ages 18-29: .04% of cases end in death
- Ages 30-39: .1% of cases end in death
- Ages 40-49: .3% of cases end in death
- Ages 50-64: 1.2% of cases end in death
- Ages 65-74: 4.6% of cases end in death
- Ages 75-84: 11.4% of cases end in death
- Ages 85+: 22.5% of cases end in death

Clearly, the virus is more dangerous the older a person is. With the elderly, however, it's not clear in every case whether COVID was the main factor in the death or if the person would have died even without COVID. Regardless, the overall survival rate for this virus is high. Even for those over 85, while 22.5% mortality is high, the survival rate is 77.5%. And overall, we still don't have entirely accurate numbers. It seems

quite clear that there have been many people who had COVID and were asymptomatic so they never were tested to see if they had it, which then lowers the mortality rate even more.

Finally, however, what's most important to us, is that our Lord is in control. He has been from Day 1 of the pandemic. He has been from Day 1 of this world's existence. As the verses from Lamentations tell us, no matter what changes come our way and no matter how painful they may be, they are not indicative of God's disposition toward us. We remain his forgiven children. This is our normal. Yet, the fantastic thing about this is that our normal in Christ is new every morning! In other words, God's mercy is never stale. Never is it unsuitable for what we need on any day in any circumstance. And it brings us such joy and blessing that it never gets old. It's the unchanging constant that we can rely on that always is perfect for whatever situation we're in.

Our strong encouragement, then, is to continue to rely on your Lord. We will not judge those who are not ready to join us. However, please don't use it as an excuse to salve your conscience because you are staying home for some reason other than an honest concern over COVID. I pray that you are eager to get back in God's house, to join with your brothers and sisters in Christ to worship our gracious God, and to serve together to as we build each other up in the faith and reach out to others with the gospel.

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten Worship takes place each Wednesday at 3:30pm in Wonewoc and 6:30pm in Hillsboro. This year's theme is "The Hands of the Passion." As in years past, area pastors will be preaching on rotational schedule at each church.

- March 3 – Hands of Misguided Zeal (Peter)
- March 10 – Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas)
- March 17 – Hands of Brutality (Roman Soldiers)
- March 24 – Hands of Self Preservation (Pilate)

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Maunder Thursday Worship with Communion
April 1—3:30pm & 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship with Communion
April 2—1:30pm

Easter Dawn Worship (no Communion)
April 4—6:00am

Easter Festival Worship with Communion
April 4—9:00am

Easter breakfast will be served after the 6:00am service. All are invited to partake in some wonderful food and fellowship.



School Scoop

Celebrating 140 Years of
Christian Education

Our Christian Education will be celebrated the week of March 1st. God's command to us as Christians is clear: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16). We thank and praise the Lord that we have Christian Education available for our children. We pray that he continues to bless our efforts as the children grow in their understanding of God's love for them, and that their foundation is set on Christ!

Spring Break is the week of March 15-19 and there will be no school for students.

We have resumed in-person sing for students at church. It will always be at the 10:30am worship service. Parents may choose to opt out of having their child participate and that is perfectly fine. We want everyone to exercise their own level of comfort. We will also continue to record the children and insert the recording into the YouTube presentation of each week's service.

The students are taking orders for Butter Braids until March 12. This is the only all-school fundraiser that we have each year. If you would like to order some of these delicious pastries, contact a student or the school office. Delivery will be just before Easter.

GOOD CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

As we get back to some kind of normal, please realize that we have some significant changes coming that your servant-leaders believe will be blessed. Understand that as they are listed here, they won't happen without a vote. However, the first two of these three have been discussed for a while.

We have spoken for several years about the possibility of joining with St. Paul's in Hillsboro to become one united congregation that worships and reaches out in two locations. We are now having meetings and working in earnest to hammer out the details so that it can be brought to a vote at each congregation no later than this summer. On the one hand, it shouldn't be very difficult to make this happen. On the other hand, we will all need to change our mindset so that when we think about our congregation and what's best for it, we are thinking about the entire congregation as it operates in both Hillsboro and Wonewoc. Hopefully, you've seen the reasons for doing this that we've previously laid out, but we'll lay them out again before the final decision. For now, to put it simply, understand that Pastor Prell is retiring in September of this year. Replacing him would be very difficult for our sister congregation for several reasons, including the low number of graduates from our seminary each year and the large number of vacancies in our synod. Joining together seems to be the right thing to do for the sake of the kingdom of God and the gospel he calls us to proclaim.

We have also been talking about and studying what it would take to have an expanded early childhood ministry (ECM). We have an opportunity based on the need that exists in our area and has even been written about in local papers. It's an opportunity to reach families and share the good news of Jesus with them. Like with our school, the children will hear and learn God's Word every day. To do this, we need space. We will be sharing with you the details of the project and its cost. Then, together we will prayerfully consider it and vote on it. There is no specific time frame for this, but the sooner we can do it, the better.

Finally (for now), our synod has developed a new hymnal. The plan is to begin using it when the new church year begins with the First Sunday in Advent, November 28th of this year. It incorporates some excellent new hymns with many of the great hymns in our current hymnal, and it even brings back a few hymns from "The Lutheran Hymnal," our old hymnal from 1941, that didn't make it into our current hymnal. The name of the new hymnal will remain "Christian Worship," but there will also be some other changes, too numerous to mention here, as well as some exciting new additional resources to enhance our worship. We will take some time after worship on a few Sundays to explain some of these things and put out some more information in the weeks to come.

There will be other things to share as the year goes along. We want to push ahead with gospel ministry and gospel outreach because that's why our Lord put us here. It's something we need to do together. Let's ask the Lord to bless our efforts and our fellowship.

CHURCH NEWS



Baptized in Christ

Raelynn Monica Weiland – November 1, 2020

Silas Roland Westedt – November 1, 2020

Lanie Lou Hirsch – February 7, 2021



Called Home

Donald Bernard Gross – December 16, 2020

Mary Elisabeth Peterson – December 26, 2020

Marion Y. Pagel – January 12, 2021

Gary Wells, Sr. – January 25, 2021

John E. Mitchell – January 27, 2021

Charles E. Steffen – February 24, 2021



In Memory

We gratefully acknowledge memorials and gifts to our ministry in memory/honor of the following members and friends:

Yvonne Feldman

Donald Gross

Betty Meltesen

Marion Pagel

John Mitchell

Milton & Dolores Smith

EASTER LILY ORDERS

We have received information regarding Easter flowers from Blossoms and Bouquets in Wonewoc. You can pick up the info and order forms on the table in back. You can also call Blossoms and Bouquets directly to order. They offer a discount if you order before March 20. If you wish to purchase flowers elsewhere, please let Jan Fick know by April 1 if you want your memorial remembrance listed in the bulletin information.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for people who could help in these areas:

- ❖ Church cleaning – Sign-up is on the bulletin board in the entryway. Or you can call the church office (464-3212) to sign up.
- ❖ Fellowship hosts – Sign-up is on the stand in the stairwell.
- ❖ Slide show for worship – Please talk to either Pastor, Sam Mobley, Erich Mobley or Brooks Mitchell for more information.

None of these jobs are hard or take up a lot of time, but are important to helping make our worship and fellowship run smoothly. Please consider giving your time and abilities in any of these capacities. Thank you.

JUNEAU COUNTY HEALTH SURVEY

If you are a resident of Juneau County, you are invited to participate in a health assessment survey. Juneau County, along with other counties, is seeking feedback from community members to assess health needs and priorities in the area. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. We have paper copies of the survey in the back of the church or you can go online at to take the survey. Go to Juneau County Health's Website and click on the link on their homepage. By taking the survey you will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. Deadline for return in March 31.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

With the rollout of vaccines and a trend toward warmer weather, we have seeing more families begin to return to worship in person over the last few weeks. However, we know that the ability to attend worship in-house is not always possible. For those who cannot be here as they would like, there are some options to still attend via YouTube, live Facebook or DVD. DVDs are duplicated and available for pickup each Saturday morning. You will find them in the black mailbox outside the side door at church. You can search for St. Paul's Wonewoc on YouTube to find the latest service (as well as archived services), or you can go to our website or Facebook and click on the link. We have also begun to broadcast live on Facebook for a real-time worship experience. Please let your family and friends know that these options are available for anyone and be sure to let us know if you have ideas to improve our outreach.

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 1:30 PM Ladies Aid 3:30 PM Worship (Wonewoc) 6:30 PM Worship (Hillsboro))	4 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	5 8:05 AM Chapel	6
Christian Education Week						
7 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	8	9 10:00 AM Circuit Meeting 6:30 PM Panther Parents	10 9:00 AM Shut-In Visits 3:30 PM Worship (Wonewoc) 6:30 PM Worship (Hillsboro)	11 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	12 8:05 AM Chapel	13 8:00 AM Elders
			Parent/Teacher Conferences			
14 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	15	16 1:30 PM Care Ministry 6:30 PM Trustees	17 9:00 AM Shut-In Visits 3:30 PM Worship (Wonewoc) 6:30 PM Worship (Hillsboro)	18 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship with Communion	19	20
Spring Break						
21 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	22 Newsletter Article and Calendar Deadline	23	24 3:30 PM Worship (Wonewoc) 6:30 PM Worship (Hillsboro)	25 End of 3 rd Quarter 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	26 8:05 AM Chapel	27
28 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	29	30	31	 <p>HOLY WEEK Maundy Thursday—3:30pm & 7:00pm Good Friday Worship—1:30pm Easter Sunrise Worship 6:00am Easter Breakfast—7:00am Easter Festival Worship 9:00am</p>		

March Birthdays

This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it...
Psalm 118:24



1. Robin Degner, Teresa Treibs
2. Sherryl Lankey, Donne Roehling
3. Carol Beechler, Cora Young
4. Barney Baldwin, Lacy Burns, Aliyah Solchenberger
5. Katie Pagel
6. Ronald Burfeind, Angel Ennis
7. Kaitlin Elder
8. Honna Anderson, Kasey Penschorn, Kevin Wright
9. Kylee Souvannasone
11. Janice Barreau, Cole Stanek
12. Ben Field, Jacob Hepp
14. Valerie Hagemann, Andrew Leavitt,
15. Bruce Schroeder
16. Anna Bender, Annette Hug, Brian Miller, Brooks Mitchell,
Andrew Voigt
17. John Gehri, Makenna Haugh, Jaxon Oetzman, Tom Schraufnagel,
James Thornson Jr.
19. Merry Preston, Tyler Roloff, Alma Schnurr, Angie Schultz,
Stacie Vogler
20. Brent Demaske, Avery Erie, Skeeter Jaech, Nick Schultz
21. Cassidy Burns, Autum Jaech, Elaine Pattridge, Noah Wafle
22. Nia Anderson
23. Kody Pagel
24. Sid Schroeder
27. Paula Danklefsen
28. Oliver Barton, Alexander Radavich, Pam Rick,
29. Karen Dempsey, Kenton Lindemeyer, Ardith Schroeder
30. Thom Herrewig, Sr.
31. Leslie Dampier, Justin Haugh, Rudy Herrewig, Larry Laack

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry.
Please let us know and we will make the correction.



**Daylight Saving Time
begins March 14!**
Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour on
Saturday night.



—WELS—

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Wonewoc, WI 53968

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608) 464-3212

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Facebook us!
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