



St. Paul's EPISTLE

March 2021 edition

NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS Meditation on Hymn 128 of Christian Worship by Pastor Plagenz

It's not all that well-known of a hymn. I doubt many of us could recite even the first stanza after hearing the title, which itself might raise a few eyebrows. Why sing about beasts or their blood? We sang it on Ash Wednesday, but should it really have a place in our worship services? Absolutely! This hymn, which alludes to the greatest day of worship for the Israelites, beautifully and boldly points us to "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29).

Not all the blood of beasts On Israel's altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

In faith I place my hand On that dear head divine,
As penitently here I stand And lay on him my sin.

My soul looks back to see The burden you did bear
When hanging on the cursed tree I know my guilt was there!

Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing his bleeding love.

Take yourself back 3,500 years to the Day of Atonement. (Read Leviticus 16 for a complete description.) Can you picture it? Aaron, adorned in all the accoutrements of the high priest, leads into the tabernacle a bull and two goats, two of which would be slaughtered for sacrifices on the altar. Pulling back the heavy curtain which divides the hallowed presence of the LORD and the unclean people, he steps into the Most Holy Place for the only time that year. He flicks his fingers, sprinkling the blood of the bull and one goat onto the golden cherubim above the atonement seat (the cover of the Ark of the Covenant) to purify himself and the people. He walks out to the other goat and, touching his hand to its head, confesses all the guilt and shame of Israel's impurities. Finally, the now sin-burdened goat is sent into the wilderness never to be seen again so the people's curse and punishment can be removed.



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Reaching out with
the love of Jesus.

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Worship
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30AM
Monday at 11:00AM

www.stpaulswr.org

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A little different from our worship, isn't it? We don't have too many bleating goats or bowls of blood on the average Sunday. Why is that? Did God change his mind about the best way to worship or what is pleasing to him? Not in the least. But what has changed is the way guilty consciences find peace and wash away the stain of their sin. (Read Hebrews 9 and 10 to hear about the complete change.)

God designed the Day of Atonement and all the Old Testament worship practices to impress upon the Israelites the reality of their sinful condition—just how filthy and unclean they really were. In fact, for them to be washed clean and forgiven of their sin, blood had to be shed. “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22b). So day after day, year after year, generation after generation, animals would be slaughtered, and their blood drained because of Israel's guilt.

But it never stopped. Their consciences never relented from heaping shame on them for their impurities simply because those sacrifices weren't good enough. They weren't perfect. “The fact is that the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). What they needed was a more noble sacrifice, one that was richer—that had more value. What would actually cleanse them and quiet their clamorous conscience was blood from heaven.



We have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ

- Hebrews 10:10

Enter Jesus Christ, the actual realization of all the good things to which Old Testament worship pointed—the heavenly sacrifice which casted the shadow that was all the animal sacrifices. It's Jesus pulling back the curtain of the Most Holy

Place, the one torn in two, which grants access to God's presence; his blood sprinkled on the atonement seat of Pontius Pilate's court which washed away sin; his body offered on the altar of the cross, that cursed tree, which releases guilt; his thorn-crowned head bearing the burden of all guilt and shame which releases the curse and punishment of sin.

And that perfect sacrifice is ours. “We have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ” (Hebrews 10:10).

Our access to God. Our sins washed away. Our guilt released. Our curse removed. Now, there is no need for any more bulls, goats, sheep, or calves because of our sacrifice in Christ, the heavenly Lamb. May we always bless and praise him who is worth infinitely more than all the blood of beasts! †



As a family of believers we live to worship God by nurturing, encouraging, serving, and reaching out to people with the love of Jesus, one heart and home at a time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I know it may not be your birthday yet, but I'd like to know when it is! In fact, a number of people in our congregation might like to know. Our mission statement says that we are “a family of believers.” What does that mean? We know the people with whom we worship; we share joys and burdens with each other; we pray for each other in all circumstances of life.

In order to help us live as a family of believers, if even in a small way, the church office will begin producing a calendar that indicates birthdays and anniversaries of our spiritual family members. That way, members can send each other cards, pray for each other, or simply check in with each other on those special days—like a family!

Please note that only the day will be shown; no ages or years of marriage will be indicated. If you'd like to opt out and not have your birthday or anniversary published, please contact the church office in March to have your name removed. The first edition of this calendar will be published in April.



A PASTORAL UPDATE ON WORSHIP PROTOCOL

By Pastor Proeber



For nearly a year now, we have made adjustments to our worship experience that are in line with the advice of health officials and other common practices. While it has been said multiple times before, the pastoral staff would like to thank you once again for your patience and flexibility in following these adjustments. We view these as visible ways to show our love to our neighbor—a person we want to care for in body and soul—and think of others more highly than ourselves. In doing so, we fulfill Paul's words in Philippians 2:3—“In humility value others above yourselves” (NIV11).

At the same time, the pastoral staff and leadership council have reached a conclusion that some of our previous practices can be safely reintroduced into our worship experience. This is also due to a number of requests that have come from you, the members of the church. Please notice the key word in bringing things back: safely. We still want to proceed with our neighbor always on our minds and hearts. For that reason, none of the changes we are making mandate participation—you can always opt out.

While we might be able to implement these adjustments immediately, we want to be sure we give everyone time to prepare, schedule, and communicate accordingly. So, **beginning on March 7**, we will bring these practices back:

- **Children may come forward for the Children's Message.**
 - We will make sure to have adequately spaced chairs for children to sit on; they can also sit in the front pews with parents, if they wish.
 - Again, parents always have the option to remain in their normal seats.
- **Hymnals will be returned to the pew racks.**
 - Since we alternate pews from service to service, hymnals would not be touched by multiple people within a short amount of time. In fact, in many cases, a certain hymnal might only be used by one person from week to week, should they sit in the same place for each service.
- **Service folders will be handed out by the ushers.**
 - If someone would rather not have a service folder handed to them, a stack will be made available on the Welcome Table.

- On a related note, since the service folders will no longer be placed in the pews, we will remove the purple tape that has served us so well. The pattern for seating in worship will become “marked/unmarked” pews. Signage will indicate which is being used for each service.

- **Lent meals and Easter breakfast will be organized.**

- Other meals have been done safely during the COVID era; assuming adequate volunteers can be gathered, we believe meals between our Lent midweek services can be offered in a safe way that still prompts fellowship among our family of believers.
- More details will follow on how those will be conducted as safely as possible.
- Meals will be offered on March 3, 10, 17, and 24.
- If all goes well throughout Lent, we will also serve Easter breakfast between our early and late services on Easter Sunday.

While we are pleased to bring a few things back, there are other practices we are not ready to reintroduce quite yet. Those include:

- Passing the offering plates
 - With walking through empty pews (not a fun task) and members not being able to opt out of passing a plate to the next person, we're not comfortable bringing this back.
 - Please continue to utilize our current giving options.
- Full congregational singing
 - While there have been many requests for this, we are not aware of any additional research that points us in the direction of adding more singing than what we have right now. If you are aware of such research, please let a pastor or leader know about it.
 - We will continue splitting the verses of hymns, psalms, and songs as we have been.
- Previous communion practice (groups coming together in “tables”)
 - With social distancing still being encouraged, this is the safest way to continue distributing the Lord's Supper for the time being. †

WHY SEND YOUR CHILD TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

by Principal John Melso

If you already send your child to St. Paul's Lutheran School, you know the answer to the question in the title. If you do not send your child to St. Paul's, here are a few things to consider as you make the choice as to where to send your child to school.

First off is the mission of our school. Our mission statement reads, "St. Paul's Lutheran School strives, by God's grace and blessing, to assist parents, our congregation, and others in developing in each student a knowledge and love of their Savior, growth in His Word, and lifetime service to Him and His kingdom, both spiritually and academically." Jesus asks the question "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" (Mark 8:36) Our mission is not just to prepare students for life here on earth, but for an eternity. At St. Paul's, the Gospel message is shared daily with students. The Gospel which

prepares students for heaven. Our school staff recognizes each student as a blood-bought soul who is precious to Christ and therefore precious to them. To accomplish our mission, the faculty makes every effort to provide academic quality in a safe and secure environment by teachers who develop relationships and values based on the enduring relationship we have with Jesus Christ.

To really gain a clear view of what St. Paul's Lutheran School is all about, I encourage you to sit in a classroom while class is in session. By seeing the school in action, you will see first-hand the learning opportunities and loving atmosphere offered at St. Paul's. It is actually very rare for a parent to view our school in action and not decide to send them to St. Paul's. There is a really good reason for that. Please come and find out. †

ST. PAUL'S 3K AND 4K - TIME TO APPLY!

It is time to reserve your spot in our 3K & 4K program for 2021-2022 here at St. Paul's. We are asking that you please visit our website to sign up and reserve a spot for your child. We do tend to fill up quickly, and applications will be reviewed by our board of education on a first-come, first-served basis.

Remember that your child needs to be 3 years old by Sept. 1st for 3K and 4 years old by Sept. 1st for 4K. Children must be toilet trained to attend preschool.

For more information about tuition and wrap-around child care please contact Director Carole Melso at littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 AM. Invitations have been sent out to our preschool families and those on our prospect list. If you know of any families that might be interested in our kindergarten program, please share their names with Mr. Melso (principal@stpaulswr.org).



SPYS REGATHER!

by Staff Minister Randy Pahl

The consensus of our youth was, "YAY"!!! Finally, after missing out on our last meeting at the end of January due to concerns over the pandemic, we were finally able to gather together on a frigid Saturday, February 5th, in the warm and friendly confines of our cafeteria.

Our evening started off with some food for the stomach – burgers (thanks Mrs. Kristie Schroeder) and subs, as well as food for the soul as we continued our video Bible series, "Focused Living in Christ." We have now covered the first two studies in the series, "Remember and Relax," (thanks to Pastor Proeber for his masterful presentation, and his thought-

provoking questions and encouragements). We will, God willing, conclude our year with the final two videos, "Rejoice and Refuel."

Next, we spent some time discussing options for future meeting dates and outings. It was decided to look to late February or early March to take the trek to Powers Bluff for a repeat performance of the adventures that took place in January of 2020.

Finally, we headed into the gym for a few games of "lightning, thunder, and hurricane." Pastor Proeber led the way with his speed and agility, while Mr. Pahl stayed out of the way so as not to injure himself or anyone else!

All-in-all it was another fabulous night spent with our wonderful Christian youth. If you know of other teens (or are one yourself), please encourage them to come and see and to join in on the great Christian fellowship that continues to take place here at St. Paul's!

And, finally, as we continue down the Lenten path to our Savior's cross, may we be ever mindful of His remarkable love for us as we share that same love with one another! 'Til next month... †

SPRING INTO DIME & DOLLAR!

By Jan Peronto

Are you starting some spring cleaning and have items to donate to Dime & Dollar? Please bring clean and working items to the store between 10 AM and 4 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Fridays, or call ahead for an appointment on Saturdays. We are especially looking for fiction books (novels that are hardcover or paperback), DVDs, small kitchen appliances, some furniture (call ahead to see if we have room - no mattresses), wall prints (especially larger framed items), and summer sports equipment such as baseballs and bats, rollerblades, life vests, etc. We do not accept golf clubs or large exercise equipment. We currently have lots of clothing, but if you have good quality clothing to donate, do not hesitate to bring it in! Due to a lack of volunteers, the store is closed on both Thursdays and Sundays.

Please consider stopping by to check out our large selection of Easter decorations or a puzzle to help pass the time during cold winter days. Purchase a new Easter outfit or find a pair of shoes for the kids. Liven up your homemade meals with a new dinnerware set or set the table with a new tablecloth or placemats. There's something for everyone! All proceeds go to Northland Lutheran High School. †



Northland Lutheran High School's TOGETHER WE SHINE EVENT

March 6-13
ONLINE AUCTION
Browse Items online or at the school



March 14
CONCERT & SOUP
Listen on your radio
while carhops deliver soup to your car



This fundraiser benefits the NLHS general budget and includes opportunities for debt reduction.

More info: nlhs.org

FLOWERS FOR EASTER AND AFTER

By Veronica Klish

If you wish to beautify church for Easter by purchasing one (or more) of the below listed Easter flowers, please sign up on the flower chart located in the Welcome Center. Take an envelope, fill it out, place payment inside, and drop the envelope in the offering plate or turn into the church office. Plants can be picked up after the 2nd service on Easter Sunday or the following Tuesday. We encourage you to pick up your flowers, so you can enjoy them at home or give them to a loved one to enjoy.

Just for information – the lilies, both Easter and Oriental; daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, hydrangeas, and possibly the mums (they can be a bit temperamental) can be planted outside in the spring. They won't bloom anymore this year, but will bloom next year. The Easter lilies will bloom in July. The Gerbera Daisy can be placed outside in the summer, but needs to come inside in fall. It will look really bad by November/December, but I have put mine outside in the spring and it has come back to bloom and I have done this for 5 years.

If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Klish at (715)421-3607.

Deadline to order Easter flowers is Palm Sunday, March 28th.



6" EASTER LILY (6-8 Blooms)	\$18.50	6 ½" PEACE LILY (SPATH)	\$29.50
7" DOUBLE EASTER LILY (2 plants per pot/12-16 Blooms)	\$29.00	6" DAFFODILS	\$21.00
8" TRIPLE EASTER LILY (3 plants per pot/18-24 Blooms)	\$38.00	6" HYACINTHS (White, Pink, Blue, or Purple— 3 bulbs/pot)	\$21.00
6 ½" DAISY MUM (White, Lavender, Yellow, or Rainbow)	\$26.00	6" PINK, BLUE, WHITE HYDRANGEAS (Pink, Blue, or White)	\$39.00
6" TULIPS (Purple, White, or Pink— 3 bulbs per pot)	\$21.00	6 ½" YELLOW KALANCHOE	\$26.00
6 ½" POTTED PALM	\$29.50	6" AZALEAS (White, Rosy, Pink or Coral)	\$30.00
6 ½" CHINA DOLL	\$29.50	6" ORIENTAL LILIES (No specified color)	\$28.00
		6" GERBERA DAISY (No specified color)	\$ 28.00

IN THE MAILBOX

With warmest thanks, grateful hearts, and deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

We couldn't thank you all enough for the gift! We appreciate your kindness so much!

Love,
Mike, Amber, Jacob, Caden & Rylei

(Amber is the mother of Tom & Jan Peronto's grandson, Jacob. The family suffered a house fire in December, and several members of our congregation gave gifts to the family.)



SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Through January 17, 2021

Current Expenses

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Stephanie Bathke, Gary & Linda Jones
- In memory of Harold Raasch given by Gary & Linda Jones, Jerry & Linda Cummings
- In memory of Greg Martin and Grace Kitzmann given by Huntz & Marilyn Link
- In memory of Ken Kracht's mother, Ann Kracht, given by Marilyn Foley

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Harold Raasch given by Marvin & Dorothy Raasch and Mike Smith, Tom & Lori Whitney, Mark & Kathy Meroner

Endowment Fund

- In memory of Grace Kitzmann given by Mike & Judy Anderson

Outreach

- In memory of Russ Pollnow's Feb. 6 birthday given by Linda Pollnow

Mortgage

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Nona Henke & Robert Stake
- In memory of Gregory Martin, son of Elaine Martin, given by Nona Henke & Robert Stake

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Leon Provost and Harold Raasch given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Gregory Martin and John Estlund given by Edna & Faith Haferman

Missions

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Ruth Taggatz

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Harold Raasch and Edna's cousin, Margaret Norell, given by Edna & Faith Haferman
- In memory of Leon Provost given by Lois Wittrock, Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Judy Lubeck's brother-in-law, Gilbert Tomfohrde, given by Edna & Faith Haferman

CATECHISM CORNER

We refer to the special role Jesus filled, or the services Jesus came to perform, as his offices.

To what office was Christ anointed?

Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, **the apostle and high priest** whom we confess.

Isaiah 9:6,7 For us a child is born. To us a son is given. **The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.** He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.** There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

Psalms 2 (The one enthroned in heaven terrifies the kings of the earth, saying "I have installed **my King** on Zion, my holy mountain" [verse 6].)

John 18:37 "You are a king then?" Pilate asked. Jesus answered, "**I am, as you say, a king.** For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."



- Luther's Catechism © 2017 NPH



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 715-421-3634
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March 2021 edition



Fellowship Meals return March 3
Hygiene Drive through March 7
Serving at Food Pantry March 8-12

Pastor Lucas Proeber · 989-780-3184 · pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz · 920-689-3036 · pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org