

St. Paul's Epistle

March 2012

Reaching Out with
the Love of Jesus

Celebrate Easter with Bacon

by Pastor Baur

Now wait a minute, how can you celebrate Easter with bacon. After all Jesus would never eat bacon on Easter or on any other day, he was a Jew and the pig was an unclean animal. So why bacon on Easter? First of all, because we can. The worship laws, the dietary laws, the community laws were commanded by God for the Jewish people to follow. The worship laws gave directives on how to worship, all the while pointing ahead to the Savior. The community laws were there to give direction on how to live as a society. The eating restrictions dealt with animals that were considered clean or unclean. The Lord gave these restrictions since there were some health risks that were associated with eating certain animals or because they were bottom feeders or scavengers. The pig was placed in the category of being unclean. These laws may seem strange to our culture today, but the Lord used all of this to keep the Jews focused on his promise of salvation and separate from the influence of the rest of the world. After all the Savior would

come from this group of people.

In the New Testament many of the restrictions are gone. We are exempt because we are not Jewish or a Jewish society, but the other reason is what Paul refers to as he writes to the Colossians, "Don't let anyone judge you by what you eat and drink or with regard to a



religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day... these are a shadow (reminder) of the things that were to come, the reality, however is found in Christ." That means that since Jesus has come we don't need the reminders anymore, and we are no longer bound by those worship and dietary laws. That is why we can eat pork.

So now ask yourself, when do we serve the pig, the pork, the ham,

the bacon? It is for special occasions isn't it? It is that tasty morsel of meat that we use to celebrate a special event. If that is true, doesn't bacon go with Easter? This is when we hear again about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That means our sins are forgiven and we too will overcome even death itself. This is the confidence we have in living and in dying. Such a message deserves a celebration. And so on Easter Sunday we celebrate with music and a message. Our first service starts at 7:00 a.m. and then repeats again at 9:30 a.m. What a special time to worship together. In addition we want to celebrate by sitting down and eating breakfast together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. That is why we moved the sunrise service up a half hour and moved back the second service by an hour. We want to celebrate the living hope we have with a living Lord. What a reason to rejoice. Celebrate Easter! Its worth frying up the bacon.

Easter Worship at 7:00 & 9:30 a.m.



Breakfast served 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Journey to the Cross this Easter by Sarah Douglas

Tired of chocolate bunnies being the focus of Easter? Try something new this year and join us on a Journey to the Cross. Spend an hour walking a Bible route and immerse yourself in the Easter story. Pet a donkey, smell Mary's anointing perfume, touch a crown of thorns and so much more. Biblical characters and live animals will add to your journey. Join us as a traveler on Saturday, March 31st. Tours will begin between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. This event is for families

and individuals of all ages. Reservations are recommended, however they are not required. Reserve your spot today by signing up in the Welcome Center or online at www.stpaulswr.org. If you have questions, please visit the church website or contact Sarah Douglas at footsteps@stpaulswr.org or 715-697-4412. Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to join us for this meaningful Easter journey!



Saturday, March 31
1:00-4:00 p.m.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Worship at 3:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Meal served 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Worship at 12:10 & 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Worship at 7:00 & 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast served 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Sign Up for Easter Breakfast!

On Easter morning we would like our entire church family to gather together to celebrate Jesus resurrection and encourage one another at our Easter breakfast. To make it more convenient for everyone to be there, we have moved the two services closer together. The early service is at 7:00 a.m. and the late service at 9:30 a.m.

To help us plan enough food and enough seating, please let us know how many from your family we can expect. A sign up board

is set up in the Welcome Center or drop us an email at churchoffice@stpaulswr.org. If you have relatives in town or friends you are bringing to the Easter service, they are welcome, too.

The youth group and leadership team will be preparing the meal. A freewill offering will be taken at the breakfast to cover food expenses and help the teens defray the cost of their trip to the youth rally in June. (For more on the youth rally, see page 4).

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

Reaching Out to Families

By Gail Kretschmer

The Children's Festival is a community-wide event held annually at Lincoln High School. It's a time where businesses and organizations gather together to reach out to families within our community. Each business offers fun projects for children ages infant to 12yrs old along with information about their services or products. Average attendance of children can reach as high as 800. This event offers hands-on exploration, entertainment throughout the day, and is free of charge to those attending.

The Children's Festival is a wonderful outreach opportunity for our church. This year we will have a big

space at the Children's Festival offering a variety of activities. Our primary purpose of hosting this event is to promote our VBS program entitled: The Amazing Desert Journey, Where Jesus Leads us Home, scheduled for July 29 through Aug. 2. We will have two tents set up decorated with this theme. We are offering face painting, balloon making, and a stained-glass paper cross craft. We will offer pre-registration for VBS, along with a music CD containing VBS songs to each family that registers. We will also take this opportunity to inform our community about St. Paul's Church, School and

Little Lamb's program.

Please pray for this event. Please pray that the Lord will bless our efforts and that little seeds of Faith might be sown this day. If you are interested in helping with the outreach efforts, please contact Greg Paul at 715-424-0449. If you are interested in loaning, donating or sponsoring supplies; or in helping the day of the event with set-up/clean-up, face-painting, craft, or balloon making then please look for the sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center at St. Paul's or contact Gail Kretschmer at 715-325-5678.

Youth-Filled Endeavor

On March 5th something wonderful took place at St. Paul's. A group of teens and parents gathered for an information meeting regarding the 2012 WELS International Youth Rally and a regular youth group at St. Paul's. You can learn more about the youth rally in an article in this newsletter entitled "Fill Up!" - 2012 WELS International Youth Rally on page 4.

The other major portion of our meeting involved the start-up (or re-start) of an active, consistent group of our teens. The primary goal is to consistently meet as a group of Christian teens and to be

strengthened by God's Word and to enjoy fellowship with one another and other WELS youth.

We talked about the very important aspect of parents and teens working together and encouraging one another to make this a tremendous blessing for everyone involved.

We were honest enough to admit that an informational meeting does not make a youth group. But a serious commitment from parents and teens will.

It is our initial goal to meet once a month and have frequent outings and events for fellowship time. In



order to accomplish that, we decided that it would be best to begin meeting at least once a month on Sundays. We set our first meeting for Sunday, April 22nd, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. **We strongly encourage all youth ages 8th grade through 12th grade to join us.**

We are asking everyone to pray for the many blessings that come from the Gospel for our youth and for this ministry. We thank our gracious God for giving us dedicated parents and teens and look forward to many blessings that will follow. See you Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 at 3:30pm here at church!

Fill Up! – 2012 WELS International Youth Rally



The WELS 2012 International Youth Rally will be held June 27-30 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The theme for the rally is "Fill Up!" based on John 10:10, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

There will be plenty of opportunities for teens and leaders to grow in their faith during the rally. Teens who have been confirmed and who are entering 12th grade are welcome to join us for the rally. A special feature of the rally this year are the workshops that will be provided for congregational youth leaders also.

There are a multitude of exercises and workshops for teens as well. All will be centered on our Savior Jesus as we fill ourselves up with the life we have in him.

The cost for the rally is \$325 per rally-goer plus the expense of travel to and from the rally. Our youth will be offering their expert landscaping services for a donation towards the costs as a way to offset the expenses.

Most likely at least 8 teens from St. Paul's will be registering for the rally. Others can still register through May 15th. We are still in

need of at least one female chaperone for the rally. Because of the workshops this would be an excellent opportunity to dig a little bit deeper into youth leadership if you have an interest.

If you would like to help in some way or offer financial assistance, please contact Pastor Douglas. If you would like to make use of the expert landscapers or have another task in mind you would be willing to offer a donation for, call the church office for more information. God's blessing and pray for our youth and this exciting opportunity.

School News by Jon Engelbrecht

As the school year carries on each day, it is easy to overlook the simple things that naturally happen each year. By the time this newsletter reaches you, registration for the 2012-2013 school year has had a two week jump on the news cycle. As of March 14th, there are 16 children signed up for next year. If you are interested in a calendar for the 2012-2013 school year, all you have to do is go to the school web site at www.stpaulswr.org and click on the

school tab. You will find a link to it there.

Coming up at the end of the month is our Spring Break. Spring Break begins on Monday, March 26th and runs to March 30th. When the students come back from break, we will be in Holy Week. The children will be singing at the 12:10 Good Friday service.

One of the more remarkable things that has happened this school year is the return of Mrs. Burow to St.

Paul's. No, she is not back in her 3rd/4th grade classroom, but she has come back to volunteer one day a week. Every Friday, Mrs. Burow comes in to work with children one on one from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It has truly been a blessing to have her here. I know the children enjoy working with her, and she enjoys the time she spends with them. We thank the Lord that He has healed her body to the point that she is able to do this.

Footsteps Explores the Lions' Den



Roar! Join your friends at Footsteps to explore Daniel and the lions den. Footsteps will meet Tuesday, April 10th from 6 – 7:30pm. The children will act out the Bible story and have a special lion craft. We will also use our voices and rhythm instruments to sing about God's miraculous res-

cue. Children ages 2 – 6 are welcome to join us for this fun program. Parents are encouraged to attend, and siblings are welcome. We look forward to learning together about the power of God and his amazing rescue of Daniel!

Deficit Spending *Late Payment of Bills* by Norm Paul

Last December you graciously responded with love and generosity to a challenge and an opportunity. The opportunity was to see more precisely what the treasurer sees on a monthly basis. The challenge was to relieve the pain of trying to meet all of our obligations.

Again, we face the same challenge, the challenge to be motivated by the love and sacrifice of our Savior; and we see the same opportunity, the opportunity to enjoy God's blessing on our investments in his kingdom. No, these words are not meant to mask a darker problem, but to state the truth about supporting God's work. In God's world, it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. Investment in his kingdom is always blessed with amazing dividends. These blessings and dividends show in the life of our congregation (souls added to the Church), and in our lives (the forgiveness of your sins and the hope of eternal life in heaven).

We have no desire to try to motivate

you by some looming threat, or drive you by fear of disaster. With God there is no impossible problem, but only opportunities to listen, to love and to serve. It isn't that God has not given us the means to meet our obligations, for 10% of our collective gross income is \$2,000,000, or double our current budget. Nor is it that we have over spent. Our leaders are frustrated that we do not pay our workers a fair wage, or spend money on ministry opportunities to reach out with the Gospel.

The issue, of course, is nothing new. It seems every year the treasurer struggles with deficit spending and late payment of bills. He was alarmed last month that the utility companies threatened to turn off the gas and electricity.

The solution is simple and rewarding. An increase of 1% of income by each of us would increase the church's income by \$200,000, enough to give us a comfortable edge on meeting our current obligations. All who try it will find that

they barely notice the difference in their personal budgets, and that God's work enjoys more of the support it needs. This is not funny money talk. It is true and enjoys the blessing of God's love in Christ.

One percent may not seem like much to you, but it is life to lost and dying souls.

The hymn writer paraphrases God's Word this way,

*Lord, you love a cheerful giver
Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river
That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving
With a Spirit large and true
That our life and all our living
We may consecrate to you.*

*Blessed by you with gifts and graces
May we heed your Spirit's call,
Gladly in all times and places
Give to you who gives us all.
You have bought us; now no longer
Can we claim to be our own;
Ever free and ever stronger
We shall serve you, Lord, alone.*

A Reminder - Our church cookbook "Fruits of the Spirit" is available from Edna Haferman on Sunday mornings or from the church office during the week. If you already have one, it makes a great hostess gift for Easter, a gift for a young person going into their first apartment, a Mother's Day gift, or a wedding or shower gift. All proceeds go to reduce our mortgage.

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Thanks to John Nunn & Mikel (See John 20:1-18)

04-07-1999

Counting Our Blessings

YOU!

We baptized two children: Eleanor Rose Lepak, the daughter of Jacob & Mary Lepak, and Franklin Charles Sprecher, the son of Vaughn & Janelle Sprecher.

Special gift to help with VBS expenses.

George Hafermann, our brother in Christ, rests safely in his Savior's arms. Kept strong by the Gospel proclaimed at St. Paul's.

Large number of volunteers for Journey to the Cross.

Large number of volunteers for Children's Festival

Beautiful spring weather, so the children can play outside!

Special gift to cover the cost of staff meeting luncheon at Little Lambs

Special gift of new friendship registers for worship

Special gifts to cover unpaid bills.

Good health of Mrs. Burow

Almost \$2,400 for Ukrainian Lutheran Church from the school chapel offering.

Large gatherings for Lenten meals.

In the Mailbox

My Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone who graciously gave of their time and talents during George Hafermann's illness and death. You were a comfort to all of us, helping with rides, visits and prayers. I know I was sustained by this. I thanked the Lord for you and your overwhelming kindness in those days of stress.

George was not a person looking for praise. He simply wanted to serve God and his congregation. The out-pouring of loving care we have received was appreciated. We felt warmed and wrapped in your care.

George has now received his reward, the one God gives to faithful Christians. It will take time for us to realize that he is no longer here. As you know, George loved to sing. I like to visualize him singing with the angel choir, a comforting scenario.

I'd like to thank everyone for the wonderful funeral service: pastors, singers, organists; also for the funeral parlor assistants, and the people who prepared and served the food. I include the many people who took time out of their busy lives to call at the funeral home and to attend the church service, also for the memorials given.

May God bless all of you.

The Family of George Hafermann -Helen Kroening

Thank you for being so willing to partake in Franklin's special day, what a beautiful gift for him now to be a child of God. We're so excited to be raising Franklin in St. Paul's and look forward to the spiritual growth he will experience in the coming years.

Grace and peace,
Vaughn, Janelle & Franklin Sprecher

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through Feb. 26

Current Operating Expenses

- In memory of Laurie Quint's father given by Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Carol Jeffery given by her family
- In memory of Norma Yanta given by Radcliff United Methodist Church

Mortgage

- In memory of Laurie Quint's father, Earle Droppe, given by Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of her husband LaVern and her mother given by Dorothy Ubinger
- In memory of Eugene Joosten, Bill Joosten's dad, given by Russ & Linda Pollnow
- In memory of George Hafermann given by Chuck & Marcie Oestreich, and Don & Hazel Pagel
- In memory of Marge Budzinski (Bill Joosten's grandmother) given by Don & Hazel Pagel

School

- In memory of Laurie Quint's father, Earle Droppe, given by Bob & Katie Schalow
- In memory of Carol Jeffery given by her family

Handbells

- In memory of George Hafermann given by Larry & Veronica Klish

Press on Toward the Goal

- In celebration of Russ Pollnow's 60th birthday given by Mike & Judy Anderson
- In memory of Carol Jeffery given by her family

- In memory of the birthday of Alvin Haferman given by Edna Haferman
- In memory of George Hafermann given by Mike & Judy Anderson

Altar Guild

- In memory of Laurie Quint's father, Earle Droppe, given by Edna Hafermann
- In memory of their mothers' birthdays given by Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of George Hafermann given by Lavern & Delores Becker

Outdoor Sign Fund

- In memory of Meinhard Krueger, Elaine's cousin, given by Bill & Elaine Wittrock

Stampworks

- In memory of Carol Jeffery given by her family

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of her cousin, Meinhard Krueger, given by Edna Haferman
- In memory of Joyce Schroeder given by Edna Haferman



Help the Youth Group raise money
to attend the Youth Rally in June
Hire a Teen

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Work you want done: _____

Please complete and return to the office.



**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran
Church & School**

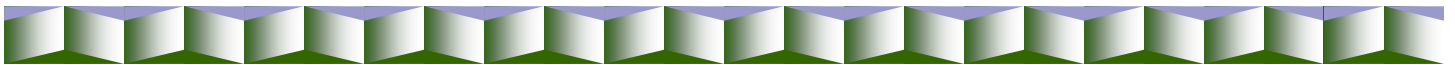
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March 2012 Edition



Worship the Risen Savior!



Easter Sunday Services

7:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast served 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

