

Called by Christ to Serve

***St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD***

May/June 2023

The Hope of the Resurrection

1 Peter 3:15b: always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

For so many people when you talk to them about sharing their faith with others, they get flustered. They know what they believe but to share that with others can be intimidating and scary. What if I say the wrong thing? What will the person think about me? What happens if I just don't know what to say? Questions like this flash through us as we think about worse case scenarios, but here's the dirty little secret. Sharing your faith with others is not that scary or even hard to do! I am not saying this because I am a pastor but because the Bible and Peter tells us simply what to say.

Look at what Peter says in 1 Peter 3:15. We need to be prepared to make a defense, or in other words, to share with others what we believe. However, Peter also tells us what we need to share with them. We need to share with them the hope that is in us.

Now before we continue it should be noted that Biblical hope. The hope Peter is talking about here is different than worldly hope. Worldly hope is simply wishful thinking. For example, "I hope my sports team wins this game". That is wishful thinking. However, Biblical hope is the assurance and the certainty of what is already ours. So, if that is the case what is the hope that Peter is talking about here? It is the hope of the resurrection. The hope of life everlasting. Or another way of putting it. It is the certainty of the resurrection and of life everlasting because of what our God has done for us!

That is what we share with others. We simply share with them the hope that is in us because of our God. We share with them what our God has done for us. That He sent His only begotten son to become part of His creation. So that he would carry all of our sins to the cross and die the death we deserve, but more than that, that he would rise three days later and conquer all of our enemies! Now we have life everlasting all because of what our God has done for us, because of his love for His creation and for you and me.

That's the Gospel! That's the wonderful news of what our God has done not just for us, but for all people. That is the wonderful news we get to share to proclaim to all who will listen. And we don't need to do this with eloquent speech or anything like that. We simply tell them about the Gospel, about what our God has done for us through Jesus. It really is that simple and the wonderful thing is that you are never alone. For the Holy Spirit is with you and he will give you the words to say and even if you think afterwards, "I should have said this!". Be comforted knowing that the Holy Spirit is working through us even if we don't say everything, we think we should have. Simply proclaim the Gospel and leave the rest to God. He knows what He is doing far better than us. May God help us to proclaim the hope that is in us.

In Christ,
Pastor Smith

Camp Minneboji: Registrations for Camp Minneboji are open! Camp Minneboji is our District Youth camp for youth completing grades 4-9 held every year at Camp Okoboji in Milford, IA. This year's camp dates are **June 18-24** and the theme is "Way + Truth + Life = JESUS" from John 14:6. Early bird registration is open now through April 1st and the regular registration **closes May 1** or when we are full so register early! We are also always looking for potential counselors and counselor assistants (CA's) to help us run Camp Minneboji. To register or get more information, please check us out at minneboji.com or on the South Dakota District

Five Loaves Supper



May 3rd at 5:15 pm. Menu: Goulash.
Members may bring a salad or a dessert to enhance the meal.

Prayer Service



A Prayer Service will be held on May 14th at 12:30pm.



A brief Special Voter's meeting will be held on Sunday, May 14th at 9:30 am.
Agenda items: summer Vicar and specialized mission support.



Missionary Presentation. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on Sunday, May 28 and Wednesday, May 31, I have the privilege of preaching here at St. Paul's. On Sunday, I will also be doing a mission presentation in between services during Bible study explaining why and how I will be serving with my family in Riga, Latvia. I will be doing the same presentation on Wednesday in the fellowship hall after the Wednesday service. Please consider coming and hearing how God is working in this region of the world. Thank you. Pastor Sam Bobby.

A Town Hall Meeting will be held on June 11th between services. This is an informational meeting held once a year between annual meetings. The Town Hall meeting will provide forums for communication and exchange between the Board of Elders, Church Council, and the Lighthouse Preschool. No voting shall take place at these meetings. Please plan on attending this informational meeting.

Fall Meatball Dinner – A change regarding the white elephant sale: This year we will have a Craft Sale, and will be accepting only brand new homemade craft items for the annual meatball dinner, which will be held on Oct. 1, 2023. All crafters (men & women) should plan ahead. Thank you.

The Bookstore has a great selection of cards. They have confirmation, mother's day, thank you, graduation, sympathy, wedding, anniversary, and get well cards, plus other special gifts. The bookstore is open between services.

APRIL USHERS:

EARLY:

Larry Jung, Head Usher
Cora Burrer
Landal Leonhardt

LATE:

Kenny Kilber, Head Usher
Norma Kilber
Don Blair

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA
February 20, 2023**

OPENING DEVOTION: Clint Fjelstad

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Pastor's Report: Gathering God's Flock Sunday which had 8-9 Volunteers to assist with visiting inactive members went well. Some Mercy Funds have been shared. See full report.
2. Elder's Report: Usher training has started for the Confirmands. Elders are working on getting the Usher Schedule completed. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated. We are down to 4 Elders. They are: Nate Bode, Kenny Kilber, Nels Olson, and Larry Jung. There is a need for more. Nate presented a new art idea for the Fellowship Hall.
3. Preschool Report: 13 students have enrolled to the fall session. Changing to an all-day program is being considered. Pre-school ministry moments are going well.
4. Council Meeting Minutes: October minutes were reviewed with no changes.
5. Council Treasurer's Report: Tom reviewed the December and January Budgets. Questions answered. Motion was made by Nate and seconded by Jason to approve reports. Motion carried.

CONSENSUS

No items.

POLICY REVIEW

Section 1 Outcome Policies were reviewed. Clint requested at some point we need to review and clarify the Election of Officers and Term limits. Referred to a later date.

MONITORING ITEMS

Council Review as per the Policy Manual 2.7.1(any concerns on the way we are governing.) Deb P. opened discussion on whether the council is communicating sufficiently with the members of the congregation on facility changes in reference to the reason for the change. Tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.Church Administrator Progress Report: Cindy clarified where we are at with the needed boiler repair. The company is claiming the Warranty will not cover the needed repairs. Following discussion, it was recommended by the group to contact the Synod legal counsel to check on our rights in this situation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Terry Ellingson with Michael Leapley's guidance will lead the Bible Study for the next council meeting which will be held April 17, 2023.

BIBLE STUDY

Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. Led by Tom Kaiser.

ADJOURNMENT: Deb made a motion, seconded by Tom K. to adjourn. Motion carried.

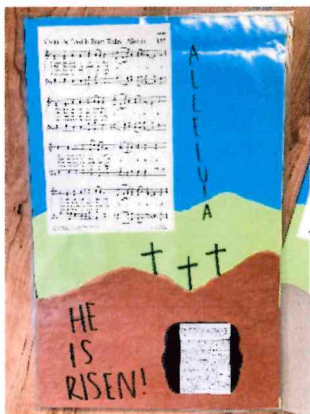
Members in attendance: Clint Fjelstad, Tom Agnitsch, Jason Oberfoell, Deb Pederson, Cindy Jung, Pastor Bobby, Michael Leapley, Tom Kaiser, Terry Ellingson, Dennis Stoebner

Absent: Steve Jacobson and Pastor Smith

Submitted: Deb Pederson

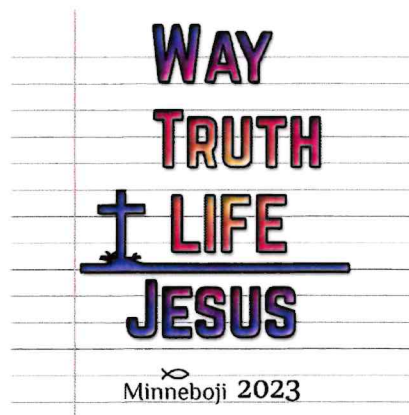
Check It Out!

The Lutheran Basketball Tournament was a blast! We had five teams from around the circuit compete on Palm Sunday (top left). The “Bomb Squad” of St. John’s Rural were our 2023 champions (top right). Children sang “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” on Palm Sunday (bottom right). The youth group hosted Easter breakfast again this year. They made Easter posters to present to our Sunday School children as a gift (bottom left).



Events and Information

- Youth Group
 - May 14th
 - Cancelled on May 28th
- JD2D Trip – Sioux Falls
 - May 25th-27th
- Camp Minneboji
 - June 18th-24th



Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

May 2023

All good things must come to an end...

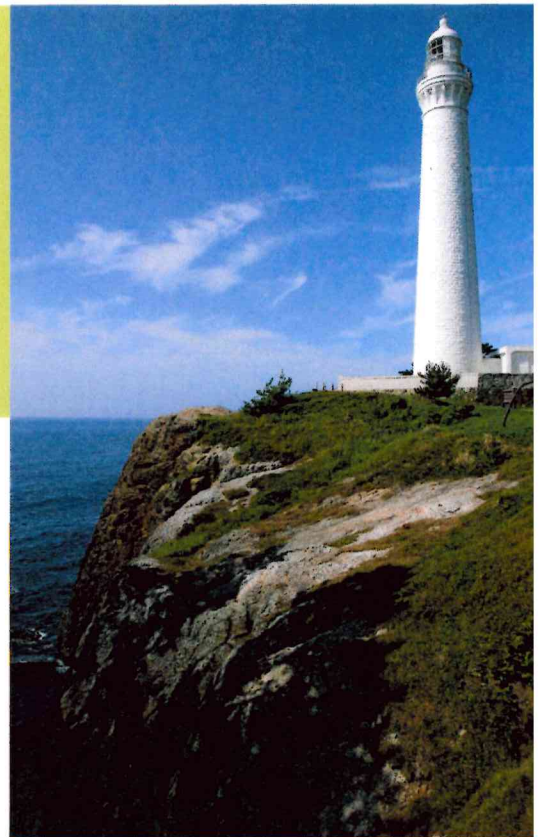
May is here, and with it brings the end of our school year! The children have all worked extremely hard this year and have grown so much in their faith, academics, social and physical development! As we finish out our year, we will continue working on our Spring Program and enjoy our final weeks together.

April was full of learning adventures! Our favorite topic of the month was our caterpillar and butterfly unit. We not only talked about caterpillars and butterflies, but we also are raising some in our classroom! We are watching the caterpillars grow and change. When they finally emerge as butterflies from their chrysalis, we will release them all outdoors! Another highlight of our month was our visit to Caleb's aquatics pet store. The children really enjoyed learning about pets and having the opportunity to get some hands on experiences!

The preschool needs your help!

We are collecting donations of baked items to sell at our spring program on May 15th! We are also looking for donations of succulent plants, baby plant starts, or extra vegetable plants to have out for sale as well.

We are asking that all donations be brought to church by Friday, May 12th so that we can have them set out between church services on Sunday. Please have all baked items pre-packaged into individual Ziplock bags. Thank you for your consideration!



Upcoming Dates:

May 12- Spring raffle fundraiser ends- All tickets and money due today!

May 15th- Spring Program and graduation

May 18th- Last Day of Preschool



Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

Hymn #866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend, to each of them your
presence send;
Call them by name and keep them true in loving faith, dear Lord,
to You.

That all of us, your children dear, by Christ redeemed, may Christ
revere:

Lead us in joy that all we do will witness to our love for You.

REMINDERS:

Registrations are now
being accepted for the
2023-2024 School year!
Please call the preschool
for more information or pick
up a registration packet in
the South entrance to the
sanctuary.



Having fun on our field trip to Caleb's Aquatics!

Thank you everyone for your encouragement and support this school year!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool
Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



Every Sunday
Divine Service @ 8am
Bible Study @ 9:30 am
Sunday School @ 9:30am
Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7:00 pm Elder Mtg.	3 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Five Loaves Supper 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Roman's Bible Study	4 9am Good Cheer Circle Meeting	5	6
7 Coin Banks	8	9	10 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Roman's Bible Study	11 9am Quilting 11:30am LVMIL Meeting /lunch	12	13 1-3pm Open House Graduation Party Judah Bobby and Isaac Jung
14 9:30am Special Voter's Meeting 12:30pm Prayer Service 5-7:00 pm Youth Group meeting	15 6:15 Lighthouse Preschool Graduation Program	16	17 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Roman's Bible Study	18 9am Quilting Ascension Service @ Groton 7:00pm RGI mtg.	19	20
21 Last Day of Sunday School 2:00pm Gathering God's Flock	22	23	24 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Roman's Bible Study	25 9am Quilting	26	27
28 9:30am Mission Presentation Food Bank	29 Church Office Closed	30	31 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7pm Mission Presentation			