

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

You Otto Know

April
2014

*We are a family of believers living, sharing and celebrating the love of Jesus
in our community and throughout the world.*

Church Office - (636) 942-4250

Pastor Charles Schultz
Website - www.saintpaulslcms.org

Pastor's Cell - 314-779-4714

Be The Parent That God has Called You To Be

Parenting may be the hardest thing that we do on this earth. Raising Christian children in a culture that is ever growing more anti-Christian is tough. Our children hear many different voices, many of which are non-Christian therefore our voices need to be heard loud and clear. We often struggle in our parenting skills (including this pastor and his wife) and sometimes fall into the lie spread in our culture that church attendance isn't important. I found the following article being spread on Facebook and thought that it was relevant for us Christian parents to hear. It's titled: Why I Would Never Force my Kids to go to Church.

My parents forced me to eat three times a day growing up. No joke. Three times. Every. Single. Day. And it wasn't always stuff I liked, either. Matter of fact, I complained a lot about what my mom made. "Ewww, gross! Sauteed zucchini? Seriously? Mom, you know we *hate* this stuff!" So as I approached adulthood I made an important decision. Since my parents forced me to eat while I was growing up, I decided I was done with meals. Oh, here and there I'll eat out of obligation. I mean, family traditions like Thanksgiving and Christmas, yeah, I'm there. But daily eating? No way. I'm done.

Set in any other context, excuses people make for not going to church sound completely ridiculous. But set in the context of Christianity, people say these things in all seriousness while others nod sagely in somber agreement.

My son told me a few weeks into school that he didn't like the teacher. He wasn't getting excited enough about learning, and he didn't really feel connected to the other kids in his class, so I told him he never had to go back to school again. Who wants to waste their time going somewhere where they aren't being fulfilled?

We've never forced our daughter to stay off the road when playing. We don't want to restrict her imagination. We allow her the freedom to make her own choices in life.

Okay, Ruth. Come on. That one was just ridiculous. No loving parent would ever say that. That's a safety issue — a matter of life and death. Exactly. And that's just my point.

Church isn't a place you go to get pumped up about life. It isn't entertainment like a movie or concert. It is literally a life and death matter. Eternal life. Just as a loving parent wouldn't allow their child to wander in the road or to quit school, a loving Christian parent also does not give the option to their children about going to church, learning Bible stories at home, and praying together. Do your kids always jump for joy when they hear you say, "Time to get up! Let's get ready for church!" No. They won't. Do they get excited for school every morning? Hardly. But you still make them go. Why? Because you are the parent and you know what's best. Even when they complain, you serve them healthful meals and limit their junk food intake. You set boundaries for their own safety when playing outside. You insist they go to school because you're looking at the long term picture. And you are right to do those things. How much more so are you responsible for doing all you can to secure their eternal well being?

Continued on the Next Page

Yes, kids can be brought up in a loving Christian home and still turn away later. That's on them. But you, parents, have a task of the utmost importance. God has placed these precious children into your homes for such a brief while. You have them with you for perhaps 1/5 of their lives. Set a strong foundation while they are under your roof. Take them to church. Make sure they understand that they are sinners and that Jesus is their Savior. They are never too young to learn this. My one-and-a-half year old sees a cross and excitedly shouts, "Jesus!" Don't use the excuse that "they wouldn't understand this." Try them. I don't understand it all myself, but I still believe. And you'd better believe that the Holy Spirit works in their hearts effectively. My children sometime amaze me with the insights they pick up during devotions or Bible readings. The strength of their faith often humbles me. Once when I was having a terrible day, my oldest asked, "Can I pray with you?" He was nine at the time. He knows there is power in prayer. He perceives that sometimes there's nothing he can say that will make it better, so he'll just go straight to the One who does have that power. Do my own kids complain about church? Yes. Do they tell me it's boring? Sometimes, yes. They say the same things about school. But church and school are different environments for a reason. School is centered around learning and thus has its own schedule and structure. Church is a hospital for sinners. That would be all of us, mind you. You, me, the drug dealer a few streets away — all of us are sinners in need of a Savior.

So what do we do at church? We confess our sins. Why do we do this at the start? To "wipe our feet" before entering God's house, so to speak. Then we are assured of forgiveness. We hear God's Word. We sing hymns proclaiming what Christ has done for us. We hear sermons where our pastors preach Christ. We don't go to church to hear what we have to do to gain heaven. No, Christ did it all. 100%. We can't do one thing to merit salvation for ourselves. That's why we hear sermons about Jesus and not about us. We take the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion for the strength of our souls. And we depart refreshed to serve God by serving our families, friends, and neighbors in Christian love.

So parents, don't give in to outside pressures telling you not to force your kids to go to church. Don't give in to *them*, either, when they complain about it. Because at some point an amazing thing happens — that kid who complains about church grows up and takes his or her own kids to church every Sunday. Going back to my opening analogy, believe it or not, there came a point in my own life where I realized I actually *liked* sauteed zucchini (although I never would have admitted that to my mother). Keep at it, parents. Just as we need three meals a day for physical strength and nourishment, so do we need regular worship to refresh and strengthen our souls. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go make breakfast.

Blessed to be a Blessing,

Pastor Schultz

Men's Club Report

The Men's Club met on March 25th, we discussed these topics:

- Easter Breakfast will be served starting at approx. 7:45 am. The menu includes biscuits & gravy, eggs, ham & donuts, lots of donuts. Please join make sure to join us for breakfast on Easter.
- The fellowship lunch has been put on the "back burner" until early fall.
- Thank you to all who purchased Gus's Pretzels! We will be selling them again soon.
- Planning continues for another outing to the Gateway Grizzlies, probably in June or July.
- Planning continues for a Men's Club Retreat.
- Any men interested in the LHM Men's Network Fishing Contest should see Pastor for details.
- Any men interested in the LHM Men's Network Work Day should see Pastor by April 10th.
- Future meetings will take place in the Conference Room as we will be watching and discussing short videos from the LHM Men's Network after our short business meeting.
- All confirmed males of the congregation are invited to join us; we meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Youth Group Culvers Night

Tuesday, April 1
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Arnold

Join us for food
and fellowship as the
Youth Group

brings you your food.
A portion of all sales will
go to the Youth Group
to support this
summer's trip to the
Higher Things
Conference in
Wisconsin.

Worship Assistance Teams

Worship Assistance Teams have been assigned to each week of the month. Simply check to see which team you are on and that is the week you will serving.

Team 1 - Week 1 (April 6)

Ushers - Sonya & Bill Jeffries, Jeff Nahlik, Lloyd Linhorst

Greeters - Mary Nahlik, Faith Nahlik, Ginny Todd

Acolyte - Zach Jeffries

Sound Board - Jason Nahlik

Team 2 - Week 2 (April 13)

Ushers - Virgin & Diane Benson, Justin Benson, Murel Warren

Greeters - Michelle Benson, Colleen Schultz, Diane Benson

Acolyte - Ben Warren

Sound Board - Ben Weibrecht

Team 3 - Week 3 (April 20)

Ushers - Charlie Friedman, Becky Vogel, Nathan Aiello, Alec Aiello

Greeters - Cap & Vi Miller, Jerry & Betty Vogelsang

Acolytes - Lexi Mueller, Adrian Cantu

Sound Board - Jacob Vogel

Team 4 - Week 4 (April 27)

Ushers - Jason Schaub, Bill Weeke, Jerry Burchett, Nancy Brooks

Greeters - Bill & Carol Weeke, Nancy Brooks, Arlie Ehlmann

Acolytes - Lexi Schaub, Nick Frank

Stewardship Board Report

The Lenten Coin Folder donations will be sent to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Thank you in advance to everyone for your support.

You should have received in your church mailbox a survey about electronic giving. Please return your completed surveys to an Elder or a member of the Board of Stewardship by March 30.

The next scrip order will be placed on Sunday, March 30. If you would like to place an order please give the order form and money to Melanie Weibrecht.

The following is a list of cards we have on hand:

\$10 cards - Amazon.com, Arby's, Bob Evans, Burger King, Denny's, Panera Bread, Pizza Hut, Starbuck's, Steak 'n Shake, Subway, Taco Bell and Wendy's

\$25 cards - Applebee's, Cabela's, Chili's/Macaroni Grill, Cracker Barrel, Kohls, Red Lobster/Olive Garden/Longhorn, Fazoli's, Old Navy/Gap/Banana Republic, Old Country Buffet, Qdoba, Red Robin, Ruby Tuesday, Target, Texas Roudhouse, Walgreen's and Walmart.

Vicki Wallen, Bryan Goforth and Melanie Weibrecht

At Our Church ---

Culver's Night

Tuesday, April 1 @ 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Culvers Restaurant in Arnold

Sponsored by Youth Group to help fund this summer's Higher Things trip

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19 @ 1:00p.m.

Easter Services

Sunday, April 20 @ 6:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast sponsored by Men's Club following Sunrise Service.

The 7:30 a.m. early service will resume the Sunday after Easter (4/27).

In the Community ---

Passover Seder

Sponsored by Burning Bush Ministries & Congregation Chai V'Shalom

Sunday, April 13, 2014 @ 3:00-6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Des Peres, MO

RSVP - (314) 645-4456

Thank you to everybody who supported this year's Youth Group Dinner Theatre.



A special thanks goes out to those who helped with props and the dinner. Also, thank you to all the actors and stage hands who practiced and put on a great play. And finally — a big thank you to Murel Warren for once again writing and directing this year's play "Star Warp: A Space Opera."

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19

1:00 p.m.



For kids of all ages!