



Lent and Easter Events at First

Lent is the annual 40-day journey Christians take to prepare them for Easter. Walk with us on this journey starting Wednesday, February 18 with our Ash Wednesday service. Take part in the various happenings this Lent at First Christian-St. Paul.

Lenten Devotions

On Fridays and Sundays we will gather to hear selections from the Lenten Devotional, A Bright Sadness. We will meditate and discuss the text and then prayer for each other on our lenten journey. Sundays at 11AM Downstairs.

Lenten Prayer Room (in the Library)

The Library will be set as a place for people to come to pray and meditate. In this busyness of life, we hope this place can be a refuge to commune with God.

- Wednesdays 6:30PM -8:00PM starting February 25
- Sundays 8:45AM-11:30AM Starting February 22

Check Out our Holy Week Events on Page 5.

A Bright Sadness

Words from First

By Dennis L. Sanders



When I started to think about a theme for the upcoming season of Lent, I stumbled upon the phrase “A Bright Sadness.” I learned

that this phrase comes from Orthodox Christianity and it describes the odd joining of deep joy and grief, not the two things you would think could come together.

I thought about that theme as my father was dealing with illness in a transitional care facility. At the time I thought about the Dad’s condition which was part of an overall decline in health that would lead to death. It seemed fitting. I had no idea how fitting it was going to be. On January 31, Dad died in his sleep. He was 85 years old.

Dad’s death was an actual example of bright sadness. Dad’s health had been declining for years. He had a combination of congestive heart failure and COPD, which made him a little bit weaker over time. There is always

sadness when a parent passes away, but the grief is mixed in with the joy that he is no longer in pain.

I know enough of this faith community to know that we all deal with sadness in our lives. I also know that even in the midst of sadness, there is the Easter hope of resurrection, of grace and forgiveness.

So, this Lent we will focus on the Bright Sadness. We will start with Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 7PM. We will remember the hungry

A Bright Sadness

Lent 2015 @ First Christian-St. Paul

by participating in the annual Minnesota Foodshare Drive to benefit the Mahtomedi Area Foodshelf. And we will gather for prayer and devotions on Sundays, reading selections from the book “A Bright Sadness” by David Maddalena.

We enter into Lent being made aware of the sadness in our own hearts, and of those around us. But we enter trusting in the promises of Easter.

-Dennis Sanders, Pastor

Happenings

Life together at First-St. Paul

Lenten Devotionals

Starting February 22, stay after worship for a short devotional. We will gather to hear a passage from the Bible, reflect on it's meaning and pray together. Join us each Sunday during Lent starting at 11:00AM.

Monthly Potluck

Join us on March 8 and April 12 in the North Basement after worship.

Lenten Prayer Room

Are you looking for a place where you can be silent and meditate with God? Come to our Lenten Prayer Room in the Library. It's open on Wednesday from 6:30PM-8:00PM and Sundays from 8:45AM to Noon.

Church Board Meeting

The board of First Christian Church meets monthly every third Tuesday. Join us on March 17 and April 21 at 5:30PM.

First Read

We will finally have a discussion of the book, the Kingdom Conspiracy on March 18th at 6:15PM here at the church. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

Minnesota Foodshare

March means the annual Minnesota Foodshare March campaign where congregations and other institutions across Minnesota raise money and food for local foodshelves. Our goal is to raise \$100 and/or 50 pounds to benefit the Mahtomedi Area Foodshelf. Make a note that on March 22, we

Listen Again, or for the First Time.

fccstpaul.com/sermons



THE CALLER

The Newsletter of First Christian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota

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Staff

Dennis Sanders: Supply Pastor.
 Chris Wogaman: Interim Musician.
 Luke Swanger: Interim Musician.

First Christian Church-St. Paul is a Christian community centered in faith, mission and fellowship.

Happenings

Life together at First-St. Paul

will take part in Pack the Pews, where we plan to have enough food to fill, well, a pew!

Mission Sunday

Fourth Sunday is always Mission Sunday at First. Please bring your loose change to support one of our Mission Partners. On March 22 our loose change will go to support the Mahtomedi Area Foodshelf. On April 26 our offerings will support Solid Ground.

Volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter in 2015

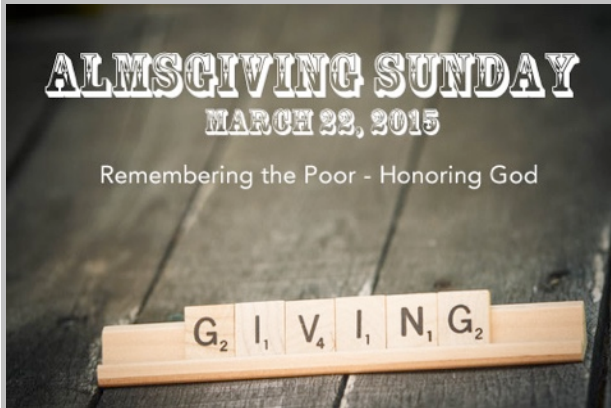
The 2015 dates to volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter have been set. The five

church coalition that includes First will volunteer the weeks of May 4 and October 5. Thanks to all those who volunteered in January. If you are interested in volunteering in May or October, please contact Janice Paulson.

Feed My Starving Children

Our next time to pack food is on Saturday, April 25 2015 at the FMSC facility in Coon Rapids starting at 9:00AM. If you would like to go, fill out the sign up sheet in the lobby.

Introducing Almsgiving Sunday



Lent is supposed to focus on prayer, fasting and [almsgiving](#) or helping the poor. As part of First Christian's lenten practice, on March 22 we will have our first Almsgiving Sunday. It starts with our "Pack the Pews" event benefiting the [Mahtomedi Area Foodshelf](#). The goal is to donate enough food to pack

one church pew. So, don't forget to bring your nonperishable food item to make our pew overflow with food!

After worship, join us downstairs as we make sandwiches for the [Dignity Center](#). The Dignity Center is a ministry of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis that seeks to help those who are homeless get back on their feet.

Join us as we seek to honor God by remembering the poor among us.

Holy Week 2015

First Christian Church-St. Paul



Palm Sunday - Maundy Thursday- Good Friday- Easter Sunday

Worship Schedule for March 29-April 5

Holy Week is one of the most moving weeks of the church year. It is the week that we remember the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, but also the time of year we remember his love for all of us as he washes the feet of his disciples. The services are full of rich tradition and movement.

Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9:30AM

On the day that Christ entered Jerusalem, we will gather to sing songs of praise and wave our palm branches high!

Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7PM

On this day, Jesus gathered with his disciples one more time before he was arrested. They shared in the Lord's Supper and so will we. We will start with a soup supper downstairs at 6PM and then come upstairs to sing, hear the story of the Last Supper and partake in Communion.

Good Friday, April 3 at 9AM

We are restarting our prayer vigil. Starting at 9AM and ending at 3PM, people will take an hour for prayer. You can pray at home or in the Lenten Prayer Room at the church. If you are interested in participating, please call the church or email us at info@fccstpaul.com.

Good Friday, April 3 at 7PM

On the day that Jesus died, we will gather in a special service with songs, scripture and silence.

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:30AM

Christ is Risen! Join us for our festive worship at 9:30AM with breakfast starting at 8:30AM.

If you have something you would like to have in the newsletter, please contact Pastor Dennis. Submissions can be sent to info@fccstpaul.com. Please send your items by the 20th of the month.

Prayer Requests March-April 2015

In Our Prayers:

- For Jeff Halseth whose mother died on February 11.
- Dorothy Cordes, Edna Lundgren, Vern Stenback and other homebound members.
- Dave Peightal, Tom Knobel, and all driving trucks.
- Missy Stone's great nephew, Carter.
- Prayers for David Neilsen, a friend of Charles and Linda Moore who is dealing with total kidney failure.
- For Chris Wogaman as he discerns his future.
- For Pastor Dennis Sanders and his mother, Maria as they mourn the death of his father Dennis on January 31.
- For Maria Sanders (Pastor Dennis' mother) as she moves from Michigan to Minnesota.
- Those seeking work.

If you have a prayer concern to share leave a message by phone at (651) 779-3033 or by email at info@fccstpaul.com.

Are you in need of financial assistance? Do you live in the Mahtomedi School District? The Good Neighbor Club of Mahtomedi & Willernie is available to provide Emergency or temporary financial help and assistance for School District 832 residents. Janet 651-429-7212, Arlita 426-2291, Terri 491-6335. To learn more about the Good Neighbor Club visit them online at mahtomedignc.org.



Heading Home Washington

Three members from First Christian took part in the annual Point In Time Homelessness Survey on Jan. 22. Folks around the state were going out to take a count of how many people were homeless on this evening. Washington County, where the church is located is ramping up it's work to help the homeless in the county with Heading Home Washington. Thanks to Washington County, MN and Mike Fouts of Hope for the Journey Shelter in Oakdale for getting us involved!



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First Christian-St. Paul Calendar

March-April 2015

Sunday, March 15

- 8:45AM Lenten Prayer Room
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study
- 11:00AM Lenten Devotions

Tuesday,
March 17

- 5:30PM Church Board Meeting

Wednesday,
March 18

- 1:00PM Pastor's Hours
- 6:15PM First Read Book Club
- 6:30PM Lenten Prayer Room
- 7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, March 22

- 8:45AM Lenten Prayer Room
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study
- 10:45AM Sandwich Making

Wednesday,
March 25

- 1:00PM Pastor's Hours
- 6:30PM Lenten Prayer Room
- 7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, March 29

- 8:45AM Lenten Prayer Room
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study
- 11:00AM Lenten Devotions

Wednesday,
April 1

- 1:00PM Pastor's Hours

Thursday,
April 2

- 6:00PM Soup Supper
- 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday,
April 3

- 7:00PM Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5

- 8:30AM Easter Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Sunday, April 12

- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Wednesday,
April 15

- 1:00PM Pastor's Hours
- 7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, April 19

- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study

Tuesday,
April 21

- 5:30PM Church Board Meeting

Saturday,
April 25

- 9:00AM Feed My Starving Children-Coon Rapids

Sunday, April 26

- 9:30 AM Worship
- 9:45AM Children's Bible Study

THE CALLER March-April 2015

First Christian Church of St. Paul

Faith. Mission. Community.

Dennis Sanders- Stated Supply Pastor

Phone: (651) 779-3033

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Join us for worship
Sunday at 9:30am.



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