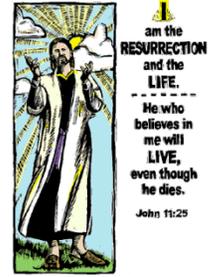




NEWS OF WARTBURG PARISH
303 N. Mulberry St., Steeleville, IL
Lent, 2018



I am the
RESURRECTION
and the
LIFE.

He who believes in
me will
LIVE,
even though
he dies.
John 11:25

Reflections

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

– Romans 8:37-39

In this Church year of 2018 Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day. Did you know that Valentine’s Day is not just a holiday made up by Hallmark? Here is the legend of St. Valentine:

In 270 A.D., marriage had been outlawed by the emperor of Rome, Claudius II. Claudius issued this decree because he thought that married men made bad soldiers since they were reluctant to be torn away from their families in the case of war. Claudius had also outlawed Christianity in this time period because he wished to be praised as the one supreme god, the Emperor of Rome. Valentine was the bishop of Interamna during this period of oppression. Valentine thought that the decrees of Rome were wrong. He believed that people should be free to love God and to marry. Valentine invited the young couples of the area to come to him. When they came, Valentine secretly performed services of matrimony and united the couples.

Valentine was eventually caught and was brought before the emperor. The emperor saw that Valentine had conviction and drive that was unsurpassed among his men. Claudius tried and tried to persuade Valentine to leave Christianity, serve the Roman empire and the Roman gods. In exchange, Claudius would pardon him and make him one of his allies. St. Valentine held to his faith and did not renounce Christ. Because of this, the emperor sentenced him to a three-part execution. First, Valentine would be beaten, then stoned, and finally, decapitated. Valentine died on February 14th, 270 A.D.

While in prison, waiting for his sentence to be carried out, Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the jailers. One of them was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter, the blind Asterius. Valentine sent her a final farewell note; he signed his last note, "From Your Valentine." Even today, this message remains as the motto for our Valentine's Day celebrations.

The Bible Says: *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13) These are Jesus words. God showed us this love by coming in Christ to die for our sins. And St. Valentine demonstrated this love when he died for his friends. This is the kind of love that Valentine's Day is really about. How fitting that we begin our Lenten journey on the day set aside to commemorate the day of such self-less love.

Please journey with us throughout the coming Lenten season as we remember our Covenant of Baptism at each service to be held on Wednesdays. You will find a schedule in this newsletter.

Your Sister in Christ,
Deb Jo <><





**Wartburg Parish Lenten Worship:
Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism**

The Wartburg Parish invites you to join us for worship on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. There will be two opportunities to attend Lenten services this year on Wednesdays in Lent:

Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 – All afternoon services held at Peace, Steeleville

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 – Rotating Schedule:

- February 21 at St. John’s, Post Oak – *To Live Among God’s Faithful People*
- February 28 at Peace, Steeleville – *To Hear God’s Word, and Share in the Lord’s Supper*
- March 7 at St. John’s, Bremen – *To Proclaim the Good News of Christ through Word and Deed*
- March 14 at Peace, Chester – *To Serve All People, Following the Example of Christ*
- March 21 at St. Peter, Wine Hill– *To Strive for Justice and Peace in All the World*

This year we invite you to join us at 6:00 PM at each of these locations for a simple Soup and Sandwich meal. Following the meal we will move to the Sanctuary for worship. Each service will last about 30 minutes and will include lessons, a meditation and prayers. Please plan to join us for these services.

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LENTEN PRAY STATIONS – during Lent at Peace, Steeleville there will be pray stations. Please stop by and learn a new way to pray.

March 30th – Good Friday Tenebre
Good Friday Children’s Service –Mark your calendars! We will be having a Sunday school and youth event on Good Friday. While we are not sure what we are going to do at this point or what time, we can assure you it will be a great time! Please plan to us at Peace, Steeleville and bring some friends! Watch your bulletins for future information.



Morning Prayer continues every Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM in the chapel at Peace, Steeleville.



Bible Studies Opportunities
Parish Wednesday Morning Bible Study – we are studying 1 Peter at Peace, Steeleville at 9:30am in the library.

Everyone is invited. The cost of the book is \$7.00.



All are invited to the Wartburg Parish Council meetings – We meet the fourth Monday at 7pm with the following rotation for 2017:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Feb. – Post Oak | April - Bremen |
| Mar. – Steeleville | May – Chester |



Confirmation – During the season of Lent we are asking all confirmation students to join us at 6:00 at the Lenten series host church for soup

and sandwich supper and to do some informal small group discussions. Following this students and family members will move to the sanctuary to attend the Lenten services. Regular classes for both the 7th and 8th grade students through Lent will be replaced with this fellowship and worship time.

The Southern Conference Spring Assembly will be held Sunday, March 4, 2018 at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Campbell Hill. Registration begins at 2:30 pm, Worship at 3:00 pm, program to follow and we finish with supper from 5 – 6pm. A donation of \$6/person for the meal will be appreciated.

The program will be Central/Southern Illinois synod mission interpreters and Julie Stellhorn, Community Engagement Leader from Thrivent Financial.

At the business meeting we will take the following elections:

1. Global Mission Committee- need one lay person
2. Social ministry/Justice/Advocacy Committee- need one person
3. Candidacy Committee- need one person but Lynn Smith from Epiphany in Carbondale (who is currently serving on the committee) can be re-elected for 1 more term.

Parish Congregational Services For Holy Week

Peace, Chester

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 5:00pm with distribution of ashes and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, Mar 29, 5:00pm with Holy Communion and stripping of altar

Good Friday, Mar. 30, 5:00pm

Easter Sunday, Apr. 1, 10:30am, Easter Worship

Peace, Steeleville

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 12:30pm & 7:00pm

Palm Sunday, March 24 (6pm) /25 (9am). Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 29, 12:30pm & 7:00pm

Good Friday, Mar. 30, 12:30pm & 7:15pm

Children's Service - time to be determined

Holy Saturday: Mar. 31, 6:00pm Service of Prayer and Silence in Chapel

Easter Morning: April 1

6:00am Easter Service of Light and the First Eucharist of Easter

7:00am Easter Breakfast

8:15am Sunday School/Easter Egg Hunt for Preschool through 6th Grade

9:30am Easter Festival Communion Service

St. John's, Bremen

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6:30pm with distribution of ashes and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 29, 6:30pm with Holy Communion and stripping of altar

Good Friday, Mar. 30, 6:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 1, 6:30am Sunrise Worship Service

8:45am Easter Worship

St. John's, Post Oak

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00pm, Worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes,

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 29, 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, Apr. 1, 6:00am, Sunrise Worship followed by Easter breakfast

8:30am Easter Worship with Holy Communion

St. Peter's, Wine Hill

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1:00pm Worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Good Friday, Mar. 30, 7:00pm, Worship

Easter Sunday, Apr. 1, 8:30am Breakfast

10:00am Easter Worship with Holy Communion



TREDE SCHOLARSHIP FOR BREMEN AND PEACE, STEELEVILLE

The Herman Trede and Esther Trede Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to any student(s) who is a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL or St. John's Lutheran Church, Chester (Bremen), IL and will be attending a Lutheran college, university or theological seminary. This scholarship can be picked up in the office of Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville. Deadline for application is May 1st.



Save the Dates:

QUILTERS: Each Tuesday from 8AM to 3PM the quilters meet at St. John, Bremen to quilt in the church basement. All quilters are welcome. Bring your own lunch.

DOMINOES – First Sunday of each month at St. John, Bremen at 6:30pm in the Parish hall.



NEWS FLASH!!!!

This year VBS at Peace, Steeleville will be held from June 18 through June 22, 2018.



The next meeting of the **Wartburg Parish Women of the ELCA** will be Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Peace Lutheran Church,

Steeleville. For the Service Project, we will be stuffing Easter eggs with candy. Please bring plastic Easter eggs and individually wrapped candy.

The Women of the ELCA would like to thank everyone for making donations and purchasing ELCA Good Gifts ornaments during Advent. We collected enough to purchase 10 Chicks, 4 Honeybees, 2 Goats, 4 School Supplies, and Food or a family. You also donated \$311.00 to be used as needed. This was a total of \$656.00. Thank you for your generous donations.

At the May 3rd meeting, we will have election of officers.

