



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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OUR Mission: To Reach out and share God's gifts, proclaiming Jesus.

A Letter from St. Paul

From the Pastor

February 2018

Grace and peace be to you in the name of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

As we are still engaging in our 500-day reformation and the season of Lent is one of renewal, it would be productive if, as a congregation, we took this time to intentionally renew our spiritual practices. In particular, I believe we should work on seeking to pray and read Scripture daily, which also makes regular worship daily.

To accomplish this, we will use the traditional major prayer offices of the Church. These are known as evening prayer (Vespers), night prayer (Compline), and morning prayer (Matins). These prayers help us to refocus our lives and time on what God is doing in our lives and in the world.

These prayer offices are ancient. Believers started using these prayer offices when the Church was still an early second Temple Jewish sect. In fact, the book of Acts refers to the early Christians praying various offices. The whole Church, from the newest believer to the oldest bishop, prayed these prayers every day. When the Church went "mainstream," not all Christians were as diligent in their practice as they had been. But the prayer offices survived in the monasteries.

When Luther came on the scene, he called for the home to become little house of prayer, in which the family would pray a modified form of the prayer offices.

The prayer offices are meant to be part of your daily routine, just like brushing your teeth. These short prayer services are to help you re-center and refocus on Jesus. These prayers keep me grounded in my faith and they teach me how to pray. I find one of the best parts to the daily prayer offices is that I do not need to be creative in the words I use to pray to God. Before I started using the prayer offices, my devotional life was lackluster because I always felt like my prayers weren't good enough, so I didn't pray. The prayer offices fixed that for me.

Our mid-week services will be very simple this Lent. By not having a meal we can put more energy into our prayer life. Our evening prayer service will begin at 7PM and we will use our simple prayer offices with the season's daily lectionary.

Let us pray together the prayers the Church has prayed for centuries. There is wisdom in the offices. They proclaim the Love of Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Paul+

