

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders 2nd — Brien Lindstrom 9th — David Vetter 16th — Matt Perkovich 23rd — Ron Schill 30th — John Lee	Ushers 2nd & 9th — Ron Schill, Joel Carbone 16th & 23rd — Mark Reetz, Andrew Lund 30th — Steve Loy, Zane Carey, David Vetter	Acolytes 2nd—Zoe Schuldheisz 9th—Andrew Vetter 16th—Emil Augustine 23rd—Pippa Marie Adams 30th—Jack Wedin	Counters 2nd—Mike & Lisa 9th—Mike & John 16th—John & Mark 23rd—Todd & Steve 30th—Mike & Lisa	Altar Guild Linda & Trina		1
2 9:30am—D.S. IV 10:45am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School	3 6:30pm—Confirmation	4 10:00am—Women's Bible Study 6:30pm—Elder's Mtg. 7:00pm—Trustee's Mtg.	5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 = Divine Service 7:00— Divine Service	6	7 Pastor Off Office Closed	8 8:00 Men's Bible Study
9 9:30am—D.S. IV 10:45am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School	10 6:30pm—Confirmation	11 10:00am—Women's Bible Study	12 12:00— Lent Service 7:00pm— Lent Service	13	14 Pastor Off Office Closed	15
16 9:30am—D.S. IV 10:45am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage	17 6:30pm—Confirmation	18 10:00am—Women's Bible Study	19 12:00— Lent Service 7:00pm— Lent Service	20 First Day Spring	21 Pastor Off Office Closed	22
23 9:30am—D.S. IV 10:45am—Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 12:00 Sp. Voter's Mtg.	24 6:30pm—Confirmation	25 10:00am—Women's Bible Study	26 12:00— Lent Service 7:00pm— Lent Service	27 9:30 am—Sewing 6:30 pm—Stewardship Mtg.	28 Pastor Off Office Closed	29
30 9:30am—D.S. IV 10:45am—Bible Study & Children's Sunday School	31 6:30pm—Confirmation					



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Church Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

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The Messenger

*Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and
Preschool*

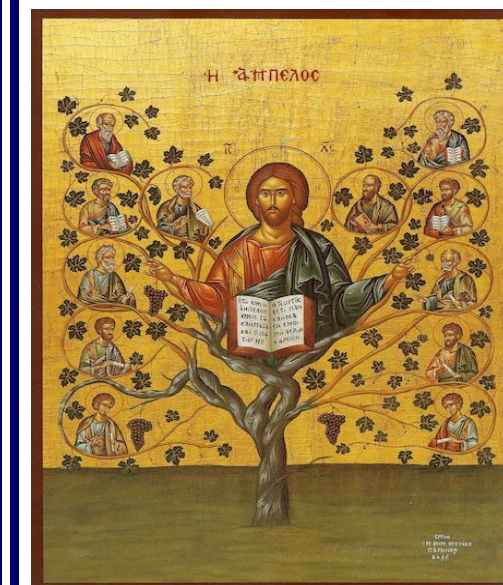
March 2025—Volume 18, Issue 3



The Fruitful Witness of St. Polycarp

On February 23rd, the Christian church remembers the feast day of St. Polycarp.

One of my favorite Orthodox icons is a depiction of Jesus' words in John 15, "I Am the Vine." At the center of the icon Christ, the root of Jesse (Isaiah 11) grows out of and rests in the center of the tree, foreshadowing and foretelling his crucifixion on the tree of the cross. In his hands he holds the Scriptures, the words that give life to his disciples, his beloved branches, past and present. Stretching outward from Christ the Vine the branches of his tree wrap around pictures of the twelve apostles, his sent ones who abide in him, and bear the fruit of witnessing his dying and rising. Icons like this one help us to see with our eyes and imagination what Jesus proclaims to us in his word.



"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

John is one of those branches. But he is not alone. There are twelve apostles. And if you put a brush down and painted more branches and fruit you could add the generations of Christians that sat at the feet of the apostles who sat at the feet of Jesus. So was St. Polycarp, one of the early church saints we call the apostolic fathers. For Jesus taught John. John taught Polycarp. Eventually Polycarp taught Irenaeus. And the branches of Christ's fruitful tree continue to grow down through the generations, each one striving to do, by God's grace, what Jesus taught in his word.

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit."

Speaking of fruit. That is part of the meaning of the name of St. Polycarp, whose life and faith we remember and give thanks to God for on February 23rd. His name in English, Polycarp, comes from the Greek (*poly*=many/much; *karpos* = fruit), meaning "much fruit," "many fruit," "fruitful," or "rich in fruit." A fitting name for a fruitful and faithful witness of Christ, who gave to Polycarp what he also gives to you, the firstfruits of his resurrection from the dead.

Polycarp's name, however, isn't the only part of this apostolic father's history that bears witness to Christ. Polycarp's faith, life, writings, and even his death revealed the fruit of faith and love grafted into his heart by Christ the Vine.

Polycarp was born in Smyrna (A.D. 69), located in modern day Turkey, not too far south of Ephesus. And if the city of Smyrna sounds familiar there's a good reason for that. Polycarp's teacher, John, wrote seven letters to the churches in Asia Minor which are included in the Revelation given to St. John (See Revelation 2:8-11). And one of those cities was Smyrna, the home of Polycarp and the Christians he eventually came to serve as bishop.

Not only were John's words apostolic, they were prophetic. Smyrna, like many cities in the Roman Empire, faced growing hostility, persecution, and martyrdom for the sake of the gospel both while John was writing to the seven churches in Revelation, and in subsequent decades. The tribulation John foretold came in many forms for the early church, and particularly for Polycarp in his ministry as bishop.

Like other church fathers of the apostolic era and the ante-nicene fathers, Polycarp spent a great deal of time as bishop declaring and defending the Christian faith against early church heretics such as the gnostics, and protecting his fellow Christians in Smyrna from swallowing the rotten fruit of false teachers. One such false teacher Polycarp encountered was Marcion of Sipone, who was later condemned for his heretical and gnostic denial of Christ's humanity and his teaching that the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament were completely different and irreconcilable deities, which led him to prune the entire Old Testament, and much of the New Testament from his list of authoritative Scripture. The story goes that when Polycarp journeyed to Rome, Marcion found him and asked him, "Do you know who I am?" To which Polycarp replied, "I know who you are; you are the son of Satan."

While this might sound harsh to modern ears, Polycarp knew that the mold of false teaching can easily spread its decay to other branches of Christ's church. He knew that the bad apple of Marcion's false teaching could spoil the fruit of God's faithful people. Not surprisingly, he learned this from John who learned this from Jesus. Polycarp's defense and witness of Christ was steadfast. And in the surviving letter we have from Polycarp titled, *The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians*, he wrote.

"For whosoever does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is antichrist; 1 John 4:3 and whosoever does not confess the testimony of the cross, is of the devil; and whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts, and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the first-born of Satan." (*The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians*, 7)



March 5th—Ash Wednesday ~ Divine Service 12:00 & 7:00 p.m. with imposition of Ashes

Midweek Lent Service's

March 12th—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

March 19th—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

March 26th—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

April 2nd—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

April 9th—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Service's

Palm Sunday—April 13 — Sunday @ 9:30

Maundy Thursday—April 17—12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday—April 18—12:00 & 7:00

Easter Sunrise—April 20—6:30 a.m.

Easter Divine Service—April 20—9:30 p.m.

There will be a special Voter's Meeting on March 23rd ~ Submitted will be the proposal from the kitchen committee for the remodel

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room.

On January 7, 2025 we began an in-depth LIFELIGHT Study of Ezekiel. The book's theme is summarized in a phrase used several times in Ezekiel such as 6:7... "You will know that I am the Lord." Join us during this time of study and fellowship! Questions? Call Bonnie Hartman, 618-973-5649 or Paula Howard 253-250-6742."

Men's Bible Study Saturday,



**JOIN US FOR SEWING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH
AT 9:30**

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is looking for a few more hands to help with the weekly duties of the Divine Service. If you are interested in joining this wonderful team or just have questions, please talk to Trina Foreman or call/text 253-380-8221 Anyone who has been confirmed can join. The expectation is a commitment of two months a year. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Meet Mr. Carl Kishline—BSLC substitute organist

- ◇ Originally from Wisconsin, a little town some people might have heard of, Kenosha. Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin.
- ◇ Organ lessons at my church in Jr. High, took a bit of music theory in college. Purchased an organ after we moved to the Seattle area in the 1970's, learned all my own bad habits. Later studied a bit with David Dahl.
- ◇ Along with a 45 year engineering career, I served as organist at Zion Lutheran of Kent for 14 years, and my ministry has been as a substitute organist for 18 years. In addition, I am a handbell ringer and director and have been Zion's interim choir director for 2 years. I actively try not to play piano.
- ◇ Over the years I have substituted at a wide array of churches including most varieties of Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, traditional Anglican, and even Christian Science.



CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE POTLUCK

March 16th!

Come help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

SIGN UP TO BRING A DISH!



Sunday School

It's hard to believe that Lent is upon us, and we find ourselves preparing to enter this penitential season that leads us to the boundless joy of Jesus' resurrection. I'd like to share a few ways that our Sunday School families could acknowledge this season of Lent:

Attend Wednesday evening services with your children. Ash Wednesday, in particular, is a meaningful service to share with kids because they can have the tactile experience of the imposition of ashes. The gritty feeling of the ashes on the forehead, a visible and tactile reminder of our sins, can be discussed prior to the service. And after the service, when washing those same ashes off your children's foreheads, you can take time to remember their baptisms.

Memorize Psalm 23 together as a family. This is a great verse for the season of Lent. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" (verse 4). We are reminded that the LORD truly is our Shepherd who guides our lives, gives us rest, saves us, and one day we will dwell not in the sadness and pain of death (from dust to dust) but we will dwell in the "house of the LORD forever" (verse 6).

Make a purple paper chain to count down the 40 days of Lent that lead us to Easter. You could write a small act of service to complete, a Bible verse to read together, or someone to pray for on each chain link. Enjoy removing one link each day starting on March 5th (Ash Wednesday), as we move through the season of Lent. But remember, Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent.

Observing Lent reminds us of our deep need for a Savior and prepares our hearts for the celebration of Easter. How wonderful to involve our children in the season of Lent as well!

Submitted by Lisa Lindstrom, Sunday School Superintendent





Thank You, BSLC Members!

A sincere "Thank You!" to BSLC members for helping to support the Carey and Roemer families with meals as they welcomed new babies into their families. The meal train will continued for the Roemer family through the first two weeks of February as Valerie continues to recover from surgery and the family adjusts to life with twins.

The meal train can be activated for any BSLC member when a need arises. If you know of a need within our congregation, please call the church office and Beth will notify the Fellowship Board to start the train.

March Readings

Three Year—Series C

- Sunday, March 2nd Deuteronomy 34:1-2 * Hebrews 3:1-6 * Luke 9:28-36
- Ash Wednesday, March 5th
Joel 2:12-19 * 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 * Matthew 6:(1-6) 16-21
- Sunday, March 9th Deuteronomy 26:1-11 * Romans 10:8b-13 * Luke 4:1-13
- Midweek, March 12 Job 9:1-12 * Ephesians 2:1-10 * Matthew 14:22-33
- Sunday, March 16th Jeremiah 26:8-15 * Philemon 3:17-4:1 * Luke 13:31-35
- Midweek, March 19th Genesis 3:1-24 * 1 Peter 5:6-11 * Luke 9:37-43; 11:14-23
- Sunday, March 23rd Ezekiel 33:7-20 * 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 * Luke 13:1-9
- Midweek, March 26th 2 Kings 17:8-24 * Acts 3:1-10 * Matthew 8:1-17
- Sunday, March 30th Isaiah 12:1-6 * 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 * Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

PRESCHOOL NEWS

As we turn the next page of the calendar to March, we have mixed feelings as we watch the days and weeks just keep slipping away from us. We still have so much more to accomplish before we say good-bye to all these sweet kiddos. We're hopeful that the cold snowy weather is over for the year, and we can start to get the children out on the playground for some fresh air and exercise again.

March is a busy month with extra activities and Parent/Teacher Conferences for our Pre-K class. We have our favorite police officer coming to visit with the children again this year. He discusses general safety issues with them, and answers any and all of their questions. This officer is the father of one of our previous students, and really enjoys doing this community outreach with the kids each year. He is wonderful with them, and they really warm up to him as well.

We'll be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with a dress-up day of mismatched, striped, and polka-dotted attire, and some fun activities and stories. On Monday, March 17th, we'll all be "Irish" and wearing our green for St. Patrick's Day. When the children arrive for the day, they'll find that some suspicious activities have been taking place while they were gone, and there are tiny little footprints all around the preschool. They may have to go on a leprechaun hunt to find the culprits, and might even come upon a pot of gold.

Our Field Trip to the Milton Library will be at the end of the month. The kiddos will learn how the library works, get their very own library card, and check out a book or two if they want. There will also be a story or two, and a scavenger hunt. The library staff is always very welcoming and accommodating.

Even though Easter isn't until April 20th this year, in keeping with the Fife School District's calendar, the preschool will be closed the week of April 7th for Spring Break. We'll also be closed on Monday April 21st for "Easter Monday".

I know I ask this every month, but please keep the preschool in your prayers, and let friends and family know we are currently enrolling for our September classes. We are at our lowest enrollment this year, and need to bring our numbers up. If there are any questions, I can be reached via Email at preschool@mybslc.com, phone #253.922.6977, or cell #253.691.8292 (call/text).



YOUTH

The youth will be collecting for the month baby items for Care - Net and Step By Step. They are in need of Diapers, Baby Food, Baby Clothes, and items for basic needs. Items can be put in the wooden box in the narthex.

Questions? Please reach out to Linda Howard (253) 927-9602

