



# *St. Paul News*

## *March 2024*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

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#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
is to promote the  
worship of the Triune God  
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,  
by teaching the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ and administering  
the Sacraments, in order to  
equip people for Christian  
life and service

### **Pastor's Message**

A rich, young man asked Jesus a seemingly simple theological question: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded, "You know the commandments: Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal..."

This is one of those places where your eyebrow comes up. It seems like Jesus answered the question wrong. Jesus' answer to, "How do I inherit eternal life?" is a list of commands? Did Jesus forget about grace?

Now, the young man believed that he had kept the commandments, but Jesus responded, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." And the rich, young man walked away. Sad.

As we share the message of the Scriptures, we have the same difficult choice that Jesus faced. What words do we share? The use of God's Word in the Bible can be broken down into two things – Law and Gospel. The great art for the Christian is distinguishing Law and Gospel. In short, you point those who are secure in their sins to the Law so that they may know their sin, and you point those who are despairing over their sins to the Gospel so that they may be comforted by God's grace in Jesus Christ.

The rich, young man was arrogant in judging his ability to keep the Law, and he needed to hear a word that would bring him back to reality and realize his sin. He was gravely attached to his wealth, which was a great source of pride as well as comfort and pleasure. He must recognize his sin, so the Law is given to him.

The young man's response to Jesus's words wasn't surprising. In fact it's all too common a response even centuries later. Christianity, numerically speaking, is in a decline. Everyday, people are walking away from their faith. Many walk away like the young man, arrogant enough to believe that they are good enough on their own.

And Jesus let the story end. That was really the end. There is no follow up with this man ... no personal visits, phone calls, e-mails or texts that offer grace. The final scene was the lingering sting of the Law.

The disciples on the other hand responded much differently to Jesus' conversation with the young man. Jesus' preaching of Law led the disciples to ask the question, "Well, who then can be saved?" This is the point.

The Law did its work for the disciples; they recognized their inability to measure up to God's demands. They knew that what they had to offer would never be enough.

So the disciples needed a different word. The disciples didn't need words that condemned. They didn't need more rules and laws. They didn't need "Seven Steps to a Life of Discipleship." They needed the Gospel.

If you feel the sting of the Law, know that you are not alone, but also know that there's a point to it. You need the Law in order to know the Gospel. You need to know you are a sinner in order to understand that Christ died for your sins. And that's the point of Lent: we face our sinfulness so that we may repent and claim the victory of Easter.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

# Items of Interest

## Midweek Lenten Schedule

### Wednesdays in March

- K - 6th grade Midweek class 5 - 6 pm
- Midweek Lenten Service - 6 pm
  - Handbell practice - 6:30 pm
- 7th and 8th grade Confirmation - 7 - 8 pm

## Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be Sunday, March 17th following the service, with a potluck dinner following the meeting. An item on the agenda will be election of officers. Open positions are for Chairman, Vice Chairman, four Elders, and one Trustee. All confirmed members 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend.

### Potluck Dinner following the Quarterly Meeting on March 17th



## Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday March 24th at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday March 28th at 7 pm

Good Friday March 29th at 7 pm

Easter Breakfast March 31st at 8:30 am

Easter Worship March 31st at 9:30 am

## LWML News

Thanks to all who contribute to the "Mite Box" and to the monthly "Noisy offerings." In January \$90.20 was donated and this money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Thanks to everyone who helped plan, prepare, serve and clean up after our Ash Wednesday supper. "Food for the Heart and Soul" was attended well even though we had a very snowy afternoon/evening. We appreciate everyone who came or got take out food for our fund raising event! We served 79 with a net profit of \$865.74.

We are still looking for someone to volunteer to "tidy up" the Kids Activity Bags. Please contact Judy or Sue if you're willing to help out with this project. The children who use these bags are always delighted to find out what's inside!

Redeemer in Willmar will be hosting the Spring Rally on Sunday, April 28th. Registration will begin at 1:30 pm. Reverend Tim Renstrom will lead one of the devotions. Our speaker will be from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. More details will be available next month.

The MN North District Convention will be held at Cragun's Resort June 3-5. This year instead of a convention store, there will be a silent auction to help defray costs of the 2024 Convention. Our Zone decided we would donate a basket and each society would provide something to put in our basket. We will discuss this at our next meeting to come up with an idea for this project. If anyone has extra old convention bags, they are encouraged to donate them for use at the convention.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, April 15th at 6:30 pm.

## Lutheran Island Camp

Check all the various camps that are available for kids ages 8-14 in the brochures available in the narthex or on their website at [islandcamp.org/summer](http://islandcamp.org/summer). Don't forget that the LWML has financial assistance available.

## Food Shelf

March is "Food Drive Month" and they need your help. There is a "Donation Box" in the coatroom for our local Food Shelf where you can donate individuals. Cash donations may also be given. Please place the donation in an envelope marked "FOOD SHELF" and put in the offering plate. End hunger in our community by supporting our local food shelf!

# Thrivent

It's time once again to direct your Choice Dollars. You have until March 31st to direct your Choice Dollars. You can go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Don't let your Choice Dollars expire!

## Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Feb 4	56	\$3,882.00
Sun, Feb 11	51	\$1,475.00
Wed, Feb 14	37	\$155.00
Sun, Feb 18	56	\$2,137.00
Wed, Feb 21	29	\$420.00
Sun, Feb 25	53	\$3,099.00
Wed, Feb 28	n/a	

(2024 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,485.00)

## Financials as of 2-26-2024

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$23,270.62
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$30,200.82</u>
Difference	(\$6,930.20)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$32,356.97
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$30,200.82</u>
Difference	(\$2,156.15)

## Save this Date

Please join us to celebrate "Built On The Rock" the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church, on **September 22, 2024**. MN North District President Rev. Brady Finern will be the guest speaker at a 10 am church service followed by a catered meal and a musical program at 2:30 pm by The Garms Family followed by refreshments. If you have any memorabilia from days past please bring them to the church office prior to that day so it can be shared that day.

## March Birthdays

March 1	Rena Anderson Rachel Roberts Dennis Smith
March 2	Boyd Steffen
March 4	Vernon Rigge
March 6	Molly Hoff Jason Kirschbaum Tracy Kirschbaum
March 7	Nancy Guertin Ashley Luepke
March 9	Chris Berends Chase Luepke Lee Timm
March 10	Dawn Lubrant Vern Nelson Teresa Quintal
March 11	Brad Christensen Katrina Nelson
March 13	Anna Olson
March 14	Kevin Markgraf
March 15	Emily Cobb Marjorie Syring Jane Van Sickle
March 16	Ann Johnson
March 17	Rebecca Donner Greg Doose Tony Redepenning James Trotter
March 19	Terry Hempel Eugene Miller
March 20	Jenifer Hildahl
March 21	Brianna Markgraf McKenna Markgraf
March 25	Linda Streich
March 26	Quinton Staab Emily Williamson
March 30	Kaitlyn Luepke
March 31	Jessica Donner Chris Hoyer

**Birthday Blessings to you all.**

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



**SAC Groups** will be our greeters and ushers. If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully consider where you are able to and willing to help.

## Group 3

### Serving for March

Baker, Lisa  
 Brown, Mike and Anne  
 Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy  
 Duenwald, Karley  
 Freitag, Avis  
 Gabbert, Carol  
 Galow, DuWayne and Karen  
 Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn  
 Hewitt, Loretta  
 Hildahl, Linda  
 Hoff, Jason and Molly  
 Ims, Dorothy  
 Iverson, Pam  
 Johnson, Jennifer  
 Just, Wes and Norma  
 Kelly, Mary  
 Kvam, Curtis  
 Nelson, Carol  
 Olson, LuAnn  
 Peterson, LeRoy and Jan  
 Quintal, Teresa  
 Reinke, Gerald and Darlene  
 Rigge, Vernon and Anita  
 Rush, Barb  
 Schmidt, Douglas Jr. and Darla  
 Steffen, Boyd  
 Streich, Eugene  
 Streich, Linda  
 Trotter, Donnie and Jodi  
 Ulven, Lorna  
 Van Sickle, Eric and Jane  
 Winters, Kelly

## Daily Bible Readings For March

Mar 1	Leviticus 1-2	Proverbs 19	Matthew 8:14-34
Mar 2	Leviticus 3-4	Proverbs 20	Matthew 9:1-17
Mar 3	Leviticus 5-6	Proverbs 21	Matthew 9:18-38
Mar 4	Leviticus 7-8	Proverbs 22	Matthew 10:1-25
Mar 5	Leviticus 9-10	Proverbs 23	Matthew 10:26-42
Mar 6	Leviticus 11-12	Proverbs 24	Matthew 11:1-19
Mar 7	Leviticus 13	Proverbs 25	Matthew 11:20-30
Mar 8	Leviticus 14	Proverbs 26	Matthew 12:1-21
Mar 9	Leviticus 15-16	Proverbs 27	Matthew 12:22-50
Mar 10	Leviticus 17-18	Proverbs 28	Matthew 13:1-23
Mar 11	Leviticus 19	Proverbs 29	Matthew 13:24-58
Mar 12	Leviticus 20-21	Proverbs 30	Matthew 14:1-21
Mar 13	Leviticus 22-23	Proverbs 31	Matthew 14:22-36
Mar 14	Leviticus 24-25	Eccl. 1:1-11	Matthew 15:1-20
Mar 15	Leviticus 26-27	Eccl. 1:12-2:26	Matthew 15:21-39
Mar 16	Numbers 1-2	Eccl. 3:1-15	Matthew 16
Mar 17	Numbers 3-4	Eccl. 3:16-4:16	Matthew 17
Mar 18	Numbers 5-6	Eccl. 5	Matthew 18:1-20
Mar 19	Numbers 7-8	Eccl. 6	Matthew 18:21-35
Mar 20	Numbers 9-10	Eccl. 7	Matthew 19:1-15
Mar 21	Numbers 11-12	Eccl. 8	Matthew 19:16-30
Mar 22	Numbers 13-14	Eccl. 9:1-12	Matthew 20:1-16
Mar 23	Numbers 15-16	Eccl. 9:13-10:20	Matthew 20:17-34
Mar 24	Numbers 17-18	Eccl. 11:1-8	Matthew 21:1-27
Mar 25	Numbers 19-20	Eccl. 11:9-12:14	Matthew 21:28-46
Mar 26	Numbers 21	Song of Songs 1-2:7	Matthew 22:1-22
Mar 27	Num. 22:1-40	Song of Songs 2:8-3:5	Matthew 22:23-46
Mar 28	Num. 22:41-23:26	Song of Songs 3:6-5:1	Matthew 23:1-12
Mar 29	Num. 23:27-24:25	Song of Songs 5:2-6:3	Matthew 23:13-39
Mar 30	Num. 25-27	Song of Songs 6:4-8:4	Matthew 24:1-31
Mar 31	Num. 28-29	Song of Songs 8:5-14	Matthew 24:32-51

## Easter Flowers

We will be ordering flowers for the Altar and for the spring garden at the foot of the large cross. (You may also bring in your own spring flowers to add to the Easter garden on Saturday, March 30th). There are sign-up sheets in the narthex or you may also call the church office at 320-564-2221. Orders are due by **March 11th** and payment is to be made before Easter. Please make the check payable to St. Paul Lutheran and put in the offering plate or bring to the office.



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|---|---|
| Azalea - \$45                                   | Daisy Mum - \$25<br>(lavender, yellow, white)             |
| Oriental Lily - \$25                            | Easter Lily - \$25<br>(has 5 or more blooms)              |
| Cushion Mum - \$25<br>(lavender, yellow, white) | Kalanchoe - \$25<br>(orange, yellow, hot pink, pink, red) |
| Cyclamen - \$25                                 |   |

I would like to order a plant

in memory of: