

***HE IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!***

**Holy Cross
Herald
March 2024**

Aiming
our lives toward
Christ!

Proclaiming
Christ crucified!

Reclaiming
lost lives for Christ!

**March Newsletter by Pastor Eric
Reliability of the Bible Part One**

Although the Bible is the most read, most published book of all time and has the most ancient manuscripts going back thousands of years, it is also the most criticized. There are those who don't want it to be true and have been told it is not reliable. Most of these higher criticisms revolve around the text having some minor discrepancies among manuscripts or the fact that men have copied from the original. I guess they expect the original to have been scanned or screen shot from an iPhone, but I digress. There are many books written to address these textual higher criticisms and we'll get to that in part two. Below is a portion of a Lutheran Witness article by our Synod President Harrison about how Jesus viewed the Bible:

"The Bible is about Jesus. Jesus cajoled His contemporaries who read the Bible but missed the point. "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" (John 5:39). On the road to Emmaus, Jesus said to the two, "O foolish ones, and slow of

heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures that things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:26–27).

The Old Testament contains many prophecies about Christ. Jesus said, “Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” The point is quite simple, according to Jesus. “Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations” (Luke 24:45ff.).

The New Testament, especially the Gospels, is the accurate record of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and teaching, written by the power of the Holy Spirit. “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

Jesus regards what is written in the Old Testament as true and accurate. “Have you never read what David did . . . ?” (Mark 2:25). Jesus regards Adam and Eve and the story of Jonah, Moses, etc., as actual people and events (Matt. 19:4ff.; 19:8).

Jesus believes that the writers of the Old Testament were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, ‘The Lord said to my Lord”” (Mark 12:36). His apostles had the same belief (Acts 4:25).

Jesus regards the Bible as the very Word of God and authoritative. “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matt. 5:18).

Jesus believes that the commandments of the Old Testament are actually God’s own. “You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men” (Mark 7:8).

Jesus regards the Scriptures as the very Word of God that cannot be contravened, questioned or trumped by human authority or reason. Jesus said, “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

Jesus understands the Bible according to Law and Gospel (i.e., God’s commands and God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation), which point to Him as Savior. Jesus piles on the Law when someone thinks the point of the Bible is works righteousness

Continued on page 7

I am writing this just before lent begins. Lent is a season in the church that begins with Ash Wednesday. I know you know this. Lent is a time to reflect on God's love for us. He sent his son to do what we couldn't, lead a sinless life. Jesus went willingly to be a sacrificial lamb.

Lent is also a time for personal reflection. Our shortcomings, pet sins, sins of commission, and sins of omission. Lent is a season of 40 days leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is a time to give thanks to our Father in heaven for His love.

Some people make it a tradition to give something up for Lent. Deprive themselves of something that they enjoy, like chocolate, or a favorite drink. Kinda like a mini fast. I brought up the idea that I would fast for Lent a few years ago. My family immediately banded together and quickly squashed that idea.

Most times when I am asked what I am giving up for Lent, I answer, self-deprivation. However, you choose to observe Lent, observe it. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, including our salvation.

Philip Green, Zone 7

GOD'S TRUSTEES

How can I carry out the Church's mission personally? This is a critical question, because if I do not respond, who will? The church as an institution will get nothing done if its individual members do not respond to the privilege of being God's servants ... stewards of the Gospel!

Institutions and organizations only have as much influence as the people who make them up. Since this is true, what kind of people ought we to be?

Consider the following Bible passages as part of growing and developing attitudes, gifts, and skills as God's trustee.

John 3:16, 1 Peter 2:4-5, Matthew 9:35-38, Isaiah 6:8, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, Romans 12:1-2, Luke 12:32-34

MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

IN MEMORY OF PAUL MEYERAND

For the General Fund

Pat Stewart
James Hill
Shirley Tallman
Joe Fuerster
Lidia Wilson
Joan VanHouteghen
Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht
Ralph Klumpp
Arlene Coon
Earl & Pat Crilley
Shirley McClenahan
Jan Cook
Sharon Adler

For the Ladies Guild

Peggy Majeske



IN MEMORY OF MARCUS COON

For the General Fund

Earl & Pat Crilley

For Sunday School

Wendy & Jeff Hobert

IN MEMORY OF JULIE KONCHAL

For the Food Pantry

Arlene Coon



Saturday March 30th @ 10:00am
Join us for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** hosted by Holy Cross Sunday School. Join us in the sanctuary for an Easter Devotion before we head out for the hunt.

This event is geared for ages 0-12.
We hope to see you there and
don't forget to invite your family and friends!

ON FASTING



Much has been written in many places, not the least of which is the Bible, on fasting. Read up on it.

Did you ever have anyone... encourage you to seriously consider fasting as part of a regular spiritual discipline? Neither did I.

But I am now: ***seriously consider fasting as part of a regular spiritual discipline.*** Fasting serves as a key tool toward significance in ministry.

Form of Fasting

There are many different forms you can use for fasting. You could eliminate one particular kind of food from your diet for a specified time. You could eat only bread and water for a day or a number of days. You could skip a meal or two.

I use a modified sun-up to sun-down approach. Once a week I do not eat anything after whatever snack I might have had in the evening before until dinner time the next day. It works out to not eating breakfast or lunch or any snacks for a day. This takes place generally on Monday, unless some special food is being planned by someone (birthday of a fellow staff member, lunch with a member, conference), then my fast will happen on Tuesday or Wednesday. On a fast day I limit myself to water and coffee— there is nothing spiritual about caffeine withdrawal!

How you fast is secondary to ***that*** you fast. Fasting in all its forms rests in the realm of adiaphora.

Purpose of Fasting

Fasting will loosen your grip on the world and tighten your grip on God. You will learn the truth of Jesus' retort to Satan, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." You will come to see "how little" a thing food is compared to the surpassing greatness of God.

Fasting will free you. Food controls our lives more than we realize. Food is to the body what money is to the spirit. Too easily we let these gifts from God become gods in our life. Fasting serves to put food on notice that we will not be servant to it; we serve a living God not a table full of food.

Although it may help you to learn to control your eating the rest of the week, fasting is not dieting. It is spiritual discipline.

Make sure you intentionally connect your fasting with God. On your fast days spend extra time with God in his word and in prayer. Let the pangs in your stomach serve to teach your heart to yearn for the Lord.

Demeanor of Fasting

Jesus teaches that fasting should be done in secret. It is between us and God. Do not wear your fasting on your face or make a big deal of it to others.

Actually, the fewer people who know about your fasting the better. If someone invites you to lunch, gently demur and see if there is another day. Don't say, "I'd like to but this is my weekly fast." If treats are out in the office, don't bemoan the fact that this "always happens on my fast day." Just walk by the treats.

Jesus says, "Put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting." Your fast day should not be readily apparent to anyone else. Let this be a time of intimacy with God, a secret that only you and he share.

Reward of Fasting?

Jesus speaks about a reward when we fast. After he instructed his followers about the oil and the face washing, he continued, "... but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

What is the reward that comes with fasting?

Paul wrote a similar thing in his letter to Timothy. "For physical training is of some value (dieting), but godliness (fasting) has value for all things, holding promise for the present life and the life to come." (I Timothy 4:8)

What is the promise that grows out of the godly practice of fasting?

There is only one way to find out the answer....

...eyes on Jesus...

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(Matt. 19:16ff.), but he also tells His disciples that His whole reason for existence is not “to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). Also, anyone who comes to Jesus empty-handed, begging for mercy, always goes away forgiven, healed, comforted (Mark 1:40ff., 2:1ff., 5:21ff., 7:24ff.)! See especially Jesus’ story of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9ff.) and then that of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18ff.). Jesus told the first “to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt” (Luke 18:9). They’d missed the whole point of the Bible and Jesus!...

As sheep precious to the Savior, we recognize the Bible to be what Jesus did: the very Word of God. “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son” (Heb. 1:1).”



LENTEN / EASTER SEASON

Lenten Film Service - Wednesdays, 7:00pm, through 3/20/2024

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday Weekend - March 23, 5:30pm
and March 24, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday - March 28, 7:00pm

Good Friday - March 29, 11:00am & 7:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 30, 10:00am

Easter Celebration - March 30, 5:30pm and

March 31, 8:45 & 11:00am with Easter

Easter Breakfast 9:15 - 11:00am



March Birthdays

Nicole Haase	3/2
Roberta Hanka	3/3
Carol Heidenreich	3/3
Janet Cook	3/4
Sally Justice	3/4
Luca Cristodero	3/5
Tayah Llewellyn	3/5
Allison Nowakowski	3/7
Laurel Clemons	3/10
Anelise Wilson	3/10
Marc Honold	3/11
George Ullmer	3/14
Kathy Green	3/17
Pat Crilley	3/18
Mike Yusko	3/21
Wendy Hobert	3/22
Carol Czerwienski	3/26
Brian Leithead	3/27
Glen Schwartz	3/28
Harry Bomers	3/30

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

- Barb Ugo
- Shirley Pontious
- Donna Marshall
- Lotte Weber
- Linda Troppman
- Harry Roberts
- Dolly Ferries
- Siegfried Tyburski
- Vern & Ruth Parker
- Shirley Tallman
- Barbara Unger
- Donna Kaip
- Shirley Handy
- Jane Bennett



March Anniversaries

Jeff & Wendy Hobert
3/14/1998 26 Years



Hospice Care

REMEMBER THOSE IN HOSPICE CARE.

Jim Cantwell



You do not want to be late for church on Sunday, March 10. So don't forget to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9.



NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

We started out January 2024 by serving 32 families, 103 people, and gave 1 package of diapers.

Most of the food we receive is from Macomb County. We pick up our food there once or twice a month on the 1st and or 3rd Wednesday of each month. Sometimes we pick it up once a month and sometimes we need to go twice.

Macomb County will load all our food into our truck for us and we have helpers back at the church to unload and put it away. Thank you! The problem is that we no longer have a truck available to drive there and pick it up.

If anyone has a truck and is available, on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday mornings of any month, will you please contact Joanne Vollbrecht if you know of anyone who can help in this situation please pass along our request. The pickup location is at the warehouse in the Hall Road and Groesbeck area.

We purchase the personal care items of bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes if you care to contribute.

Our next food pantry meeting is Saturday, March 2nd at 10:00am in the conference room across from the food pantry room and we are looking forward to seeing more new people.



HOLY CROSS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LADIES GUILD

Have you noticed the new microwave in the kitchen? The previous microwave was given to the Youth Group for their kitchen downstairs.

If you enjoy helping with small projects - check out the kitchen towel schedule in the kitchen. This can be found to the right of the stove, where the mini baskets are on the counter. If you see a blank spot on the list and can handle certain dates - sign up! The signup covers 2 weeks and the clean towels are returned to the bottom drawer of that cabinet. THANK YOU from the ladies who oversee the kitchen - Vivian Badalamenti, Shirley McClenahan and Maurya Withrow.

The ladies were encouraged to help our Food Pantry with donations of hand soap, toothpaste and diapers. We encourage you to join us in these efforts.

Our next meeting is March 5th at 1:00pm - come and join us!

ATTENTION ALL LADIES!!!

- 1) Mark your calendars,
- 2) Invite a friend or two,
- 3) Make this a priority, and
- 4) Bring your Bible to the

Holy Cross Women's Mini Retreat

Saturday May 18

9:30 am – 1 pm

Joan Monson from SALT (St. Augustine Lutheran Troy) has been teaching women of ALL AGES for over 20 years how to apply God's Word to every day life. The subject of her presentation is **Say "Goodbye" to Insecurity**. How do you feel about yourself? Do you question or doubt your abilities? God has blessed you with gifts and talents. Let's find ways to reinforce those talents and recognize hindrances. Morning coffee and a complete lunch is included and a sign-up sheet will be available in April for planning purposes. There is no fee to attend, but a freewill offering will be taken at the event.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

HOLY CROSS WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)
Outreach for St. Paul Community Lutheran
Church, Mission Grant #14

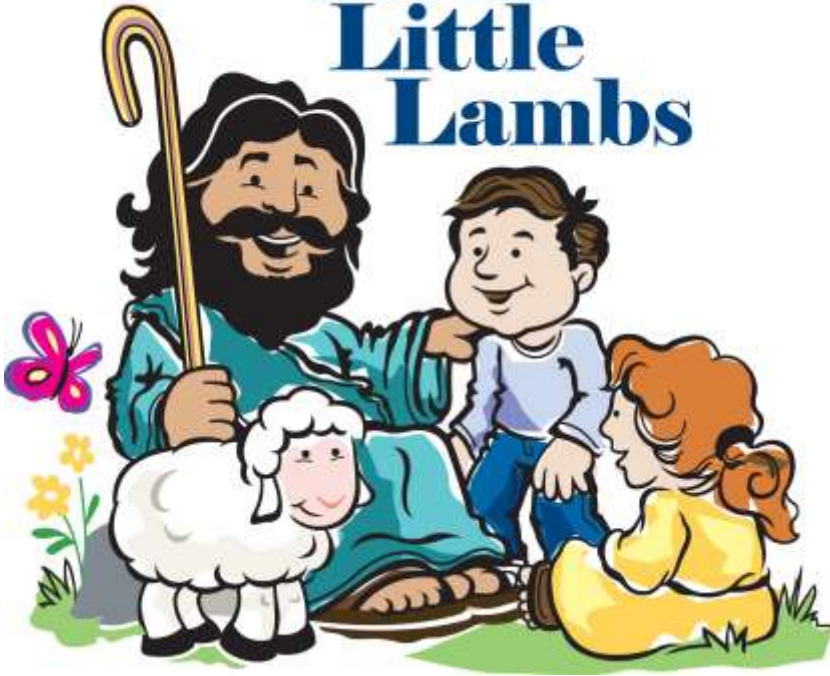
St. Paul Community Lutheran Church is a multi-cultural church, serving the diverse community of Pontiac, Michigan. In 2007, St. Paul Community Church reopened as a Lutheran Mission Church through the efforts of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod (LCMS), Michigan District. Pontiac is the 20th largest community in Michigan with 30.7% of its residents living in poverty.

They seek to purchase a 15-passenger van for \$25,000 to enable them to transport parishioners to and from church, youth events, health care appointments and church sponsored activities. A van would help them serve Jesus by serving the community of St. Paul. A van will also provide transportation for St. Paul's parish nurse in her duties including taking members to doctors' visits, other medical appointments, and in home wellness checks. Having reliable transportation will help meet the people where they are with the gospel that changes lives (Matt.28:19-20). Please continue to contribute to your mite box to help fund this mission grant.

Women's Small Bible Study will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 9:30am in the church conference room. Invite a friend and please join us!



Jesus' Little Lambs



Sunday School & Youth News!

March is here already! We'd like to invite you to join us Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Youth Bible Study. The fun begins at 9:00am!

Craft Sunday

March 10th @ 9:00am

We get all ages together for a craft and a devotion. It's a great chance for all ages to get together for some fun and fellowship.

Save The Date(s)

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 30th @ 10:00am

Invite your family and friends.

We will be collecting WRAPPED candy and plastic eggs for the event. Please place donations in the basket outside of the Sunday School office.

VBS 2024

June 17th-21st

We are looking forward to another week of VBS in 2024! If you are interested in helping please contact Laurel Clemons. More details to come!

Jr. Youth/Youth Group

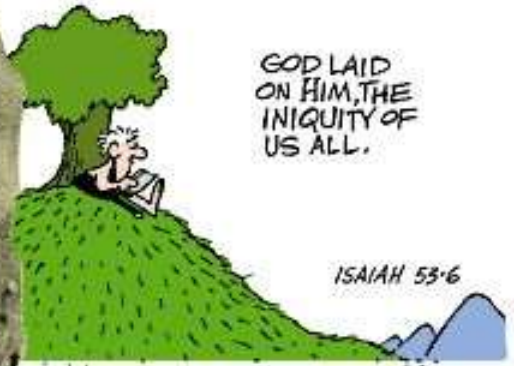
Sunday March 3/3 and 3/17

6:00-7:30pm

Join us for fellowship and fun.

Fundraiser

Jr. Youth/Youth Group will be collecting bottles and cans as an ongoing fundraiser. The proceeds will go to help offset the cost of the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Donations can be placed in the box by the basement stairs.



GOD LAID
ON HIM, THE
INIQUITY OF
US ALL.

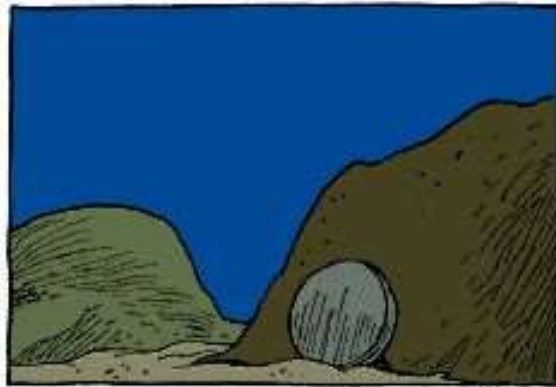
ISAIAH 53:6

AND HE FORGAVE US
FROM THE CROSS, LUKE 23:34

... PAID THE RANSOM MARK 10:45

AND BOUGHT US
AT A PRICE I COR. 6:20

FOR THE WAGES
OF SIN, IS DEATH. ROM. 6:23



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**NEW HOPE
FOOD PANTRY**

586-751-2517

**JOIN US
FOR WORSHIP!**

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 10:00am

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Saturday - 4:30pm

Sunday - 9:00am for all

Adult, Youth & Sunday

School for Children

Church Staff

Eric Shanburn,
Pastor
Michael Katopodes,
Organist
Becky Northcott,
Adm. Asst.
Larry Hoeft,
Deacon
Michelle Hoeft,
MA

Church Council

Mark Coon
President
Graddie Hall
Vice-President
Treasurer
Denise Vandenberghe
Financial Secretary
Jenny McCoy
Council Secretary