



# The Monthly Herald

## February 2024

### Defining Marriage

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

*Ephesians 5:31-33*

Why do people get married? This is truly a mystery that our culture is trying to figure out. The answer that most people would give is that people get married because they love each other. This is why we are so opposed to ancient practices such as pre-arranged marriages; “why would we force someone to marry someone they don’t love?” It also leaves the door open for same sex marriages, for indeed cannot two men love one another, and two women love one another? It also leaves the door open for other possibilities, for example in this past week I have seen public news organizations push for polyamory. If marriage is just about people who love one another, then why shouldn’t marriage allow for multiple people to be married to each other? Why shouldn’t people come up with their own rules on how they want their marriage to work, whether it is opened or closed?

But Biblically speaking, we do not get married because of love. Indeed marriage exists because Christ left his Father to be united to his bride the Church. He laid his life down for her, washing away all her sins, and provides for her. Our marriages are an illustration and model of this marriage- which is what Paul addresses in the latter half of Ephesians. One man, and one woman even as there is One Christ, and One Church.

What would it look like if we defined our marriages in this way? What if we looked to Christ as an illustration of our marriages? Would there be as many fights if husbands loved their wives as Christ loved the Church? Would there be as much unease if wives respected their husbands as the Church respects Christ? Of course not! Our marriages are going to fall short of the ideal, for we are sinners, but our marriages would be so much better if we let Christ define marriage rather than the culture define it. For if marriage is defined and based on love, then the marriage is shaky and prime for discontent. But based on Christ, husbands and wives are primed to endure and cherish their marriages. If it is based on love, I am willing to let it dissolve the moment my spouse does something to make me fall out of love. But based on Christ I am going to stick with them through sickness and in health till death parts us. I am able to do so, because Christ will not abandon his relationship with me.

Yes, due to a sinful world God does allow for divorce in certain situations but if I were to cover each of those situations then this article would take over the entire newsletter! But for now we as Christians can be an example to this fallen world of two things. The first is to be an example of what marriage ought to be- not based on love but based on Christ. Through this foundation we are able to stick together, even when we don’t “love” each other. The second thing we can illustrate is Christ’s love to his people. In a world where relationships come and go so quickly, the true and enduring love of Christ is truly profound. It is a message that people need to hear. You are able to proclaim it through your own marriages, by saying that your relationship to one another is a reflection of Christ’s relationship with you.



Happy Valentines Day

Pastor Josh



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**  
WORSHIP AT 10:00AM & 6:00PM

## **The Paradox of the Passion**

A Lenten Series on the Passion of the Christ  
Lent - The Year of our Lord, 2024

**par-a-dox - a person, situation, or action having seemingly contradictory qualities**

The life of our Lord Jesus Christ is just filled with many a paradox. He is both true God and true Man. He is eternal, yet was born of a virgin in a particular time and place. He is the almighty God, but appeared so weak, bleeding and dying on the cross. Yet, there is much to be learned from all these paradoxes, especially in the passion of our Lord.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. The following are the themes of the messages during our midweek and Holy Week services and two Easter services:

February 14: The Paradox of the Two Desires of Christ - Luke 22:39-46

February 21: The Paradox of Peter and Judas - Matthew 26: 47-56, 69-75

February 28: The Paradox of the "Religious" Leaders and the Truly Religious One - Mark 14:53-65

March 6: The Paradox of Barabbas and Jesus - Matthew 27:15-23

March 13: The Paradox of Pontius Pilate and Jesus - John 18:28-38

March 20: The Paradox of Strength and Weakness - Luke 23:24-31

March 28: The Paradox of the Passovers - Luke 22:14-23

March 29: The Paradox of the Passion and Paradise - Luke 23:32-49

March 31 (Sunrise): The Paradox of Light from Darkness - John 20:1-18

March 31 (Easter): The Paradox of Life from Death - Luke 24:1-12

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Mid-Week Services for the Lenten season are held at 10am and 6pm. A Lenten meal is served for Wednesday services beginning on February 21. May God bless our Lententide and Easter worship!

# Lenten Dinners

*Beginning February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:45pm  
in the Fellowship Hall*

February 21: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Toast

February 28: Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans

March 6: Taco Salad/Burrito Bowls, Chips & Queso

March 13: Brat & Hot Dog Bar, Baled Beans, Pasta Salad

March 20: BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Fresh Veggies

Weekly dinners include: Dessert and beverages. Kids meals also available.

Dear St. Paul's Members,

Below you will find a chart listing our Elders, their contact information and who is supported by each Elder.

## ZONES AND PHONES 2024

Ministry Group	Elder & Email	Phone	Household Name
1	Al Weil aweil4@aol.com	414-350-0493	Adams- Bruchert, Barbara
2	Tim Odor Timothy.odor@gmail.com	414-218-8257	Brunner, John-Ernst
3	Tony Romano aromano@martinlutherhs.org	815-382-3355	Everett, Karen- Gonzalez
4	Gary Knight gk445@sbcglobal.net	414-520-6102	Gorlewski- Hippler
5	Doug Graf Doug.graf@engspec.com	262-408-0048	Hoefert - Klement
6	Joe Ross Joeyross0412@sbcglobal.net	414-793-7707	Klich- Long
7	Rick Drew Rdrew127@wi.rr.com	414-303-4338	Luling – Moyle
8			Mueller, Dan Sr- Pups
9	Joe Ross Joeyross0412@sbcglobal.net	414-793-7707	Quartuccio- Schwenner
10			Segura – Van Santen
11			Veit- Ziolecki



## Bible Studies

### Thursday Morning Bible Class

During the first couple of weeks of February, we will finish up the prophet Zechariah. It is a mysterious, challenging prophetic book, but what a blessing to study and gain insights into the mission of Christ, the promises of God, the troubles to come on this earth and the glories to follow! Around the middle of February Pastor Josh will take over leading the class. He will finish with the last prophet of the OT: Malachi. Malachi addresses spiritual apathy, challenges the sinful foibles of selfishness, robbing God, and unfaithfulness in marriage. He then proclaims the coming of both the forerunner of Christ (John, the baptizer) and the coming of the long-awaited Lord of the covenant. Class meets each Thursday at 10am, weather permitting.

### Men's Bible Breakfast

**Ten Men of the Bible:** The men depicted in the Bible were not perfect by any means. We find story after story marked by scandal, failure, and intrigue. Yet, God used these flawed, sinful men to accomplish many wonderful things, endure trials and tribulation, and they continued to trust in the Lord, and follow Him. We are flawed men as well. We experience difficulties and joys . . . and God uses *us* and is with us wherever we go. The two men for the month of February are:

February 10: Job: God's Presence in the Storm

February 24: Jacob: Wrestling with the Past

On these Saturdays, a bunch of dedicated Christian men gather together, spending time in fellowship, eating a good breakfast, and then studying the Word of God. We meet a little before 7am; 79<sup>th</sup> street doors are unlocked. All men are welcome!! New faces are a blessing! Come join us as we eat, pray, and then study God's Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am.

### Multi Generational Bible Study & Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the Fellowship Hall for an introduction to the lesson of the day. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the Fellowship Hall for a recap. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God's word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.

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# Parenting with Love and Logic . . . and the Lord

February 3 & 10, 2024

Are you concerned about what's going on in our culture and world and how it will affect your children as they grow up? Do you want your children to make right choices, to be strong in the Lord, and to walk with Him all their days? Do you want additional tools to help you in your responsibility of raising your children? Then this class is for you. It is a two session class, meeting on Saturday mornings in early February from 10:00-11:30am. Childcare will be provided. Sign up by calling the church office at 414-541-6250 or at the Welcome Center.

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**Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837**



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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK\\_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber)

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services

on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions! Visit our Website! [www.splcwa.org](http://www.splcwa.org) Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities! Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

# Ladies Groups

## Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at The Forum (4711 S. 108<sup>th</sup> Street) on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our 10:00am Ash Wednesday worship service.



## Quilter's Patch



This year the ladies decided to make lap quilts for our homebound church members. The quilts will be delivered in October.

You are always welcome to come help out on Monday morning...no experience needed, we do on the job training.

Our group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 9:00am until 11:30am. Below are the dates during February thru April we will meet in the fellowship hall.

February 5 & 19    March 4 & 18    April 1, 15 & 29

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at [dzwolf2012@gmail.com](mailto:dzwolf2012@gmail.com)

## Ladies Guild

Thank you to all those that filled the baby bottles in January. The total collected amount will be provided in the next Herald.

We are trying something new this year. On the 4th Monday of February, April, June, August and October, we are doing a servant activity. A servant activity can be writing cards of encouragement or thank you, putting together personal care kits, painting on rocks, creating witness bracelets, etc. So keep a look out in the church bulletin.

The servant activity date is Monday, February 26th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or [dzwolf2012@gmail.com](mailto:dzwolf2012@gmail.com) OR Toni Dunn at cell, text, 414-335-3553 or [tdunnusa@outlook.com](mailto:tdunnusa@outlook.com)

**SAVE THE DATE** – The South Wisconsin District will be hosting a **Family Life Conference** on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at Concordia University Wisconsin. This conference is designed for all adults, and you do not need to be a parent to attend. You only need to be eager to learn more about our theme "*Passing on the Faith*" to the next generation. Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann (Faith Lutheran in Grand Blanc, MI) will serve as our keynote speaker. We look forward to coming together as a district to learn and grow in our faith in fellowship with others on the beautiful campus of Concordia University Wisconsin.

**Women's Retreat** through Grace Lutheran Menomonee Falls. We are currently reaching out to area churches who might have members or friends interested in attending the retreat. Our theme this year is "**Strength In Surrender.**" Dates are February 8-9th at the Osthoff Resort at Elkhart Lake. All the information is included in the links below. Feel free to share these links with others. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me back, or call me at 262-527-8004.

Thanks and God's Blessings, Sue Daniel

You can share these resources: [bit.ly/graceretreatpromo](http://bit.ly/graceretreatpromo)  
Online registration is at: [bit.ly/graceretreat24](http://bit.ly/graceretreat24)



# Sharing God's Bounty

## Christ's Love Compels Us

*“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).*

Some sons disobey their fathers. Others obey unwillingly with arguing and complaining, resentful of their fathers’ authority. Still others are compliant, but are there any who would be as submissive as Jesus was to his Father’s will? “. . . yet not my will, but yours be done,” Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42). Carrying out his Father’s will was no easy task, but, because his love for us is as great as the Father’s, he was willing to win our salvation for us by carrying out the plan the Triune God had established before the foundations of the world were laid. It was his love for us that caused Christ to give his very life so that we, who were dead in sin, might be alive forevermore in him.

There is nothing we can do to earn this love; there is nothing we can do to “pay him back.” The Christian life of stewardship is a response to his love. His love compels us to respond by loving him first and best and loving others as ourselves. His love compels us to provide for our pastors, teachers, and missionaries who work to bring the Gospel to the world for which he died (1 Corinthians 9:9-12). His love compels us to look after the widow and the orphan (James 1:27). His love compels us to feed the hungry, extend hospitality to the homeless, clothe the destitute, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:37-40).

Stewardship is the use of life and all of life’s resources in response to the grace of God in our lives, poured out in service to others, even as Christ poured out his lifeblood for us. The prophet Micah clarifies to us what God requires of us: *“To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”* (Micah 6:8b). These are not attitudes we can work up of our own accord. Only as we are renewed daily through Word and Sacrament can we respond to this great love of Christ and respond in joyful service and generous giving that please God.

*Taking a seat opposite the treasury, Jesus observed the crowd putting money into the collection box. Many of the wealthy put in sizable amounts; but one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent. He called his disciples over and told them: “I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on.” Mark 12:41-44*

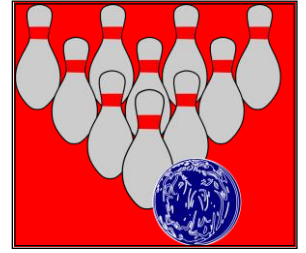


The counsel of the LORD stands forever,  
the plans of His heart to all generations.  
Psalm 33:11

## Youth News

### February 4: Bowl-a-thon @ 6:30pm at AMF Lanes 76<sup>th</sup> and Oklahoma

Keep on getting those pledges!! It is best to turn in your pledge sheet to Pastor Bender prior to the event. However, if you are not able to, make sure you bring your pledge sheet to the event. Bring \$25 and this will cover three games of bowling, shoes, an arcade card, and some snacks. We will bowl, have some friendly but encouraging competition, and hopefully raise a few thousand dollars. The event will end by about 8:45pm.



## Boys Basketball Tournament

February 23-25

Join us for some great basketball, fun fellowship and some delicious food.



Go Panthers!