



# The Monthly Herald

## March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . .”** This is what we are doing for the entire month of March here at St. Paul’s. We are quickly moving through the season of Lent . . . and the month culminates with the most important Day in the church year: “The Day of Resurrection!” Yes, we must fix our eyes on Jesus not only in church, but every day of our earthly lives.

To help in this spiritual journey and life, we are fixing our eyes on Jesus each Wednesday at 10am or 6pm in our midweek Lenten services. We are following Jesus in His passion, learning so many lessons from each “Paradox of the Passion,” for we need to grow in faith and life in seeing Jesus’ passion and letting His Spirit have its way with us!

As we move through Lent towards Holy Week, we grow in understanding that the events of that Holy Week nearly 2000 years ago were events that changed the world in many ways and opened up the everlasting Kingdom of Christ to all believers. Jesus’ triumphal entry fulfilled the prophetic Scripture on the prophet Zechariah. The cleansing of the temple dealt with the prophetic words of Jeremiah 7. The institution of the Lord’s Supper fulfilled the Word of God spoken in Jeremiah 31. The encounter in the Garden of Gethsemane, with all the disciples fleeing fulfilled the words found in Zechariah 13. The cross Jesus bore the next day fulfilled prophetic words of Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. In this Holy Week, God accomplished what He had promised for centuries and millennia. As Jesus said, “The Scriptures cannot be broken.”

Of course, the most important event of Holy Week took place on early Sunday morning with the empty tomb, the resurrection victory of Christ Jesus over Satan, sin, and death. This greatest of Days in the church year brings us a hope that will never disappoint or put us to shame! Without the resurrection, all of the sinful realities of this life would simply be our destiny with no hope beyond the suffering, sickness, sin and death, of t his life.

So plan to worship regularly this month! Plan to come to all of the Holy Week services and know that your soul will be blessed. Indeed, every child of God should be in worship on Easter Sunday, to rejoice in and be strengthened by the resurrection of Christ, our Lord. I can hardly wait to say, “Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!” Until Easter Sunday . . . and even beyond, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!” (Hebrews 12)

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Bender*

# 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.

The following are the themes of the messages during our midweek and Holy Week services and two Easter services:

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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## Lenten Dinners

*4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall*

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.

# Holy Week Worship

## **Palm Sunday Weekend**

March 23 at 5:00pm  
March 24 at 8:00 & 10:30am



## **Maundy Thursday**

March 28 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

## **Good Friday**

March 29 at 1:00 & 6:00pm

## **Easter Vigil**

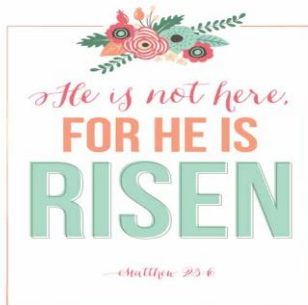
March 30 at 5:00pm

## **Easter Sunrise**

March 31 at 6:30am

## **Easter Celebration**

March 31 at 9:00 & 11:00am



**Easter Breakfast** - We are having Easter Breakfast again!

Beginning after the sunrise service and ending when the final service begins we will have plenty of food downstairs in the fellowship hall for some breakfast and wonderful community. All proceeds will be benefitting our youth group. Starting March 9<sup>th</sup> we will be having a sign up sheet in the Narthex and Elevator

room so that we can have a rough estimate of how much food we need to buy. If you have any questions talk to Pastor Josh.



## Bible Studies

### Thursday Morning Bible Class

Thank you all who have been coming to Thursday Morning Bible Study, we have been so blessed to have you! Now would be a wonderful time to join us if you have not been attending because we have just finished up covering the Minor Prophets and are changing our subjects. We are now voting for what the next Bible study will be out of the following options-

**1 Peter-** We live in a nation that is becoming less and less Christian. The first letter of Peter is beneficial in many ways, but it speaks to us today in how do we live as Christians in a world that is not Christian. He covers such things as who are we as the people of God, and what is our role in the world. He also addresses how we are to relate to our friends, coworkers and loved ones who are both Christian or not Christian. 1 Peter is truly a helpful book for Christians as we navigate the world around us.

**Church as God's Family-** We often describe the Church as God's family, but we don't often understand as what this means. This study will go over the different kinds of relationships God has with his church as Father, Husband and Brother, as well as what this means in our relationships with one another.

**Prayer-** Does God really listen? Is my prayer good enough? Why doesn't he answer me when I pray? If God already knows what I am going to pray for, as well as my answer, then what is the point of praying? These are questions that Christians have struggled with. This Bible Study would answer these questions, as well as giving practical guides and tips that would aid any Christian in their spiritual life.

Whichever option is chosen will truly be a blessing, and we hope that you can join us on Thursdays at 10 A.M. If you are unable to attend these studies due to work or a busy schedule but would like the Bible Study notes for personal study, contact Pastor Josh so he can email you the studies.

### 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, every single one of us. We experience difficulties and joys, which we bring to the Lord. God desires to use *us* and is with us wherever we go. The two men for the month of March are:

March 9: Moses: A Glimpse of God's Glory

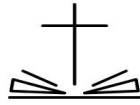
March 23: David: Giant Problems and Colossal Collapses

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 gather shortly before 7am; 79<sup>th</sup> street doors are unlocked. All men are welcome!! 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.





*You're Invited*

# FROM ONE TO MANY

Join us for a night  
food and  
conversation on 3/2.

***You are the most effective way to spread  
the love and hope of Jesus Christ.***

Sharing Jesus' love is no longer about going door-to-door. It's so much better than that! Come learn more at this evening presentation and put it into action at the dinner!

DINNER AND CHILDCARE  
WILL BE PROVIDED.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

6PM-8PM in the Fellowship Hall  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Allis



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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

## Ladies Groups

### Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Mo's Irish Pub (10842 W. Bluemound Road – Wauwatosa) on Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our 10:00am Mid Week worship service.

### Quilter's Patch

The other week I was walking down the hall and noticed the beautiful art work completed by the students. Some of them reminded me of quilts. The colors in each of the pieces were very stunning. There may be a future quilter in the school.

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 March thru May we will meet in the fellowship hall.

March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
April 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
May 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>



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 for all that contributed to the baby bottle fundraiser in January. We have received a total of \$1,809.09. This far exceeds the \$700 goal. The total donation was delivered to A Place of Refuge on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Also thank you to all that have donated to the mitten basket for Hope Lutheran Church.

We held our first servant activity event on February 26<sup>th</sup>, creating witness bracelets. It is planned to give the bracelets to City Lights so they can pass out at their events. Other servant activity events may include painting rocks, writing cards, filling personal hygiene bags, etc.

Our March meeting is Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. All ladies 18 yrs old and older are welcome to attend.

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)

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

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# Sharing God's Bounty

## **The Name that Is Above Every Name**

Obedience has become an almost ignored concept. Some parents believe that requiring obedience from their children stifles their creative and emotional development. Many couples remove the word “obey” from the vows that brides give to their grooms. To expect employees to obey their employers is certainly not acceptable.

To God, however, obedience is not only acceptable, it is required. Disobedience to God is what is known as sin. And sin separates. Sin separates us from God and from each other. Sin prevents us from living the abundant life that Christ came to give us (John 10:10). On the other hand, obedience is proof of love: *“If you love me, you will obey what I command,”* Jesus says (John 14:15).

Unfortunately, as sinful beings, we are unable to obey our Lord’s commands fully. Even the great apostle Paul struggled with this reality. He confessed, *“I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out”* (Romans 7:18). As he relates his dilemma – the dilemma all Christians face – he asks, *“Who will rescue me from this body of death?”* (For as surely as day follows night, death follows disobedience) He answers exultantly, *“Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* (Romans 7:24-25)

Jesus has lived the perfect life in our place. Jesus willingly emptied himself, made himself nothing, *“and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name”* (Philippians 2:7-9).

Jesus did what we cannot do. Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. Jesus, dead and buried, would not stay there! Jesus has risen! He is exalted to the highest place! He has given us his Spirit, the Counselor, who lives with us and in us (John 14:16-17), to sanctify us for obedience to our Father and service to others. This Spirit equips and enables us to be faithful stewards of the Gospel and all his gifts. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

*Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in God’s service for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ’s redeeming love.*

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

**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.

## Music Notes

There is no language sufficient to give thanks to Jesus for His sacrifice for us, which is why I love stanza 5 of "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded."

*What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever!  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never,  
Outlive my love for Thee.*



This stanza in and of itself makes an excellent prayer. In fact many hymns or verses thereof can be used as prayers. Try using this or another hymn as a prayer – as a meditation before or after worship, after communion, before you go to bed, or anytime!

Deaconess Carole

## Youth News

**High School (Grades 9-12) Movie Night at Pastor Josh's - March 15<sup>th</sup>.** We are finally concluding the Dark Knight Trilogy with Dark Knight Rises! We will be discussing the Spiritual forces that are out there to break our faith, as well as how Satan can use Greed to divide the church. Have your kids arrive around 5, the movie will begin around 5:30. Dinner will be provided! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.



**Easter Breakfast** - Last year we resumed our Easter Breakfast, and we need your help to make it wonderful again! We are looking for youth to help cook the breakfast, as well as to serve it to all who attend. It is a wonderful way to serve our congregation and support our youth group. Contact Pastor Josh or Stacey Kukor for further information.

**Laundry Detergent Fundraiser - Its back!** Help support our youth by buying something you actually need! Laundry detergent and dish soap is available to purchase once again! This is a fundraiser that saves you money, as well as raises funds for our youth. You can pick up an order form starting March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex or elevator room. After filling out your order you may return it to Pastor Josh's mailbox with a check included. Orders will be sent to Good Clean Fundraising by April 8<sup>th</sup> and the detergent should arrive 2-3 weeks after that. If you have any questions talk to Pastor Josh.

Saturday March 9, 2024

