
Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A LIFE OF FAITH

Volume 8 Issue No. 2 February 2022



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Pastor's Message:

From The Pulpit ...

My Beloved ... Oh how the years has just whizzed by us. Believe it or not Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and we are just weeks from Ash Wednesday (March 2nd). This is hard to believe, but time will not stand still for us to catch up.

Pastor's Message Continued:

As we are exiting a time where we were focused on that baby Jesus in the manger ... we are now directed to look at Jesus as teacher, leader, and ultimately, the lamb of God! Lent will start on March 2nd. As we approach this truly introspective time in our church year, I challenge you to approach this Lent with a heart that is hungry. We will be starting this 40-day journey with Jesus ... a journey that includes incredible love and a more incredible sacrifice. We, as a church, will be using a book entitled "The Case For Easter" by Lee Strobel for Lent 2022. Copies have been purchased for each family and my sermons for each week during lent will be greatly focused on the message from the book for that week. Your part is just to read a few pages each week. I'm excited to go through this journey with you.



Jesus takes away the sin of the world ... Let us first rejoice in that knowledge, but then let us do our part. What do I mean by that? Well ... many liturgical portions are omitted during lent. This is purposeful on the account of the attention that we should be paying to the journey that Jesus is on. While Jesus is unjustly charged, tried, and beaten, we are to take serious account of these 40 days. We gasp in shock regarding what Jesus went through and we are ultimately overjoyed that Jesus has triumphed over the grave and has defeated death. So, we are challenged to be very humble and introspective during lent ... no Hallelujah's or Hosanna's until Jesus achieves that all-important victory. We are going to walk these 40 days together with Our Savior to better appreciate the sacrifice that He made for all mankind. He loves us ... even when the world despises Him! We can learn a great deal from this journey. I challenge you all to be open to where Jesus will take us this Lenten Season. Amen?

Blessings,
Pastor Gary R. Pomrenke

A Message From the President:

By John Bowling

As 2021 fades and we begin a new year together at St. Paul's I am excited to see what God has planned for us in 2022. We need to all come together to do His work in the months ahead to spread his love and message of salvation into the community. It has been very rewarding to see what St. Paul's has continued to accomplish over the past 2 years in spite of COVID. As we begin another new year I pray that everyone will continue to respect and love each other no matter what our differences might be and that we continue to work together to do God's will.

I want to welcome our new Administrative Assistant at St. Paul's Miss. Carolyn Moore. I look forward to getting to know her and working with her in the future. Please give her a big welcome if you are in the area. I want to thank everyone who helped to make Christmas at St. Paul's so special. The beautiful flowers, the children's program and the Christmas candlelight services with the beautiful Christmas music! St. Paul's is certainly blessed to have so much talent!

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It's been a pretty rough winter so far weather wise but thanks to the work of many people we have been able to keep our parking lot open and church services opening on schedule. A huge thanks to Paul Pipho for plowing our parking lots, shoveling snow and salting. A big thanks as well to Brain Vachalek and Winterseat Acres for doing an awesome job removing all the downed branches around the church and playground areas. I know there were others who came up as well like Paul Mehrkam and Mark Lewis and maybe more but again a sincere thanks to everyone! It's been a pretty rough winter so far weather wise but thanks to the work of many people we have been able to keep our parking lot open and church services opening on schedule. A huge thanks to Paul Pipho for plowing our parking lots, shoveling snow and salting. A big thanks as well to Brain Vachalek and Winterseat Acres for doing an awesome job removing all the downed branches around the church and playground areas. I know there were others who came up as well like Paul Mehrkam and Mark Lewis and maybe more but again a sincere thanks to everyone!



John Bowling
Council President

Stewardship

By Felicia Bowling

I'm looking forward to serving as the Stewardship Chairperson. I'm currently working on a new Time & Talent Survey that I hope to get out to the congregation in the next couple of weeks.

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. "The Lord says: 'These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me'" (Isaiah 29:13) Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5) Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to...

- "Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart" (Deuteronomy 15:01)
- "Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 26:16)
- "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13)
- "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23)

God, through Ezekiel, promised, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep my laws" (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father's decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ who has been the perfect steward for us.

**Stewardship Chairperson,
Felicia Bowling**

Building & Grounds

By Brad Clements

As we begin the second month of the new year, I would like once again to thank everyone for their support in maintaining and improving our church and grounds.

There is still work to do, your prayers and support are needed as we address the following projects.

Future projects:

Both doors to the pastor's office need work. The inside door, frame and trim needs to be replaced. The outside door and adjacent wall needs to be rebuilt in order to make it weather tight and secure.



Inside door between Pastor's office and the Administrative Assistant's Office



Outside Entrance to Pastor's Office

Building & Grounds Continued:

- We need to address repairs to our parking lot. Both entrances need to be repaved and several areas are breaking up. We also need to seal coat other areas and stripe the parking spaces. This has a big price tag of about \$25,000, which we may have to address in phases. If we don't address these areas soon, the water will get to the underside of the paving causing large potholes. This will increase the cost of repairs greatly.



- We need to replace our existing electronic piano / organ. Approximate replacement cost \$8,000 - \$8,500



Note: These items need to be addressed during a time that we are operating on very tight budget.

February Birthday's

Rochelle Byrneside - February 2nd

Felicia Bowling - February 5th

Wade Hays - February 9th

Gary Wollin - February 9th

Jakob Garland - February 10th

Cindy Werth - February 11th

Aidan Price - February 12th

Amy Trowbridge - February 12th

Simon Bowling - February 13th

Garrett Wiggen - February 13th

Patty Guntow - February 13th






Debbie Kalnasy - February 16th

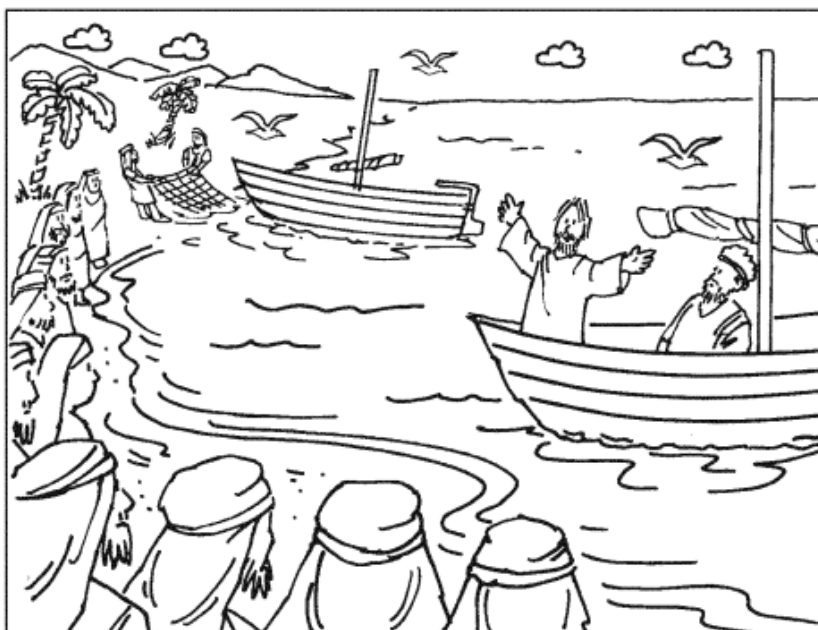
Kid's Corner

Calling the First Disciples

Jesus got into Simon's boat and taught the people who were on the shore.

Find and count the objects in the picture.

 = 0  = 1  = 2  = 3  = 4



FEBRUARY

2022



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3 Bible Study "The Chosen" 6:30 PM in church	4	5
6 Worship Services: 8:00 am & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study 9:15 am	7 Venturing Crew Meeting 7-8:30 in Education Bldg Large Classroom	8	9 Compassion Meeting 5:00 Council Meeting 6:30pm	10 Bible Study "The Chosen" 6:30 PM in church	11	12 Valentine's Day Tea Party 12:00pm
13 Worship Services: 8:00 am & 10:30 am Sunday School 9:15 Bible Study 9:15 am	14 Venturing Crew Meeting 7-8:30 in Education Bldg Large Classroom	15	16	17 Bible Study "The Chosen" 6:30 PM in church	18	19 Men's Prayer Breakfast 0830
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