

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Kinder Place

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



210 East Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: www.splco.org

Worship Schedule: *Saturday 5:30 pm * Sunday 8:00 am Traditional *
* Sunday 10:30 am Contemporary *

St. Paul's Mission Statement: "Reaching, Serving and Growing Disciples"

February 27/28, 2016

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus
Jonathon Pickelmann, Principal
Volume 22

Ben Mueller, Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, Kinder Place Director

Office Hours - 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Number 9

WELCOME to everyone, especially our guests.
Your presence is important to us.

St. Paul's is an evangelical Christian congregation, embracing historic Christian teaching on all doctrines, centered on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to bring the Gospel both to those who are searching for answers to the meaning of life and to those who desire a closer relationship with God. We here at St. Paul's have chosen to align ourselves with the teachings of the Lutheran Reformation, due to the clarity with which these help us to see the true meaning of God's Word. Specifically, St. Paul's is a ministry of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, one of America's truly biblical churches!

- **Members and guests:** please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate to indicate your presence today. For Holy Communion, please read our confession and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.
- Those sharing our beliefs, especially from parishes in fellowship with us, are welcome to receive.
- If you desire Holy Communion but hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, please speak with a Pastor or an Elder.
- Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

Please note: Half the inner circle of individual glasses in each tray contains water with **one drop** of communion wine for those hesitant to drink larger amounts of wine. Those glasses with wine are rose in color.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Come to worship. As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Theme: *The Circle of Faith*

Traditional Worship

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 3, pg. 184

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

BIBLE STUDIES

A Walk Through the Bible

567-5001 Sun. - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

2 Timothy and Titus

567-8195 Tues. – 7:00 p.m. Muecke's Home

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by a member in praise to God for blessings received. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com.

REACHING DISCIPLES

MEALS MINISTRY

St. Paul's Meals Ministry is looking for volunteers to help cook meals for families or individuals due to illness, surgery, family emergency and the like on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact, Sheila Rams at 262-506-4210.

SERVING DISCIPLES

SEARCHING FOR PRAISE TEAM MUSICIANS

St. Paul's church is searching for musicians to join its Praise Teams. If you are interested in singing or playing contemporary music and helping lead the worship service to praise our Lord, please call Sara at 262.490.2879.

We need:

- Keyboardist
- Horns (trumpet, saxophone, trombone, etc.)
- Drummer
- Vocalists (male and female)
- Sound System Operators

GROWING DISCIPLES

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for St. Paul's Night at the YMCA. Saturday, April 9th, for St. Paul's members and their guests. This event is sponsored by St. Paul's Journeymen. Free admission. Details to follow.

THE "EVER-READY CLUB"

Have you heard about the newest ministry at St. Paul's? It's called the "Ever-Ready Club." Any person 50+ years is invited to join us. Our next fellowship gathering is on Tuesday, March 1st at 10:30 am. We meet in Room 219 at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Come and see what we are about! Delicious snacks will be provided.

LADIES AID

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 3rd, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve Scharnell will be our speaker. Enjoy treats by Sharon, Karen, Anne and Dorothy. Come and join us as we welcome Pastor Scharnell and begin talks about our Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet. Please bring cereal for the Lord's Cupboard. **Please note...there was misprint in the March Epistle, our meeting is at 6:00 pm, NOT at 3:00 pm.**

SUNDAY NIGHT ALIVE YOUTH GROUP

High School SNA- Sunday, February 28 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Middle School Game Night/Lock-In- Friday, April 1 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 am

5th-6th grade youth will be picked up at 10:00 pm

7th-8th grade youth are welcome to stay for the lock-in

If you are interested in helping with the lock-in please contact Wendy Petersen (wnpetersen@gmail.com) or Ben Mueller (ben@splco.org). We are looking for some parents to help with breakfast from 6:30 am - 7:30 am.

SHOP THE PIG?

The youth group just received over \$400 in the general fund from Piggly Wiggly receipts that have been turned in. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Please continue to bring in your receipts. You can drop them in the slot labeled "Piggly Wiggly" receipts next to the lift, outside of the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul's Kinder Place is hiring!

Full-Time Lead Infant Teacher

St. Paul's Kinder Place is looking for a loving teacher who has a passion for teaching, learning, and having fun with children.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Promote feelings of security and trust in infants and children
- Tend to children's personal hygiene needs
- Submit lesson plans to Director
- Provide & maintain a safe, loving and nurturing environment for infants and children
- Communicate effectively with infants, their parents, and other staff



Minimum requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- Course work required includes 2 entry level courses in early childhood (EC I & II), Infant/Toddler course, and CPR.
- Demonstrate skills that address developmental needs of infants and children

We are willing to assist the right candidate in obtaining the required education/training.

St. Paul's Kinder Place offers a comprehensive benefit package that includes: health, dental, paid time off, and childcare discount.

Pay is competitive and based on education and experience.

To apply for this position, email your resumé to Christine at kinderplace@splco.org.

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Third Sunday in Lent: The Circle of Faith*

February 29 - March 6, 2016

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

The Circle of Faith

“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek. 33:11). So the Spirit-given Scriptures have been “written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ and follow Him in faithfulness.

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Christ-Centered Theme: The Holy Spirit's work is to lead us to repentance and a life of faith in Christ.

Verse: John 6:54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Psalm: Psalm 85 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule LSB, p. 304

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Daily Psalms								
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121:6	25, 91	27, 51	126:102	107, 130	31:143	42, 32

Catechism—What is the Sacrament of the Altar?: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

<p><i>What is the Sacrament of the Altar?</i> It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.</p>	<p>1st grade+</p>
<p><i>What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?</i> These words, Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.</p>	<p>1st grade+</p>
<p><i>How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?</i> Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.</p>	<p>2nd grade+</p>

The Third Sunday in Lent: The Circle of Faith

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299ff.	
Sun.	Repentance and the Parable of the Barren Fig Tree—Luke 13:1-9	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
Mon.	Luke Passion: Palm Sunday—Luke 19:29-48	Gen. 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
Tue.	Luke Passion: The Preparation of the Passover—Luke 22:1-13	Gen. 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
Wed.	Luke Passion: Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Luke 22:14-30	Gen. 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
Thur.	Luke Passion: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Luke 22:31-46	Gen. 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
Fri.	Luke Passion: Jesus' Arrest—Luke 22:47-55	Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67	Mark 8:1-21

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's

Collect for The Third Sunday in Lent: The Circle of Faith

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS – Erik Benes - healing from foot surgery; Laura Gruen; Don Gauerke (VA Hospital); Irene Behl; Virginia Meintz; Margie Hertneky; Barb Star; Agnes Thurow; Lynne Lavota (migraines); Jim Wilson (ALS) & Karen Wilson; Alice Feldschneider; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife) - cancer returned; Marian Faltersack; Esther Hart; Iris Jahnke; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Laurie Farrell (Grant Hopkins's sister) - recovering from double mastectomy; Roxanne (Corienne Walek's mom); Rebecca Paulson; Todd Hannah - in hospice w/ brain cancer; Sally; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; Kathy Strakis (Wendy Petersen's mom); Carla; Tim; Roy Hyatt; Joe Anheir; Curt Priem; Mike Galaszewski - esophageal cancer; Ethan; Michael Graham; Jenny Lemke (friend of the Uttech's); Kayla (7 years-old) - brain cancer; Cheri (Tina Gartzke's friend); Doug (CLL) - in experimental study; Linda F - breast cancer; Lloyd Crom; Jack Anderson; Patrick McNally; Kim B. - breast cancer; Brian Keller; Jeanie; Grace Wilhelm (Multiple Myeloma); Bill O'Donnell (Pastor's uncle); Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law) - Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Elissa Spencer (Lynne Lavota's mom); Donald - bladder cancer; Courtney - tumor on neck; Korbin Berg - colon cancer; Jan (Diane Bleke's sister); Al Lippert (Les's dad); Mike Ball; Jessica; John Orner (Julie's father-in-law) - lung cancer; Chris Moha - breast cancer; Amy (Heather Gartzke's

friend); Robert Counsell; Pat (Renee Ebert's aunt) - ovarian cancer; Ray Liska; Sue; Jim; Cheri Benz - breast cancer; Cami - healing; Tim - lung cancer; Pastor William Meyer (Don Meyer's brother) - Lymphoma; Dan (stage 4 prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain - kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski - throat cancer; Nancy - breast cancer; Sarah Beine (stage 4 cancer) **Other:** Jan Foti; Kelly Braswell (BJ Lavota's sister) - MS; Leslyn Mueller's brother having kidney removed; Matt; Marlene Wilhelm; Brian Kloskowski - MS; Logyn (1 1/2 year old) - unknown health issues; David Eberhardt (Chad's dad); Karen Matusek - recovering from vascular surgery; Marilyn Roecker; Pat - afib; Noah - medical issues; a friend of a member suffering from a brain bleed; TJ Easley (Dawn Lower's brother-in-law); Margaret Bauman (Pat Menden's sister) - hospice; Ruby Zimmerman - minor stroke; Ruth Borgman; Curtis Keeser; Lucile Smith (Amy Picco's mom); Mora; Carol Duchow (Dorothy's sister-in-law) - hospice; Chuck (Kathie Ware's brother); Barb - severe daily headaches; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Lynne Kramer (Susie Meyer's dad); Sharon (David's Betzig's cousin) - broken neck; Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Dwain Kline (Jennifer Truchan's grandpa) - Alzheimer's; Clarence; Caroline Joy, daughter of Eric & Lisa (Keller) Harbaugh (Langerthan's Cell Histiocytosis); Pam Leimer (Pat Borgman's cousin) - stroke; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son) - MS; Kelly Kulas; Ray (Michelle Schlomer's grandpa); Charles Tuff (Alzheimer's); Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling and his unit VMM-223; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike, Rob & Fabian Beats

Those serving God as missionaries: Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Derow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; Mike & Joel Tesch for safe travels to Yellowstone for snowmobile trip; the family of Logan Rankin, who died; Sarah; the friend of a member in an abusive relationship; missionaries being attacked by ISIS; the Christians being persecuted in the Middle East.

Thanksgiving: Pat Kerrigan for healing

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week: "May God Bestow on Us His Grace"

LSB 823

Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 5/6, 2016

Hymns: 686, 543 (571, 910, 753) 820

The Graceful Father

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were "still a long way off," He saw us and "felt compassion" (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making "him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we "will trust, and will not be afraid" (Is. 12:2).

“Living as a Minority”

In modern America, Biblically faithful Christians and congregations are being viewed skeptically, marginalized, or even considered enemies of the state. Being a Biblically faithful Christian is increasingly a "minority position." How do we live faithfully in this environment? The book of *Acts* has a lot to say to us in this regard, for it records the beginning of the Church in the midst of the Roman Empire.

All early Christians left a "cultural majority" (whether Judaism or some form of paganism) because they were convinced that "Jesus is Lord." (Philippians 2:11) As Christians, they and their congregations had to learn to live faithfully as a minority in the midst of a sometimes hostile majority. That was their reality. From May 8 through November 20, 2016, St. Paul's will explore the book of *Acts* under the theme, "Living as a Minority," with a strong emphasis on applying the Christian faith to life in our culture.

Each week during this extended series we will have:

1. Sermon
2. Small Group Bible Study
3. Daily Devotion

Please prayerfully prepare to participate: in weekly worship, in Bible study, and in daily devotion. If you are interested in leading--or learning to lead--a small group Bible study please contact Pastor Lance O'Donnell at podonnell@splco.org or call 262-567-5001.

Born to THRIVE ~ Lent 2016

Christ is *Life* and, in Him, we are "born to thrive." Jesus' parables are full of truth and wisdom that help us understand what "thrive" really means. Each Wednesday in Lent through March 16 we will learn from Jesus about getting--and keeping--our faith and "things" in Godly order. ***There will be a Lenten hymn sing 15 minutes before each service.***

Born to Thrive: Learning from Jesus' Parables about Getting--and Keeping--Our Faith and "Things" in Godly Order.

Mar 2, 2016	Luke 12.13-21	The Rich Fool 12:15 or 6:15 pm
Mar 9, 2016	Luke 16.1-13	Mammon and God 12:15 or 6:15 pm
Mar 16, 2016	Luke 9.57-62	The Fox, the Funeral, and the Furrow 12:15 or 6:15 pm

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.



For the most current information on St. Paul's happenings, please visit our website at splco.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS: March 1st - 6th

ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

TUESDAY March 1st	The "Ever-Ready Club" LWML	Room 219 Fellowship Hall	10:30 am 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY March 2nd	Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Parish Choir Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Adult Choir Praise Team Practice	Church Church Balcony Church Church Balcony Church	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 5:20 pm 6:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:20pm 8:45 pm
THURSDAY March 3rd	Ladies Aid Praise Team Practice	Fellowship Hall Church	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
SATURDAY March 5th	Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Church Fellowship Hall	5:30 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY March 6th	Traditional Worship Service Time to Grow Public School Confirmation Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Service	Church Room 219 Room 206 Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am

ATTENDANCE

February 20/21

Church Attendance :

5:30 pm - 102

8:00 am - 124

10:30 am - 227

453 Total; 25 visitors; 428 members

ST. PAUL'S MARCH EPISTLE IS
NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE AT SPLCO.ORG.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

We rejoice to have families with small children participating in our worship services. There are baskets available with items that might be helpful for your children behind the back pews.

THIS WEEKEND 5:30 PM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM

Music Leaders	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	Look2Hi m
Special Music	Parish Choir	SPLS 4K & Kindergarten/Alyssa Dinnauer	
Acolytes	Jacob Eberhardt	Megan Frosch	Leann Wolf
Altar Guild	Wendy Tesch	Donna Andrus	Sarah Neff
Elders	Dave Meyer	Bruce Bain	Scott Kalien
Greeters	Roxie Gerlach	John Melvin (church) John & Margie Hertneky (school)	Shirley Smart
Lectors	Amy Hackbarth	Cheri Ware	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Leah Johnson
Radio	N/A	Jim Steinberg	N/A
Ushers	Todd Leonhardt	Bob Bratz	Scott Kalien

March 5/6 5:30 PM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM

Readings	Isai ah 12:1-6	2 Corin thi ans 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Acolytes	Jacob Eberhardt	Makenna Paar	Leann Wolf
Altar Guild	Jamie Stache	Dorothy Duchow	Sarah Neff
Elders	Dave Meyer	Arno Kirchenwitz	Jon Schmeling
Greeters	John Melvin	Ralph & Donna Andrus (church) Chuck & Jenny Laabs (school)	John Melvin
Lectors	Dave Meyer	Jim Steinberg	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Mike Papa	Gary Flanagan	Truman Seifert

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Ezekiel 33:7–20 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 914

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? “And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. “Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 1217

I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it

Luke 13:1–9 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 1109

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

February 27th & 28th, 2016