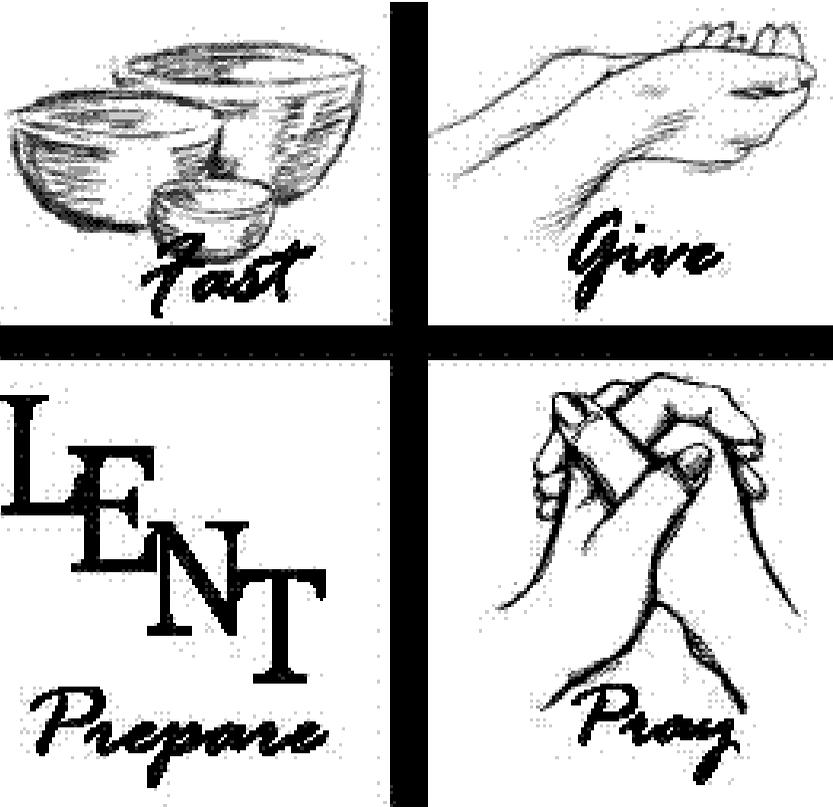


# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Kinder Place

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



210 East Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066  
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: [www.splco.org](http://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"*

March 5/6, 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 10

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 FOURTH 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 Graceful Father*

Traditional Worship

**Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 2, pg. 167**

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



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>  
AT  
2:00 AM**

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by James & Karen Wilson in loving memory of their son, Michael. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at [wtkm.com](http://wtkm.com).

# REACHING DISCIPLES

## LWML MEETING RESCHEDULED

Due to the inclement weather from last Tuesday, our LWML meeting will take place *this* Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

## 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

## GOVERNANCE MODEL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Our leadership will be holding two informational meetings during which they will be discussing the proposed changes to St. Paul's Constitution and Bylaws. The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm and Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.

There are copies of the district-approved Constitution and Bylaws, along with a summary of the changes, available in the back of church on the bookshelves or online at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org) for your review.

There will be a **Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 am service** to vote to approve the proposed changes.

## SAVE THE DATE

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

## **ALL ADULTS AND CHILDREN--YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

When: Tuesday, March 15th in the church  
Beginning at 9 a.m.

What: Cleaning of the church--pews and all  
Bring rags, Swiffers, Murphy's Oil soap  
Or just yourself (and elbow grease)



**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BY ST. PAUL'S LADIES AID**

## **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@spico.org](mailto:kinderplace@spico.org).*

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent: The Graceful Father*

March 7-13, 2016

## **The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

### **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).

*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:** Christ reveals to us a graceful Father and calls to live thankfully.

**Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:27** Whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

**Psalm: Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule LSB, p. 304**

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Daily Psalms</b>								
<b>Morning</b>	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
<b>Evening</b>	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 Sacrament of the altar? Where is this written? (sung) Who receives this sacrament worthily?

<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>1<sup>st</sup> grade+</p>
<p><i>Where is this written?</i> The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark Luke and St. Paul’s write: <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat, this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”</b> <b>In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”</b></p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> grade+ Kindergarten+</p>
<p><i>Who receives this sacrament worthily?</i> Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly find outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: <b>Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.</b> But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words <b>“for you”</b> require all hearts to believe.</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> grade+</p>

***The Fourth Sunday in Lent: The Graceful Father***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for the Family &amp; School</b>	<b>Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299ff.</b>	
<b>Sun.</b>	Parable of the Prodigal Son—Luke 15:1-3	Gen. 27:30-45; 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13
<b>Mon.</b>	Luke Passion: Peter Denies His Lord—Luke 22:54-62	Gen. 29:1-30	Mark 9:14-32
<b>Tue.</b>	Luke Passion: Jesus Before the Sanhedrin—Luke 22:63-71	Gen. 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
<b>Wed.</b>	Luke Passion: Jesus Before Pontius Pilate and King Herod—Luke 23:1-12	Gen. 37:1-36	Mark 10:1-12
<b>Thur.</b>	Luke Passion: The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Luke 23:13-38	Gen. 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
<b>Fri.</b>	Luke Passion: Jesus’ Death and Burial—Luke 23:39-56	Gen. 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52

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

Collect for The Fourth Sunday in Lent: The Graceful Father

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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** – Mabel Fredrick; Erik Benes - healing from foot surgery; Laura Gruen; Don Gauerke (VA Hospital); Irene Behl; Virginia Meintz; Barb Star; A gnes 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:** Julie; Jacalyn Balcuinas (Carol Lenz's daughter); Laurie Farrell (Grant Hopkins' sister) - recovering from double mastectomy; Roxanne (Corienne Walek's mom); Rebecca Paulson; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; 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); Linda F - breast cancer; Lloyd Crom; Jack Anderson; Patrick McNally; Kim B. - breast cancer; Brian Keller; Jeanie; Grace Wilhelm (Multiple Myeloma); 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; Korbin Berg - colon cancer; Jan; Mike Ball; Jessica; 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; 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; 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; those struggling with addiction--Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah; the friend of a member in an abusive relationship; missionaries being attacked by ISIS; the Christians being persecuted in the Middle East.

**Birthdays:** Dennis Zastrow - 88<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Darlene Adams - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sheila Rams - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Renee Ebert - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Isaiah Scheuer - 18<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Diane Gartzke - March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Thanksgiving:** Sara Junio for successful surgery

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

**Hymn of the Week: "What Wondrous Love is This"**

**LSB 543**

**Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 12/13, 2016**

**Hymns: 311, 427 (647, 425, 669) 912**

Luke 20:9-20

In the Parable of the Wicked Tenants Jesus warns against rejecting Himself, the Messiah. As we continue to reject Jesus as a society, believing that "all paths lead to heaven" or that there is no heaven or hell, we do it to our own peril. As the body, as God's children, we can't ignore this. God builds His Church on the crucified and resurrected Jesus. We are the means He uses to share this Good News of hope which is built on the one sure cornerstone, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## “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@splcoo.org](mailto:podonnell@splcoo.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 9, 2016	Luke 16.1-13	<b>Mammon and God</b> 12:15 or 6:15 pm
Mar 16, 2016	Luke 9.57-62	<b>The Fox, the Funeral, and the Furrow</b> 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](http://splco.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS: March 7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>  
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY March 7th	Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry	Hallway	5:30 pm
TUESDAY March 8th	LWML (rescheduled from previous week) All Boards	Fellowship Hall Room 219	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY March 9th	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 10th	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
SATURDAY March 12th	Journeyman Governance Model Info Meeting Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Maxim's Fellowship Hall Church Fellowship Hall	7:30 am 4:30 pm 5:30 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY March 13th	Traditional Worship Service Time to Grow Public School Confirmation Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Service Governance Model Info Meeting	Church Room 219 Room 206 Fellowship Hall Church Fellowship Hall	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am

# ATTENDANCE

February 27/28

Church Attendance :

5:30 pm - 89

8:00 am - 185

10:30 am - 276

450 Total; 33 visitors; 417 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

<b>Music Leaders</b>	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	In His Light
<b>Special Music</b>	Bill & Bobbie Scheuer	Adult Choir	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jacob Eberhardt	Makenna Paar	Leann Wolf
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Martha Blanck	Dorothy Duchow	Sarah Neff
<b>Elders</b>	Dave Meyer	Arno Kirchenwitz	Jon Schmeling
<b>Greeters</b>	John Melvin	Ralph & Donna Andrus (church) Chuck & Jenny Laabs (school)	John Melvin
<b>Lectors</b>	Dave Meyer	Jim Steinberg	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Papa	Gary Flanagan	Truman Seifert

### March 12/13      5:30 PM      8:00 AM      10:30 AM

<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:8-14	Luke 20:9-20
<b>Acolytes</b>	Brianna Kroll & Zoe Esveldt	TBD	Hannah Tuff
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Ann Ashworth	Shirley Dibble	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwiig
<b>Elders</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Rick Zastrow	John Melvin
<b>Greeters</b>	Brenda Nagel	James & Judy Braatz (church) Karen Meyer (school)	Jamie Stache
<b>Lectors</b>	Erik Benes	Rick Zastrow	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Gary Pribnow
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Chuck Muecke	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Rick Zastrow	John Melvin

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### Isaiah 12:1–6 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 733

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

### 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 1228

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (ESV)

Pew Bible pg. 1112

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property

between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016