

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

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



210 East Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: www.spcco.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 11th & 12th, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus
Jonathon Pickelmann, Principal
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, Kinder Place Director

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

Number 11

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 SECOND 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 Emeritus: John Kelling

Theme: *NOT GUILTY!*

Traditional Worship

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 1, pg. 151

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

BIBLE STUDIES

A Walk Through the Bible

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

Salvation

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.

BAPTISM

We welcome into St. Paul's church family during the 5:30 pm Worship Service, **Theodore Joseph**. He is the son of Jeremy & Kristin (Hertneky) **Guza**. His sponsors are James Hertneky, Melissa Lutz & Brian Guza. We will keep Theodore in our prayers.

Flash photography is not allowed during a baptism which takes place during the worship service. The pastor may reenact the baptism after the service for picture-taking opportunities.

REACHING DISCIPLES

CHURCH CARPETING

St. Paul's Ladies Aid has a goal of replacing the carpeting in church this year. They have pledged \$10,000 of their own money towards the project. To date they have received \$2,760 in donations from members. As the Church Properties Committee has offered to help remove the old carpeting, in order to save on the cost, we are already over halfway there.

A SAMPLE OF THE NEW CARPETING IS ON DISPLAY IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX. Please take a second to view the sample.

As we still need about \$8,400, we are asking members to prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's Ladies Aid with a memo of "Carpet Fund". Watch the church bulletin for updates on funding and thank you for your help.

SERVING DISCIPLES

CHURCH CLEANING

On Saturday, April 8th, at 9:00 am, please join a group of women from Ladies Aid and LWML to help clean our church sanctuary. This is our spring cleaning before Easter, which is a wonderful way to express our love for the wonderful blessings God so richly promises. Some cleaning supplies will be available, but feel free to bring paper towels, rags, garbage bags and/or Murphy's Oil Soap for the pews. Thank you!

SUMMER JOB!

St. Paul's Summer Program is looking for Extended Care workers. The job runs from Monday, June 12th through Friday, July 28th. Hours are 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. Must be 18 years or older. Contact Jill George at jill@splco.org more details.

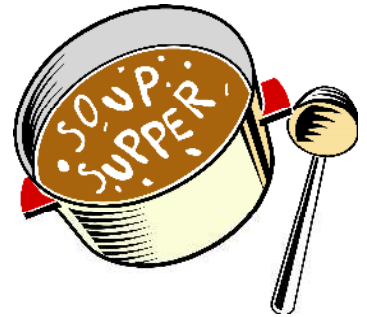
LORD'S CUPBOARD EASTER FOOD BAGS

DONATIONS NEEDED: 270 cans of corn, 210 instant potato (150 small pouches, 60 boxes), 210 boxes of Jell-O (150 small, 60 large), 210 cans of fruit (assortment fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges), 210 boxes of scalloped potatoes and 270 brown gravy packets. Also, if you are interested in contributing to the purchase of the hams, please let us know.

We will be packing over 200 Easter food bags on Saturday, April 1st at 9 a.m. Please join us! Please call Jamie Stache with any questions 608-444-3556.

HELP SUPPORT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!

This summer a few members from St. Paul's are teaming up with members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Pewaukee to travel to the Dominican Republic on a week long mission trip. We will be partnering with Lutheran missionaries to work in the group home for people with special needs and to help the ministry to continue to grow in an area that desperately needs the love of Jesus. We ask for your continued prayers for the people of the Dominican Republic and the mission team as they prepare to travel. There will be several upcoming fundraisers to help with the cost of the trip. Each Wednesday, through April 5th, there will be "light" Lenten soup suppers served from 5:30 - 6:15. Please consider coming to help support the mission trip and then stay for the service at 6:30.



USHER/ELDER SCHEDULE

The new usher/usher schedule for April through June is now available. There are copies in the podium in the narthex.

GROWING DISCIPLES

LCMS STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES

Matthew 15:27 — "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table – He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That's where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

FISH DINNER

We will be having our Fisher Dinner on Friday, March 31st from 4:30 pm—7:00 pm. If you are able to help in any way, please call Sue Lindemann at 262-567-8985. Thank you and God's blessings.

EVER-READY MINISTRY

The Ever-Ready Ministry at St. Paul's is inviting you to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, March 14th, at 10:30 am. We will be having game day. Come for fun and some good snacks. All those ages 55+ are welcome to join us—bring a friend with you for a fun time of fellowship.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

- Sunday, March 12 @ 6-7:30 - High School and Middle School SNA.
- Sunday, March 26 @ 6-7:30 - No SNA - St. Paul's and LCL Spring Break.

Feel free to contact Wendy Petersen at wnpetersen@gmail.com or Adam Tanney at adam@splco.org if you have any questions about youth group or upcoming events.

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Second Sunday in Lent: NOT GUILTY!
March 11-18, 2017*

NOT GUILTY! (Pastor Kelling)

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram "a great nation," to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:2-3). "Abram went, as the LORD had told him" (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan "he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD" (Gen. 12:8). He "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He "justifies the ungodly" (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord's promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which "gives life to the dead" (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, "that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

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

Verse: Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm: Psalm 121 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

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—1-3 (Primary Texts)

Table of Duties—To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers: 1 Timothy 3:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:6; Titus 1:9

<p>Ten Commandments—1-3 (Primary Texts) 1. You shall have no other gods. 2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. 3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.</p>	<p>1st grade+ 2nd grade+ 2nd grade+</p>
<p>To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,</p>	<p>1st grade+</p>
<p>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 1 Timothy 3:2-4</p>	<p>2nd grade+</p>
<p>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6</p>	<p>3rd grade+</p>
<p>He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9</p>	<p>4th grade+</p>

The Second Sunday in Lent: *NOT GUILTY!*

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
Mon.	The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19	Gen. 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
Tue.	Bitter Water Made Sweet—Exodus 15:22-27	Gen. 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
Wed.	The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-35	Gen. 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
Thur.	The Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7	Gen. 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
Fri.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	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

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 – George Nagel—rehab; Nathan Blanck—recovering from shoulder surgery; Bob Gauerke; Kaylyn Nord—knee injury; Larry Hansen; Bill (rehab) & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Tim Bratz; Laura Gruen—brain cancer; Esther Hart; Louise Lang; Marguerite Schneider; Ethan Meyer—brain tumor; Mabel Fredrick; Agnes Thurow; Alice Feldschneider; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Iris Jahnke—hospice; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Judy (Amy Hackbarth's friend)—lung cancer; Cheryl—recovering from cancer surgery; Grandpa Dave (family friend of Nagel's)—bladder cancer; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Ron Olson (Laura Rohowetz's father); Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Daina Boppr—breast cancer; Quinn—breast cancer; Isiah Butler—Lymphoma; Dan Rogers (Jon Schmeling's brother-in-law)—bladder cancer; Julie; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; Michael Graham; Jenny Lemke (friend of the Uttech's); Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Cheri (Tina Gartzke's friend); Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Brian Keller; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Donald—bladder cancer; Jan; Mike Ball; Jessica; Chris Moha—breast cancer; Amy (Heather Gartzke's friend); 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-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski - throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer; Sarah Beine (stage 4 cancer)

Other: Kristal—lung surgery; Jennifer (Rick & Kathy Ware's daughter)—undergoing tests; Bruce Pine (Marena's dad)—car accident; Kyle Bruss's mother; Jane (Jason Schmittinger's mom)—back surgery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn's nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Jane Nordstrom (Lois Wolf's mom)—continued healing & good test results; Rose (Pastor Krug's aunt); Kelly Braswell (BJ Lavota's sister)—MS; Bob King; Barb Schlomer (Dave's mom)—

severe headaches; Cory—healing; Kathy Kraklau (Susan DeWitz's mom)—stroke; Brayden Stacey—2 year-old with brain tumor; Ken; Don; Bruce—open heart surgery; Curt G; Maddie Ratzow's grandma's eye & her grandpa's shoulder; Donald Ryan (Gail Frosch's dad); Ashlin—stage 4 renal failure; Clem—high calcium heart; Ken (Kathie Ware's twin brother)—congestive heart failure; Mary Dinnauer (Matt's aunt); Bob—prostrate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Kelly; Brian Kloskowski—MS; Logyn; Pat—afib; TJ Easley (Dawn Lower's brother-in-law); Mora; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Lynne Kramer (Susie Meyer's dad); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Dwain Kline (Jennifer Truchan's grandpa)—hospice; Clarence; Pam Leimer (Pat Borgman's cousin)—stroke; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Kelly Kulas; Charles Tuff (Alzheimer's); Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: PFC Nicholas Lang (South Korea); Sgt. Tyler Peartree; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

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

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; for Renee to find a job; the Stephen Ministry program—for the teachers and students; the Ellenberger family; Josh, for help with alcoholism; David; those struggling with addiction—Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

Baptism: Theodore Joseph Guza —March 11th

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

Hymn of the Week: "All Who Believe and Are Baptized" _____ LSB 601

Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Lent

_____ March 18/19, 2017

Hymns: 648, 725 (642, 398, 761) 549

Everyone's Thirsty (Pastor Scharnell)

Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, *"all the congregation of the people of Israel"* grumbled against Him because *"there was no water for the people to drink"* (Ex. 17:1). Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at *"about the sixth hour"* (John 4:6, 19:14), when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is *"the gift of God"* (John 4:10), the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people *"a spring of water welling up to eternal life"* (John 4:14). By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we *"worship the Father in spirit and truth"* (John 4:23). *"We rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* because *"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"* (Rom. 5:2, 5).

3rd Holy Communion Hymn: *There Is a Redeemer*

- 1 There is a Redeemer—Jesus, God’s own Son;
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
- Refrain* Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
 And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.
- 2 Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names;
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. *Refrain*
- 3 When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
 There I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place. *Refrain*



St. Paul's Fellowship Coffee Hour March 19!



Hosted by the Board of Elders

Time: 9:15 am to 10:25 am

Stay after the 8am Service!

Come a little early for the 10:30 Service!

Where: St. Paul's school lobby & hallway **or** outside by the lobby doors
on sunny days

Welcome new members & visitors!
Enjoy the fellowship of our church members!

Coffee, milk, juice, water and sweet treats will be served

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 13th—19th
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY March 13 th	Stephen Ministry Training	Room 201	6:00 pm
TUESDAY March 14 th	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY March 15 th	Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Parish Choir Lenten Soup Supper Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Adult Choir	Church Church Balcony Fellowship Hall Church Church Balcony	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:30pm
THURSDAY March 16 th	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
SATURDAY March 18 th	Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Church Fellowship Hall	5:30 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY March 19 th	Traditional Worship Coffee Fellowship Hour <i>Time to Grow</i> (Sunday School) Public School Confirmation Class Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship	Church School Lobby Various Rooms Room 219 Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am

ATTENDANCE

March 4/5

Church Attendance :

5:30 pm—147

8:00 am—118

10:30 am—160

425 Total; 27 visitors; 398 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	Look2Him
Special Music	Parish Choir	SPLS Concert Choir	
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	Olivia Blair & Hannah Tuff
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Ashworth	Dorothy Duchow	Sarah Neff
Elders	Wilbur Pieper	Rick Zastrow	John Melvin
Greeters	John Melvin	Chuck & Jenny Laabs (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school)	Anne Fait
Lectors		Rick Zastrow	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Erik Benes
Radio	N/A	Jim Steinberg	N/A
Ushers	Wilbur Pieper	Rick Zastrow	John Melvin

NEXT WEEKEND

5:30 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Readings	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-26
Acolytes	Colton Koepke	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Wendy Tesch	Barb Hentz	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zweg
Elders	Mike Tesch	Rick Zastrow	Scott Kalien
Greeters	Michelle & Brigitte Schlomer	Karen Meyer (church) Ralph & Donna Andrus (school)	Wayne & Diane Gartzke
Lectors	Dave Meyer	Dorothy Duchow	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Todd Leonhardt	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1–9

Pew Bible pg. 11

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

Pew Bible pg. 1197

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1–17

Pew Bible pg. 1129

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. [Jesus said:] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.