

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

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)

FOURTH 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 25th & 26th, 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 12

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 Gift and Responsibility of Sight*

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 the Frosch family in praise to God for Gail's birthday on March 25th & Megan's 13th birthday on March 24th. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com.

REACHING DISCIPLES

LWML

Scholarship applications are being accepted for women preparing for church work in the LCMS. Active female members of South Wisconsin District congregations who are preparing for "full time service"* and are an undergraduate at one of the Synod's educational institutions are eligible to apply. *(Full-time service in the church is any position available through the Board of Assignments of the Synod). Forms are available at **LWML-SWD.org**. Deadline is April 30, 2017.

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 \$3,635 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. **If you would like to offer your confidential opinion on the sample, you may do so by contacting the church office at 262.567.5001 or heather@splco.org. All opinions will be taken into consideration at our next meeting.**

As we still need about \$6,365, 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

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.

LET'S TALK! THE PASTOR IS IN.

NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT! Imagine yourself sitting in a rocking chair on your front porch with your favorite beverage and Pastor O'Donnell sitting across from you, and he's answering all of the questions you have about anything you can think of. Sounds pretty great, right? Well, now you can send us those questions and our guest pastors will answer them on our program, "Let's Talk!" You can listen each Friday at 2:00 pm CST on kfuo.org. You can send your questions to letstalk@kfuo.org.



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.

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!

GROWING DISCIPLES

LADIES AID

An invitation to all our ladies to join us on Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting. Pastor Kelling will be leading us as we "Take a Walk with Jesus" during this Lenten season and beyond. Our servers for our meeting will be Florence Kroll, Grace Olson and Anne Fait.

We will also be reviewing the results of our Fish Dinner scheduled to take place on March 31st and where we stand with the carpet fund. Events of the Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet will be discussed as well.

Please remember to bring peanut butter and/or jelly for the Lord's Cupboard.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES

Psalm 142:5 — I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control – so we can follow His Word in confidence.

FISH DINNER

We will be having our Fish 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.

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

The God who is Jesus Christ displays His miraculous compassion especially amid ailments and inabilities (John 9:2-3). Though we occupy evil days (Ephesians 5:16), we ought not give up on anybody before God does (Isaiah 42:16). After all, He never forsakes us (Ephesians 5:8)! *Merciful Master, teach us and lead us to walk with Your children in light.*

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: The Gift and Responsibility of Sight

March 26—April 2, 2017

The Gift and Responsibility of Sight

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. "For his righteousness' sake," He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though "at one time you were darkness," now "you are light in the Lord" (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to "awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead" (Eph. 5:14).

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

Christ-Centered Theme: By His word of the gospel, Jesus calls us out of the darkness into His marvelous light.

Verse: Luke 10:2 The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Psalm: Psalm 132:8-18 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—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17

<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>What the Hearers Owe their Pastors We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. 1 Thessalonians 5:12</p>	<p>1st grade+</p>
<p>Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:13</p>	<p>2nd grade+</p>
<p>Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17</p>	<p>3rd grade+</p>

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: *The Gift and Responsibility of Sight*

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6 :1-15	Gen. 41 :28-57	Mark 11 :20-33
Mon.	St. Matthew Passion: Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin—26 :57-75	Gen. 42 :1-34, 38	Mark 12 :1-12
Tue.	St. Matthew Passion: Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—27 :1-26	Gen. 43 :1-28	Mark 12 :13-27
Wed.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Gen. 44 :1-18, 32-34	Mark 12 :28-44
Thur.	St. Matthew Passion: The King of the Jews Is Mocked—27 :27-44	Gen. 45 :1-20, 24-28	Mark 13 :1-23
Fri.	St. Matthew Passion: Jesus' Death and Burial—27 :45-66	Gen. 47 :1-31	Mark 13 :24-37

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

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 – Carol Fellin—for favorable biopsy results; George Nagel; Bob Gauerke; Larry Hansen; Bill & 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; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Daina Boppr—breast cancer; Quinn—breast cancer; 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: Kat's mom—broken leg; 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; 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; Donald Ryan (Gail Frosch's dad); Ashlin—stage 4 renal failure; Clem—high calcium heart; Ken (Kathie Ware's twin brother)—congestive heart failure; 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); 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.

Birthdays: Gail Frosch—March 25th
Megan Frosch—13th—March 24th

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

Hymn of the Week: "Church of God, Elect and Glorious" _____ LSB 646

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday in Lent

_____ April 1/2, 2017

Hymns: 741 (v. 1-4), 741 (v. 5-8) (752, 637, 576)

God is Glorified (Pastor Scharnell)

The illness and death of Lazarus happened "that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die "for the nation" and gather "into one the children of God who are scattered abroad" (John 11:51-52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to "unbind him, and let him go" (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not "submit to God's law," nor could we "please God" (Rom. 8:7-8), but "he condemned sin" in His own flesh so "that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us" (Rom. 8:3-4). Now through the Gospel, "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells" in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).

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 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.



New Women's Bible Study Beginning May 6th!

We are excited to begin a brand new women's Bible Study that will begin Saturday, May 6th, and meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays (alternating Saturdays from Journeyman). The vision for this group is to grow into a ministry like that of Journeyman. As women in the Word, we will gather to lift up and encourage one another through Bible study and fellowship.

All women of confirmation age and older are invited to join us. (You do not have to be a member of St. Paul's.) We realize that schedules are busy, and that you may not be able to attend all the time, but please don't let this discourage you from attending at all.

Our first study will be 6 sessions using the book, *More to Your Story: Discover Your Place in God's Plan* by Max Lucado. Following that study, we will begin an 8 session study using the book, *Living the Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma.

Start Date: Saturday, May 6

Time: 7:30 AM

Location: Whelan's Coffee Shop (in the loft)
163 E Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc

Registration: None needed – just come and join us

Purchase the book: Barnes & Noble online, or Amazon

Prepare: Read the Introduction and review the Session 1 Study Guide (*in the back of the book*)

Facilitated by: Sara Junio: 262-490-2879 or sarajunio527@gmail.com
Cheryl Tesch: 920-285-3628 or cheryl.tesch@ymail.com

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 27th—April 2nd
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY March 27 th	Stephen Ministry Training	Room 201	6:00 pm
TUESDAY March 28 th	Praise Team Practice Board of Elders Meeting	Church Room 219	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY March 29 th	Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Stephen Ministry Presentation Parish Choir Lenten Soup Supper Lenten Hymn Sing Lenten Worship Adult Choir	Church Church Fellowship Hall Balcony Fellowship Hall Church Church Balcony	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:30pm
THURSDAY March 30 th	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
FRIDAY March 31 st	Fish Dinner	Gym	4:30 pm
SATURDAY April 1 st	Packing Easter Food Bags Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Fellowship Hall Church Fellowship Hall	9:00 am 5:30 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY April 2 nd	Traditional Worship <i>Time to Grow</i> (Sunday School) Public School Confirmation Class Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship	Church Various Rooms Room 219 Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am

ATTENDANCE

March 18/19

Church Attendance :

5:30 pm—91

8:00 am—128

10:30 am—136

355 Total; 18 visitors; 337 members

**ST. PAUL'S APRIL 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	Aidan O'Donnell	Aidan O'Donnell	
Acolytes	Olivia Blair & Annalee Duchow	TBD	Dylan & Braden Ratzow
Altar Guild	Shirley Dibble	Leslyn Mueller	Jamie Stache
Elders	Bryan Polinske	Dave Meyer	John Melvin
Greeters	John & Margie Hertneky	Gary Pribnow (church) Jim & Judy Braatz (school)	Darlene Adams
Lectors	Barb Brockway	Jim Steinberg	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Jamie Stache
Radio	N/A	Chuck Muecke	N/A
Ushers	Dan Friedrich	Bob Bratz	Truman Seifer t

NEXT WEEKEND

5:30 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Readings	Ezekiel 27:1-14	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:17-27, 38-53
Acolytes	TBD	Makenna Paar	Dylan & Braden Ratzow
Altar Guild	Margie Hertneky	Donna Andrus	Barb Star
Elders	Wilbur Pieper	Bruce Bain	Scott Kalien
Greeters	John Melvin	Jim & Judy Braatz (church) Karen Meyer (school)	Anne Fait
Lectors	Dave Meyer	Cheryl Tesch	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
Radio	N/A	Steve Hansen	N/A
Ushers	Wilbur Pieper	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 42:14–21 ~ ESV

Pew Bible pg. 766

For a long time, I have held my tongue; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor. I will grieve and groan. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dig up all their vegetation; I will turn the rocks into reefs, and dig up the boulders. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known. I will guide them; I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough place into level ground. I hear, and the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and unable not to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servants, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated ones, or blind as the servants of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Ephesians 5:8–14 ~ ESV

Pew Bible pg. 1244

For as long as you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when everything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

St. John 9:1-41 ~ ESV

Pew Bible pg. 1139

* [Jesus] needed to, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (which means sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before, as a beggar, were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "This he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."

They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?" Now then does he not see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age." He said to them, "The Pharisees said these things because they do not understand the works, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue." Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Now since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. So Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "And I believe, sir," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into the world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "We see, sir, and yet we are blind." Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

March 25th & 26th, 2017