

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

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



## 2ND SUNDAY IN *Advent*



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

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

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

December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus  
Jill George, Interim Principal  
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director  
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director  
Christine Flores, Early Childhood Center (ECC) Director

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

Number 47

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 ADVENT

**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:** *O Christmas Tree*

Traditional Worship

**Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 1, pg. 151**

Contemporary Worship

**Special Order**

## BIBLE STUDIES

**Reformation Bible Study**

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

**Salvation**

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

**Women's Bible Study**

**490-2879 Sat. (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) - 8:00 a.m. Whelan's**

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. The **altar flowers** are sponsored by Dorothy Duchow in loving memory of her brother, Bob Ihling.

## REACHING DISCIPLES

### CHRISTMAS CARING TREE GIFTS

It's here! The best giving time of the year! We are blessed to be able to help those children in need from our community and Bethesda. The trees are in the narthex and in the school entryway with the ornaments which have the child's/Bethesda resident's name, their age, and choice of asked for gift or clothing items (recommended price range \$20/\$25). On the back of the ornament are the instructions for this gift with due date (December 15<sup>th</sup>) for the gift to be returned to the church in time for pickup and delivery. If for some reason you want to participate and are unable to get the gift and wrap it, please consider the idea of offering a gift card (use the \$crip program!) or money to purchase a gift card. Please give this to the church office or in the offering plate (in an envelope marked Christmas Caring Tree). If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynne Lavota @ 262-527-4768 (cell). Thank you for your generosity, prayers and have a blessed Christmas season!

## SERVING DISCIPLES

### FAMILY PROMISE OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

Family Promise started 3 years ago in November to help the homeless families in Waukesha County. There have been almost 8,000 overnight stays for 56 homeless families with 30 of those families being placed into fully furnished apartments! Please see the most current newsletter on what is going on with Family Promise. It is printed out on the Mission board in the Fellowship Hall or go to their website at: <http://familypromisewaukesha.org/> You can view their wish list and see the upcoming "Match" campaign. Also how you can help them through AmazonSmile. There are currently 4 families in the program-5 adults and 4 children (2, 5, 10, 10, 14 years of age). Please continue to pray for these families and for the volunteers. Our next volunteer week that we help support the host church-Our Savior's where the families spend the night is February 25-March 3. More info to come soon about how you can help during that time. Thank you for your continued support of this incredible outreach to homeless families in our surrounding community!

### LORD'S CUPBOARD NEEDED ITEMS

The cupboard is getting low on the following items: soup, toothpaste, hand soap. Please put these items in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you very much for your prayers and support of this needed outreach ministry for our community!

## GROWING DISCIPLES

### 2018 FLOWER CHART

The 2018 flower chart is now posted in the church narthex (west side) for those of you who would like to sign up for flowers for the Traditional Worship services for the coming year. The cost is \$37.50 for two bouquets. You are welcome to split the cost with someone if you wish and each one could take one bouquet. Thank you.

## St. Paul's Children's Christmas Service

On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Lutheran School will be holding their annual Children's Christmas Worship Service. There will be a "Rehearsal Service" at 12:15 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend this Worship Service. There will also be an evening service at 6:30 pm. There will be a 15 minute hymn sing prior to each service.

The Lord's Cupboard will be hosting a spaghetti dinner from 5:15 pm—6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a free-will offering with proceeds going to the Lord's Cupboard. Please come and join us!

## USHER/ELDER SCHEDULE

The new usher/elder schedule for January—March of 2018 is now available in the narthex in the podium. Please pick yours up today!

## THE DENNY ZASTROW SING-A-LONG AND JOURNEYMEN'S 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once again the Journeymen are having a Christmas Party celebrating the joy the Christ-Child brings to our lives and especially the fellowship for us as Christian men! The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Journeymen Christmas party is on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Pete Sheild's from 7:30 am—9:00 am. All men of the congregation are invited. Pete lives at 15 White Tail Lane, Oconomowoc. If you need a map we will have them at the church office or just ask Pete. Come and enjoy some great fellowship and bring your singing voice!

## "THEE BOOKSTORE" NEWS!

Come and find the new and more convenient location of "Thee Bookstore" in the east end of the narthex of the church (by the coat rack). You can still get your cards, napkins, Bibles and many books. Come and visit us to see what is available this Advent Season.



**1 Corinthians 1:7** *"...so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."* The Lord sees to it that we do not lack any gift – He has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ as well as every earthly need. He is the Provider. And we can trust Him to always provide for us in every way.

**Witness:** Christmas is a time for celebration. It's Jesus's birthday! The shepherds celebrated and worshiped Jesus. The wise men also brought gifts. Like these servants, we can celebrate together and invite others to rejoice with us that Christ has come for us.

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
The Second Sunday in Advent: O Christmas Tree  
December 10–17, 2017*

## **O Christmas Tree**

“The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) is the Good News that the Savior has come! Jesus Christ is “the glory of the Lord [whom] shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Is. 40:5). He is “the Word of our God” who “stands forever.” (Is. 40:8) He is the Good Shepherd who “will gather the lambs in his arms” (Is. 40:11). He speaks “tenderly to Jerusalem,” and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

## **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:** Christian faith is being sure in Christ’s salvation and certain of His promises.

**Verse:** Matthew 24:27, 44 As the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Psalm:** Psalm 50 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sun.</b>
<b>Daily Psalms</b>								
<b>Morning</b>	24	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	24
<b>Evening</b>	25, 110	40, 67	85, 91	14, 16	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72	25, 110

**Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—Fourth Petition**

<p><i>The Lord’s Prayer (Fourth Petition)</i>  <b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b></p>	<p>Preschool +</p>
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>          God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Grade +</p>
<p><i>What is meant by daily bread?</i>          Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of this body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade +</p>

**The Second Sunday in Advent: *O Christmas Tree***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for the Family &amp; School</b>	<b>Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299</b>	
<b>Sun.</b>	The Coming of the Son of Man— Luke 21:25-36	Is. 26:20-27:13	1 John 4:1-21
<b>Mon.</b>	The Annunciation of Our Lord— Luke 1:26-38	Is. 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21
<b>Tue.</b>	The Visitation—Luke 1:39-45, 56	Is. 29:1-14	Jude 1-25
<b>Wed.</b>	The Magnificat—Luke 1:46-55	Is. 29:15-30:14	Rev. 1:1-20
<b>Thur.</b>	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist— Luke 1:57-66	Is. 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29
<b>Fri.</b>	The Benedictus—Luke 1:67-80	Is. 30:27-31:9	Rev. 3:1-22

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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **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** – Carrie Boldt; Richard Blanck; Jean Vogel—hospice; Larry Hansen; Kathy Wickersham; Wilbur Pieper; Timothy John Bratz—cancer; My Ubl—healing for multiple health issues; Duane Olson—kidney cancer; Duane Peterson; Carol Fellin—cancer; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Louise Lang; Mabel Fredrick; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer:** Sue Lentini (Dina Tanner's cousin)—cancer returned; Naomi Morris; Janice (Diane Bleke's sister); Tom—stage 3 bladder cancer; Liz (Barb Allwardt's sister)—colon cancer; the sister of a member with breast cancer; Dylan Coughlin—3 year-old with brain tumor; Kevin Kloss (John Tesch's nephew)—Leukemia; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Quinn—breast cancer; Julie; Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Dan (stage-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer

**Other:** Robert Akers (April Tiedtke's father)—palliative care; Vicki Kuhl—afib; Sue Jansen (Shirley Dibble's niece); Rebecca Mills; Gail Albright; Chelsea Bunker—severe brain injury; Marlene Wille (wife of Jim, former St. Paul's members)—stage 3 colon cancer; Dan George (Jamie's brother)—liver disease; Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Michael Hamton; Karen Christenson—dementia & stroke; Regina Mills; Dory Schultz; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister); Shawn—vascular problems; Kristal—lung surgery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn's nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Clem—high calcium heart; Bob—prostate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Barb (Dave Schlomer's mom)—severe headaches; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Pat—afib; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Clarence; Pam; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Paul Fellin

**Those serving in the military-deployed:** Justin Michener; PFC Nicholas Lang; 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; the family of Larry Kehl, who died; Matt, friend of Heather Gartzke; for a family struggling with job loss; David; those struggling with addiction-Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

**Thanksgiving:** Vicki for successful surgery

Praising God for Pastor Lance and his passion for our Lord. Prayers for his continued steadfast commitment to saving souls.

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

**Hymn of the Week: "On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry"**

**LSB 344**

**Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 16/17, 2017**

**Hymns: 341, 361 (379, 380, 368) 387**

***I'm Just the Messenger***

When John the Baptist preaches to us about Jesus, he preaches about repentance. John was sent by God to be a witness to the Light, Jesus Christ. He baptizes with water in order to make straight the way of the Lord, who shall redeem His people from their sins. The Lord Jesus who comes after John stands among us and makes Himself known to us. By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with the garments of salvation. Therefore we rejoice always in the Lord, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

## **A new church directory is in the works!**

Mortensen Photography will be at St. Paul's in January to take your photo for the new church directory. There is a link on our website ([www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)) where you can sign-up online during the week. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex on the weekends. (Online sign-up will not be available on the weekends.)

- Please notify the church office (262-567-5001 or [heather@splco.org](mailto:heather@splco.org)) of any family, address, phone number, or email address changes by February 28, 2018.
- If you have digital photos of any St. Paul's activities from 2017 and would like to include them in the directory, email your photos to Amy Hackbarth by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any questions, please email Amy Hackbarth at [amy@splco.org](mailto:amy@splco.org) or John Melvin [johnlm00@hotmail.com](mailto:johnlm00@hotmail.com).

God's Blessings and thank you for your participation.





## St. Paul's Lutheran School ~ Celebrating 140 Years

### **Our students in Grades 4-8 visited the Junior Achievement Kohl's Education Center to experience JA Biz Town and Finance Park.**

Elementary school students aren't old enough to drive, work, vote, or be the boss. At JA (Junior Achievement) BizTown they were! Students in grades 4-6 operated a bank, restaurant, city hall, newspaper, retail store and 10 other businesses. JA BizTown combined in-class learning with a day-long visit to a fully interactive, simulated town. Students left with a better understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their participation in a local economy.

At JA BizTown, our St. Paul's students learned about entrepreneurship, goods and services, resources, producers and consumers, scarcity, supply and demand, opportunity costs, taxes, spending and saving, financial institutions and banking concepts. They learned how to write a resume and applied for jobs, and then became part of a business team to create a business plan.

Teens rarely think about buying health insurance, or evaluating investment choices. At JA Finance Park they did! JA Finance Park combined in-class learning with a day-long visit to a fully interactive, simulated town. Students in grades 7-8 were introduced to personal finance and career exploration. They received family and income scenarios, and then visited nineteen businesses to purchase things like insurance, clothing, food, transportation and real estate. They created a budget, allocated utility expenses and made personal investments. Students were the sole providers for a family and learned to accommodate the needs of the family without overspending.

At JA Finance Park, our St. Paul's students learned about banking, budgeting, credit and debt, opportunity costs, taxes, interest rates, wages, income and expenses, needs and wants, careers, risks and benefits of credit, saving and investing, and successful budgeting. They also learned about personal abilities, career interests, work preferences, and values.

What a wonderful real-life learning experience for our students!! Thank you to our teachers and all of the volunteers who made this field trip possible!!

*Mission Statement: Helping God's children grow to be energetic servant leaders for HIM through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.*

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: December 11<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>**  
**ADVANCE THE MISSION**  
**REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES**

MONDAY December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
TUESDAY December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Operations Committee Meeting Board of Elders' Meeting Praise Team Practice	Room 201 Room 219 Church	6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Hymn Sing Advent Worship Parish Choir Advent Soup Supper (tomato & beef barley) Advent Hymn Sing Advent Worship Adult Choir	Church Church Balcony Fellowship Hall Church Church Balcony	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 5:20 pm 5:30 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm
THURSDAY December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Early Childhood Center Christmas Program	Church	6:30 pm
SATURDAY December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Women of Joy Bible Study Packing Christmas Food Bags <b>A Service in Lessons &amp; Carols</b> AA Meeting	Whelan's Fellowship Hall Church Fellowship Hall	8:00 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY December 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A Service in Lessons &amp; Carols</b> Public School Confirmation 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bible History <i>Time to Grow</i> (Sunday School) Reformation Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Service Youth Deliver Christmas Food Bags	Church Room 219 Room 204 Meet in Gym Fellowship Hall Church Meet in Lobby	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:45 am

# ATTENDANCE

December 2/3

**Church Attendance:**

5:00 pm—89

8:00 am—121

10:30 am—171

381 Total; 21 visitors; 360 members

**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER EPISTLE IS 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 SUNDAY**

**5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

<b>Music Leaders</b>	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	Look2Him & In His Light
<b>Special Music</b>	Aidan O'Donnell	Aidan O'Donnell	
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Wesley Weaver	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Ann Ashworth	Leslyn Mueller	Barb Star
<b>Elders</b>	Arno Kirchenwitz	Dave Meyer	Scott Kalien
<b>Greeters</b>	Rick Zastrow	Jim & Judy Braatz (church) Gary Pribnow (school)	Jamie Stache
<b>Lectors</b>	Amy Hackbarth	Cheryl Tesch	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Jamie Stache
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Steve Hansen	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Bratz	Mike Papa	Scott Kalien

**NEXT WEEK**

**5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	1 Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Wesley Weaver	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jean Fisher	Donna Andrus	Cheryl Oelsner
<b>Elders</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Todd Leonhardt	Mark Thurow
<b>Greeters</b>	John Melvin	Don & Harriet Groose (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school)	Al & Kathy Mueller
<b>Lectors</b>	John Kelling	TBD	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Leah Johnson
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Jim Steinberg	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Todd Leonhardt	John Melvin

# THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## **Isaiah 40:1–11**

*Pew Bible pg. 762*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

## **2 Peter 3:8-14**

*Pew Bible pg. 1300*

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

## **St. Mark 1:1-8**

*Pew Bible pg. 1063*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."