

MARCH EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

MARCH 2019



From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Man Up!

Many of our men are missing the opportunity of a lifetime right now.

"Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,"

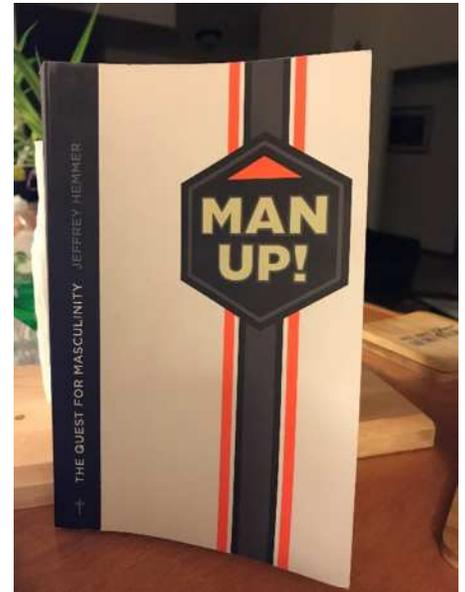
(Ephesians 4:13, ESV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus Christ has shown us what it really means to be a man. He cuts through all the ancient and modern caricatures and perversions. In an age of identity confusion, Jesus is the *Way*. Men and boys need to reflect on this badly, to sit at His feet and learn, to be in the company of others on the journey of learning—and doing—what it means to be man of God.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. St. Paul's men's group, the Journeymen, gather at Maxim's "Depot" restaurant for breakfast, a little Bible study, conversation, and prayer in way of Jesus.

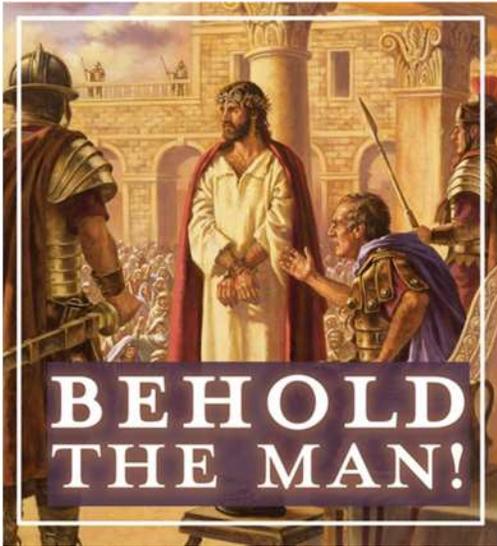
If you've never been to a group like this it can be a little intimidating to show up. I get it. I was one of those some years ago, as a new young Christian man who had just lost his father. It didn't know how to pray. It didn't know my way around the Bible. I didn't know how to sing. But I knew that I was a forgiven man, and I wanted to know what it meant to be a man of God. Surrounding myself with other men willing to take the risk of following Christ was exactly what I needed... and what so many other men and boys need. So... take the risk. Come to Journeymen. Bring your son. We'll welcome you, and—as we read through the Scriptures raised in Jeff Hemmer's challenging book, *Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity*, we'll learn together. Being a man is a great privilege with great responsibilities.



"Man Up!" by Jeff Hemmer

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Monday of Epiphany 5
11 February, A.D. 2019



LENT AND EASTER SERMON SERIES

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest yet most profound sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal triune God, whom we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyperspiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something otherworldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyperspiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodyless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?



"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:25, ESV)

Where do you turn when life becomes difficult? Do you tend to search the internet for advice or reach for self-help books? Do you seek out a friend to talk to or find a therapist? These sources can all be helpful, but consider this- where did Jesus turn when He was faced with the temptations the devil threw His way while He was in the wilderness for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4)? He knew His Scripture; it was embedded in His heart and mind, and He used it to counter Satan's attacks. Our Creator has given us His Word to live by. Through it He guides us and teaches us how to live as His people and with one another. He tells us of His great love for us, His children, and how He gave us His Son to die so we can be with Him for eternity. When life is hard, God's Word should be the first and primary place we turn to for wisdom, counsel, and comfort. "And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord," Deuteronomy 8:3.

Diakonal counseling is another of the possible ways a deaconess is able to serve a congregation. Like pastoral counseling, diakonal counseling is not psychotherapy or behavioral therapy, which is what many people think of when they hear the word "counseling." These can be helpful and there are situations in which they are needed, but diakonal counseling is when a deaconess compassionately listens and applies Scripture to the lives and situations of those who are lost or hurting. She considers support that may be available to a person within the community, and the family and support systems that a person already has in place. As Christians, we all struggle with sin and at times need to be reminded through God's Law that we need to turn to Him and repent; other times we need to hear how much He loves us and that we are forgiven through Jesus' blood. Diakonal counseling seeks to heal the broken, mend relationships, keep the Church together, and bring in the lost sheep until Jesus returns.

By helping others with the mercy of Christ and sharing His Word, the deaconess supports the work of the pastor and his care for the Church. The pastor feeds those in the congregation through Word and Sacrament. He preaches, teaches, baptizes, and feeds the sheep with Christ's body and blood through the Lord's Supper, where we receive comfort and forgiveness, and are strengthened against the devil's attacks. The pastor is also serving those in the congregation through pastoral counseling. By providing the suffering and lost the wisdom of Scripture through diakonal counseling, the deaconess helps them to remain within the body of Christ and to participate in the life of the congregation and receive God's gifts. The deaconess points the person in distress to the cross of Christ. Jesus knows our suffering, empathizes with us, and walks alongside us as we suffer. He Himself endured humiliation, temptation, grief, pain, and death, so He understands our pain, cares for us, and is with us in our suffering. May we all rely on our Bibles as we go about our lives, daily seeking the wisdom and will of our loving Heavenly Father, rather than leaning on the words and wisdom of men.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones," Proverbs 3:5-8.

In Christ,

Michelle Oddsen
Deaconess Intern
michelle@splco.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1st
Peggy McClintock
Chip Zastrow

March 13
Richard Allen

March 2nd
Sandra Reddelien

March 18th
Mark Baganz
Mac Dorn

March 4th
Jean Buss

March 19th
James Holzhueter

March 6th
Darlene Adams
Sheila Rams
Dennis Zastrow

March 20th
Gerri Zwieng

March 7th
Peter Radulovich

March 21st
Rev. Paul Borgman

March 8th
Diane Gartzke
Sue Lindemann

March 24th
Ann Duggan

March 9th
Duane Peterson
Dale Weber

March 25th
John Simaras

March 30th
Priscilla Eaton

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Louise Lang	\$6075.00
Virginia Schlender	\$30.00
Barb Boelter	\$50.00
Elsie Rupnow	\$100.00
Jane Ebert	\$120.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
 CHURCH AND SCHOOL
 (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
 210 E. Pleasant Street
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
 262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Sunday School	9:15 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217
 Pastor Steve Scharnell 567.5001 x216
 Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001
 Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001
 Principal - Jill George 567.5001 x213
 FAX 567.1207

Website: www.splco.org

RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
 Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
 & www.wtkm.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
 Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
 ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Milwaukee Brewers

vs.

St. Louis Cardinals



Join us for a night of
family fun and fellowship.

Place your ticket order
through your
church/school office.

If you have any questions, contact
Robin at the District office,
414-292-0741.

6:10 p.m.

**Tickets:
\$20**

Loge Outfield Box

Tickets will be mailed to
your church/school.

Group ticket orders need to be
placed by
Friday, March 15.

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

414-464-8100 ▪ swd.lcms.org



Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer * Friendly Conversation * Serious Theology

Held at BrewFinity Brewery

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D
Oconomowoc

What can be better than having a drink with friends, eating delicious food, and talking about things that are truly important?

March 17, 2019
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Words and Phrases I've Learned to Hate
Presenter: Rev. Dave Groth, Watertown, WI



Kitchen will be open to
order food off the menu



Do you like to fish, cook, play tennis or golf? Do you have a special skill in art or music? St. Paul's is offering summer programming for children ages 5K-8, and we would love to have you get involved in the fun!! This has been a very successful program in recent years, and we are looking for leaders for this coming summer. Parent, grandparents, aunts, uncles, church members, and community members...there is a place for everyone! Sessions run in the mornings for one week. If you have a special talent or skill that you would like to share with our children or if you have any questions, please contact Sheri Fleischfresser at sheri@splco.org.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Our meeting February was cancelled due to some inclement weather that we've been experiencing. Thank you all for being so understanding.

Thank you to all the ladies who have been helping out with the funerals. Your help is so greatly appreciated.

The theme for our next meeting on Thursday, March 7th, is "Being what you CAN be." Fill a canning jar (any size) with something useful—wrap it up and exchange them at our meeting. We will also discuss what we missed in February. Please join us and God's blessings!



Come Worship...

Service date and time: St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Tuesday, March 5th, at 1:30 pm

The 2019 LWML Prayer Service, **God CARES For You!**

Authored by The Reverend Allen D. Anderson

C: Confession/Communication/Cleansing – **A:** Attention – **R:** Regard – **E:** Enigmatic – **S:** Salvation

If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul (Psalm 94:17-19).

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Annika Kimberly, daughter of Jason & Kimberly (Rhodee) Greig
Rylee Ann, daughter of Richard Mayer & Rebecca Pribnow
Erin Rae, daughter of Adam & Tammy Rummier

Peaceful release

Kelly Kroll, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS), Milwaukee, WI

Deaths

Virginia Schlender
Elsie Rupnow
Harriet Goose

Baptized 1890 Confirmed 1102

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

Ash Wednesday is on March 6th. There will be a 12:15 pm worship service and a 6:30 pm worship service. Prior to the evening service, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, St. Paul's Journeymen will be serving dinner. The menu is as follows:



- Chicken
- Green Beans
- Mashed Potatoes
- Desserts
- Beverages

(free-will donation)

STEWARDSHIP

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the

Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9-12)</p>	<p>4 5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Party 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>5 1:30 pm LWML Prayer Service 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>6 12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>7 6:00 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>1 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>10 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9-12)</p>	<p>11 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>12 6:00 pm Constitution & Bylaws Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Board of Elders' Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>13 12:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>14 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>15 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>16 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>17 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9-12)</p>	<p>18 NO SCHOOL 5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Meal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.</p>	<p>19 NO SCHOOL 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>20 NO SCHOOL 12:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>21 NO SCHOOL 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>22 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>23 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>24 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9-12)</p>	<p>25 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>26 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>27 12:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Lenten Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>28 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>29 4:30 pm Fish Dinner</p>	<p>30 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>31 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9-12)</p>						

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC
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St. Paul's Fish Dinner



Friday, March 29, 2019
4:30-7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium

Fried Fish	Baked Fish
French Fries	Applesauce
Potato Pancakes	German Potato Salad
American Potato Salad	Rye Bread
Coleslaw	Milk
Coffee	Water

Hot Dogs
will also be
available!

All
homemade!

12 year-olds and up: \$10.00
4-11 year-olds: \$5.00 (under 4: free)

Desserts & Soda will be \$1.00 each

The dinner will be sponsored by Ladies Aid and St. Paul's Youth.
If you are interested in helping, please contact Sue Lindemann at 262.567.8985.