



# FEBRUARY EPISTLE

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

FEBRUARY 2024



## ***Connections***

*Julie Schifano, ECC Assistant Director*

In our daily lives we have many connections with others. These connections can come in many different forms. The connection you have with your spouse or children is much different than the connections you have with your neighbor, coworker or cashier at the local store. The question that you need to ask yourself is, are all your connections Christ-based? Do you glorify Christ through your actions no matter what situation you are in?

How do you approach your neighbor with the obnoxious dog, or your kids that you are exhausted from running everywhere? Do you approach these situations in a Christ-like fashion, or do you approach it ready to fight, cry, or give up? There are many times I have to stop and think how Christ would approach a situation before I open my mouth. Our world has become so high paced that we think everything should have been done yesterday and we have lost our patience with one another.

We are constantly running from one activity to another and are losing what it means to have true connections. This busyness takes away from family, church and friends. I heard recently that we as a society are lonelier than ever. This lack of meaningful connections drains us mentally and spiritually. God does not want us spiritually drained, we were not created to be on the run with no need to refuel. It can be challenging to take time everyday to pray and read scripture, but it is what we need to develop a solid foundation so we are ready for what the world throws at us. Christ wants us to have a strong relationship with him and this is impossible to do if we do not prioritize spending time in his presence.

I am realizing the importance of these connections the older I get. I was a stay at home mom for several years when I was in the thick of raising my kids. My whole life was based on them hitting milestones. I would think to myself when they get to A or B life will be easier. I found all too quickly it does not happen that way. Each milestone has its challenges. There were times while raising my kids that I found it more difficult to stay connected with God. Because of this, my other connections suffered. I found that I have to make God a priority. If I did not do this, my world quickly spiraled out of control.

My kids are now 26, 20, and 18. When my oldest left after Christmas to go back to Colorado it was very difficult for me. I knew my daughter would not be far behind going back to college and Nico my 18-year-old is on his way to graduating high school. Looking back now I wish I had cherished those milestones more instead of wishing for the next one. As I navigate this new phase in my life I feel the need to be more connected to Christ than ever. I do not have my kids' busyness anymore and have lost many of the connections that I made through them. My connections are now separate from my kids and are not based on my "Mom" status. I am establishing new connections in friendships, work, and marriage. Through it all, I am working diligently on staying connected to Christ through prayer and quiet time.



## Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

# ***Lenten Themes: Christian Parenting & Friendship***

*"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." (1 Peter 3:8, ESV)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Whether you are a parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, friend or neighbor, we *all* have an interest in parenting. Given the Christian understanding of the Church as the one body of Christ with many members (cf. 1 Cor 12.12-27); and, because Christ locates Himself in Word and Sacrament (Thus, especially, in worship.) the Church is the place where one comes to know the true, "brotherly love" of Christ (cf. 1 Pet 3.8; Heb 13.1).

Again, even if you're not a parent, you can gain understanding and learn skills to help you be a better friend and neighbor to parents; in particular, you can be a better brother or sister in Christ to another Church member or family.

Our Lenten season of repentance and preparation for the celebration of Christ's passion and resurrection begins with Ash Wednesday, 14 February 2024. (That means you'll want to do your secular "Valentine's Day" stuff on "Fat Tuesday", February 13<sup>th</sup> 😊) Pastor Schockman will be preaching a Lenten mid-week series on "Friendship" wherein he'll draw especially from the Bible's book of *Proverbs*. Those services are Wednesdays midday at 12:15pm or in the evening at 6:30pm. The evening service is preceded by a Lenten Supper from 5-6:15pm. Before the evening service this year we will have a hymn-sing from 6:15-6:30 where we'll get to sing some great Lenten hymns and learn about their theology and musicology.

For the weekend Lord's Day services in Lent there will be focus on "The Christian Parent," but—as noted above—you'll find the Word applies to all, whether you're a parent or not. On the next page is a summary of dates, titles, and texts for Lenten "The Christian Parent" Series.

*(continued→)*

## LENTEN LORD'S DAY (Weekend) 2024 THEMES

Date	Festival	Key Reading	Title	Note
2/18/24	Lent 1	Mk 1.9-15	Baptism and Temptation	Temptation follows Baptism. Jesus expected it. So should we.
2/25/24	Lent 2	Mk 8.27-38	Presenting Jesus	Witness to Jesus takes children beyond "cartoon kindness" to see that He is the Savior who is both suffering servant and exalted Lord.
3/3/24	Lent 3	Jn 2.13	Law and Gospel	No getting around it: Jesus is the Glory of God. His Word convicts us of sin, and it also forgives and heals. It's a both/and.
3/10/24	Lent 4	Jn 3.14-21	Cultivating Virtue	Christians rejoice in the gift of salvation and the good that God does in their midst.
3/17/24	Lent 5	Mk 10.32-45	Preparing for Final Victory	Holy wisdom embraces God's Word about death and life in every stage of life.

Please join us for *both* the Lord's Day services of the weekend *and* the mid-week meals and service. These are great opportunities to learn, grow, and have fellowship that we all need.

On the above note, a number of people have asked me how the presentation of my paper about Christian friendship went. Short answer: it was very well received. Given the above encouragement about mid-week services, I quote a portion of my paper:

There is a robust relationship between frequency of worship and feelings of loneliness . . . Fewer than one in four (23 percent) of Americans who attend religious services multiple times a week report they are lonely at least once in a while. (Daniel Cox, et. al. "A Loneliness Epidemic?" American Enterprise Inst. 2019)

All of this means that if, for example, you participate in the weekly Divine Service, help with some aspect of the church's life of mercy, and attend the mid-week Lenten services, you are *significantly* more likely than those who do not, to be healthy in body and soul.

*Participation* in the life of the Church has scientifically and theologically demonstrable benefits. If you're reading this and have been irregular in worship or quite outside the Christian life, Lent is a great opportunity to come back or begin. You can also make an appointment with Pastor Schockman or myself. We'd love to hear from you and do our part to help integrate you into the life of Christ at St. Paul's.

Yours in Christ,

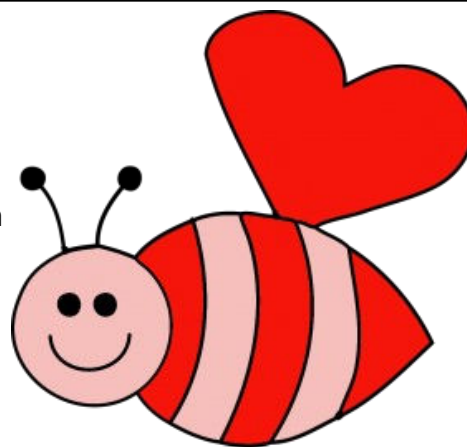


Pastor Lance O'Donnell  
 Commemoration of St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor  
 24 January, A.D. 2024

These last two years at St. Paul's ECC has brought me great joy at this time in my life. It is such a blessing to watch these kids grow and make connections with their Reading Buddies, Music Mentors, teachers and peers. I love that the school aged kids get the opportunity to connect with ECC kids and make a lasting impression on each other. I have seen the importance of this firsthand when the kids realize I am Nico's mom. Even four years after graduating from St. Paul's there are kids who still remember him. There is a connection that was developed and has not been broken. That is what Christ wants from us, a connection that is unbreakable. We at times may feel like it is broken, but if we slow down and take time with God we will realize that it is not broken but is being built stronger.

### Ladies Aid

February is a month full of hearts and lots of love. Now if you think about it, there's a piece of Tupperware that is near and dear to your heart. So why not bring your favorite or perhaps oldest Tupperware piece to the *Ladies Aid Reverse Tupperware Party!* On Thursday, February 1st, at 5:30pm we will celebrate the "love" we have for that special Tupperware piece. You'll get a chance to tell everyone why you brought your piece to the Reverse party. While there'll be no sellin' that evening, there's sure to be a lot of tellin'. Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!



### Lenten Meals

The Lenten meals will be served prior to our evening midweek Lenten Worship services. The meals will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00pm-6:15pm. Below are the dates of the meals.

Wednesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored by the Journeymen	Menu: TBD
Wednesday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sponsored by Ladies Aid	Menu: TBD
Wednesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored by the Lord's Cupboard	Menu: Chili
Wednesday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored Women of Joy	Menu: Sloppy Joes
Wednesday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored by the Day School Staff	Menu: Taco Bar
Wednesday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored by the Board of Elders	Menu: TBD



LWML meets on **Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:00pm**. in the Fellowship Hall. THANK YOU for the bake sale donations in January totaling \$619.25 for *A Place of Refuge* ministry!

**LWML Prayer Service** will be held on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Wales at 1:30 pm. Call Kathy Mueller (262-468-6926) if you would like to carpool from church.

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship            9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening            9:15 am Sunday School            9:15 am Public School Confirmation            9:15 am Adult Bible Study            10:30 am Divine Worship            12:00 pm Voters' Meeting            7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>6:00 pm LWML            6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting</p>	<p>6:30 pm W.O.W. (Word on Wednesday/s)</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal            7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>6:30 am Journeymen            5:00 pm Divine Worship            8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship            9:15 am Sunday School            9:15 am Public School Confirmation            9:15 am Adult Bible Study            10:30 am Divine Worship            MS &amp; HS Bowling in Watertown after            10:30 Worship</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>1:30 pm LWML Prayer Service @            Bethlehem, Wales            6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg</p>	<p>11:00 am Widow/Widowers Group            12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship            5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Meal            6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal            7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study            5:00 pm Divine Worship            8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship            9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour            9:15 am Sunday School            9:15 am Public School Confirmation            9:15 am Adult Bible Study            10:30 am Divine Worship            5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society            NO YOUTH GROUP</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>5:30 pm CLT Meeting</p>	<p>12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship            5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal            6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal            7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>7:30 am Journeymen            5:00 pm Divine Worship            8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship            9:15 am Sunday School            9:15 am Public School Confirmation            9:15 am Adult Bible Study            10:30 am Divine Worship            MS &amp; HS Roller skating @ Skate            Express</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>		<p>12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship            5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal            6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal            7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>		



# Family Open House Night

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE  
AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

February 8th  
5:00 - 6:30pm



St. Paul's

210 E. Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc

For more information, please visit  
[splco.org](http://splco.org) or call our office at:  
262-567-5001

## Join Us To:

- Meet our teachers and principal
- See our students' work in action
- Tour our classrooms
- Learn about our curriculum
- Enjoy music performed by our students
- Try interactive activities
- Indulge in the Hot Cocoa bar

## You are wanted!



We are looking for crafting people: moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas to help with making crafts or sharing ideas. We'd like to bring back the idea for St. Paul's students to shop for gifts for their parents at Christmas here at St. Paul's. If you are in any way interested, please contact Sue Lindemann at 262-567-8985 or leave a message in the school office. Thank you and God's blessings, Miss Sue.

Please watch for any updates in the school and church newsletter.



### ***Caring for My Neighbor***

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, "you shall not murder," goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21-22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every "do not" in the commandments also includes a "do this:" "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*" (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4th  
**Don Schinke**

February 16th  
**Sandy Goetzke**  
**Janice Weigman**

February 6th  
**Mark Prange**  
**Carole Werth**

February 17th  
**Nancy Wolter**

February 7th  
**Caroline Bartel**  
**Carol Fellin**  
**Gregg Francke**  
**Larry Hansen**

February 20th  
**Lynda Holland**

February 10th  
**Ralph Andrus**

February 23rd  
**Anne Fait**  
**Eric Groenke**  
**Debbie Kirchenwitz**  
**Phyllis Schuck**

February 11th  
**Marcus Pankow**

February 25th  
**Mark Justmann**

February 12th  
**Mary Hlavenka**  
**Mike Kollmeyer**

February 26th  
**Judy Braatz**  
**Vickie Paul**  
**Karen Wilson**

February 14th  
**Pauline Bemis**

February 28th  
**Carolyn Nagel**

February 15th  
**Linda Blehovde**

*For our members 70+ years*



### MEMORIALS

Jennifer Laabs

\$25.00

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

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#### WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 567.5001 x213

Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

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#### LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship  
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM  
& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)  
Live-streamed at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care  
Director Christine Flores 567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES



# REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



\*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

February 18

**Beers, Bonfires and Board Games:  
Cultivating and Sustaining Christian Friendship**

Presenters: Jason Schockman & Mark Treday

First time guests  
get a free  
beer or soda on us!

5:00-7:00 pm  
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D



## DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### **Baptism**

Maverick Elizabeth, daughter of Mackenzy & Megan (Sonnenberg) Raabe

### **Released at own request**

Drew & April Tiedtke, Abby, Noah and Simon

**Baptized 2011      Confirmed      1199**



### **Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser**

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

**Information** about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: [splyouth.group@splco.org](mailto:splyouth.group@splco.org)
- Instagram: splyouthocon

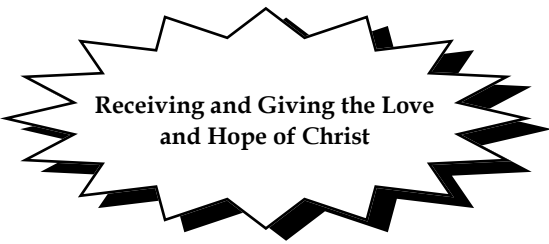
### **February Events**

- † February 4<sup>th</sup>      HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
- † February 11<sup>th</sup>      MS & HS BOWLING in Watertown after 10:30am Worship Service
- † February 18<sup>th</sup>      NO YOUTH GROUP
- † February 25<sup>th</sup>      MS & HS Roller Skating at *Skate Express*

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC  
 210 E. Pleasant St.  
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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 Website: www.splco.org



# February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Thank the Lord for all His blessings. 25¢	2 The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord 30¢	3 Ever have a Golden Retriever? Yes - 25¢ No - 15¢
4 Pray for a cure for Cancer 25¢	5 Nutella in your cabinet? Yes - 20¢ No - 10¢	6 Know how to use Chopsticks? Yes - 25¢ No - 30¢	7 Take time to look at the "old" pictures in your albums. 20¢	8 Would you fly a kite today? Yes - 20¢ No - 25¢	9 Clean your eye glasses. 15¢	10 Know how to take a pulse? Yes - 10¢ No - 15¢
11 Visit a Shut-in. 25¢	12 Birthday of Abraham Lincoln, US President. 25¢	13 Mardi Gras Day 20¢	14 Ash Wednesday 25¢	15 Read Genesis 9: 13-17. 30¢	16 Read a chapter in a book you have started. 25¢	17 Do a Random Act of Kindness. 20¢
18 Share your favorite Bible story with a friend. 25¢	19 Bake a cake. 15¢	20 National Love Your Pet Day 20¢	21 Lenten Service this evening. See you there. 45¢	22 George Washington's Birthday 25¢	23 Battle of the Alamo, San Antonio, TX 10¢	24 St. Matthias, Apostle 25¢
25 Pray for our Congregation. 50¢	26 Put leftover change into your Mite Box <u>plus</u> 25¢.	27 Eat an Eye healthy dinner. 35¢	28 The Last Day of February! 10¢	29 OOPS! This year this day is the Last Day of February 25¢ Celebrate!		

MITES MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available.  
 \*Commemoration Days are examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy