

# MARCH EPISTLE

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

MARCH 2025



## From the Early Childhood Center Director

*Christine Flores*

As we enter the enrollment season for the 2025-2026 school year, I have been sharing my experiences and love of St. Paul's School with ECC families that are exploring continuing their learning journey at St. Paul's or the prospect of continuing elsewhere. For some, it is a struggle determining where their child will thrive that meets the needs for their family.

I grew up in public school and was not sure what path I would choose for my own children. I did well in school and overall enjoyed my experience. It was not until I started attending before school meetings and devotions with the St. Paul's teaching staff that my eyes were truly opened to the difference that education at St. Paul's entails. It is now abundantly solidified with my own experiences with my two children now in Third grade and Kindergarten.

The staff at St. Paul's is beyond exceptional. They are gifted at fostering a love for learning while partnering with, supporting and engaging families. They not only provide exceptional general education, they teach Biblical values including kindness, respect and servant heartedness. Through classroom trials and tribulations, they never forget to celebrate the small victories and accomplishments. I can't count the number of times I witnessed various staff come together to pool their wealth of knowledge and experience to support their students—truly cheerleading for their success. If you get the chance to attend a school chapel service, you will witness what they call "raise the praise"—a time where students and staff take turns praising others for accomplishments big or small that stood out to them that week. What a way to lift each other up.

What really stands out to me from my education and that of which St. Paul's offers is growing the whole self—mind, body, spirit. The love and support here is immeasurable. Learning to walk in God's love, building friendship and confidence. In the ECC, our 2½ year old students often ask their teacher to visit "God's house". What an amazing thirst they have for the knowledge and love of God! There are numerous relationships built across the ages where the littles get to learn from the bigs and the bigs learn from the littles. In the ECC alone, we have 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading buddies, weekly pastor-led chapel and middle school music mentors.

I am beyond grateful that God led my family to St. Paul's over 20 years ago, when we first joined the church family. This journey has led me to serve the past 13 years in the ECC, where I've experienced the magic of the St. Paul's community. Now, watching my own children grow, moving from the Infant Room to grade school and eventually middle school, fills my heart with joy. I pray that others have the opportunity to feel the same love and support that has been so deeply woven into our lives here.

God's blessings,  
Christine Flores  
ECC Center Director



## Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

# It's Good to be Home

*"And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:13, ESV)*

Dear Friends,

Jesus went through a time of solitude and temptation after His Baptism, "returned in the power of the Spirit" to conduct His public ministry, and—all the while—the devil was awaiting "the opportune time." (Lk 4.13, 14)

During my time of spiritual respite in January, and since my return on February 1<sup>st</sup>, people have asked, "What can we do to support our pastors?" That's a good question, but there is another question that is usually asked more obliquely because it makes people uncomfortable: "What can we do, and what can the pastors do, so that they avoid burnout-type situations?"

Briefly here I will attempt to answer both questions. There are, perhaps, two essential ways to support your pastors and other church workers. One, be an active member of the congregation (Pray for your pastors and fellow members, come to the Divine Service weekly and receive the gifts of God, be an active participant in a congregationally-sponsored Bible study, get involved in the congregation to share the load, give a first fruits offering to support the church's workers, facility, and mission). Secondly, and this is deeply influenced by my month of spiritual solitude and respite: support—and expect—your called church workers to have times of spiritual solitude, expect them to take vacation with their families, provide occasional times of extended respite, and give them an opportunity every seven years for a sabbatical; that is, an extended time to do whatever makes their heart sing.

The above relates directly to the second question, "What can we do to help our church workers avoid burnout?" My direct answer is that *even in the supportive situation described above, no Christian—especially a pastor—can avoid the cross*. No pastor can avoid suffering for the sake of his call to follow Christ. Any of us who attempt to faithfully uphold God's Word in our homes and in our congregations will face temptation, exclusion, opposition, slander, etc. Jesus is clear about that. All of that is hard. Thus, we need seasons of prayerful reflection and the support of others.

We enter Lent with Jesus on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to take the journey: pray, fast, worship, serve, hope. And, thanks again for the time of respite. I needed it. And it's good to be home.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell  
Wednesday Epiphany 5  
12 February, A.D. 2025



St. Paul's 160th Anniversary: Church Friends, I have been asked to write a Brief History of St. Paul's from 1865-2025. Most of the "old" history is written, but I have a great need to ask you for your recollections, too. Since Carol Allen and I did a church history book for our 150th, that part is pretty well covered. What I need now is member input from 2015 to date. An event, a change, something you really enjoyed...anything is fine. So, please take a piece of paper, grab a pen, and start a list of things you would like to share. If you want to remain anonymous, that is fine. I am looking for the facts. If you need to be recognized, please sign your name, include a

recent self-photo and see what happens! REALLY! I am serious now...Questions? You may text me at 262-354-4203. Thank you for your help.

~Pat Borgman



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

**Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: Sponsored by the Journeymen**

Menu: Olive Garden's salad, breadsticks and three soups, The Chocolate Factory subs, desserts & beverages.

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>: Sponsored by Ladies Aid**

Menu: Casseroles, salad, rolls and desserts

**Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Sponsored by the Lord's Cupboard**

Menu: Turkey and gravy sandwiches, sides and desserts

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Sponsored by St. Paul's Faculty**

Menu: Soup Supper

**Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sponsored by Women of Joy**

Menu: Taco Bar

**Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: Sponsored by the Board of Elders**

Menu: Pork sandwiches, sides, desserts and beverages

**JANUARY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

**Baptism**

River Lynn, daughter of Andrew & Marena (Pine) Linke

**Released from membership**

Mark & Addie Thurow, Warren and Mia

**Profession of Faith**

Brad & Julie Lieungh

**Baptized 1994    Confirmed 1203**

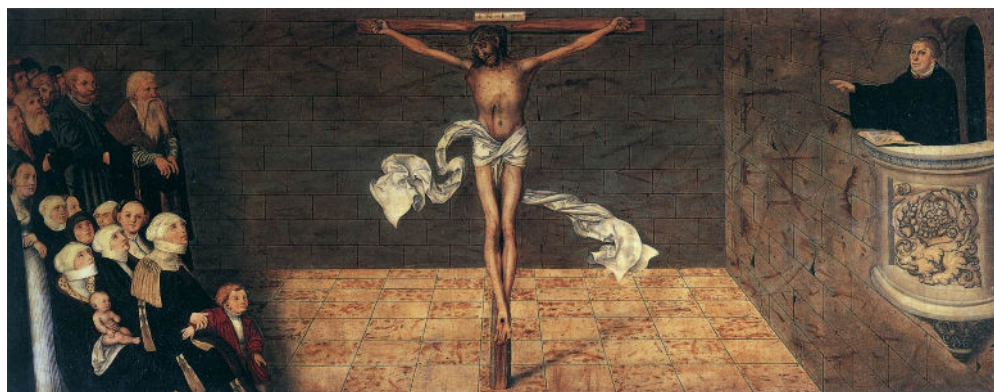


Repentance starts with being honest before God and with ourselves about who we are. When it comes to sin, everyone has a natural impulse to hide, but repentance means finding the courage to be honest. It also means having faith in the promise of forgiveness. But being honest about faith means recognizing that faith is contested not only by society, but by our own experiences, and sometimes seemingly by the actions of God himself.

Repentance means becoming more human, not less. Because our thoughts, desires, and actions are so linked with sin, it is easy to view repentance as fighting against our humanity as if holiness meant trying to stifle as many of our natural human impulses as possible. But, honest repentance recognizes that sin is the thing that stifles our humanity. Honest repentance results in our natural impulses functioning more as God designed them.

In order to explore these themes, our Midweek readings are from texts assigned for the Easter Vigil. These readings capture the broad sweep of God's saving acts culminating in baptism and the Christian use of baptism through "daily contrition and repentance," as the Small Catechism puts it. Please join us this Lenten Season as we explore **Honest Repentance**.

# The Body of God



## Life Application Bible Study

**Sundays 9:15-10:15. March 2—April 13**

✦ *What does Jesus' body show us?* ✦ How is the body of the Savior portrayed in the Old Testament and in the New Testament? ✦ *Why is the depiction of Jesus' body not a "graven image"?* ✦ Why is the portrayal of the body of Jesus on the cross particularly important?

### Lenten Devotions

We will be printing "Daily Reflections" for the Lenten Season produced by our friends at Higher Things. The Daily Reflections actually begin with the Transfiguration on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and end on Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to scroll through them on your phone or tablet instead, here's a link to the same material set up for easy scrolling.

<https://higherthings.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Reflections-Transfiguration-through-Holy-Saturday-Scrolling.pdf>





### 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.

#### March Events

March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	YG Lunch & Tubing at Sunburst
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	MS (5:30-7:00 pm) & HS (7:00-8:30 pm)
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Krazy Golf</b> after 10:30 Service



#### **Looking for livestream volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to help with running the livestream worship services on Sundays at 8am. Teams of two are very helpful. You don't need to be tech savvy or computer literate, just be able to push a button. ☺ Confirmands, this is a wonderful way for you to complete your service requirements. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Heather in the church office at 262.567.5001 or via email at [heather@splco.org](mailto:heather@splco.org).

### **SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 4TH**



Everyone (men too) is invited to attend the annual LWML Prayer Service for Zone 17 at 1:30pm at St. John's, Sullivan, as we prepare our hearts for Lent. Refreshments to follow. **AND** at 6:00 pm join St. Paul's LWML for our regular meeting.

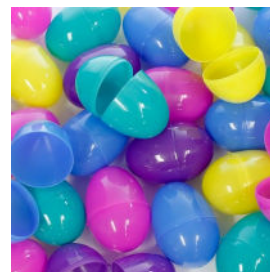
### **Egg Fundraiser for the Lord's Cupboard**

We are asking for donations toward purchasing eggs for our LC guests. During the month of March, we will have baskets of colorful, plastic eggs for you to fill with your coins, bills, or checks. Once you place your donation inside the plastic egg, please return the egg to the baskets by the church, the school entry doors or to the church office.

Other options to help are—

- + Make a donation in an envelope marked "LC eggs" and place it in the egg basket by the entry doors, put it in the offering plate or take it to the church office.
- + Online donations are always available. Go to [splco.org](http://splco.org), click on the DONATE button on the upper right, then scroll down to Lord's Cupboard.

Thank you so much for helping our neighbors with such a needed food source!



### **Leaping Leprechauns!**

February has sure flown by and it's time to think about Ladies Aid's March meeting. Barb Brockway, a Chapter Co-Ordinator for Project Linus, will be our guest speaker. Project Linus provides blankets to needy children across the United States. Please plan on joining us on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm. We'd love it if you would bring a friend. Also, any donations of new blankets suitable for children would be greatly appreciated, so bring them along too!



# MARCH 2025

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 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>1:30 pm LWML Prayer Service @ St. John's Sullivan 6:00 pm LWML</p>	<p>12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Meal 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>5:30 pm Ladies Aid 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 Traditional 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 11:45 am YG Lunch &amp; Tubing</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>5:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting</p>	<p>11:00 am Caring Thru Sharing 12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal 6:15 pm Midweek Lent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>12:30 pm New Member Sponsor Cmte. Mtg. 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 Traditional 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 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru &amp; Meal</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> 12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal 6:15 pm Midweek Lent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>		<p>7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional 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 5:30 pm MS Youth Group 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>5:30 pm CLT Meeting</p>	<p>12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal 6:15 pm Midweek Lent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>		<p>5:00 pm Traditional 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 Youth Group Crazy Golf</p>	<p>31</p>					

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1st

**Brian Ewald**  
**Peggy McClintock**  
**Chip Zastrow**

March 2nd

**Sandra Reddelien**

March 3rd

**Louis Hickenbottom**

March 6th

**Darlene Adams**  
**Sheila Rams**

March 7th

**Peter Radulovich**

March 8th

**Diane Gartzke**  
**Sue Lindemann**  
**Vicky Tudor**

March 9th

**Duane Peterson**  
**Dale Weber**

March 11th

**Ruth Jaeger**  
**Michael Rankin**  
**Ron Schneider**

March 13th

**Richard Allen**

March 14th

**Truman Seifert**

March 16th

**Karen Marquardt**  
**Yvonne Schuetz**

March 18th

**Mark Baganz**  
**Carol Lenz**

March 19th

**James Holzhueter**

March 20th

**Gerri Zwieg**

March 24th

**Ann Duggan**  
**Connie Schneider**

*For our members 70+ years*

## 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 262.567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 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 262.567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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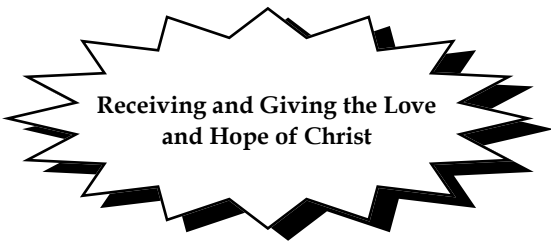
Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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# REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



\*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

**March 16**

**The Joy of the Resurrection:**

Making a Joyful Confession from Beyond the Grave –  
Notes on Cremation

Presenter: Silas Hasselbrook

**5:00-7:00 pm**

**@ BrewFinity**

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D

Oconomowoc WI 53066

[www.brewfinitybrewing.com](http://www.brewfinitybrewing.com)

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get a free  
beer or soda on us!**