



# St. Paul News

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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February

2024

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## *Suffered Under Pontius Pilate*

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

There are much that is confessed within the words of the Apostles' Creed. Amongst its one hundred and fifteen words, we will focus upon just four of them during the Lenten season. "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate" are those words.

Why are these words included? Why mention Pontius Pilate and not Caiaphas or someone else? Why are these words important? Why do some church bodies struggle with or even reject these words?

It is quite easy to turn Christianity into a sort of fairy tale or help me feel good type story. It is easy to make whether or not Jesus is true God and true Man a matter of opinion. Much of our culture treats being a Christian the same way the treat being a fan of specific sports team. It is just part of one's personality, it appears.

"Suffered under Pontius Pilate" are words that confess that Jesus is more than opinion or personality. It confesses that Jesus Christ is a man of history. Pontius Pilate is a well-documented figure in the history of the Roman Empire. His inclusion declares that this real life person was intimately involved with Jesus' death by crucifixion. This declares that Jesus is also a real, historical figure. It declares that Jesus suffered, died, buried, and rose from the dead in history. It is not a matter of opinion, but of fact.

During our Lenten series *Suffered Under Pontius Pilate* we will explore the historicity of Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified under the jurisdiction of Pontius Pilate. Each week, we will explore various scriptural passages that point to this history. We will also consider texts outside of the Bible that verify these details.

As C. S. Lewis said, "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." Through the Lenten season, leading right up to Easter, we will explore and see that indeed Christianity is historical, factual, and true.

The *Suffered Under Pontius Pilate* series will begin with **Ash Wednesday Divine Worship w/Communion and imposition of ashes** on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm

**Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes also available on February 14 at 7:30am-1:00pm at the church**  
**No appointment necessary and also Imposition of Ashes at Golden Horizons at 2:00pm**

# *Suffered Under Pontius Pilate*



**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @7pm**

**Ash Wednesday Divine Worship w/Communion & Imposition of Ashes**

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> @7pm**

***In the Days of Herod the Great***

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @7pm**

***Repent, John Says***

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> @7pm**

***Herod & John***

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @7pm**

***Better that on Man Die***

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> @7pm**

***No Friend of Caesar's***

*Suffered Under Pontius Pilate*



**Weekend of March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)**

*There was darkness over all the land.*

**Saturday @5pm & Sunday @9am**

**Daily Chapel Services**

**Monday-Friday @12:15pm**

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday)**

*Poured out for Many*

**Divine Worship Service w/Communion @7pm**

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday)**

*Crucified, Died, and Buried.*

**Chief Service w/Tenebrae @7pm**

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (Holy Saturday)**

**Easter Vigil w/Communion @5pm**

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (Easter Sunday)**

*Sunrise Service w/Communion @6:30am*

*Resurrection Celebration w/Communion @9am*

# CHURCH NEWS

**COMMUNITY BASKET NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:** laundry/kitchen items: detergent, bleach, dryer sheets, fabric softener, dish soap, etc., place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. *All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.* The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. **The mobile food pantry will be on February 15 from 4:30-5:30PM, at the Arthur Community Center.** If you're able to help, with sorting or carrying a box, it would be appreciated. If you're wa



**COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP** Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM is in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us! If you would like to help or provide, please let Deb Clausen or Kathy Edsen know.

**The High School Youth will provide & serve on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's of the month and the Junior High Youth will provide & serve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.**



**WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets at 7:00AM at Jimmy's

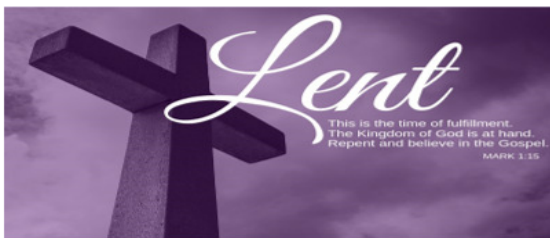
**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from 9:30-10:30AM in the Conference Room in the lower level.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY AT SUBWAY** will meet at 6:00PM

**SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** in the youth room from 10:15-11:15AM

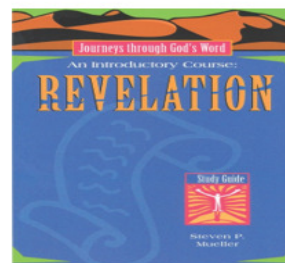
**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS** join us in the Fellowship Hall 10:30-11:15AM

## Bible Studies w/Pastor Neil



**A Liturgical Journey**

Wednesday's @9:30am



Sunday's @10:30am



## **Lutheran Youth Fellowship February 2024**

### **Highway on Wednesdays**

We will also be meet on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM prior to the start of the Lenten season.

### **Youth E-Blasts**

Follow and pay attention to the Youth E-blasts that are sent out throughout the week in order to keep up-to-date of High School and Middle School youth happenings/activities.

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### **LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY**

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**RUTH (2)** will meet on February 1 at Zimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM.. Susan will be BSL. We had 12 present for our January meeting. We had an awesome turn out for the month long Nativity Display open house and we look forward to doing it again.

**LOIS (3)** will meet on February 1 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM.

**EUNICE (10)** will meet on February1 at the Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Lois will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We did not meet for January

**JOHANNA(12)** will meet on February 1 ? at 7:00PM, in the fellowship hall. We did not meet for January.

### **LWML MITEBOX CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024**

At the November 2023 meeting of the LWML Executive Board a decision was made about how the LWML Mite box contributions for 2024 would be distributed.

The Executive Board decided to designate the funds from each quarter would go to the National LWML Mission projects and local mission projects in our community. The distribution of each quarter's funds will be one-fourth to the National LWML Missions and three-fourths of each quarter's contributions would go to local missions.

For 2024 the local mission distribution will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Ambulance

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter will be supporting the Community Basket

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Fire Department

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Orphan Grain Train

Your coins will make a difference on the national level as well as in Ida Grove in 2024! Please drop your coins in the large Mite Box located in the Narthex whenever you visit our church!



**The Four Loves** summarizes four kinds of human love--affection, friendship, erotic love, and the love of God. Masterful without being magisterial, this book's wise, gentle, candid reflections on the virtues and dangers of love draw on sources from Jane Austen to St. Augustine. The chapter on charity (love of God) may be the best thing Lewis ever wrote about Christianity. Consider his reflection on Augustine's teaching that one must love only God, because only God is eternal, and all earthly love will someday pass. Who could conceivably begin to love God on such a prudential ground--because the security (so to speak) is better? Who could even include it among the grounds for loving? Would you choose a wife or a Friend--if it comes to that, would you choose a dog--in this spirit? One must be outside the world of love, of all loves, before one thus calculates. His description of

Christianity here is no less forceful and opinionated than in *Mere Christianity* or *The Problem of Pain*, but it is far less anxious about its reader's response--and therefore more persuasive than any of his apologetics. When he begins to describe the nature of faith, Lewis "Take it as one man's reverie, almost one man's myth. If anything in it is useful to you, use it; if anything is not, never give it a second thought." --Michael Joseph Gross

## Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project. Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

## A prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

—Aelred of Rievaulx (12<sup>th</sup> century)

# **FEBRUARY**

## **Birthdays**

February 1 Aubree Frank  
Kent Krager  
Kenneth Streck  
Aubree Zimmerman  
February 2 Sherry (Nelson) Smith  
February 3 Dylan Malone  
Kylie Petersen  
February 4 Misti Baker  
Nick Brookbank  
Cindy Hausman  
Derrick Wessel  
February 7 Marlene Zobel  
February 10 Julie Schiernbeck  
February 13 Brad Hansen  
February 14 Sarah Harm  
Abby (Brookbank) Kearns  
February 17 Delores Pepper  
February 18 Megan Montgomery  
February 19 Lisa Boysen  
Patience Johnson  
Erin Rasmussen  
Breanne Wilcox

February 20 Elaine Bubke  
John Konrady  
Pat Phillips  
Savannah Wych  
February 21 Jillian Groves  
Karsen Stehr  
February 22 Janet Toben  
February 24 Hailey Ackerman  
Robyn Devitt  
Jay Greenwald  
Tristian Senhen  
February 25 Cecile Bargar  
Beverly Godbersen  
February 27 Douglas Hanson  
Cole Uhl  
Erlene Uhl  
February 28 Linda Bubke  
Parker Rasmussen  
Ranea Rehse  
February 29 Kim Schreiber

# **FEBRUARY**

## *Anniversaries*

February 5 Greg & Lorna Steenbock  
February 8 Russ & Clara Bennigsdorf  
February 14 Doug & Peggy Hanson  
Jeff & Geneva Miesner  
Dustin & Julie Schiernbeck

February 15 Andy & Deb Brosius  
February 19 Zach & Megan Montgomery  
February 28 Larry & Lori Boysen

### +++++ **UPDATING INFORMATION:**

As we begin a new year, we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc.  
We also like to make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries. Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know. [stpaulidagrove@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulidagrove@gmail.com) or 712-364-2918

Monthly newsletters and calendars are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is [www.stpauliq.org](http://www.stpauliq.org)  
If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form”

Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

**WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS** will be notified via local tv stations (NBC, ABC & CBS/FOX, Sioux City) and also our Facebook page, St Paul Lutheran Church Ida Grove, IA LCMS (it has a profile picture of the front door/tree and a cover photo of Communion) to help with any confusion as to other St. Paul Lutheran Facebook pages.



**CROSS OF ASHES** — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

# Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

$14 - 7 =$  \_\_\_ Father  
 $10 + 9 =$  \_\_\_ heavenly  
 $9 + 9 =$  \_\_\_ the  
 $12 + 12 =$  \_\_\_ blessing  
 $2 - 1 =$  \_\_\_ Praise  
 $7 + 7 =$  \_\_\_ has  
 $11 + 11 =$  \_\_\_ every  
 $13 + 13 =$  \_\_\_ Christ  
 $8 + 8 =$  \_\_\_ us  
 $10 + 10 =$  \_\_\_ realms  
 $8 + 9 =$  \_\_\_ in  
 $5 + 5 =$  \_\_\_ Lord  
 $10 + 11 =$  \_\_\_ with

$10 + 15 =$  \_\_\_ in  
 $10 - 5 =$  \_\_\_ God  
 $6 - 3 =$  \_\_\_ to  
 $12 - 6 =$  \_\_\_ and  
 $6 + 6 =$  \_\_\_ Christ  
 $18 - 9 =$  \_\_\_ our  
 $22 - 11 =$  \_\_\_ Jesus  
 $1 + 1 =$  \_\_\_ be  
 $7 + 6 =$  \_\_\_ who  
 $2 + 2 =$  \_\_\_ the  
 $10 + 5 =$  \_\_\_ blessed  
 $4 + 4 =$  \_\_\_ of  
 $10 + 13 =$  \_\_\_ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3, NIV)