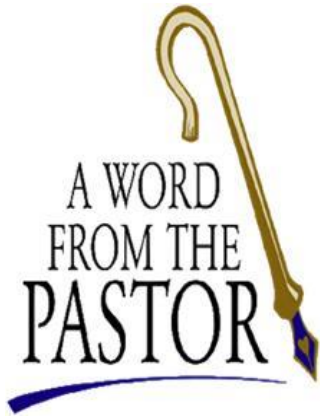


St. Paul Lutheran Church

March 2024 Newsletter



Greetings and His peace to you!

Since Ash Wednesday, we have been in the Lenten season and preparing our hearts and minds to recall the death and resurrection of our Savior, and more importantly, the *purpose* of His death and resurrection.

In that preparation, we have been using a Lenten/Easter series that uses King David's **Psalm 41** as a lens to view the importance of Lent and Easter, and better appreciate God's love and grace for us, despite all that this world, Satan, and our own sinful flesh throw at us in an attempt to drive/keep us away from our heavenly Father.

How has God's grace raised you? Even if you have never sat on a royal throne or made ruler over a great people like David, you still might have seen improvements in your finances, employment, or other part of your life. Maybe family troubles have been quieted. Or maybe a compassionate helper or valuable ally has entered your life at just the right time. Are you recovering from a bad illness, a bad habit, or a bad influence? If you have, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor!

But what if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that **"the waters have come up to my neck"** (Psalm 69:1)? David knows that saint's fortunes because they are his as well:

In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;

he is called blessed in the land;

You do not give him up to the will of his enemies. (Psalm 41:1-2)

You have a sure hope! Therefore, do not look for hope in your experiences or your emotions, which will show you the same bleak picture that David captures in Psalm 41:

- * ***My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?"*** (v. 5)
- * ***When one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while His heart gathers iniquity.*** (v. 6)
- * ***Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.*** (v. 9)

Faith offers a much better vision: despite all that binds and bruises and claws at you, *God will raise you up.* He has raised you already! In Holy Baptism, God has ***"raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"*** (Ephesians 2:6). If you are *in Christ*, how can you sink? How can you fall? You can't. you won't, because *God's got you!*

Lent is a great time to meditate on David's trials and your secure position in Christ. Psalm 41 provides an ideal guide to your meditation. If the laments of Psalm 41 call to mind your many difficulties and need for deliverance, they depict even more clearly the work by which your deliverance has been won.

I pray that this series brings to you a whole new (or renewed) sense of the depth of love our heavenly Father has for us and a renewed zeal for our own personal sense of sharing the Good News of what Jesus the Christ accomplished for us!

Gracious Lord, I come before you in humbleness and sincerity asking that You be with all of Your children especially during this Lenten season. Allow us the ability to acknowledge both to You and one another, that we often fail to recognize and admit we still need Your continued help because we sin constantly and cannot free ourselves from that sin. Help us to not only ask for forgiveness, but also to be able to give that forgiveness because You forgave us while we were still your enemies, and most importantly, because it is obtained by Your Son's blood and given by You with Your promise. Grant also that You would open our hearts to those things which are still hidden from us that they may bring us closer to You. These things we ask in the name of Your only-begotten, Risen Son. Amen.

God's richest blessings to you and your family!

in His name,
Rev Mike Metzler



Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesdays 6pm Soup & Sandwich & 7 pm Worship

Sundays 9 am Worship

Holy Week Schedule

March 24th~ Palm Sunday 9am

March 28th~ Maundy Thursday 7pm

March 29th~ Good Friday 7pm

March 31st~ Easter 6:30 am & 9am

CONFIRMATION CORNER

We are finishing studying the Holy Sacrament of the Altar and what it means for us as God's people and will begin studying what it means to be a member of Christ's church on earth as well as the different seasons of the church year.

We are scheduling a 2nd *Free Question and Pizza Day!* We may even have already experienced this 2nd get-together by the time you read this. Just like the last time, we will search through many passages in the Scriptures for answers/direction and some ways to move forward with answers to some very good/difficult questions concerning baptism, witnessing, and relationships with God.

Please pray for our students daily.

Due to recent circumstances, **Confirmation Day will be Palm Sunday, March 24.** Piper Brant will be confirmed on this day.

If you know someone who would benefit from adult confirmation instruction, or just have a question or 2, please contact the pastor by office phone voicemail 320-384-6267 (ext 2), call (or text) 763-286-4803, or email at revmetzler18@gmail.com

SUPPLICATIONS

Supplications are requests in prayer on behalf of others. Supplications may be for things such as healing, to things like a better job or the like. Here are some supplications:

For all who need some encouragement in weathering the changes in the future, that God uplifts their hearts to look to Him for hope and comfort, strength to carry on, and joyous anticipation in seeing what He has in store for us while continuing to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

For Arden Gruett, Lois Kruse, Lorraine Robbins, Steve Marudas, Jerome Kruse, Marlys Knutson, and all those named in our hearts, for God's continued healing and comfort for them and their families.

For all those serving us in our military or in a civilian capacity here in the U.S. and throughout the world, especially **Eddie Welch**, who serves in the Navy, that God grant them the courage and honor to do what is asked of them in defense of our countrymen and women, and to have the compassion and mercy to help those in need wherever a need arises.

That God would grant this world peace.

Did you know?

What is *Lent* and *why do we observe it in our worship?*

The Church's **season of Lent** is observed from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday as time of preparation before celebrating Christ's Resurrection, just as the season of Advent is set aside to allow time to prepare us for the 1st (and 2nd) Coming of Christ.

During Lent, we see a more serious and somber 'feel' or 'mood' to our worship, as we consider not only the suffering and death of the Christ, but also to consider what He gave up to be our Savior. This consideration of what Christ gave up is what led to the Early Church's practice of 'giving up' something for Lent to help better reflect on the life and work of Christ.

The 'giving up' of something or **fasting** during Lent, or anytime, is something that can be good for any Christian who is contemplating/reflecting on the things of God. Scripture neither commands nor forbids fasting. However, fasting should be done with the right mind-set. The person fasting should be doing it for reasons of contemplation/reflection for them personally and not as something that can be seen by others as Scripture tells us in **Matthew 6:16-18**.

Another practice that helps us to be in the Lenten 'mindset' is the omission of the "*alleluias*" (means "*praise the Lord*") and the *Hymn of Praise* in Worship, which we then return to saying/singing on Easter morning with joy.

You may also have noticed that the paraments (the colored fabric coverings of the altar, pulpit and lectern) have been changed to purple. These paraments are also something that is neither commanded nor forbidden (adiaphora) in Scripture. The color purple is associated with being penitential (sorry for one's sins) as we see the suffering and contempt that Jesus endured, and is also a color of royalty. The color purple helps us to recall the purple garment that was put on Jesus as those around Him struck and mocked Him as the King of the Jews. That same color also reminds us that Jesus ***IS* The King of kings**.

WHAT GOD GAVE UP FOR LENT.





What's coming up at Church....

Monday's in March: Quilting at 10am, join the ladies for coffee, conversation and of course, quilting!

Wednesday's in March: Bible Study at 10am (*exception: No class on March 27th*)

Council Meeting: Monday March 4th at 7pm.

Board of Fellowship Meeting: on Tuesday March 5th at 1pm

Family Dinner: Wednesday March 6th from 5 to 7pm. If you have special dietary restrictions and are planning on joining us for the family meal, please let Jayne or Connie know so we can ensure the have meal options available for you.

Daylight Savings is March 10th. Spring Ahead your clocks one hour.

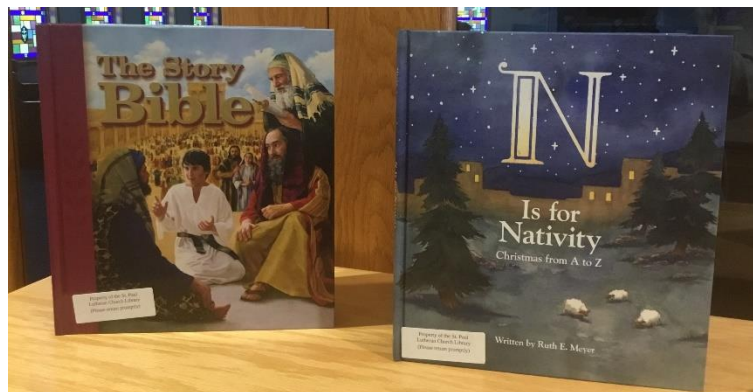
Lenten Services: Please join us on Wednesday's beginning with a light meal at 6pm followed by worship at 7pm. (The exception is on March 6th, which is the Family Meal).

Palm Sunday is March 24th . This will also be Confirmation Sunday.

Maundy Thursday is March 28th, worship service is at 7pm

Good Friday is March 29th, worship service at 7pm

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am, followed by John's famous pancake breakfast, if you can help in the kitchen, let him know. **Easter Worship** at 9am.



*Thank you to a wonderful, special lady who donated these books, **The Story Bible** and '**N**' is for **Nativity**, to the children's library. We appreciate it!!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mar 2024

2nd: Tim Davis
3rd: Lindsay Klar
4th: Grady Ausmus
Kenna Rabe
5th: Michelle White
7th: Janice Ladd
11th: Kurt Dahlin
15th: Joanne Hopkins
16th: Grace Peterson
17th: Robbie and Carol Robinson
18th: Lynette Maser
21st: Christeva Furey
Steve Marudas
23rd: Randy and Sue Hickle
24th: Tess Maser
26th: Matt and Pam Zabrok
27th: Linda Marotz
28th: Wendy Kottke
29th: Toby and Yonna Hickle

If we missed anyone, please let Jennifer know!

Flower Chart:

March 3rd: Robbie and Carol Robinson
.....in honor of their wedding anniversary
March 10th: Gloria Maser Bjerke
....in loving memory of her sister, Vernetta
March 17th: Steve Marudas
....in loving memory of family
March 24th: Kristy Lilienthal
...in loving memory of Boone
March 31st: Easter



Arden Gruett, Lois Kruse, Lorraine Robbins, Steve Marudas, Marlys Knutson, Janice Ladd, Lois Kendall, Mona Klar, Dora Stamm, Mary Jarvis, Florence Benoit, Carolyn Olander, and those named in our hearts, for God's continued healing and comfort for them and their families.



Acolyte Schedule:

Sunday March 3rd: Piper
Wednesday March 6th: Hunter

Sunday March 10th: Norah
Wednesday March 13th: Charlotte

Sunday March 17th: Corbin
Wednesday March 20th: Corbin

Sunday March 24th: Norah

Good Friday: March 29th: Charlotte

Easter 6:30am: Hunter
Easter 9am: (open)

March Ushers:

Carol & Robbie Robinson

**Council Meeting
St Paul Lutheran Church
February 5,2024**

Present: Aaron, Toby, Pastor, Jennifer, Wendy, David, John, Carol, Star, Rod, Bill, Matt, Greg,

Call to Order- 7:00 PM

Open with Prayer – Pastor

Approve Agenda minutes for January council meeting- Bill 1st Star 2nd

Treasurer's Report

Total Income 13,760.95. Net Income 885.66

Total Expense 12,875.29. Total Checking 35,745.84

Total Savings 27,745.84. Total Memorials 5,983.02

Carol 1st, Star 2nd

Pastor's Report- 9 Home visits, 3 Net visits/ meetings, 2 Bible Studies, 4 Confirmation classes, Attended KRC circuit meeting in Bruno, St Paul Lutheran Church Youth meeting, Family potluck, Pre-marital classe, Elders meeting. In the works various meetings, monthly Family Fun night, continue Pre-marital classes, continue to finalize Lent and Easter Liturgies, continue writing for Spotlight on Faith.

Elders Report-Rod okayed Lent and Easter Services, Ash Wednesday Soup supper being served by Elders Blessing Initiative.

Trustee Report- No new news, BOF not available

OLD BUSINESS

A. Checking Account Closures and CC Orders Rebecca and Wendy doing online application for credit card.

B. Sound System working well with tweaking the volume up on soundboard.

C. Roof Update ongoing, discussed obtaining Attorney, Reaching out to Insurance Company Re ongoing concerns and previous claims. Statute of Limitations is coming up.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Pastor vacancy John Frank-next steps , BOE to make call Committee, 4-5 members of congregation, Email District President for an outline of what our next move should be.

B. Winter Fellowship February 17,2024 (weather permitting)

Adjourn- Bill 1st Toby 2nd Close with Lord's Prayer 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Carol Robinson

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Squid Without a Shadow



For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. (Psalm 18:28)

Many marine creatures reflect surrounding light. They can do so because of tiny light-reflecting platelets. Typically, these crystalline platelets are made of purine, one of the building blocks of DNA, but these particular crystals cannot change how much light they reflect.

The Hawaiian bobtail squid, however, needs to be able to reflect different levels of light because of its unique lifestyle. This squid glides through moonlit waters, but without its special reflective tissue, its shadow would be seen as it passes over the bottom. The bobtail squid has light-generating tissue on its underside, facing the bottom, and this produces just sufficient light to make its shadow disappear. In other words, it can generate variable levels of light. What's more, the squid can move its light-generating platelets around so that they might be either scattered among its cells or concentrated where needed. Rather than being composed of just one amino acid, this squid's platelets are made up of six amino acids.

God is the source of all light, including spiritual light. According to evolution, the squid is closely related to some of the first animals that evolved in the sea. Yet, its technically sophisticated camouflage, which perfectly fits its environment and life-style, is a testimony to God's wise design, *not* the early stages of mindless evolution. The spiritual light of God's truth makes that clear.

Ref: Science News, 1/10: 2004, p. 20, A. Goho, "Moonlighting." Photo: Adult Hawaiian bobtail squid. Margaret McFall-Ngai. (CC BY 4.0)

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CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (320) 384-6267

Website: www.stpaulhinckleymn.org



Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/SPLCHINCKLEY>

Check Facebook or church website for any updates on schedules for Worship Service and other events.

Pastor
Rev. Mike Metzler

Church Secretary
Jennifer Kubesh

Church Newsletter
Jennifer Kubesh
Cydelle Klände

Organists
Sue Hickle
Connie Odendahl

Church Council

*Meets 1st Monday
each month at 7pm*

Chairman: Aaron Peterson

Vice Chair: Toby Hickle

Elders: Rod Lawin

John Frank

Matt Maser

Greg Kroschel

Trustees: Bill Morgan

David Berquist

Doug Kottke

Secretary: Carol Robinson

Fin. Sec.: Star Lawin

Treasurer: Wendy Kottke

Stewardship

2/01/2024 – 2/18/2024

General Fund.....\$5,994

Lutheran Witness\$27

Altar Flowers\$124

Special Donations\$670

Missions\$5

TOTAL.....\$6,820





MARCH 2024

		FRI	SAT
		1	2
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
SUN	MON	TUES	WED
3 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	4 10am Quilting 7pm Council Mtg	5 1pm BOF meeting	6 10am Bible Study 5pm Family Dinner 7pm Worship
10 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	11 10am Quilting	12	13 10am Bible Study 6pm Soup & Sandwich 7pm Lenten Service
17 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	18 10am Quilting	19	20 10am Bible Study 6pm Soup & Sandwich 7pm Lenten Services
24 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School Confirmation Sunday <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 10am Quilting	26	27
31 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service 7:30am Pancake Brkfst 9am Worship w/ Communion <i>Easter Sunday</i>			28 7pm Maundy Thurs Service
		7	8
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
		14	15
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
		21	22
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
		28	29
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
		7pm Maundy Thurs Service	7pm Good Friday Service
		<i>Pastor's days off</i>	
		<i>March Ushers:</i> Robbie & Carol Robinson	

St. Paul Lutheran Church

PO Box 99

Hinckley, MN 55037

**Newsletter
March 2024**



For God so Loved the World