



Greetings from the Pastor

BEHOLD GOD'S GIFT

Springtime is officially here. We expect the blessings of God in the form of rain and sunshine. We anticipate the blooming of colorful flowers from all kinds of plants and trees. It is a miracle in the eyes of someone like me who is not born in Iowa. I have seen it once and I love to see it again and again. Perhaps many of us, there is no more excitement because it's been happening year by year. Some are still amazed by it; some no longer behold it. Truly, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

In this Lenten Season, the key words are, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." The word lamb refers to a sacrificial lamb that passes the requirements of the temple. It has to be without blemish. Christ Jesus is the lamb of God who is without sin. He is a perfect sacrifice worthy of God.

To behold means to admire with wonder. God intended the experience to be free of charge. If you are going to see wonderful things of Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida, it's not free. You will have to pay for the ticket worth \$119 per person as of this day. Moody says, the first and last time he went to Disneyworld, it was half the price. They must have doubled the beauty that it now costs double to behold them.

It's understandable that Disneyworld sells tickets. People surely appreciate them, and appreciation just needs to happen before the fun begins.

That is the cycle of life in this world. Blessings come, the beholder responds with Appreciation, and then a new blessing comes again. That's how it is designed by God. The prophet Malachi stated, "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,*" says the LORD Almighty, "*and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it,*" (Malachi 3:10 NIV).

I observe that God has never stopped the sun from shining and the rains from falling. Blessed are we who can behold such gifts. It's the same sun and rain for all sinners and saints. Responses will be varied. The opportunity to behold and appreciate God is available to all. The richer might respond and give a spare to God's house. The poorer might have to respond with sacrifice. Like Christ, loving God and the world, requires a willing sacrifice whether rich or poor. What matters is the sense of sacrifice. It matters to God when he is beheld as Lord and Master. When a follower painstakingly makes efforts to love God, it becomes special.



The Lenten lesson is the selflessness of Christ on the cross. He loved God with all he's got. He gave his life willingly. It was very pleasing offering to God. Paul states, "*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver,*" (2 Corinthians 9:7).



United Women In Faith

April 2025

Believe it or not, tomorrow is the first day of Spring! With the rain we are receiving today and the warm weather we have been having, it's even beginning to look like Spring. Robins and Red Wing Black Birds are back, and the grass is starting to turn green. Daffodils and Irises are poking their heads up out of the ground, and we will soon be able to enjoy the beautiful Spring Flowers. When Spring comes, we know that Easter can't be too far away.

April 5 at 9:30 AM we will be having our Spring Fling. Come for great fellowship, good food, and some fun surprises. We will also be presenting our Special Mission Recognition Award to a special lady.

Invitations and Scholarship Applications for Senior Sunday, April 27, 2025, have been sent out. Scholarship Applications must be turned into the church by April 24, 2025. Scholarships will be presented during church on April 27, 2025.

The Outreach Committee will be showing "The Chosen" on April 6th. Come and enjoy the last evening and be sure and thank the committee for sharing "The Chosen" with us.

This month I will be sharing from a Lenten Devotion we made in 1984

EASTER SUNDAY A TIME FOR REFLECTION, WORSHIP, AND CELEBRATION.

"Fear not, for I know that you seek Jesus who has been crucified, He is not here, for He is risen, even as He said....Easter- Day of Resurrection. Easter- coming of Spring, Easter new clothes, Easter-egg hunts, Easter- end of Holy Week, Easter-sunrise services, Eastertime of family gatherings, Easter- end of lent. Take your pick, Easter brings to mind a plethora of events and memories for most of us. My earliest memories center around new Spring clothes and going to church all day. It was hard to "separate the "church" meaning of the day from that of the society around us. For many of us the words of the song "Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers" sums up the way we feel about Easter.

To read the Scripture from Luke 24 which tells us of the women's early morning trip to the tomb, wondering how they would roll the heavy stone away, and find the stone already moved. Then for them to go inside, and find Jesus gone! What could have happened? I can just imagine how they must have felt as they looked around for the body of Jesus. The appearance of what must have been Angels reminded them of what Jesus had told them earlier.

Yes, today we need to be reminded just as the early followers of Jesus were. We must learn again of the death and resurrection. Easter serves as a yearly reminder of these events. During Lent we have prepared ourselves to receive anew the Holy Spirit for our lives.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very "Blessed Easter."

Lay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse

HOLY WEEK

Maunday Thursday Service April 17th

7:00 p.m. at St. Paul UMC

A presentation about the 12 disciples showing about their lives and ministry after Jesus' death. Plan to attend this presentation of the disciples.

Good Friday Service April 18th

7:00 p.m. at St. Paul UMC

"7 Last Words of Jesus" will be presented

This is presentation about the seven last sayings of Jesus.

Please join us for this Good Friday Program

APRIL 2025

Easter Flower Order

We will be ordering two selections of spring flowers for Easter Sunday.



Please select from the following:

- ◆ Easter Lily ~ \$15.00
- ◆ Purple Tulips ~ \$10.00

Please contact the secretary if you are not able to complete the form

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 13th, 2025



Given By _____

In Memory/Honor of

In Memory/Honor of

Paid _____



Hosted by the United Women of Faith
Please join us in Fellowship Hall ~ Saturday, April 5th
at 9:30 a.m. for brunch & a fun surprise !



Membership Committee Update

Currently, over 70 addresses receive our monthly newsletter by mail. However, the cost of printing and postage is something the Membership Committee is reviewing.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could share your email address with us, allowing us to send the newsletter directly to your inbox. Additionally, you can view the newsletter online anytime by visiting our website at www.lpcsaaintpaulumc.org and clicking on the *Newsletters* section.

Starting in May, we will begin emailing the newsletter. If you still prefer to receive a printed copy, please feel free to call the church office at (319) 342-2208.

Thank you for your support!

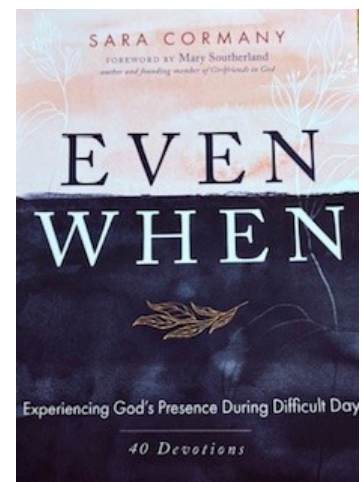
The Membership Committee

Carolyn Harwood, Cindy Morse, and Jan Pint

LIBRARY BOOK

“Even When by Sara Cormany is a devotional treasure written with beautiful vulnerability because the author knows the reality of difficult days. We all will face difficulties, and her words will help us remember that being brave when life is hard isn’t about our strength but it is all about the love that walks with us through all the difficult days in life.”

Debbie Alsdorf- Author of Ten Minutes
With God, The Faith Dare and Deeper



Trustee Committee Update

The past couple of months were cold outside, but it was a good time to do our annual 'deep cleaning' of the church. This project was done by a group of volunteers who worked once a week beginning January 30th and ending March 6th. Thank you to Charlene Heiar, Joyce Craft, Jean Hager, Mary Brown, Bonnie Allers and Cheryl Wiebbecke. Over 90 hours of volunteer time was donated for this project. Please let these ladies know you appreciate their time and dedication.

We are also ordering new chairs for the chapel. We are asking folks to help cover the cost of this purchase. The chairs are \$50 each. There is a sign-up board at the back of the Sanctuary where you can put your name and the number of chairs you would like to purchase. There will be a sample chair by the board so you can see what we are purchasing. For those of you that are not in the church on a regular basis, you can call the office at 319-342-2208, and have your name added to the board.

There is one more project that we are currently working on. One of the Sunday School rooms has a water issue. When it rains the water comes down the wall and onto the carpet. We have contacted a contractor and found that this will not be a quick and easy fix. We are hoping to have the wall repaired before summer.

There are always small projects around the church that need attention. If you would like to get involved, please let one of the members of the Trustee committee know. With summer coming there will also be a lot of outside work to do, and there are projects that students can do for 'Silver Cord' hours.

The more hands we have helping, the more we get done. Please take an active part in helping your church family, when and where you can.

Thank you and remember - There are blessings in every day. Find them. Create them. Treasure them.

The Trustee Committee

Wayne Gaston, Sherry Sheffler, Michelle Henson, Shawn Sheffler, Judy Hora

Education News !

Education Dates!

April 13th, Palm Sunday

Students bring in Palms at Church

April 20th, Easter Sunday

No Sunday School

April 27th

Children's Choir during church

Recognition of Union Seniors

May 4th

Confirmation Sunday!

May 11th

Mother's Day

Last Sunday School class



Get ready for the summer event that points kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust!

June 16th – 19th

VBS ... VACATION Bible School!





APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Worship Mtg. @ 9:00 a.m. Shaw Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	2 Chimes @ 4:15 p.m. Choir @ 5:00 SPRC @ 5:00 p.m. Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Spring Fling 9:30 a.m.
6 Holy Communion Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	7 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	8 Shaw Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. Ad Council @ 6:30 p.m.	9 Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Cantata @ 7p.m. Palm Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. Graduating Senior Celebration	14 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	15 Shaw Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	16 Joy Circle @ 9:00 a.m. Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	17 Maundy Service @ 7:00 pm	18 Good Friday Service @ 7:00 p.m.	19
20 Easter Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School	21 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	22 Shaw Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	23 Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26
27 High School Senior Recognition Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. Children's Choir	28	29	30 Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.			

St. Paul United Methodist Church ~ 501 Sycamore St. Box 187 ~ La Porte City, IA 50651

Church Phone: 319-342-2208 ~ Church email: lpcumchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.lpc saintpaulumc.org ~ Facebook: LPC St. Paul UMC

Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado ~ Email: emvalsancas5466 ~ Cell phone: 319-559-7387