

April 2024

Greetings from the Pastor

Pastor's Notes

As I write this newsletter there are periods of snow showers swirling past my window on a very blustery late March day. It seems that March has come in like a lamb and is trying to leaving like a lion. But that is the way of the weather in March. It can be unseasonably warm one day and then turn cold with snow showers and a return to a touch of winter.

When I think back over the past several weeks it is amazing everything that has been accomplished. I want to thank everyone who has had a hand in keeping the church running and on task. From the planners in the all the committees, to the helpers in the kitchen and in the classrooms, to the helpful hands that ring the chimes, to everyone behind the scenes who have helped with music, sound equipment, lighting candles and serving communion. To all a heartfelt THANK YOU.

With the end of March, the last week being Holy Week, and with the last day of March this year being Easter, we can now set our sights on April and beyond. Joyce and I have already begun the process of packing and moving. This, our last move, will be very similar to our first move back in 2008. We will be taking everything out to our new place a little at a time. All of our other moves involved weeks of packing and then one day of loading the truck and then the next unloading at our new location and then weeks of unpacking. A very stress-filled season. But with this move happening a little at a time, it should be a lot less stressful. There will be one day when all the heavy stuff will have to be moved, so I will be reaching out to some to help on that day.

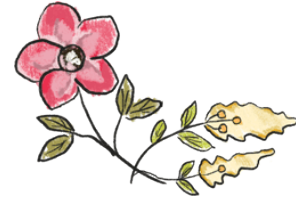
Yes, spring is just around the corner. Not the false spring of warmer temperatures that we enjoyed for most of February and March, but the real spring with the trees turning green, the grass beginning to grow and the fresh sights and smells of the true awakening which we call spring. Let us all be blessed with the seasons that our Lord God has ordained.

Have a blessed April.
Pastor Allen



Lay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse



Greetings to my St Paul church family----

This is a continuation of an article from last month, written by Laura Buchanan.

Resolutions that will strengthen your faith.

Whether you are beginning a new calendar year, a new year after a birthday or starting anew after a challenging season, setting a goal can be a helpful tool for self-accountability as you move ahead.

Let's all resolve to find a stronger connection with God in these moments.

Join a small group:

This might a Sunday School class, or a community group organized by your church or a Bible study fellowship. Investing in others and building friendships can strengthen your mental and spiritual health. Additionally, you'll be able to share thoughts, beliefs and questions with other Christians who are also on a journey of faith.

Get Creative:

Write in a journal. Capture thoughts about life and God. Putting pen to paper helps us unload whatever mental weight we are carrying and often brings an new perspective. This can be diary-style writing, but you can also write down prayers, poems or a fictional short story that helps you express your emotions and spiritual outlook.

Create something beautiful:

This could be anything from a pencil sketch in the margin of a piece of paper, to a scrapbook page, to a knitted scarf. Using your creativity unlocks your right-brain thinking and helps us tap into ideas, find calm and let go of anxiety.

Make a joyful noise:

Listen to uplifting, worshipful music that stirs your soul and sing along. It doesn't matter if you are the best or the worst singer-lifting your voice in praise to God is an important part of soul-care. Join your congregation with singing or sing to the heavens while stuck in traffic.

Reach out to those you love. Life can be short and is full of the unexpected. Make a promise to yourself and those you hold dear that you will be present, engaged and devoted to your relationships. Try to call, text or email people you haven't heard from in a while.

In closing I what to share a portion from Psalm 51 beginning with verse 10; Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

Outreach Opportunities

.Thank you for your generosity towards the special Lenten giving.

We are planning a spring plant sale again. We will be open on garage sale weekend on Thursday and Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. If you have perennials that you would like to share, we will be collecting plants, starting at noon on that Thursday. Proceeds will go to hunger projects.

You Can Help



We are starting to plan the Summer Food for Kids program. Because we were not able to get much at the Food Bank last summer, we are asking for your help in donating items. We will need individual mac and cheese cups; peanut butter; fruit snacks; applesauce cups; tuna helper; tuna; spaghetti and sauce; pancake mix; and syrup.

The Chosen movies will continue to be shown on Sunday evenings at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall during the month of April.

We will be planning summer get-togethers again this year. If you would like to host one, let Colleen know.

Blessings to you as you bless others.



Thank you so very much for all the kindness given to us as I am recovering from a cardiac adventure. Your prayers, food and visits have helped to boost my spirits and heal my heart. May God be with each of you as He has been with me.

Colleen Schulz

Trustee Report



Trustee Update - April 2024

Spring is just around the corner and the Trustee committee has 3 projects already in progress.

The first project is replacing the two sets of cement steps outside the church. These steps are in bad shape and will be removed and replaced sometime in April. The second project is at the parsonage. Last fall we had to remove two trees due to their deteriorating condition. We will plant new trees and also remove the old, rotten railroad ties around the back deck. These will be replaced with a new retaining wall. This work is scheduled for this summer.

The third project is replacing the old storage shed in the parking lot. We have a new shed on order through the high school, which should be available in May. We have also done an annual cleaning inside the church. This was done during the months of February and March. We would like to thank Charlene Heiar, Cheryl Wiebbecke, Joyce Craft, Mary Brown and Jean Hager for helping to complete this annual project. Great job ladies!!! We appreciate your time and effort spent on this project.

We are also looking at replacing the chairs in the chapel. We will begin looking into available options and hope to have new chairs by the end of the year. Again this year we will need to water the plants and flowers outside the church during the summer months. If you would be willing to help with this, please contact Sherry Sheffler. Any help is greatly appreciated.

The Trustee Committee



United Women in Faith April, 2024

Spring is officially here according to the calendar. Time to think about going outside as soon as the weather warms up a little. Soon we will see our trees and bushes getting their new leaves for the year. Some flowers are already up and have been showered with snow.

We will be honoring our High School Seniors on April 28th during church service. Our scholarship will be presented during the service. Please contact Mary Fratzke if you have any questions.

This month I am sharing a poem from Helen Steiner Rice's book "Heart Gifts from Helen Steiner Rice." "After The Winter...God Sends the Spring."

Springtime is a season of Hope and Joy and Cheer,
There's beauty all around us to see and touch and hear...
So, no matter how downhearted and discouraged we may be,
New Hope is born when we behold leaves budding on a tree.
Or when we see a timid flower push through the frozen sod
And open wide in glad surprise Its petaled eyes to God...
For this is just God saying—" Lift up your eyes to Me, and the bleakness of your spirit,
Will lose its wintry darkness and your heavy heart will sing"--
For God never sends the Winter without the Joy of Spring.

Our Bible Verse for this month is found in John 8:12.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever who follows me will never walk in darkness but
Will have the light of life."

Blessings to you and to your loved ones.

Pat and Charlene



Book of the Month



This Pocket Bible Devotional is the perfect fit for your purse, making it ideal for women on the go. We face many challenges these days. The book provides guidance on a number of issues and grounds its advice in Scripture.



EDUCATION NEWS!

Senior Sunday! Celebration time!
Education Calendar

Sunday, April 28th

Children's Choir sings during Worship time

Sunday, May 10th

Last Day of Sunday School Happy Mother's Day!

JUNE 17-20th

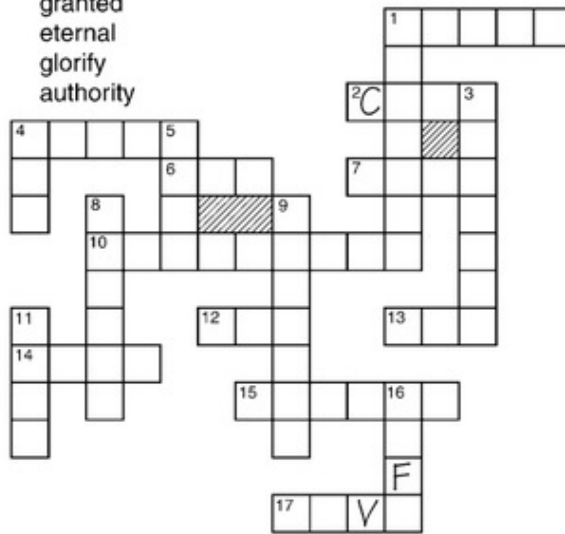
SAVE the DATE for VBS! Get ready to DIVE into friendship with God!

Jesus prayed to God.

To find His prayer, fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle.
Then transfer them to the numbered lines.

all
may
Son
Him
life
come
time
give
over
Your
that
might
given
Father
people

granted
eternal
glorify
authority



"(8) _____, the (7) _____ has (2) _____.

(1D) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____,

(5) _____ Your Son (4D) _____ glorify You.

For You (9) _____ (6) _____

(10) _____ (14) _____ (13) _____

(15) _____ that He (4A) _____

(17) _____ (3) _____ (16) _____ to all

those You have (1A) _____ Him."

Parents, Let us know if you enjoy doing these puzzles with your child(ren). Do you try to figure them out yourself? The first ten people who respond will get a yummy surprise! (mfratzke@lpetel.net)

APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bible Study 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm	2 Worship Mtg 9:00 am Outreach 5:30 p.m.	3 Chimes Playing at the LPC Care Facility @ 4:00 Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Worship 10:00 a.m. Chimes	8 Bible Study 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm	9 Trustee Mtg 5:30 p.m. Ad Council 6:30 p.m.	10 Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:00 am Native American Ministries	15 Bible Study 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm	16	17 Joy Circle 9:00 a.m. Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:00 am Festival of God's Creation	22 Bible Study 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm.	23	24 Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	25 World Malaria Day	26	27
28 NOISY SUNDAY 	29 Bible Study 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm	30 Meekness Circle 7:00 p.m.				

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