

NEWSLETTER February 2025

Pastor Moody and Emelyn are back from Mission/Vacation Trip to the Philippines. The trip started right after Christmas Eve Service. Luggage's were packed full of goods for family, friends and mission churches. That's right, its Christmas Day and we are in the clouds flying over half the globe. Four planes and two days later, Emelyn was reunited with her family in Cotabato, Philippines for the remaining days of Christmas Season. Pastor Moody took a time with his brother's family while on a stop layover in Manila. Back home in La Porte City we find that Donald Trump has been inaugurated as the 47th President. As in all inaugurations it is concluded with "God bless America" and to which I want to add, "And may America bless God back." There is positive potential lesson for taking care of the self and there is also a negative potentials for self-regard.

The lesson that can be lifted for the current situation in the US and around the world is that the God that we are looking for is a God who has great regard for others. The gospel in a nutshell tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son," (John 3:16). It is a godly thing to have high regard for others.

The commandment of Christ to his followers is to at least have a regard for others that is similar to self-regard. The human flesh has a natural tendency for self-regard over others. Everybody is expected to take care of themselves. That is normal. That is human nature.

God is beyond normal. The example is in Christ who did not claim what he rightfully deserved. He was a king who was born in a stable and he was the Miraculous Lord who did not claim to be served but instead manifested a selfless servanthood and high regard for those that are other than himself including his enemies.

Christ knew he had enemies and for a while he did his evangelism works around the sea of Galilee because he had enemies in Jerusalem. But he ultimately decided to stop running away from his enemies precisely because his ultimate goal was to find his way back to God the Heavenly Father.

There are people who are "other" than us just like it was in the Biblical times. In fact, the whole history of humankind is an endless struggle among various cultures, languages, ideologies, religions, gender, and politics. There's been wars in every century of human existence. It is evidence that the human shall continue the tension between self-regard and the disregard of others.

Continued on the back

FEBRUARY

Unwittingly, the human's strong tendency for self-regard makes one pursue the disregard of others. We are thankful through the mercy of Christ our Lord that we are led to believe in a God that will remain faithful and will never disregard nor abandon those that have become God's enemies, the sinners.

Paradoxically, the humans' regard for the Self have caused them to make steps toward making nuclear arms. There are now over 14,500 nuclear arms all situated in the Northern Hemisphere. The human's self-regard will be his own demise.

It might be humanly wise to find livelihood in New Zealand or Australia. Wise but not divine. To run away from Others and from Enemies is not what our Lord wanted to do. Our Lord, Christ Jesus, wanted us to find God who is the enemy of our sin. God is the most other of all. And if we want to find God in this world, we cannot keep running and isolating ourselves from others and our enemies. Christ commands us to love our enemies, our most other persons in this world. We have to find those that are other than ourselves and relate with them and reconcile with them. If we do so, we might have found God and we might be able to relate with God and reconcile with God.

Amen.

Emelyn/Moody

Pay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse

Greetings to my St. Paul Church Family----

By the time most of you receive this church newsletter, we have seen the first month of 2025 pass by. Many can be upset that we have had no measurable snow to be able to ski, sled, or use the snowmobiles!! Then there is the other portion of our community who are so happy that the heavy snow has stayed away, this year so far. Portions of this article come from a book entitled RESTORED, Finding Redemption in Our MESS. by Tom Berlin, Pastor Berlin is from Herndon, Virginia. From Romans 7:18-19 we are told " The desire to do good is inside us, but we can't do it. We don't do the good that we want to do, we do the evil that we don't want to do. We are created in the Image of God; The Bible says we have been created in the image of God. Think about that for a moment. If you are around others, look around and see what they look like. If you can get a mirror hold it up and take yourself in for a moment. The Spirit of the Creator graces your countenance. This feeling of worth that you possess is not about you. It is not that you feel superior to others. It is an unconscious realization that God is in you. Let's be clear, we are not God. But we were made by God, in his image.

People can be a real mess. By "people" I mean me, you, and everybody else. We lose sight of the beauty God has placed in our own lives. Some things are beyond our influence. We don't control cancer, we can't stop flash floods, that ruin our communities, and most hardships are of our own making; maxed-out credit cards after holiday shopping, driving over the speed limit, and getting tickets. Many unresolved issues in our past and habits are difficult to change.

Following are some scriptures that may give you hope and peace in this coming year of 2025.

Isaiah 43: 18-19; Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

John 15: 5; I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing.

Isaiah 9:6; For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

1 John 3:16; We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us --- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

John 11:25-26; Jesus said, " I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die".

John 6:35; Jesus said, " I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty".

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Hear, O, Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Psalms 119:114; You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

Ephesians 6: 10-11; Finally, be strong in the Lord and strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



Outreach Giving

St. Paul UMC Outreach Giving 2024

Life 101.9	882.00	
Feed My Starving Children	883.00	
Bidwell	883.00	
Hospitality House	500.00	Thank you for your generosity for
Child Help	100.00	the past year. Please continue to
Perry School	100.00	
Grief Books	100.45	- celebrate your birthday by giving
Henderson Settlement	433.00	to the Birthday Box
Heifer Project	433.00	
IA Camps	434.00	-give to Noisy Sunday, which goes
Feed My Starving Children	471.00	to Haiti children
Cancer Drive	445.00	
Greenfield Tornado	200.00	- bring gently used clothing
Family Help Food	270.00	to send to the Philippines
Philippine School Supplies	300.00	
Love a Child	300.00	- give Tylenol and used pill bottles
Tylenol	140.00	for Philippines Church on Wheels
Summer Food for Kids	3750.00	
Gift cards for children's hospital	100.00	May God bless you as you
Philippines donations	1728.00	bless others.
	200.00	
Henderson area storms	500.00	
Ingathering Kits	116.00	
Apples to food bank	30.00	
Philippines offering	200.00	
Shoeboxes	3366.00	
Christmas gifts for kids	840.00	
Conference Missions		

United Women in Faith 2025

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH FEBRUARY 2025

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.” Corinthians 13:4-8.

February 14 is Valentine’s Day and that is the day we make a special effort to let all the people we care about know how important they are to us. Maybe it will be a special Valentine's Card or a special gift. Perhaps the best gift you can give someone is spending time with them. Maybe this is impossible, but you could use Facetime or Zoom to spend time with them. Calling them is always a great way to tell someone how much you miss them.

I want to share an article about Jesus and His ultimate example of His love for all of us.

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, Jesus said in 1 John 15.

“Now remain in my love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands, and remain in his love...My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

Thou blameless- He took our sins upon Himself to reconcile us to God.

Christ set the ultimate example of love, as 1 John 3:16 states. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid his life down for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters,” This may not mean giving up our lives, but it does mean sacrificing for the good of others. It means extending grace when wronged. It means offering forgiveness when it seems impossible. It means initiating love rather than just responding in kind. In practical terms, this implies living with boundless generosity, not just from our surplus but with a readiness to share even from our scarcity. In this way, we can not only show our commitment to the gospel and the teachings of Christ, but we also create ripples of love that can heal a fractured world.

1 John 4:19, “We love because He first loved us,”

Our Bible Verses for February is found in 1 John 4:15-16.

“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us.”

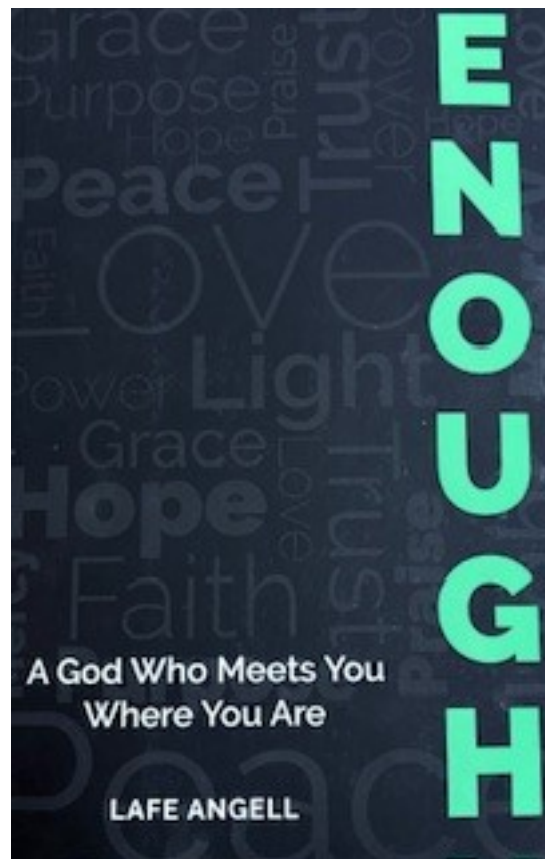
Spread God’s love to everyone.

Pat and Charlene

Finance Update

1-5	\$1358.00
1-12	\$3080.50
1-19	\$1342.00

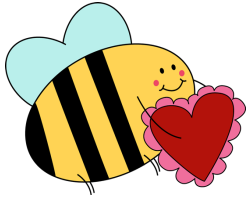
Blessings to you in
the new year.
Needed each month
over \$12,000



You aren't alone. Each of us has been through seasons when we needed something more. Maybe you're in that season now. Are you feeling anxious and alone, longing for something. ANYTHING more? Have you wondered: 'I wish I knew what my purpose was.' "I need more peace." or "I feel so hopeless right now?"

This book is sure to enlighten you, encourage you, and invite you into a "more than enough" moment of heavenly encounter with humanity's living Savior.





Education News

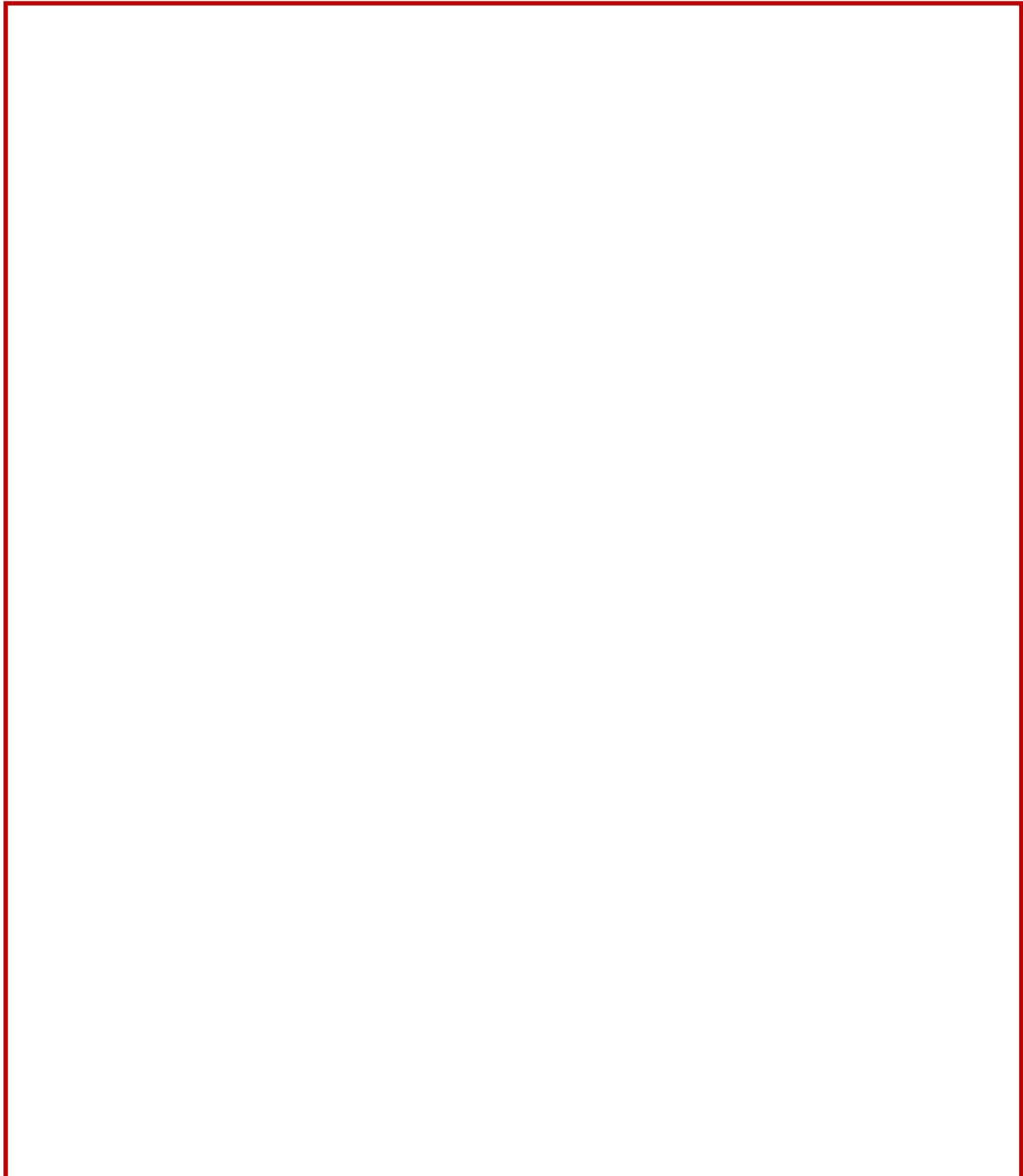
Friday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 23rd

Children's Choir sings during Worship (10:00)

How about some Valentine's Bible Trivia? It's a fun way to explore the bible with your child(ren). OR enjoy yourself! Good luck!



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Chimes Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	3 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	4 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. Finance @ 10:30 a.m. Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	5 Chimes @ 4:15 p.m. SPRC @ 4:30 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m. Education	6	7	8
9 Outreach @ 9:15 Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	10 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	11 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Trustees @ 5:30 p.m. AD Council	12 Chimes @ 4:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	17 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	18 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	19 Joy Circle @ 9:00 a.m. Chimes @ 4:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23 Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	24 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	25 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Outreach @ 5:30 Meekness Circle @ 7:00 p.m.	26 Chimes @ 4:15 p.m. Confirmation @ 6:15 p.m. Jubilation @ 6:30 p.m.	27	28	

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