

MARCH 2025

Message from the Pastors

There's great news for those who have been waiting for the hostages of Hamas to come home. It's not yet complete as of this writing but there is good hope. Meanwhile, there is also hope that Peace Talks can begin to end the Ukraine-Russia War.

The history of wars in the world is the history of humanness versus Christlikeness.

Humans are made of flesh. It is the nature of the human to contend with the urges of the flesh all lifelong. First, humans will try to survive and search for food, clothing, shelter and security and biological needs. After physiological needs are met, psychological needs are sought such as self-esteem, accomplishments and self-actualization. The psychologist Abraham Maslow developed the hierarchy of human needs that explains it. Every human has the potential to treat the self for high regard. This brings about the negative potential which is the disregard of others.

All the wars of unprovoked invasion can be traced to a powerful person such as Alexander the Great, Hitler and the many other warlords of human history. The current news has Yahya Sinwar of Hamas who had high regard of himself, and his group and they made the disregard of others and attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. It was a massacre of about 1200 civilians and 250 taken hostages. It's what happens when some humans give high regard for themselves and leads them to disregard of others. The Ukraine-Russia War is not different. There are statements of Putin questioning the validity of Ukraine President Zelensky and the Ukrainian sovereignty.

The high regard for the self that leads to the disregard of others will be the demise of humankind. Jesus knew about this and so he said, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25).

The Scripture can also cause war. Especially if the church will teach people to fight for what they deserve. Fighting for Justice is humanly right and there are scriptural texts that can support it. But if all fight for justice, this world will be drawn to World War III. Will God allow it? Maybe. The only thing that the sinner truly deserves is punishment.

To know the truth of God, use the cross like a reading glass. The cross is the symbol of selflessness and sacrifice. Jesus Christ is the selfless servant of God who was willing to sacrifice to save the world. Every time you hear a leader and there's too much evidence of self-centeredness, be skeptical. False prophets can be anyone who sounds convincing.

To save the world from extinction, Jesus needs servants who would choose the narrow road; those who deny themselves and pick up their cross and make selfless gestures and sacrificial services to the world in the name of God. This is Christ's solution to stop all wars.

Moody & Emelyn Colorado

2025 Committees

Service Opportunities

The following were elected at the 2024 Charge Conference. If anyone is interested to render service as a volunteer in any of these groups, please contact Pastor Emelyn.

SPRC Committee – 2025

Chris Jesse (**Chair**)
Bill Starr (**Vice Chair**)
Jasmine Gaston (**Secretary**)
Cindy Morse (**Lay Leader**)
Phyllis Weidemann
Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado

AD Council – 2025

Pastor Moody Colorado (**Acting Chair**)
Pat Benda (**Vice Chair**)
Pat Benda (**UWIF**)
Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado (**Pastor**)
Colleen Schulz (**Outreach**)
Cindy Morse (**Worship**)
Wayne Gaston (**Co-Trustees**)
Sherry Sheffler (**Co-Trustees**)
Carolyn Harwood (**Membership**)
Chris Jesse (**SPRC**)
Mary Fratzke (**Education**)
Jama Runyan (**Finance**)
Mark Hora (**Endowment**)
Judy Anton (**Memorial**)

Communion & Set-up Committee – 2025

Teri Klockner -2025
Ann Starr
Kim Thomsen
Christina Peterson
Amanda Sheffler

Education Committee – 2025

Roxanne Lewis (**Co-Chair**)
Mary Fratzke (**Co-Chair**)
Bonnie Allers
Marcia Bechthold
Laurie Driscoll
Jennie Lorenzen
Grace Opperman

Finance Committee – 2025

Jama Runyan (**Chair**)
Becky Wellman
Colleen Schulz

Trustees Committee – 2025

Wayne Gaston (**Co-Chair**)
Sherry Sheffler (**Co-Chair**)
Michelle Henson (**Secretary**)
Shawn Sheffler
Judy Hora

United Women in Faith Committee – 2025

Charlene Heiar (**Co-Chair**)
Pat Benda (**Co-Chair**)
Joyce Craft (**Secretary**)
Charlene Heiar (**Treasurer**)
Colleen Schulz

Worship Committee – 2025

Pastor Emelyn
Cindy Morse (Lay Leader)
Elaine Lee
Becky Wellman
Colleen Schulz

Memorial - Committee — 2025

Judy Anton
Judy Mether
Ann Starr
Phyllis Weidemann

Membership 2025

Carolyn Harwood (**Chair**)
Jan Pint
Cindy Morse

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2025 Committees

Continued

United Women in Faith Committee – 2025

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Pat Benda(**Co-Chair**)
Joyce Craft (**Secretary**)
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Memorial - Committee – 2025

Judy Anton
Judy Mether
Ann Starr
Phyllis Weidemann

Outreach – 2025

Colleen Schulz
Terri Calhoon
Mindy Parson
Danny Higgins
Deenie Higgins
Christina Peterson

Knot of Love – 2025

Sherry Robb (**Chair**)
Carolyn Harwood
Liz Winther
Shirley Bagenstos
JoEllen Krug

Prayer Chain Committee – 2025

CHAIN 1
Sherry Robb (**Chair**)

CHAIN 2
Judy Mether (**Chair**)

CHAIN 3
Pat Benda (**Chair**)

CHAIN 4
Phyllis Weidemann (**Chair**)

Endowment Committee – 2025

Mark Hora

Nomination – 2025

Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado
Chris Jesse
Cindy Morse (**Lay Leader**)



Church Leadership

Dear Church Leaders,

Your Leadership has been instrumental in shaping the spiritual journey and fostering deeper connection with our faith. Through your compassionate counsel and selfless dedication, you have inspired personal transformation into everyone. Your wisdom and guidance have guided the congregation through challenging times and encouraged everyone to embrace the teaching of Christ. I am truly grateful for the hours you invest in helping our congregation and leading us toward spiritual growth. Your commitment to serving the flock with love and humility is a shining example of Christ love in action.

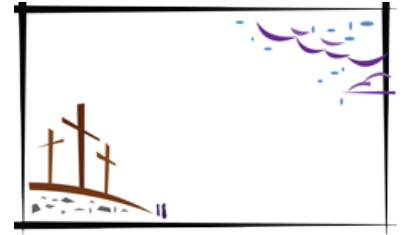
Thank you for being a beacon of hope and inspiration in our church. Your leadership has touched countless lives. May God continue to bless you abundantly as you faithfully serve His kingdom.

Emelyn S. Castillo- Colorado



Lay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse



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

It doesn't seem possible that I am writing this for March, while outside we are having quite a snowstorm.

As we look ahead to Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, I want to share some quotes and writings and scriptures.

Psalm 23:1-6 from the New King James Version.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

DON'T JUST ATTEND CHURCH

1. Love the church.
2. Serve the church
3. Give through the church
4. Invite people to church
5. Worship Jesus with the church
6. Encourage the church
7. Participate in the church
8. Pray for the church
9. Be active in the church
- 10 Priority the church



STAY IN THE CHURCH --BE THE CHURCH

Stay safe, Stay strong, Stay healthy, and be kind to others.





Spring Fling

You are invited to a fun-filled morning on Saturday, March 29, at 9:30. We will be having pre-Easter activities, a light brunch, and delightful fellowship. See you there.

Finance Update

January 26 -- \$2,226
February 2 -- 4,560
February 9 -- 2,633

Thank you for all the support for our church programs.
Needed each month, \$12,000+

Outreach Opportunities

As we look forward to Easter, we look for ways to draw closer to our Lord Jesus during the Lenten season.

--One way is to read The Upper Room each day. Just think of all of our congregation uniting in this devotion time!

--Plan to come to the next series of "The Chosen." The first showing will be Sunday, March 9. We will have a soup supper at 5:30, followed by an episode from Season 3. These uplifting programs will help you relate to the people who Jesus touched in their daily lives. Episodes will continue on the next 4 Sunday evenings.

--The special givings during Lent and Easter will be divided among three areas. First, our Summer Food for Kids program. Last year we gave food to 30 local kids for 12 weeks.

Also, the Matthew 25 project in Cedar Rapids. This help began after the flood, but the need continues because of the derecho. Cedar Rapids has a homeless people situation that they continue to try to alleviate.

National Disaster Relief through the United Methodist Church. They have funds available if a local crisis develops.

May God bless you as you bless others.



United Women In Faith

March 2024

March 5th at 7:00 PM we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Holy Lenten Season. Starting Sunday March 9th, we will be gathering to watch the movie, "The Chosen" in Fellowship. Hall. Soup supper will be served March 9th at 5:30 PM before the movie. "The Chosen" will also be shown March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 with light refreshments served. This is a great way to help prepare our hearts during the Lenten Season.

This month I would like to share some thoughts from a 1984 Lenten Devotional our church put together. This reading was by our minister at that time

A FEW WORDS ABOUT LENT

The word Lent comes from an old English word, Lencten, which meant the returning of Spring. It is a time of renewal for things that appear to be dead—trees, plants, bulbs, and seeds. In a similar way, it is a time for the renewal of the spirit. The people of Bible times had their seasons of preparation for the great religious festivals. It was a time for purification of the heart so that one might worship worthily on the holy day. For many of our forefathers, Lent was a time of fasting and self-denial. You and I ought to do more of this sort of thing than we do. However, it seems to me that Lent is better observed by adding a plus to our lives during the season than by abstaining from something we didn't need anyway.

The church color for Lent is purple, symbolizing repentance—and symbolizing the Kingship of Jesus in our lives. As we repent, confess, and receive God's pardon, we are purified and made worthy of the Easter celebration of eternal life. The prayer that we send with this book is that Lent in 2025 may be a time of spiritual encouragement for you.

Lent is a time to take inventory of our own personal relationship with God. Christ gave His life for our Redemption. What are we giving to advance His cause?

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Almighty God, who gives us our quiet seasons of thought and prayer, help us during this Lenten season, and at all times, to find in thee our true peace. Save us in the hour of trial, deliver us from evil thoughts and desires and from the tyranny of outward things. May we learn of Christ to be strong and brave in the struggle with temptation and to overcome even as He overcame. In His name we pray. Amen.

Our Bible verse for March is found in Isaiah 40:31.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

God's Blessing to all of you as we travel together through this wonderful Season of Lent.

Pat and Charlene





Education Calendar



March 9 - NO Sunday School

March 12 - NO Confirmation

March 30 - Children's Choir during church

April 13 - Palm Sunday (Children bringing in the Palms during church)

Graduating Seniors Celebration

April 20 - Easter (no Sunday School)

April 27 - Children's Choir during church

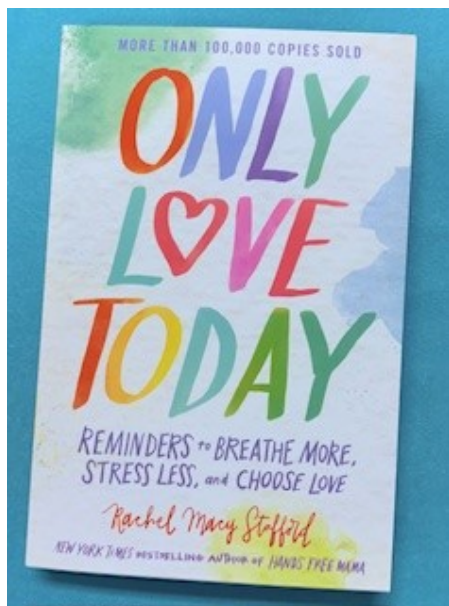
May 4 - Confirmation Sunday

May 11 - Mother's Day

Last Sunday School Class



Library Book of the Month



Stafford's inspiring words fill this beautiful book of short pieces constructed around the seasons of life. This flexible non-dated, moment-to-moment resource of encouragement can be picked up whenever you need to find meaning in the meaningless...when your soul is weary...when your heart is heavy...when your connections are weak.

Only Love Today's life-giving words remind you of the tools you already possess and the insights you already have to guide you back to what matters most. Regardless of what you're experiencing or what season you're in; you'll find wisdom and encouragement to move each day in a positive direction.



M A R C H 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i> Holly Communion Sunday School @ 8:45	3 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	4 <i>Worship @ 9:00 a.m.</i> Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Outreach @ 5:30 p.m.	5 Chimes @ 4:15 <i>Ash Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.</i>	6	7 	8
9 <i>No Sunday School</i> <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i> The Chosen @ 5:30 p.m.	10 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m. Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	11 Finance @ 10:00 am Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Trustees @ 5:30 p.m. Ad Council @ 6:30 p.m.	12 Chimes @ 4:15 NO Confirmation Class Jubilation @ 7:00 pm.	13	14	15
16 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i> Sunday School @ 8:45 The Chosen @ 6:30 p.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 Confirmation with Mentors @ 5:45	20	21	22
23 Sunday School @ 8:45 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i> The Chosen @ 6:30 p.m.	24 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	25 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Meekness Circle @ 7 p.m.	26 Chimes @ 4:15 Confirmation Class @ 6:15 Jubilation @ 7:00 pm.	27 <i>Care Facility Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i>	28	29 <i>Spring Fling @ 9:30 a.m.</i> Fellowship Hall
30 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i> Sunday School @ 8:45 UMCOR- The Chosen @ 6:30 p.m.	31	Spring Break March 10th thru the 14th				

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 Website: www.lpcstpaulumc.org ~ Facebook: LPC St. Paul UMC
 Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado ~ Email: emvalsancas5466 ~ Cell phone: 319-559-7387

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

MARCH
NEWSLETTER



Notes From the Office

Look for:

Updated church information

Sunday Services on our Facebook page, Website and YouTube.

Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Music 1st, 4th & 5th Sundays Praise Music 2nd & 3rd Sundays

Please join us for worship here at:
St. Paul United Methodist Church - La Porte City, Iowa

Office Hours
9:00 AM -12:30 PM Tuesday - Thursday

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