

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 FOURTH AVE NE
WASECA, MN 56093

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Jesus Loves

February 2025

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7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Matthew 2:7-12

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093
Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm

Phone: (507) 835-2647
Email: stpaulwa@hickorytech.net

Mission Statement

"Empowered by God's Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people."


Vision Statement

"We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER THRU MAY):

- ✝ **Divine Service w/Holy Communion:** 9:00 a.m. (also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
- ✝ Sunday School begins at 10:15am
- ✝ **Adult Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Grannis
952-686-3046
revgrannis@gmail.com

 [@stpaulwaseca](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwaseca)

www.stpaulwaseca.org

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming event



Youth Mission Trip Team **Hot Beef Commercial Drive Thru fundraiser**
Will be **February 21st, 2025** from 5pm to 6:30pm. You don't want to miss this!!!
\$10.00 per meal \$2.00 for a slice of pie.



PREPARE/ENRICH Marriage Retreat

WHEN: “KickOff” , Friday February 21, 2025, 6 sessions total
Social Hour – will start promptly at 5pm
Dinner – to follow at 6pm

WHERE: St. Paul Lutheran Church

Evening Meal: Garden Salad with assorted dressings
Spaghetti with meat sauce
Garlic Toast
Elegant Dessert(s)
Drinks

Cost per Couple: \$35.00 includes meal and 6 weeks of the program called “Prepare and Enrich Your Marriage.”

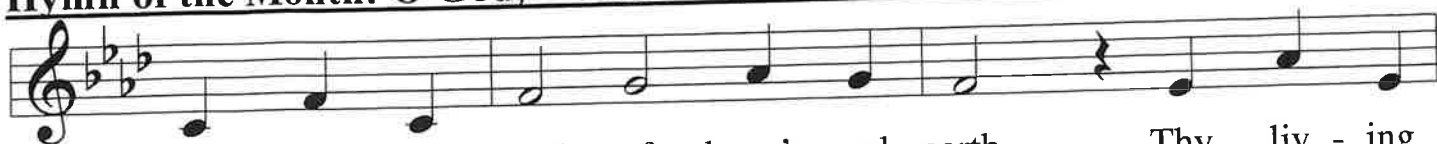
This is a program for couples who are interested in strengthening their relationship. Our first evening together we will have ICE BREAKERS after dinner and an Introduction to this program. The following Saturday, February 22nd at 8:30am we will again meet at our church for our first lesson together. We will be serving muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. We will finish up before lunch that morning. The following 5 sessions will be hosted on Wednesday evenings at our church following our Lenten Service, which I encourage everyone to attend, as we also serve suppers before service during Lent. We are also offering FREE BABYSITTING on the Saturday morning and Wednesday evenings, but would ask that you bring snacks for your children if they would like.

SIGN UP: Call our church office at 507-835-2647 by February 15, 2025 to register please.

Hosted By: Board of Evangelism

Hymn of the Month: O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

LSB 834



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to
 Δ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that



fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those



Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy



Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.
 To bring the great good news to man!
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76, alt.

Tune: Jan O. Bender, 1909-94

Text and tune: © 1967 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003197

O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth LSB 834

Study by Rev. Michael James Grannis

Background

Martin H. Franzmann (1907–1976) was called in 1946 to teach at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. During a divisive time in the LCMS held firmly to the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, and was a respected theologian, having written commentaries on both Romans and Revelation. However, he is most well known for his hymns. Five of his original hymns (including *Thy Strong Word*) and one of his translations are found in *Lutheran Service Book*. He wrote the lyrics for our Hymn of the Month in 1967 for the 450th anniversary of the Reformation.

Exploring the Text

Martin Franzmann's poetry for this text is paired with an equally masterful yet challenging tune, written by a Dutch Lutheran composer by the name of Jan O. Bender. Together, the driving tune and theologically rich lyrics can leave the casual singer in the pew out of breath and bewildered. However, this hymn has a powerful message, ringing out with the very Gospel that inspired the Reformation – God's eternal plan to provide eternal life through Christ to an otherwise doomed humanity. Each verse of the hymn can be divided into two sections of four lines each. The first four lines of each stanza has a central thought which the last four lines of the stanza refer back to or spring forward from.

The hymn begins with a prayer of confession, defending the character of God and His loving purpose in giving life to humanity.

Stanza 1

O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,
Thy living finger never wrote
That life should be an aimless mote,
A deathward drift from futile birth.
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled
In splendor through Thy broken world.
Since light awoke and life began,
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.

Against the world's conviction that from its beginning life has been bound for death and is ultimately meaningless and of little significance (i.e. an aimless mote), Franzmann points us to God's Word and to His eternal purpose.

In His Word, God reveals His glorious purpose for giving us life. In His divine foreknowledge He set forth His eternal plan to redeem us from sin and death by laying down His own life in the person of Christ. Just as God's living and creative Word brought light and life to His dark and lifeless creation, so too God had determined from eternity-past to bring healing to a broken world, and, through the Word made flesh, to bring resurrection triumph to a death-bound fallen humanity.

Stanza 2

Our fatal will to equal Thee,
Our rebel will wrought death and night.
We seized and used in prideful spite
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.
We housed us in this house of doom,
Where death had royal scope and room,
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,
Breached all its walls for our release.

Stanza 2 is a summary of Genesis 3, namely humanity's Fall into sin coupled with the deathly wages of sin and God's promised Gospel resolution in sending us a Savior. Deceived by the serpent, Eve (and Adam with her) was tempted by a "fatal will to equal" God. But their "rebel will" did not lead to Adam and Eve becoming more like God. Rather, they used God's "wondrous gift of liberty" spitefully, introducing death and darkness to God's creation of life and light.

After the Fall, humanity no longer had dominion over creation, but "death had royal scope," trapping us in "this house of doom." Thanks be to God, Christ came to serve us as our Lord, becoming our "Prince of peace" by breaching walls of death and releasing us from its tyranny. But how did Christ accomplish this? Stanza 3 will answer that question.

Stanza 3

Thou camest to our hall of death,
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,
To drink for us the dark despair
That strangled our reluctant breath.
How beautiful the feet that trod
The road that leads us back to God!
How beautiful the feet that ran
To bring the great good news to man!

Stanza 3 speaks of Christ's incarnation unto death for our salvation, and then praises Him for the salvation that He willingly accomplished and delivered to humanity. Yes, according to God's eternal foreknowledge and gracious will, Christ came at the appointed time to redeem us from the death and condemnation that Adam and Eve ushered into the world and that our sin has earned us. Leaving the eternal joys of His heavenly throne, God the Son "camest to our hall of death" to be like us! He came "to breathe our poisoned air," and "drink" the cup of God's wrath for our sake, because we could not do it ourselves and live.

Christ's beautiful feet "trode the road that leads us back to God," when He set Himself on the path which led to His death upon the cross. Moreover, He did not go reluctantly, but, for the joy of our salvation, He longingly "ran to bring the great good news to" our fallen race.

O Spirit, who didst once restore
Thy Church that it might be again
The bringer of good news to men,
 Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,
That in these gray and latter days
There may be those whose life is praise,
Each life a high doxology
 To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

In the final Stanza Franzmann leads us in calling upon the Holy Spirit, who was at work in the Reformation to restore to the Church the Gospel of forgiveness through Christ's atoning work. We pray that the same Spirit would breathe upon the now divided Church ("cloven" by unresolved theological rifts).

We need the Spirit to "breathe on" us so that the members of His Church would clearly demonstrate what it means to have faith. And how is faith demonstrated? Faith is demonstrated in a life that praises God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) for the salvation He has accomplished for us through Christ, according to all He had planned and determined to do for us from eternity-past.

Read aloud or sing together *LSB* 834, "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth."

Prayer

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



This month we read about some of the sacrifices God commanded in the Old Testament. The priests who performed those sacrifices pointed to the Perfect High Priest Who was to come – Jesus Christ. The sacrificial lambs pointed to Christ the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of the world (Leviticus 1:10-13; John 1:29). The shed blood was an “atonement cover” for the sins of God’s people which pointed forward to the blood Christ would shed on the cross which would truly cleanse sinners from their sins (Leviticus 1:4; Hebrews 9:11-26; I John 1:7). Blood and water were agents of cleansing from sin in the Old Testament. In water (Baptism) and in blood (the Blood of the Lord’s Supper) Christ sinners are still cleansed from sin today (Numbers 19: 1-22; Matthew 26: 26-29; Acts 8: 36-39). May these Scripture readings help you grow in your understanding of Christ’s sacrificial death for your salvation.

FEBRUARY:

1. Exodus 30, 31, 32; Acts 8
2. Exodus 33, 34; Psalm 16; Acts 9
3. Exodus 35, 36; Acts 10
4. Exodus 37, 38; Psalm 19, Acts 11
5. Exodus 39, 40; Psalm 15; Acts 12
6. Leviticus 1,2,3; Acts 13
7. Leviticus 4,5,6; Acts 14
8. Leviticus 7,8,9; Acts 15
9. Leviticus 10,11,12; Acts 16
10. Leviticus 13,14; Acts 17
11. Leviticus 15,16,17; Acts 18
12. Leviticus 18,19; Psalm 13; Acts 19
13. Leviticus 20,21,22; Acts 20
14. Leviticus 23,24; Psalm 24; Acts 21
15. Leviticus 25; Psalm 25,26; Acts 22
16. Leviticus 26,27; Acts 23
17. Numbers 1,2; Acts 24
18. Numbers 3,4; Acts 25
19. Numbers 5,6; Psalm 22; Acts 26
20. Numbers 7; Psalm 23; Acts 27
21. Numbers 8,9,10; Acts 28
22. Numbers 11,12; Psalm 27; Mark 1
23. Numbers 13,14; Psalm 90; Mark 2
24. Numbers 15,16,17; Mark 3
25. Numbers 18, 19; Psalm 29; Mark 4
26. Numbers 20,21; Psalm 28; Mark 5
27. Numbers 22,23,24; Mark 6
28. Numbers 25, 26; Mark 7
29. Numbers 27; Mark 8



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Please arrange a replacemnt if you can not acolyte at the service assigned to you. Please notify the church office at 507-835-2647 when you have changed with another acolyte. Please arrive to the church 20 minutes before the service begins, as the candles are to be lit 10 minutes before the service.

Sunday February 2nd, 2025 Alex Bethke/Tyer Ryan -- Greeter: Elliana Grannis

Sunday February 9th, 2025 Mason Presher/ Kameron Kunkel -- Greeter: Makayla Clark

Sunday February 16th, 2025 Owem Arndt/ Joel Hammer -- Greeter: Peyton Ross

Sunday February 23rd, 2025 Keian Klinger/ Hayden Allen -- Greeter: Elliana Grannis

#29ERS

Please join us on **February 26th , 2025** for a potluck luncheon at noon in the **Parish Hall. We hope you can make it!!!**



(Please note: If your name is not listed; we do not have your birthdate in our church records. Please contact the church office and we will update our records. Thank you!)

Name	Birthday		
		Jonny Klinger	February 22nd
Shirley Bluhm	February 1st	Nicholas Miller	February 22nd
James Brase	February 1st	Michael Buker	February 24th
Ethan Brase	February 2nd	Cheryl Sybilrud	February 24th
Sue Schoenfeld	February 2nd	Gerladine Wegner	February 24th
Duane Brase	February 6th	Jonah LaCroix	February 25th
Arica Gehloff	February 8th	Dorothy Zellmer	February 25th
Koehn Grannis	February 8th	Jen LaCroix	February 26th
Josephine Larsen	February 11th	Justin Manthe	February 26th
Joyce Sikel	February 11th	Maureen Sondag	February 26th
Elijah Rudolph	February 12th	Barb Denn	February 27th
Donald Doberstein	February 13th	Amber Proechel	February 27th
Teshua Grannis	February 14th	Emma Bramer	February 28th
Carol Brooks	February 15th	Kathleen Lenz	February 28th
Andrea Schumacher	February 15th		
Ellie Hoban	February 16th		
Loren Frink	February 19th		
Audrey Gilmore	February 19th		
Harper Gilmore	February 19th		
William Larson	February 19th		
Nith Phouthavoangxay	February 20th		
Owen Arnold	February 22nd		

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Operation Christmas Child Collecting for Next Year

Valentine's toy and school supply clearance is a great time to shop for the children of Operation Christmas Child. Small toys and games, trinkets, jewelry, cups/water bottles and craft/school supplies are perfect items for ages 2-14, for both boys and girls. **(No liquids, pastes, glue, putty, gels, dough or slime of any kind. No candy or gum. Also, no toy guns or military items.)** Items may be brought to church anytime throughout the year; we will store them for packing shoeboxes in the fall. Monetary donations to the Sunday School account cover the cost of the \$10 shipping fee per box; it takes \$2000 to ship 200 boxes. Thank you! Please pray for the workers delivering the boxes and for the children receiving the shoeboxes around the world. Upon receiving a shoebox, each child is invited to attend Bible study in their community. We pray the Holy Spirit uses these gifts in amazing ways to share salvation found only in Jesus.

Questions about Operation Christmas Child? Please contact Jen LaCroix or Aimee Hill. We appreciate your partnership in this outreach ministry!

Updated suggested needs for Boys and Girls ages 2-14:

Monetary donations for \$10 shipping per box – to pack and ship 200 boxes, we need \$2000

Toothbrushes (no toothpaste) – NEED up to 200 more

Washcloth wrapped around bar soap with rubber band – NEED up to 200 more

Paper of all sizes, lined or unlined, spiral bound or not bound – NEED up to 75 more

Coloring books – NEED up to 75 more

Pens in black, red, blue – NEED up to 200 more

Pencils – THANK YOU!

Colored pencils and Markers – NEED up to 75 more sets of each

Crayons – NEED up to 20 more

Erasers, Dry watercolor paint sets

Small pencil sharpeners – THANK YOU! There are plenty

Combs, Brushes, Hair accessories, Necklaces, Rings

Cups or Water bottles – NEED up to 200

Jump ropes, Marbles, Jacks, Outdoor activities – NEED up to 100

Playing cards, Small games – NEED up to 100

Solar calculator, Sunglasses, Band-Aids

Socks, Bags, Small backpacks, Flip flops/Sandals

Plain T-Shirts sizes of youth medium and large, adult small/medium/large

Wow! Toys for BOYS larger cars/trucks and balls that fit in a shoebox – NEED up to 75 more

Wow! Toys for Girls – NEED up to 75 baby dolls

Wow! Toys for Teens anything your young teen children/grandchildren like, they would like too!

COTTA GUILD NEWS:



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

January Cotta Guild Meeting:

Pastor opened with reading from "God Granted" – CF Walthers based on 1 Timothy 2. Pray for all people including those in authority. God's grace is universal. God wants all sinners to be saved, Gospel is a light to all nations.

Meeting called to order by president Judie.

Treasure report given by Linda Seifert.

January Birthdays – Bev Schroeder, Cindy Wood, Karen Weckwerth and Deb Roemhildt

OLD BUSINESS: Draw for new 2025 caring sisters and brothers

- February 13 will be a pot luck for members and guests at 12 noon.
- March 5th Ash Wednesday we will serve Lenten meal. Hot Beef and Sloppy Joes
- Ladies will serve Pastors meeting on Tuesday Jan 14
- Will serve coffee hour Jan 12. Muffins: Judie, Barb, Cindy, Rhonda and Linda (GF)

NEW BUSINESS: St Paul Lutheran has Community Easter Dinner this year – April 20th.

- New LWML Books will be ready in February
- **Voter's Meeting Jan 26th** – Cotta Guild will serve Spaghetti, Garlic toast, Jello salads and bars. \$5 per person.
- Mite Box in church Feb 9th – Karen W.
- Serve breads on Sunday Feb 9th – Barb, Cindy, Rhonda, Judie
- Addressed and signed Valentines for shut in's

Next Meeting: Feb 13th at 12 Noon with pot luck and guest day. Linda's circle will be in charge Meeting adjourned.

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The Board of Stewardship is hoping to increase St Paul Lutheran Church's donation to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. Any donations are greatly appreciated as it's hard to keep up with the need!

Below is a list of items that can be place in the church donation boxes and the Board of Stewardship will deliver to the Food Shelf. Please prayerfully consider donating a few items for this community service.

Ramen noodles
Crackers
Salad dressings
Roni pasta
Tuna
Peanut butter
Ketchup
Applesauce

Spaghetti sauce
Granola bars
Mayonnaise
Flour and sugar
Pasta noodles
Jelly
Mustard
Mac and cheese

Canned fruit (any kind)
Canned vegetables (any kind)
Hamburger/tuna helper
Cake mix & frosting
Cereal
Instant mashed potatoes
Tomato sauce
Spam



Quilter's meet every Tuesday at 1pm. We are looking for more people who wish to help make quilts and enjoy some fellowship at the same time.



Know someone who is in need of a "hug from above"? The Quilters are starting "**The Quilters Rocking Chair Project**". These quilts are located at the back of church and are available for anyone who may need one, no questions asked. Please check it out and if you have any questions please talk to Donna Hildebrandt.



Our Women's Bible Study: **In February**, we plan to meet on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 10:45 am February 5 and 19. We hope to see you then. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Wood at 835-5817.

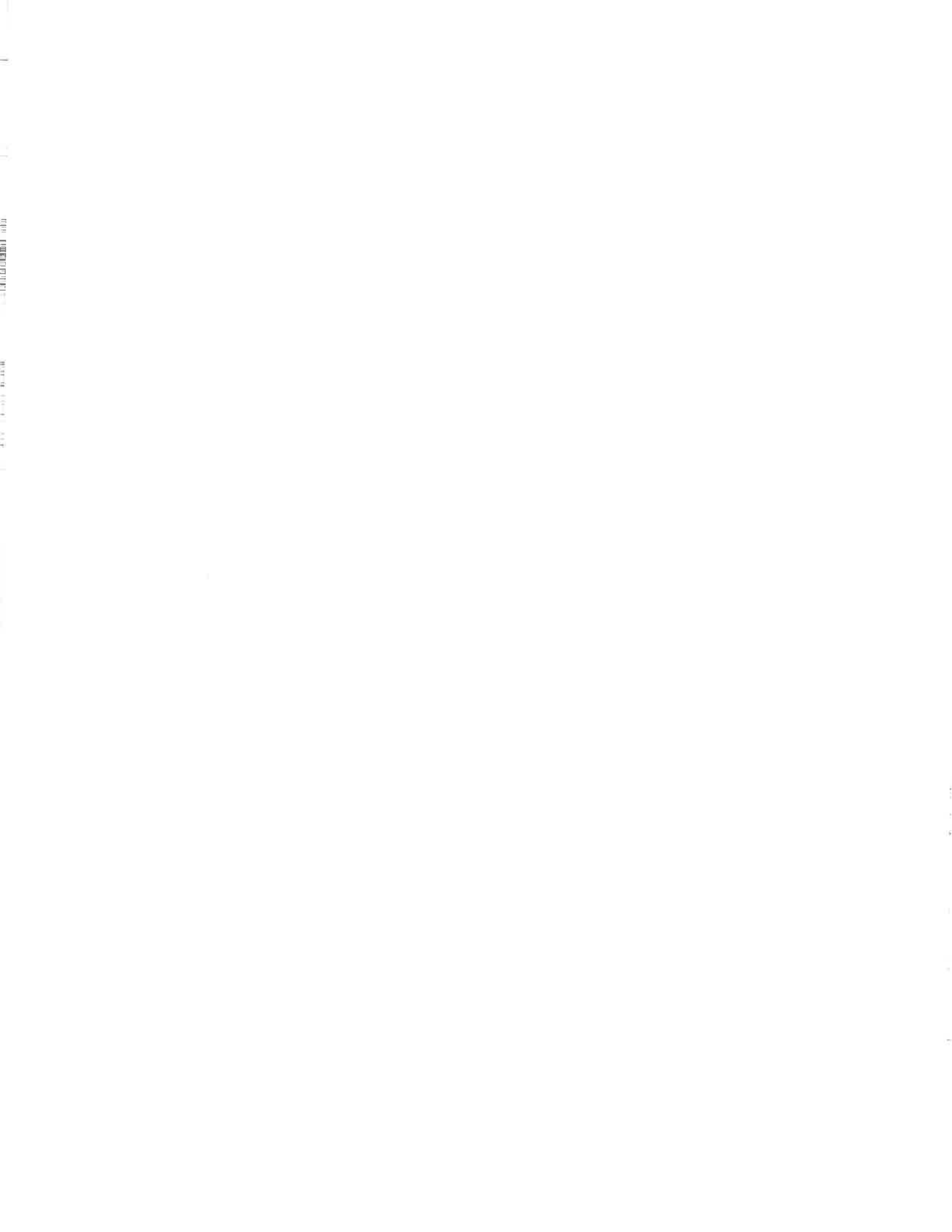
All women are invited to join us for Bible study and fellowship. Our Women's Bible Study, which meets the first and third Wednesdays, from 9:30-10:45, in the old parish hall in the church basement is starting a new video from That the World May Know film series, "A Clash of Kingdoms". Our first video is "The Gospel of Caesar"; we will travel to Philippi with the Apostle Paul to see how he communicated the Gospel of Christ to this Roman colony, who worshipped false gods.



FAMOUS WORDS FROM OUR CHURCH PRESIDENT:

A CHILD'S SONG

A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took his mother a while before she realized that the hymn was really "Gladly the Cross I'd Bear"





February 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Waseca

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1.
2. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible study	3. 10:00 am Prayer Team 12:30 pm Education	4. 1:00 pm Quilters 4:00 PM Stewardship 6:00 PM Elders	5. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7:00 pm Trustee's & Evangelism	6. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean	7.	8.
9. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study	10. 10:00 am Prayer Team	11. 1:00 pm Quilters	12. 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	13. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean 1 pm Cotta Guild	14. Youth Gathering @ Chatfield, MN	15. Youth Gathering @ Chatfield, MN LWML Zone Retreat @ 8:30am
16. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study	17. 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm NSC Board	18. 1:00 pm Quilters NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	19. 9:30 pm Women's Bible study 3:30 pm confirmation 7pm Senior Choir	20. 6:00 am Bible Study @ Johnnie Bean	21. 5pm-6:30pm: Youth Mission Trip Hot Beef Commercial Drive thru KICK OFF to Marriage Retreat @ 5pm	22. Marriage Retreat @ 8:30 am
23. 9:00 am Divine Serv. 10:15am Sunday School **Youth Bowling@ Hoot Lanes****	24. 10:00 am Prayer Team	25. 1:00 pm Quilters	26. 29ers Potluck at Noon 3:30 pm confirmation 7pm Senior	27. 6:00 am Bible Study @ Johnnie Bean	28.	

