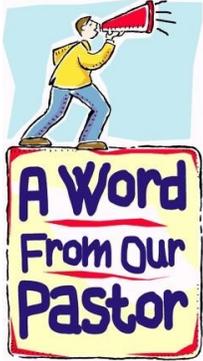




# St. Paul's Epistles *March*

St. Paul's Celebrates, Declares, and Demonstrates the Love of God in Jesus Christ to Sarver and Beyond.



## *Confessing from a Place of Salvation:* by Pastor Shawn

**Genesis 3:17-19** to Adam he [God] said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These were the words God spoke to Adam upon his rebellion in the Garden of Eden and from this judgement, the seemingly never-ending cycle of human tragedy and sin began.

In the prayer book of the church of England, you'll find at the end of it "The 39 Articles of Religion" which is their original statement of faith. This said, these articles contain one of the most vivid descriptions of the never-ending cycle of human tragedy and sin that has ever been penned. It reads:

Original sin is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusteth always contrary to the Spirit; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation.

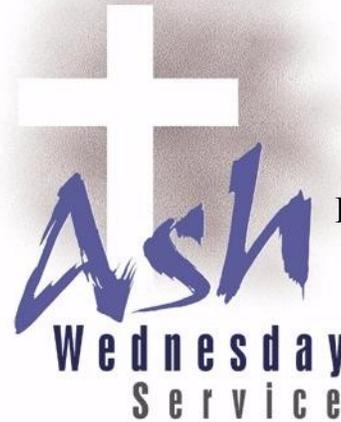
Moreover, the statement continues, "This infection of nature doth remain, yea in them that are regenerated... although there is no condemnation for them that believe and are baptized..." To say it another way, as a result of Adam's sin and God's judgement, you and I and every man and woman who has ever been born is infected to their core with a tendency to think and do wrong. Along with this, original sin is a disease that is never healed. With the intervention of grace, sin is forgiven and God begins his project of making us new, but still, we are never completely free of this monster until death.

Friends, these truths have much to say about our Lenten Journey. Beginning Ash Wednesday, we came forward to receive Ashes and hear the words that God spoke over Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." In doing this, we were acknowledging our place in the never-ending cycle of human tragedy and sin that begin so long ago. We were declaring, "I am an offspring of Adam you is far from original righteousness, inclined to evil, and lusts after ways that are contrary to the Spirit. I deserve God's wrath and damnation!"

Thankfully though, that is not the end of the story. For example, in John 5:24, Jesus declares , <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." What this passage is saying that for those who trust in Jesus' work on their behalf receive eternal life. They have passed from the death—ashes to ashes, dust to dust—of Adam, into the resurrection life of Jesus, the second Adam.

What this means for our Lenten journeys and really our whole Christian life is this: we confess our sin from a place of salvation. That message is hidden in the ashes we started Lent with as well. For we were marked with ashes made in the sign of the cross which recalls our baptisms where we were delivered the fruits of the cross of Christ: deliverance from sin, death, and the power of the devil. This message is further brought home by the fact that the ashes are mixed with Chrism Oil—the same that were placed upon our heads in baptism when the pastor declared in Christ’s name, “Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” Though we feel the weight of Adam’s sin from time to time, we are no longer judged. Rather, Jesus Christ became our sin for us and nailed it to the cross. We are washed sin and made new.

This said, as a result of these truths, we don’t need to be afraid to get rigorously honest with ourselves and God (and maybe even others) about our sin. We are confessing from a place of salvation and therefore have nothing to lose and everything to gain. So, have at it this Lent, and see what happens!



**March 2**  
**Noon & 7:00pm**  
**Both services will be livestreamed**

Date	Location	Speaker
3/9	St. Paul’s	Rev. Seth McClymonds of Zion UMC
3/16	Jefferson Center Presbyterian	Rev. Mike Calica of St. Luke Saxonburg
3/23	Cabot UM	Rev. Shawn Smith
3/30	New Life	Rev. Mark Lutz of Lux Digital Church
4/6	Zion UM	Rev. Mark Allio of Jefferson Center Pres.

## Bag Night

Thursdays at 6:30pm

March 3 & April 7



### Bible Study on Paul’s Letter to **THE ROMANS**

Wednesday evenings @6:00pm

This is also livestreamed for anyone who is unable to attend in person.

Go to [stpaulssarver.com/romans](http://stpaulssarver.com/romans)



Daylight Savings Time  
Begins March 13

*Spring Ahead*

## Our Stain Remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one “application” (the cross), Jesus makes us “whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!



## Luther's Corner

“Once a Christian is righteous by faith and has accepted the forgiveness of sins, he should not be so smug, as though he were pure of all sins. For only then does he face the constant battle with the remnants of sin, from which the prophet here wants to be cleansed.”



Martin Luther on Psalm 51:2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Services @noon & 7:00pm	3 Bag Night 6:30pm	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:10am Confirmation 6:00pm	7	8	9 Community Lenten Service @ St. Paul's 11:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:10am Confirmation 6:00pm	14 Church Council Mtg. 6:30pm	15 Ladies Guild Mtg. 9:30	16 Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:00am Contemporary Worship 10:10am Confirmation 6:00pm	21	22	23 Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm	24 Worship & Music Meeting 10:00am	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:10am Confirmation 6:00pm	28 Quilt Guild	29	30 Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm	31 Try Life volunteer night		

Offering Breakdown for Month of February As of 2/20/22			
Category	February Total Received	YTD Received	Annual Budget
General	9,514.13	19,933.53	
Loose	801.75	857.75	
Memorials	200.00	3,590.00	
Thrivent	200.00	200.00	
Initial	18.00	104.00	
Heide Hall	-	150.00	
Christmas Eve.	-	25.00	
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>10,733.88</b>	<b>24,860.28</b>	<b>168,511.00</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>1,060.75</b>	<b>2,136.50</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>11,794.63</b>	<b>26,996.78</b>	<b>179,511.00</b>
<b>New Building</b>	<b>2,991.05</b>	<b>6,446.50</b>	

2022 Church Council Members	
Hobie Kenton	President/Treasurer
Ron Mariotti	Vice President/Stewardship
Sue Marcinko	Secretary
Lenya Young	Christian Ed.
Meridith McGinnis	Evangelism
Doug Donatelli	Finance
Jessica Donatelli	Outreach
Herb Speer	Property
Al Reyer	Property
Gary Venturini	Property
Brena Callithen	Social Ministry
Melissa Kenton	Financial Secretary

TryLife Volunteers are needed for the last Thursday of every month. For more information on this Outreach Ministry please see Jessica Donatelli.

# Happy Birthday!

- 3/2 Hal Callithen  
Joelene Hess  
George Wright
- 3/3 Nelson Bastin
- 3/4 Mason Fullerton
- 3/6 Vicki Cooper
- 3/10 Seth Change  
Janet Dietrich  
Dan Marcinko  
Doris McKinney  
Kelly Warriner
- 3/12 Erica Conglose
- 3/13 Jessica Jopeck
- 3/17 Andrew Ohl
- 3/19 Jonathan Pflugh
- 3/23 Lizzie Hart  
Tyler Myros  
Shawn Scott
- 3/24 Terry Braden  
Brenden Fullerton  
Jarrod Fullerton
- 3/25 Carol Lux
- 3/26 Kayla Ohl  
Betsy Slater
- 3/29 Peg Hanna

## Preschool Needs:

- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Glue sticks
- Crayons (8 pack)
- Clorox wipes
- Lysol or microban spray
- Liquid soap
- Markers