



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our victorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

St. Paul wrote, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." Romans 6:4,5) Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10b.

We are surrounded by the signs of Spring and nature coming alive with new life. Winter is receding into the past. Winter, a time of darkness, a time when nature becomes quiet or dormant, a time of snow and winter blasts. Then comes Spring and the announcement of new life.

Consider the signs of Spring. We look about and the snow begins to become a memory, unless there is Spring snow storm. The first rain washes away the dirt and grime that has accumulated during the winter. Spring is a time when trees begin to bud and the sap begins to flow, (I remember collecting sap from pails attached to maple trees with my uncle) flowers begin to bud, the grass comes alive with its hue of green. Birds are chirping, building nests. It seems as if new life is bursting forth in nature.

We have just celebrated our Lord's resurrection and the new life that is ours in Him. We walked with Him to the "Upper Room," witnessed through the eyes of faith and the Word the institution of Holy Communion, walked with Him to the judgment hall and Calvary, we watched as He hung on the cross for six hours, we heard Him cry out, "It is finished." We watched Him hang His head and die. Taken from the cross, He was laid in a new tomb.

Three days later we went to the tomb and found it empty. The angel said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead, He is not here, He is risen." Jesus had conquered death and rose victorious over our enemies: sin, death and the power of the devil. Through victorious Lord we now have a new life.

Paul tells us that in our Baptism, we were united with Christ in a death like His. He took upon Himself our sins, He made us His own children, Children of the heavenly Father, forgiven and renewed for life. In our Baptism, we rose to new life, a new life in Christ, a new life that rests upon His word, a new life that empowers us by the Holy Spirit to live out our faith to His glory and the welfare of those around us.

The new life in Christ announces that the darkness of sin has been replaced with the brightness of forgiveness, the darkness of despair has been replaced with the morning sunshine of hope, the fear of death has been replaced with new life, an eternal life in Christ. This new life means

we can now have the full life, a life of God's richest blessings, as we prepare for our real home. May you enjoy the freshness of a new Spring and the freshness and joy of the full life that is yours through faith in the resurrected Christ.

Hallelujah, He is risen. He is Risen indeed!

In Christ,

Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether

Financial Advice with Purpose

The phrase "Financial Advice with Purpose" is a short, thoughtful slogan used by Thrivent Financial Services. What is so intriguing about this catch phrase is the word "purpose." We are not aware as to how Thrivent defines purpose, but, in God's Word, we discover different purposes for our money.

The first important purpose for our money is to provide for our needs and for those of our families. Money is needed for food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8). We are to make every attempt to provide for our needs so we won't be a burden to others. We express God's love by caring and providing for our families.

A second important purpose for our money is to help those in need. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, "For you always have the poor with you..." (Matthew 26:11). When Paul started his ministry of sharing the Gospel, he was "asked...to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do" (Galatians 2:10). With joy, we should have that same attitude. God wants to use us as His channels through whom He works to support those in need. Our help goes beyond the poor to the handicapped, the sick, the widows, the orphans, etc.

Another important purpose for our money is to extend God's kingdom. God gives us the privilege and responsibility to be participants in His mission "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Our heavenly Father does not want anyone to "perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in His plan of salvation for all people. As participants with the Lord, we become His hands, feet, and mouth. To share the Gospel with all people costs money and that money comes from us. God works through us to fund the mission and ministries that share Jesus' love.

In order to fulfill our purposes to have the funds for our needs, to help those in need, and to spread the Gospel, we need to be money wise. We are unable to be generous if we are drowning in debt and living paycheck to paycheck. By God's grace, we can live within our means, spend wisely, avoid debt, save diligently, insure adequately, and give freely. One of our money goals should be to live wisely to share

generously. With God's help, we will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Sunday Morning Bible Class meets at 10:30 a.m. We will finish the study, "The Miracles of Lent" and begin a study of the Gospel of Mark. The Study is titled "MARK-The Serving Christ." The tentative schedule is as follows:

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| April 7 | No class Pastor Raether leads worship at Prince of Peace and St. Paul |
| April 14 | "The Miracle of the Resurrection" |
| April 21 | "Mark and Introduction" |
| April 28 | "Jesus Begins His Ministry" Chapter 1 |

Wednesday Morning Bible Class ANXIOUS ABOUT NOTHING - By Max Lucado

The Wednesday Morning Bible Class (10:00 a.m.) will take up the Max Lucado video series "Anxious About Nothing." Over the past few decades, studies have shown that Americans are the most anxious people in the world. We take the most medication for it, see doctors to treat it, and spend fortunes trying to relieve it. How have we let our fears get the better of us? In Anxious for Nothing, Max Lucado leads us to reflect on the promises of Philippians 4:4-8. This passage from Paul's epistle contains an antidote to anxiety that will help you develop a mindset of resilience. Following is a tentative schedule for the topics on this study:

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| April 3 | Rejoice in the Lord Always |
| April 10 | Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All |
| April 17 | Present Your Requests to God |
| April 24 | The Peace of God Will Guard Your Heart |
| May 1 | Meditate on These Things |

Board of Education

March 6, 2024

Members: Jill Davis, Rhonda Waddell, Kari Johnson, Sue Macek, Pastor Raether

Library: We have a new book titled, "12 Crucial Truths of the Christian Faith" by Josh and Sean McDowell. Together, they clearly present the essentials of a living Christian faith. These truths are reflections of a way of life exemplified by God, helping you. This book is packed with examples and stories for Christians who want to learn how to live out the Christian life.

St. Paul: End of the 3rd Quarter is March 18th. Easter Spring break starts March 27th to April 2nd.

Confirmation report: No class March 27th as it is Spring Break. The class will be done by April 17th for the year.

Sunday School report: The final quarter Bible stories (Mar-May) include stories from I and II Kings, Jonah, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Esther, and Ezra. Confirmation children will be involved with Palm Sunday Service.

Family Fellowship report: Next date to meet is set for Sunday, June 9th
Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study: Sunday session will be "Miracles of Lent" and Wednesday study is "Anxious About Nothing" by Max Lucado.

Cradle Roll: We welcome Evelyann Ann Waddell as a new baptized member.

Old Business: Discussed VBS date in early August. More discussion needed. Will need at least 19 volunteers.

New Business: To give glory to God, Pastor will have a special Service one Sunday in September to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St Peter and Paul Evangelical Slovak Lutheran Church (now Prince of Peace).

Next meeting is April 3rd.

Sue Macek, Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

March 7, 2024

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on March 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Eleven members attended the meeting. Sally Zuspann called the March meeting to order. Pastor Raether presented prayer and the Bible study "Baptized, Equipped, Serving". Sally Zuspann began with devotion "Wash Day". The minutes of February 1, 2024, were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

Old Business:

Lenten After Service Coffee: Dates serving and names on kitchen refrigerator door.

New Business:

March Shut-ins Birthdays: Madelyn Abrams, Janet Lennon

March Birthdays. Vicky Escobedo

Mission Mom's Talk. Sally Zuspann handed out Mom's Talk brochure, featuring their 2023 Annual Report.

April 20 Spring Rally: Rally will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Fort Dodge. Registration: 9:00 AM. Rally: 9:30 AM.

April Funeral Committee: Nancy Herzberg, Carol Locke

April Mission: Orphan Grain Train.

Mite Devotion: Florence Sandgren gave the mite prayer, and "Our Offering of Love".

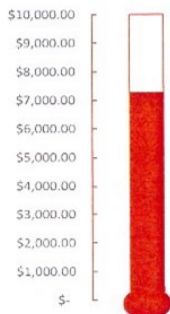
April 7 - Hostess: Nancy Herzberg, Carol Locke

Sally Zuspann closed meeting at 1:50 PM, with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer.

LaVonne Peters, Secretary.

THE ORGAN FUND

Goal \$10,000.00
Received \$ 7,258.35



APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

Violet Fischer -(4/2), Keiarrah Brookshire -(4/7), Angie Vinson -(4/7), Don Peters -(4/8), Sharon McPherson -(4/11), Fred McPherson -(4/15), Harlan Peterson -(4/18), Trushcheff -(4/20), Ron Brown -(4/24), Whitney Clawson -(4/24), Daniel Martinson -(4/27), Jennifer Valley -(4/28), Elara Thanupakorn -(4/29).

Attachai & Jeanette Thanupakorn 4/14 33rd

ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion
3/3	50	
3/10	46	41
3/17	36	
3/24	45	40
3/31	57	48
Lenten		
3/6	30	
3/13	24	
3/20	24	
Maundy Thursday	29	28
Good Friday	43	
Holy Saturday	16	14

Membership Report for March 2024

GAIN

Confirmed +
Mason Waddell
Transfer

Baptized +
Evelynn Waddell
Baptism

LOSS

Confirmed -
Geraldine Balke
Deceased

Baptized -

Communicant = 162
Baptized (not confirmed) = 46+1=47
Total baptized souls = 209

Financial Report March 2024

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$8,527.90, Missions Budget \$122.50, Loose Offerings \$1,429.00, Ash Wednesday \$10.00, Lenten Offering \$520.00, Maundy Thursday \$217.00, Good Friday \$245.00, Easter \$577.00, Special Offering \$120.00, Miscellaneous \$648.80, Organ Fund \$3,484.60.

Total Offerings \$15,901.80

Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,006.32, Organist \$660.00, Pastoral Expenses \$556.10, Ministry Expenses \$209.47, Television Ministry \$51.01, Portals of Prayer \$205.82, Office Supplies \$1,040.44, Computer/Internet \$389.30, Church Supplies \$55.64, Water \$108.99, Pest Control \$40.00, Gas & Electric \$654.00, Snow Removal \$100.00, Sanitation \$40.66, Insurance \$3,529.00, Property Repairs \$255.73, Miscellaneous \$25,000 (check to LCEF for 18 month CD), W/H Tax \$179.05, Postage \$272.00, Missions \$122.50, Charities \$120.00, Advertising \$240.00.

Total Expenses \$36,919.39
Net Income -\$20,934.23