

JESUS GIVES LIFE THROUGH FAITH



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!



We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!



COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table. Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

This Week's Focus: *The Pharisees worked very hard at looking good. They followed rule after rule of their own making. They thought that they could earn a place with God. Yet when a Pharisee came to talk with Jesus at night, Jesus told him that entering God's kingdom had nothing to do with his works. It was about being reborn, which no one can do for themselves. It was about simply trusting the Son whom God sent. This was how it had always been. As it was for Abraham, so it is for us today. "Jesus Gives Life through Faith".*

All Is Well

CW 802

The soloist will sing verse 1 and the first refrain.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

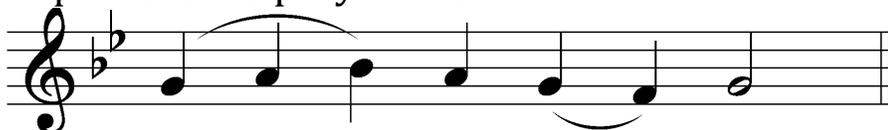
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



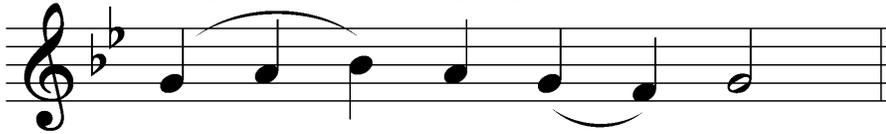
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

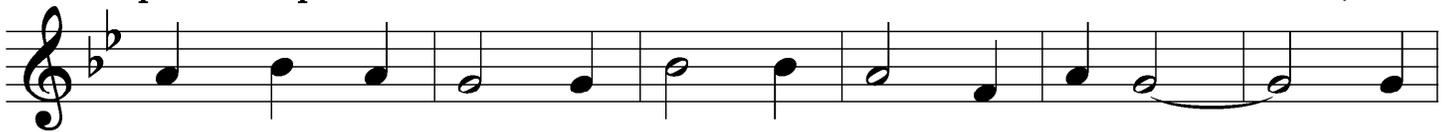
CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,

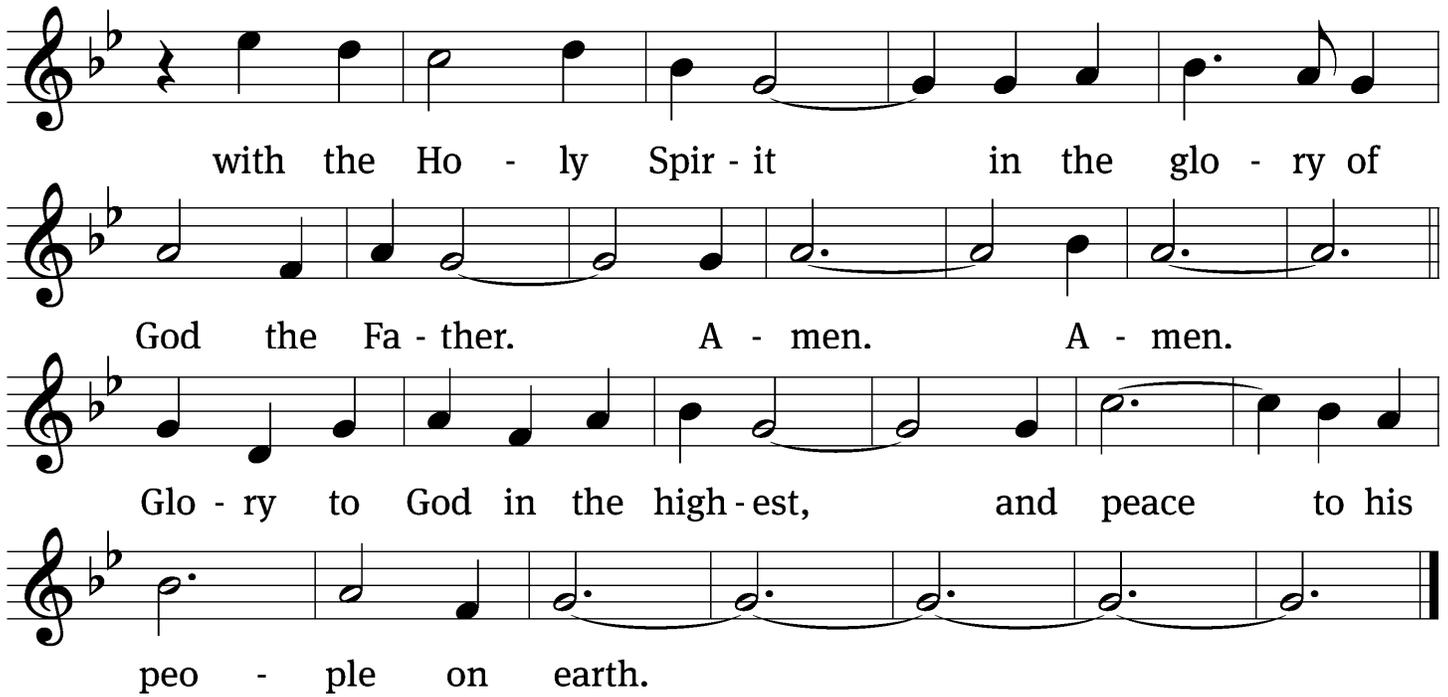


heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-8

Abraham trusted the LORD's promise of blessing and followed him in faith.

¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation,
 and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
 and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
 and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

Psalm 121

Duet

We trust the LORD to watch over us day and night wherever we go.

I lift my eyes up to the hills. Where does my help come from? I lift my eyes up to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord of all, the Lord of heaven and earth. The one who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord who watches over Israel is your shade at your right hand. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon harm you by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm and will watch over your life, watch over you as you come and go, now and forevermore.

The Lord will keep you from all harm and will watch over your life, watch over you as you come and go, now and forevermore, now and forevermore.

Second Reading

Romans 4:1–5,13–17

We are children of Abraham, because God credits righteousness to us through faith, just as he did for Abraham.

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Sung by Small Group

God so loved the world he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Gospel

John 3:1-17

We have eternal life through faith in the gift of God's Son and through the rebirth by water and the Spirit.

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound,

but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Sung by Small Group

God so loved the world he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Be seated

God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570

Sermon

Romans 4

Lord, Where’s Abraham’s Prize?

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special intercessions

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 sts. 1–2, 5–7

Stand

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CW 811 sts. 1, 3



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Be seated

If you are visiting us today or would like to update your information, please scan the QR code to fill out our form.



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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ORGANIST: Susan Phelps

MUSICIANS: Asa, Asher, August & Aurora Bode, Paschal & Trinity Curia, Ann Marohn, Rachel & Talia Mueller, and Tanya Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Nack, Lisa Specht, Lori Wehrmann.

USHERS: 8:00 a.m.- Peter Hahn, Ray Nasgovitz, Paul Nasgovitz, Dan Keuther

10:30 a.m. - Dennis Eirich, Wally Gierach, Bill Mass, Aaron Mass, Dan Stange. 6:00 p.m. - Will Belitz.

Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

OFFERINGS: 2/26 & 2/27 - \$14,300 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$16,700). \$1,560 GROWING FORWARD (\$500 TOWARDS THE MATCHING GIFT). \$250 FOR SCHOOL FUND.

ATTENDANCE: 2/26 & 2/27- 8:00 A.M. - 224. 10:30 A.M. - 136. 6:30 P.M. - 12. MIDWEEK SERVICE 3/1 - 170.



This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, March 5	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
	9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, March 6	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
Tuesday, March 7	6:00 p.m. BIC
	6:30 p.m. Jesus the Messiah Bible Study
Wednesday, March 8	8:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study
	9:00 a.m. Bible Study
	9:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Music & Movement
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism
	5:00-6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper
	6:30 p.m. Midweek Lent Worship
Thursday, March 9	6:30 p.m. Galatians Bible Study
Friday, March 10	No School Office Closed
	Marriage Retreat
	7:00 p.m. MLHS Spring Musical
Saturday, March 11	Marriage Retreat
	7:00 p.m. MLHS Spring Musical
Sunday, March 12	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
	9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
	2:00 p.m. MLHS Spring Musical
Monday, March 13	No School Office Closed

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

- 1. Sunday Bible Study:** This weekend we look at the role God establishes for a Christian wife. Join us in the gym for study at 9:25.
- 2. Christian Family Solutions (CFS)** is a social service affiliated with the WELS, which provides much-needed Christian counseling. On March 12-13, Pastor Jim Mattek of CFS will be guest preaching and presenting Bible class, helping us understand the need and availability of this ministry. A free-will offering will be taken to support CFS.
- 3. Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** We continue a study entitled "Jesus the Messiah". We will look at a chronological, Christ-centered journey through the storyline of Scripture. **Join us Tuesday nights at 6:30pm** The study will run through 4/4; come when you can!
- 4. Thursday Bible Study: The Apostle Paul's** first missionary journey was to the area of Galatia. Encouraging those new congregations in the central teachings of the faith was vital. These things are still vital. Starting February 16th (Thursday evenings at 6:30) join an evening study of the book of **Galatians**. You'll grow as we keep in step with the Spirit and stand firm in the freedom Christ won for us! Register with Pastor Mueller.
- 5. Lent** - Our Wednesday Lenten series this year is His Final Steps. We will consider the significance of various people and places along Jesus' path to the cross. Before each of these 6:30 Wednesday evening worship services, there will be a dinner served from 5:00-6:00 pm by various volunteer groups. A freewill offering will be gathered to defray the cost of the food and supplement various areas of our ministry. The following are the meals planned for each Wednesday:
 - 3/8** - Subs (PTF)
 - 3/15** - BBQ Pork & Hot Beef Sandwiches (Bushman family)
 - 3/22** - Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches (Altar Guild)
 - 3/29** - Tacos (Adult Choir)A special thank you to these groups for volunteering to prepare a delicious meal!
- 6. March WELS Youth Night** - St. Paul's will be hosting another WELS Youth Night event on Saturday March 25th. Like the event we held in October, this will be a fun evening for teens from all around the area to get together for an evening of fun, food, games and study in God's Word. Signup is open now for this event, please register if you plan to attend. We'd love for you to bring some friends along! This is the link to register: <https://forms.gle/nFZihV5bAVAHL4t16> or scan the QR code on the posters around the building. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Leahy.

7. Ringing Lutheran Worship - A Festival Concert - The WELS Handbells Festivals will be holding their 42nd annual concert at Luther Preparatory School Gymnasium on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. This year's concert is a national concert for all of the three WELS handbell choir regions, including churches from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The link to the livestream is <https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsvimeo>

Call Updates

- 1. Principal & Early Childhood Director** - St. Paul's extended a call on February 12 to Mr. Bryan Scriver to serve as 7-8 grade classroom teacher and principal. On February 19, we called his wife, Bailey, to be our new 3K teacher and Early Childhood director. The Scrivers currently serve at Life Lutheran School in Friendswood, TX. They have three young children. Please keep the Scrivers in your prayers as they deliberate their calls. You are welcome to reach out to them with encouragement at bryan@lordoflifefriendswood.com or baileyscriver@gmail.com.
- 2. 4K Teacher** - On February 19, St. Paul's issued a call to Mrs. Emily Panzer to teach 4K starting next year. She is an MLC graduate and currently teaches in the Kiel public school. Her husband, Noah, teaches at Trinity Lutheran School in Kiel. Please keep the Panzers in your prayers. You may contact Mrs. Panzer with encouragement at panzerec1@gmail.com.

In Other News

- 1. Special Voters Meeting** – On Sunday March 12th, we will hold a special voters meeting after late service to review a proposed cost addition to the building project. This proposal, which has been reviewed by the building committee and Church Council, will lay out a complete technology plan for the audio / visual needs of the new building, as well as some important improvements to the existing building.
- 2. Capital Campaign Update from Corey Schroeder:** With the donor matching gift still open through construction, or until \$130,000 in additional gifts or pledges are given, each dollar gifted is worth \$1.50 to the campaign. Since the matching gift was announced, an additional \$32,720 has been given or pledged which has a total impact to the campaign of \$49,080. Additionally, the Antioch Foundation has announced that a \$25,000 grant is being gifted to St. Paul's (which will also count towards the matching funds once received). With the Lord's continued blessings, these and other on-going activities will help to reduce the potential mortgage from \$3.1M to the planned \$2.6M. Thank you for your support!
- 3. Pie Night:** The Activities Committee invites you to Pie Night Tuesday, March 14 (3.14) from 5:30-7:30 pm! Do you have a tried and true pie recipe? Enter the pie baking contest! Prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. Don't know

how to make pie but like to eat it? Come and enjoy some delicious pies and pizza for the whole family. There will also be plenty of activities for all ages (pin the toppings on the pizza, uno, trivia, etc.). For those of you who get a little mad for March, we will be projecting the game on the big screen. **Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/34yapzt3> by Sunday night, 3.12.**

4. **Kwik Trip** is now offering a new **Grocery Only Card** (fuel, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, and stamps are not eligible for purchase with this card). They also offer an **Ultimate Car Wash Card**. For \$36 you get 5 car washes. You can buy your Scrip between services or by calling or visiting the office.
5. **Easter Flowers** - It's that time of year to think about decorating the sanctuary for our Easter services. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for various flowering plants. Pricing and color selection are on the top of each sheet. Please make sure to fill out all the information and place your payment, exact cash or a check written out to St. Paul's Altar Guild, in the marked drawer in the member room. Unfortunately, the deadline is earlier than usual as final orders are **due on March 13th!** Plants ordered after that date can still be ordered, but color and varieties may have to be substituted. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for plants given "In memory of..." on the table. Please make sure to double check spelling and write as clearly as you can! If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Perronne at 920-838-4307.
6. **Window Washers Needed** - We have a few openings for window washing this year. Please contact the office if you are willing to sign-up. Please direct all other questions to John Marten, 920-360-2375.
7. **Altar Guild Lenten Dinner** - There is a sign-up in the member room to bring items for the Lenten meal. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Specht.
8. **Take a trip to Greece in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul!** The trip is right after Easter next year, from April 1-10, 2024. We will see Athens, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, and a three day Mediterranean cruise that will visit Patmos (where John wrote Revelation), Ephesus, and more. Contact Pastor Mueller for further information.
9. **Easter Egg Hunt:** The Activities committee is hosting another Easter Egg Hunt this year! Date: Saturday, April 8 Schedule: 9:30 arrival & Easter Egg Hunt (ages 1-8); 10:00 Activities/Scavenger Hunt (ages 9-13)/Pictures. The younger children will search for Easter eggs around St. Paul's property. The older children will answer trivia questions in order to earn a prize. There will also be snacks, coloring pages, activities, and a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny. If the weather is bad, the younger kids will do their hunt in the gym. Register by March 29 to help the committee plan for the event: <https://forms.gle/PdYVyQoQgVyqUmKz8>. There is also a paper signup in the coatroom. Contact Luther Curia with any questions: luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org; 920.287.8575