



# NEWSLETTER



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## Contact

Rev. Jens Jenson, Vacancy Pastor  
 605-682-0455 (mobile)  
 redeemarmour@unitelsd.com

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stpaulplankinton.com  
 605-942-7364

**Elders** ..... Justin Everson  
 Curt Guindon  
 Mike Tuschen

**President** ..... Justin Everson  
**LWML President** ... Marlene Johnson

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.trinitywhitelake.com  
 facebook.com/trinitywhitelake  
 605-249-2333

**Elders** ..... David Bogenhagen  
 Dan Guericke  
 Scott Meier

**President** ..... Dean Suelflow  
**LWML Presidents** ..... Diana Kieffer  
 Hope Circle  
 Brianna Bogenhagen  
 Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church are members of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

# March 2024

## Joint Divine Worship Service Schedule for March

- Sunday, March 3, 2024 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
- Sunday, March 10, 2024 — 5 p.m. at Trinity
- Sunday, March 17, 2024 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's
- Sunday, March 24, 2024 — 5 p.m. at Trinity
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 — 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
- Good Friday, March 29, 2024 — 4:30 p.m. at Trinity
- Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 — 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

## Christian Education

- Joint Bible Study** – No class in March.
- Joint Confirmation Class** — 3:45 p.m., same location as the Divine Service.
- St. Paul's Sunday School** — 3:45 p.m. March 3 and 17.
- Trinity Release-Time** — Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

- Trinity Hope Circle – No meeting in March.
- Trinity Ruth Circle – March 6, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- St. Paul's Dorcas Circle – March 11, 2024, 2 p.m.

## March Events

- Dorcas Circle Fellowship Supper — March 3, 2024, 6 p.m., SP
- Ruth Circle Lenten Suppers — March 10 and 24, 2024, 6 p.m., TR

## Serving the Lord's Church in MARCH

### TRINITY

- Elder** Scott Meier
- Ushers** Dan Meier  
Dean Suelflow
- Acolyte** Joshua Doering
- Altar** Barb Gilbertz

### ST. PAUL'S

- Elder** Mike Tuschen
- Ushers** Curt Guindon  
Merlyn Haak
- Acolyte** Jenna Haak
- Altar** Marlene Johnson

## Scripture Readings

- Mar. 3 Exodus 20:1–17; 1 Corinthians 1:18–31; John 2:13–22
- Mar. 10 Numbers 21:4–9; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21
- Mar. 17 Jeremiah 31:31–34; Hebrews 5:1–10; Mark 10:35–45
- Mar. 24 Zechariah 9:9–12; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47
- Mar. 31 Isaiah 25:6–9; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11; Mark 16:1–8

The **April 2024 newsletter** will be available on or after March 31, 2024. Articles are due Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Please send newsletter/bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at [trinitywlsd@gmail.com](mailto:trinitywlsd@gmail.com). **Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.** Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thank you!



## FORGIVING YOURSELF

It has grown quite popular to tell people whose consciences are troubled that they just need to forgive themselves. The saying is usually along the line of “God forgives you, but now you need to forgive yourself.” The reason friends or family members add on “now you need to forgive yourself” is because the person whom they are trying to comfort still has a troubled conscience, a conscience that is still weighed down with the wrong that has been done. While the intention of friends and family members is good, their words point the troubled conscience in the wrong direction, namely, they tell the troubled person to look within themselves for solace and peace which is not where the person should be looking.

**Forgiveness is something that comes from outside of us, not from within us.** To sin means to break the law. God’s Law is the Ten Commandments which command mankind to love God above all things and love his neighbor as himself. When we sin against our neighbor, it is a sin against God because it is God’s Law that we have broken. Thus, the forgiveness of sins comes from God alone. The troubled conscience should not look inwards, but it should look to God’s Word and Sacraments through which God absolves all sin. In the Gospel, God is always cleansing the conscience of all sin. Jesus does not tell the heavy laden to forgive themselves, but to come to Him. *Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Trying to find forgiveness within yourself is trying to find a way to earn forgiveness; to find something in you to quiet your conscience, but only God’s absolution gives peace to the conscience. Forgiveness is not something that can be earned by us either. **Forgiveness is a gift; it is pure grace.** Jesus is the one who earned forgiveness for us. He obeyed God in all things and He answered for the sins of the world on the cross. Jesus did the work and, in His Word and Sacraments, He freely offers and gives absolution and everlasting life to be received by faith.

Our consciences will experience trouble all throughout our lives because of sin, even sins from the past. The devil (who is called our accuser) is glad to bring up past sins to trouble our consciences. He wants you to have a troubled conscience so that you will flee God. When Adam and Eve sinned they fled God because they had a bad conscience because of their sin. Think about when you were a child and you did something you shouldn’t have done while your parents were away. When you heard the sound of them coming home, your instinct was to put some distance between you and them. Why? Because you had a bad conscience, a conscience that rightly accused you of disobeying your parents. Thank the Lord that He went to Adam and Eve, promised salvation, and absolved them which reunited them with God and gave them harmony and peace with God.

When our consciences are troubled, we should always look to Christ who always forgives our sins. St John writes, *If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* When someone is still troubled by their sins, we should always point him or her to Jesus who absolves us of all sin all the time. **In Jesus alone the conscience finds rest and peace.** *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Hebrews 10).*



## WORD FROM THE CENTER

Welcome to “Word from The Center” MONDAY, a devotional word from the Center of our faith, Jesus Christ, with reflections on His Word. I’m Gregory Seltz. Today’s passage is Deuteronomy 18:17–20, where the Bible tells us of these words from God to Moses: *The Lord said to me ... “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in*

*his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”*

## TO WHOM ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN?

No one gets through life without listening to someone. When a person doesn’t know something or know what to do about something, the first thing to do is gather information. Yes, it’s a wise person who looks to the words, temperament, and actions of others who have come before them and who have successfully dealt with the issue at hand. But the question, “To whom are you going to listen?” is a universal question in the human experience. And, if you are one of those who thinks that you can go it all alone, you are already walking into defeat (even if you don’t realize it yet).

Why is it that we all have this propensity to see ourselves in the most “forgiving/excusing” light, while viewing others much less graciously? For example, as teenagers we often thought that our parents didn’t know anything about anything, only to learn in just a few years that they actually knew a lot about a lot of things. Today, in our passage from the Old Testament, God is pointing believers ahead to THE One to whom they should give ear, the Oneto whom they should listen, the One in whom they should put their ultimate hopes and dreams when it matters most in their lives. Moses may be a prophet respected in many religious circles today, but a prophet is coming who will faithfully tell God’s people everything that God commands.

Today the real question is, “Have you given Jesus your ultimate attention?” Do you realize that when you read the words of the Scripture, you are hearing the voice of God in and for your life? Will

you venture to church on Sunday and give Jesus your undivided attention in the liturgy, songs and Scripture readings? Do you give Jesus your ultimate attention during home devotions, or are you often just trying to get through them so you can get to bed or on to dessert? Do you think, even for a moment that, yes, God Himself is indeed listening to your prayers? To whom are you speaking and to whom are you listening? When it comes to your relationship with God, Jesus Christ provides the answer to those very important questions.

The Gospel of Luke also reminds us that Jesus taught “with authority” (see 4:32, 36). Strive to have your focus be more on the words of Jesus, and less on the words of pietistic politicians, or the vacuous words of entertainers, singers, and athletes, or even the words of your own passions and common sense. Listen to Jesus. Take His words to heart, and then put them into practice. Receive Christ’s forgiveness, and, since He urges us to forgive, be forgiving toward others. You can give Jesus your ultimate attention because He is more than a prophet; He is the Son of God, your Savior, whose very words are “spirit and life” (John 6:63), words you can trust for what really matters.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord Jesus, Your words shine like light amidst the darkness. Please diffuse the chattering voices that seem to draw my attention away from You and give me a hunger to hear Your voice, Your words in and for my life. AMEN.



## MAIN STREET LIVING MARCH 2024

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information visit:  
[www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

### Mar 3, 2024

**10 a.m. "Betrayed"** A man struggles to do what is right after a reporter uncovers shady dealings in his business.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Matthew Nix**, pastor at Christ Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran of the Deaf in Sioux Falls, presents a message titled "Let Nothing Divide You From Christ." This sermon is based on Luke 11:14–28.

### Mar 10, 2024

**10 a.m. "Aftermath"** A father tries to make things right with his daughter after a life of bad choices.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Adam Welton**, pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Wentworth, presents a message titled "You Don't Have Enough But Jesus Does." This sermon is based on John 6:1–15.

### Mar 17, 2024

**10 a.m. "Holy Land Tour pt. 1"** A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by SD pastor Nabil Nour who grew up in Israel.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Matthew Bless**, pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church in Vermillion, presents a message titled "Not To Be Served, But To Serve." This sermon is based on Mark 10:35–45.

### Mar 24, 2024

**10 a.m. "Holy Land Tour pt. 2"** A video tour of locations in Jesus' earthly ministry, led by SD pastor Nabil Nour who grew up in Israel.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Jesse Baker**, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, MN presents a message titled "Locked Away." This sermon is based on Zechariah 9:9–12.

## MAIN STREET LIVING, MARCH 2024, cont.

### Mar 31, 2024 (Easter)

**10 a.m. "Three Days"** The disciples' reactions and interaction in the days between Jesus' death and resurrection.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Steven Turner**, President of Iowa District West, presents an Easter message titled "Jesus Lives! What Does This Mean?"



## MARCH 2024

Rev. Jens Jenson, SP/TR – March 2  
Lindsey Thompson, TR – March 3  
Rhonda Peters, TR – March 3  
Ethan Byrd, TR – March 4  
Caleb Baumiller, SP – March 6  
Kyanna Guindon, SP – March 7  
Lilianna Huff, SP – March 7  
*Mike & Sandy Tuschen – March 7*  
Jenalee Huff, SP – March 10  
Brenda Anthony, SP – March 11  
Kelli Weber, SP – March 11  
Hazel Kern, SP – March 12 (88)  
Karter Weber, SP – March 13  
Ariel Glissendorf, TR – March 14  
Rick Markhardt, TR – March 14  
Ryan Everson, TR – March 14  
Destiny Haak, SP – March 16  
Vicky Gerlach (Mrs. Dale), SP – March 16  
*Dan & Pam Hallman, TR – March 17*  
Peggy Hoffman, SP – March 18  
Cheryl Miller, SP – March 23  
*Corey & Jessica Baumiller, SP – March 23*  
Janice Thiry, TR – March 25  
Zander Clark, TR – March 30  
Stanlee Johnson, SP – March 31  
Cory Tobin, SP – March 31

## Information about *The Lutheran Witness* after the Congregation Vote

September 2023. LCMS South Dakota District President Rev. Scott Sailer requested congregations to cast a vote by December 31, 2023, regarding the District “blanket subscriptions” of *The Lutheran Witness* (*Witness*). The vote was 54 to 21 to end the current policy requiring congregations to pay for the subscriptions to the *Witness*. What does this mean going forward?

**The March 2024 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* will be the last issue under the current plan.**

### Options after the March 2024 issue.

1. Individuals or households may subscribe on their own.
2. Congregations can have a sign-up time to collect information for individual subscriptions.
3. Congregations may have a bundle of the periodicals sent to the church, for distribution to members.

### Subscription costs.

1. CPH is offering us a special rate of \$19.99 for a year’s subscription to the main part of the magazine. With the South Dakota District insert, the cost will be \$24.99 for one year. This is for delivery to your home or post office box.
2. Congregations may provide the *Witness* at the church for their members. If that is done, 0-25 copies will be at the annual subscription rate of \$19.99/24.99 per magazine; 25+ copies will be at the bulk rate of \$15.99 for the main part of the magazine, and \$18.39 with the District insert included. *Note: You can get the bulk subscription price only by having a bundle of copies delivered to the church.*

**More information on the next page.**



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## SURVEY FOR *THE LUTHERAN WITNESS* (one per household)

**St. Paul’s members:** Please complete and return to the church by March 3, 2024. Or call Justin Everson (605-680-4250) with your response by March 10, 2024.

**Trinity members:** Please complete and return to the church by March 10, 2024. Or call Dean Suelflow (605-680-4533) with your response by March 10, 2024.

1. Do you wish to continue receiving *The Lutheran Witness*? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If Yes, do you prefer:  Mailing to your home or post office box.  
 Picking up at church.
2. Would you pay for your subscription? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
3. Would you expect the congregation to pay for your subscription? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
4. Do you have an interest in copies of the LCMS South Dakota District (District) newsletter being available for pick up at church? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
5. If the District newsletter was available at church, would you still want *The Lutheran Witness*?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Comments and questions:

**The LCMS South Dakota District will continue to produce the District section.** The District section is the copyright property of the LCMS South Dakota District, and so the District Office can distribute it as we wish.

1. The District supplement is posted on the District's website, [sddlcms.org](http://sddlcms.org), under News and Events, and it will continue to be posted there.
2. The District also plans to include it as a regular feature in our twice-monthly email newsletter, a much different publication than the insert we produce for *The Lutheran Witness*.
3. The District will be able to email a .pdf copy of the District section upon request to individuals and congregations. To subscribe to our District's email newsletter, contact Julie Pike at the District Office: [jpikemidco.net](mailto:jpikemidco.net), 605-361-1514.

**If you chose to continue a personal subscription**, please subscribe by March 1, 2024, to receive the April issue. You may subscribe:






1. By phone 1-800-325-3040, option 2 (preferred), 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday.
2. Online <https://witness.lcms.org>.
3. Email [lwsubscriptions@cph.org](mailto:lwsubscriptions@cph.org).

When subscribing you need to let them know you would like to be a subscriber for *The Lutheran Witness* **from the South Dakota District**, and you need to tell them if you would like your subscription to include the South Dakota District news insert (\$24.99) or without the District news insert (\$19.99).

A digital version is available by calling the phone number or visiting the website listed above.



## Survey

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b>  Third Sunday in Lent <b>Events at St. Paul's</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b> Confirmation/SS <b>5 p.m.</b> Joint Divine Service <b>6 p.m.</b> Supper	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2:15 p.m.</b> TR Release-Time <b>6:30 p.m.</b> TR Ruth Circle 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  Fourth Sunday in Lent <b>Events at Trinity</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b> Confirmation <b>5 p.m.</b> Joint Divine Service <b>6 p.m.</b> Supper	<b>11</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> SP Dorcas Circle 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>2:15 p.m.</b> TR Release-Time	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  Fifth Sunday in Lent <b>Events at St. Paul's</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b> Confirmation/SS <b>5 p.m.</b> Joint Divine Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>2:15 p.m.</b> TR Release-Time	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  Palm Sunday <b>Events at Trinity</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b> Confirmation <b>5 p.m.</b> Joint Divine Service <b>6 p.m.</b> Supper	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <i>April newsletter articles due.</i>	<b>27</b> <b>2:15 p.m.</b> TR Release-Time	<b>28</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Service at St. Paul's	<b>29</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Service at Trinity	<b>30</b>  
<b>31</b>  EASTER <b>Events at St. Paul's</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Joint Easter Service			Website: <a href="http://www.stpaulplankinton.com">www.stpaulplankinton.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.trinitywhitelake.com">www.trinitywhitelake.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:trinitywlsd@gmail.com">trinitywlsd@gmail.com</a> Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/trinitywhitelake">facebook.com/trinitywhitelake</a> YouTube: <a href="https://Trinity White Lake">Trinity White Lake</a>			