



# THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church



## The Sixth Petition

Save us from the time of trial.

*What is this? OR What does this mean?*

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

When I was a child, I would often get a picture of this petition along with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm as the shepherd Jesus or God dragging some poor helpless sheep into a canyon (grew up out west) where there were all kinds of things that could hurt you. The other was a cartoon picture of a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the right shoulder battling it out and just like in the cartoon and the bad side always seemed to be more appealing. But neither of these pictures are true about this Triune God. Luther puts it simply that God does not test, tempt, or coax us or anyone else. This is tough for me because I will stay up all night cramming for a blood test. This petition is not about getting something right but about the preserving power of God's Grace. Preserving us from the power of the trinity of Evil, (the devil, the world, the sin-full self). The sin-full self's god is ME, MYSELF AND I. The world tells us that we would be happy if we only had this that or the other, For me, if only you could pass and get an A on an blood test, but you probably haven't studied hard enough.

The world also tells us we aren't happy because we don't have this, that, or the other and there is our neighbor who seems to have them, but doesn't deserve them, therefore we can dislike them! The devil constantly whispers in our ear that we have been treated unfairly by God, the world, our neighbor, and our self. But what we truly ask for in this petition is that by grace, we may not be deceived by this trinity of evil and be led into false belief or despair. It is a false belief that it depends on me. It is a false belief that God cannot preserve and keep me just by the grace of his word and the Sacraments that name me and feed me, and walk with me through the valley of doubt despair and misbelief.

Sunday after Sunday, we are invited to hear the Good News which comes among God's people—to hear in the quiet of prayer, in the proclamation of God's word, or in the splash of water that constantly calls us by name and states we are God's children. It is the belief that in bread and wine we partake of the Body and Blood of a new covenant based not on must do, but what we get to do and be because of the Gospel of forgiveness of sin. This promise preserve us through all the trials that life and the trinity of evil can throw at us as God, his word, and his sacrament will prevail.

Though Satan rant and rage and fiercest war engage, this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail! One little word shall triumph. God's word shall stand above the powers and shall end their thanksgiving. The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living. Let good and kindred go, this mortal life also; though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won. The kingdom's ours forever! "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

*Pastor Wayne*



*The people of St. Paul gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays

- March 2 – Tammy Oliver
- March 3 – Amanda Schumm
- March 5 – Brenda Russow
- March 8 – Wanda Schlueter
- March 9 – Kylee Claypool
- March 11 – Bryce Claypool
- March 13 – Brad Solberg
- March 14 – Carley Nourie
- March 18 – Carl Thorson
- March 21 – Brian Schumm
- March 21 – Max Gschwendtner
- March 21 – Brianna Schumm
- March 23- Travis Westergreen
- March 26 – Brooklyn Delheimer
- March 30 – Jennifer Bauknecht
- March 31 – Jayden Folkerts

March Anniversaries

- March 3 – Keith & Natalie Hendershott (2006)
- March 9 – Don & Mary Lou Bevers (1995)
- March 16 – Hermie & Janice Schmidt (1985)
- March 19 – Jeff & Darla Dixon (1988)

Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, February 16, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Marian Brown will be the hostess and give a devotion. Donna Buckler will lead the Bible study. Our study is on the Ten Commandments and is found in the Gather magazine. All are welcome!

Bibles and Bagels

Bibles and Bagels will meet on March 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Edinger’s.

LEO in March

LEO (Let’s Eat Out) gathers St. Paul members and friends on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy dinner. This month we will not have LEO so our church members can attend the Wednesday night Lenten services.

Sunday Pastoral Schedule

- March 5—SAM Marcia Buchs
- March 12—SAM Marcia Buchs
- March 19—SAM Marcia Buchs
- March 26—Pastor Wayne

LENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 19: 'Fat Sunday' - Pancakes and sausage after church to kick-off Lent! Kids will have a craft to take home. (Everything is provided!)

Wednesday, February 22 at 6 pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Each Wednesday during Lent (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) Meal at 5:15 pm and Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm

Sunday, April 2 at 10 am: Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, April 6 at 6 pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 7 at 6 pm: Good Friday Service



Easter Sunday, April 9: Breakfast & Egg Hunt at 9:00 am Service at 10:00 am



Please sign up for St. Paul’s Texting Service!

If you wouldlike to receive text messages with reminders and special announcements, please sign up for the St. Paul Texting Service by completing the following:

- 1. Send a text to 81010
- 2. Text the message: @stpaul210



Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of or honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart located on the kiosk. Flowers are \$25. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting “altar flowers” on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Red Bag Offerings 2023

We will continue with Red Bag collections on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

- March- Back Pack Program
- April- OSF Smart Meals
- May- Lutheran Social Services
- June- Rowe Cemetery
- July- Mosaic
- August- District #429
- September- ISU and U of I Community Meals
- October- Boys and Girls Club
- November- Cops & Kids
- December- Local needy families

Cemetery Donations and  
Memorials for 2022

Ted and Ginger Bauknecht—donation  
Junior and Kris Lambert—In memory of Jill Bane  
Don and Mary Lou Bevers—In memory of loved  
ones

Jeanne Rapp Memorial  
Mildred Girard Memorial  
St. Paul Lutheran Church—Budgeted item  
Beg Bag Donation—Members and friends of St.  
Paul Lutheran Church

If you would like your name listed here, please  
give your donation to either co-treasurer Larry  
Leach or Melissa Rapp (there is a mailbox in  
the church office). Please list in whose memory  
you are donating and if you wish to remain  
anonymous, please note that as well.

Please consider St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery as  
a recipient of memorials and tax deductible  
donations.

Thank you!  
Larry Leach and Melissa Rapp, co-treasurers

WELCA Spring Gathering

The Spring Gathering of the Northeast Confer-  
ence Women of the ELCA will be held on  
April 1, 2003. The host for the event is Trinity  
Lutheran Church in Fairbury at 100 West Cherry  
Street.

Registrations begins at 9:00 a.m., followed at  
9:30 a.m. by a brief meeting, entertainment,  
lunch, and fellowship. The cost is \$10 and  
includes lunch.

ALL are welcome to attend this enjoyable event.  
Please contact Jean Harrison if you have any  
questions.



Raising

H O P E

in Lent

Join the St. Paul Lenten team challenge as we collect items to  
donate to the Hope Pregnancy Center in Pontiac. Teams will be  
formed and encouraged to donate the following items:

*laundry soap, gender-neutral diaper bags, diapers, wipes,  
baby soap, and Enfamil formula*