



Messenger April 2023

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1901 Portland Ave Minneapolis, 55404

Rev. Tom Parrish

The Greatest Story Ever Told

I have loved movies all my life. One of my favorites was the film: *The Greatest Story Ever Told* released in 1965. The scene where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead is still fixed in my mind and spirit 58 years later. Why did it have such an impact? Because the love and power of Jesus is the most profound reality in the history of the universe.

With four incredible Gospel's telling the story of Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead we have incredible insights into that amazing day. Often times the Gospel of Mark is not as well emphasized in his presentation of Jesus resurrection among Christians. It's shorter and not as detailed as the other three Gospels. Therefore, just in case you've missed it here is what Mark writes:

Mark 16: *1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.*

I truly wish I could have been there that morning! Thankfully due to the faithfulness of Mark, Luke, Matthew, John, Paul, and a host of other writers, we have firsthand witnesses to this remarkable story. We must never forget that this is much more than a story, it is our reality.

As we prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Easter we have much to rejoice in. The good news is that Jesus did all of this for me and you before we even knew we needed salvation. The good news is that Jesus continues to look, guide, empower, and encourage us each and every day. The fantastic news is that when we come to our last day in this world Jesus will be there, take us by the hand, and walk us into the kingdom of God.

As much as I love the movies about Jesus I have come to love His reality even more. He is here for you and me! Easter is not merely His celebration of rising from the dead but our celebration of forgiveness and eternal life. That is why it is called *The Greatest Story Ever Told!*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE



PALM
SUNDAY
WORSHIP

April 2
10:30AM



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
COMMUNION

April 6
7:00PM



GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICE

April 7
7:00PM



EASTER
SUNDAY
WORSHIP

April 9
10:30AM



The ICCM Youth group will serve Easter Breakfast on Sunday April 9th at 9:00am there will be a free-will offerings towards a summer camp for youth who help out.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Paul's Congregational meeting is set for **Sunday,**
April 30 Sunday School hour at **9:00am**

ADULT Class, Spring 2023

SUNDAYS 9:00AM

Coffee Provided!

THE REAL HEAVEN Teacher: Carl Rich

Video Series by Chip Ingram

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS TOPIC</u>
March 26	Why Heaven Matter Part 1
April 2	Why Heaven Matter Part 2
April 9	Easter No Class
April 16	What's Heaven Like Part 1
April 23	What's Heaven Like Part 2
April 30	No Class Congregational Meeting
May 7	No Class Prayer Walk
May 14	A New Home for the New You Part 2
May 21	A New Home for the New You Part 2
May 28	Wrap-up

"UNDERSTANDING ISLAM AND MUSLIMS" Teacher: John Spaulding

CLASS PLAN Resource: Donald L. Raun, *New Neighbors on the Street: Getting Acquainted with Muslims*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS TOPIC (to be prepared in advance by each participant)</u>
Mar. 26	Introduction
Apr. 2	Islam in History
Apr. 9	EASTER: NO CLASS
Apr. 16	Islam's Religion: Appeal and Beliefs
Apr. 23	Islam's Religion: Beliefs (cont'd.) and Practices
Apr. 30	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NO CLASS
May 7	PRAYER WALK; NO CLASS
May 14	Realities of Muslim Life Today
May 21	Islam the Challenger
May 28	Islam the Challenged; Summing Up

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Kids Sunday School upstairs at 9:00am. All ages Welcome!

KIDS Club



Bible Lessons. Songs. Memory Verses. Snacks!

When: Every Wednesday

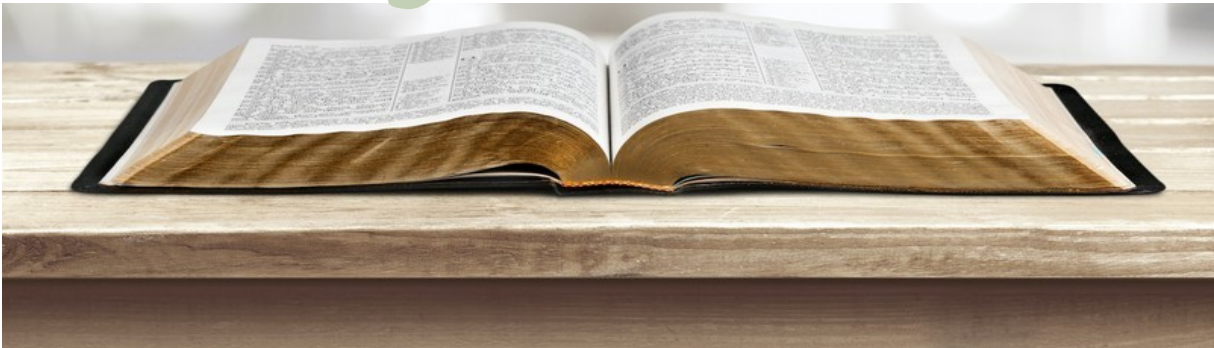
Time: 5:00

Where: St. Paul's Church at 1901 Portland Ave

**Who: For Children Ages 5-12 & parents
and older siblings**

Contact: Cheryl Rich @ 651-333-0119

Weekly Bible Studies



Mondays Community Bible study 6:15pm

Monday Night at 6:15pm

Contact Kristi Bolson for more information

Tuesdays Afternoon Bible Study 1:00pm

We are studying The Book of Psalms and please join us when you can. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Holy Grounds Coffee House Fridays 6:15pm

Join us in welcoming our neighbors with conversation, prayer and Bible time. Contact Kristi Bolson or Daniel Olson for more information.

Men's Saturday Fellowship

Led by Pastor Tom Parrish

Saturday, April 22 at 9:00am

Coffee & donuts are Provided!

At St. Paul's Fellowship Hall



We want to extend a welcoming hand of hospitality to our international friends and their families. There are just under 6,000 international students who are part of the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities every year. We make opportunities for you to serve them in practical ways through resources and hosting in homes. We also organize events and trips that are great for building enriching friendships with one another.

Holiday Hosting

This is a great opportunity to open your home and practice our namesake—hospitality! Every Thanksgiving and Easter we have students sign-up to be hosted at a volunteer's home for a meal. These holidays are a special time of year, a time for us to make memories with friends and family. Invite international students into your home to celebrate with them the joys of the season!

Time commitment: *Easter day (4–6 hours)*



Contact Kim Sollie, Volunteer Director, at: kim@thehospitalitycenter.org

Missionary Updates

"Some practical wisdom from one of our missionary couples"



Prayer Letter from Steven and Robin Ose

Robin and I have been updating our will, seeking to see our legacy wishes carried out for our family and the ministries we support. We have been working with the Cru Foundation who are helping us every step of the way. And all for free by the way! They serve Cru ministry partners like you, helping you get “attorney ready” with your will, estate plan and more. <https://www.crufoundation.org/>

One thing that has become clear is even after many of us prepare our will, we fail to communicate it to our loved ones and ministries we support. 9 in 10 people do not communicate their wishes to the ministries they support, and those gifts can often stay unclaimed as a result. See the article below addressing this important piece.

Take the Next Step: Notify Your Beneficiaries

The Importance of Sharing Your Plans With Your Loved Ones and Ministries

Naming a loved one or favorite ministry as a beneficiary is a heartfelt way to make a future gift with lasting impact. Be sure to go one step further and notify those beneficiaries of the choices you have made.

Not doing so could have unfortunate consequences: The gifts could go unclaimed. Many people and charities aren't aware that they have been named to receive a gift, and financial institutions may not inform beneficiaries of gifts when the estate is dispersed.

Protect the people and charities you love by following these simple steps in notifying your beneficiaries:

- Review all your beneficiary designations. These may include life insurance, retirement plan assets and commercial annuities and update as needed.
- Share your wishes with your beneficiaries, including document location.

By making your future plans known, you're not only ensuring your wishes are carried out, but you are also helping your loved ones plan for their futures.

Jesus saves,

Steven and Robin

steven.ose@cru.org • 612-419-8050

16225 Tonkaway Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

We are responsible for raising 100% of our financial support.

To partner with us, please visit <https://give.cru.org/0509499>



Upcoming Classes/Seminar

- ◆ Confirmation Class
- ◆ Spiritual Gifts and Talents Seminar
- ◆ Barna's Resilient Discipleship Course
- ◆ How to Effectively Study the Bible Seminar
- ◆ Leadership Training
- ◆ Painless Effective Witnessing Seminar

**Dates to be announced*

St. Paul's Women's Ministries 2023 Schedule

Fellowship Meetings (all Saturdays):

May 13th 12:00-2:00pm Lunch (bring Salads)

September 9th 9:00-4pm Retreat
(Lunch Provided) (place of meeting to be announced)

December 9th 12:00-2:00pm—lunch



Name	Date
Nathan Hagen	04/05
Brad Petry	04/10
Mavis Showalter	04/24
Dick Grommes	04/25
Patricia Nierenhausen	04/26

Missionary Birthdays	
Name	Date
Grace Magney	04/20

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JOIN US

Online Or In-Person!

Sundays 10:30 A.M.