

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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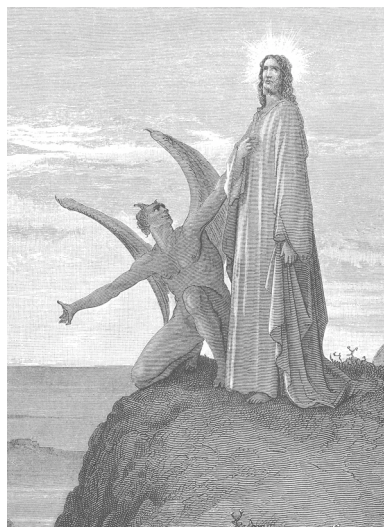
JESUS' TEMPTATION AND OUR SALVATION

The woodcut shown on this page is by the French artist, Gustave Doré (1832 to 1883). It depicts the temptation of Jesus—specifically that moment when Satan is offering Jesus all the political power he could every yearn for...*if Jesus would only bow down and worship him.*

Doré made his career illustrating the Bible and numerous other books. And while he never received proper recognition from other contemporary artists, his illustrations were extremely popular among people throughout Europe.

The temptation of Jesus is found in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) only. John doesn't mention Jesus' temptation at all. Mark gives only the barest of information, "[Jesus] was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." (Mark 1:13) It is in Matthew and Luke that we are told of the three types of temptation that Jesus endured: economic, religious and political. Interestingly, they relay the order of the temptations differently.

What could have been wrong if, during this period of temptation, Jesus had said "yes" to Satan? Here was a world, not that unlike our own, where the apparent challenges of the day were economic, religious and political in nature. The people of Jesus' day were living in a world where poverty and hunger were constant threats to many. Why not turn rocks (or even a *whole mountain*) into bread that could then nourish a starving world? Why not use his vast powers and wisdom to gain unimaginable wealth that could be used to lift people from poverty? Much like today, the people lived in a world where religious power was used by the few in a way that manipulated the many. Jesus himself could see how the religious practices of the Temple were being manipulated by the money-chang-



ers in order to enrich themselves at the expense of others. Why *not* step in as the supreme high priest and seize religious power from the grasp of those who were misusing it? Or why not seize the reigns of power that were being offered him and take over the very reign of Caesar? Certainly, had Jesus wanted to, he could have rallied his followers not only to throw out their Roman occupiers, but to expand his political power all the way to Rome itself. Why not grab political power and place it in the hands of someone who would use it for good?

These are important questions. And the answers may seem complex, but in reality they are quite simple. If Jesus had given in to these temptations, he would have put human ambition ahead of God's will. Even if the ends seemed to justify the means, placing our ultimate trust and loyalty in that which is not God severs us from the source of all life and love. It is like building a magnificent skyscraper on a foundation of sand: it will eventually tumble. Yes, much good can be done through economic, religious and political means. (And, by the way, by "religious" I am referring to the institutional dimension of religion, not to faith that is rooted in our "fear, love and trust" in God.) But Jesus came not to free us from financial poverty, but from spiritual poverty; he came not to forge a new institutional religion but to lead us back home to God; and he came not to create a new political order, but to usher in the Kingdom of God. And all this he did, not by seizing the power offered to him, but by *relinquishing* it, all of it, upon the cross.

As we all to well know, there will always be economic challenges, religious strife, and political conflicts. But because of Jesus, in the midst of the greatest darkness, there will always be light.

Pastor Hugh Haffrenffer



LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our Discernment Process

Celebrating our History: Sunday, March 1, from 12 to 3PM.

Join us on Sunday, March 1, from 12 noon to 3 PM as we share a potluck meal together and discover and celebrate our congregation's history. By coming to know where we've journeyed together, we can glean insights into who we are as a community of faith and what God is calling us to be as we face our future.

Decoding our Secret Handshake: Saturday, March 28 from 6 to 9PM.

Once again, we will come together for a potluck meal and this time be lead through a process to discover our congregation's "norms"—the unwritten rules that govern and shape the way we do things. These are the "secret handshakes" that come natural to those who have grown up at St. Paul's, but that may be confusing and unclear to those who are new to our congregation. By uncovering our norms we will be able to ask ourselves, "Should these *be* our rules? Do they serve God's mission?" This evening promises to be one of self-discovery and growth for all of us.

Wednesday Nights During Lent

Lenten Soup and Salad:

Join us each Wednesday Night during Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1) at 5:30PM for a light meal and some time for fellowship. Those wishing to help providing a meal should talk with Jim Newmark.

Wednesday Night Evening Prayer:

On each Wednesday in Lent, (March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1) at 7PM we will be offering a short service of Evening Prayer. The theme will be "Five Portraits of Jesus." Featuring short skits by our Confirmation Class, we will explore our relationship with Jesus by taking a look at 5 events or episodes in his life and ministry.

3 Sunday Afternoons in Lent:

Rediscovering the Book of Faith

Sundays March 8, 15, and 22

12:30 to 2:00PM

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has begun a major campaign to assist the faithful in reconnecting with the Book of Faith, the Bible. The *Rediscovering the Book of Faith Course* is an excellent way to launch the Book of Faith initiative in our congregation. This three-session study explores how the Bible came to be our Book of Faith by providing an introduction of the creation, collection, and canonization of Scripture. Participants will discover where the Bible came from, will better understand how it was put together, and will examine the contribution the Reformation made toward scriptural literacy. With discussion-starting video clips and an easy-to-follow class plan, this course encourages participants to engage in reflection and discussion — and is an exciting way to invite us all to become part of the conversation!

We will gather on Sundays March 8, 15, and 22 from 12:30 to 2PM. (A light lunch will be provided.) There will be a free will offering gathered to cover the costs of lunch and the participant book.

Those interested in attending these sessions are encouraged to contact the Church Office or Pastor Hugh so we will know how many participant books to order and how much lunch to provide.

THRIVENT CAREER NIGHT

Thursday March 12

7 - 9 PM

at the Thrivent Financial Office

984 Southford Road

Middlebury, CT 06762

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans wants to expand its teams of Financial Representatives to better serve our members and our congregations. They are looking for good people to join them in their ministry – helping others achieve financial stability and their goals. They're not necessarily looking for candidates with a financial background. They are looking for young people ready to embark on a career, or those looking for a change in their career path – with a passion to help others.

OUTREACH/SERVICE THANKS

We want to send our heartfelt thank you to all that helped St. Paul's Church provide another combination Fellowship/Outreach event this past Valentine's Day. We truly did the Lord's work by spending the day preparing a home cooked meal of Chicken Cacciatore for those less fortunate than us and in need of the services provided by The South Park Inn homeless shelter of Hartford, CT.

We not only provided them a dinner, there was enough left over to serve another meal with. In addition, we had some food that we donated to Manna Meals for immediate use within our own congregation! Dinner included a garden salad, fresh baked dinner rolls, hand made chocolate lollipops, home baked chocolate chip bars and oatmeal raisin bars & cookies special Valentine's Day candy bags for children and scrumptious chocolate and carrot cakes!

We made some new friends and strengthened some old bonds as well. Praise Jesus for providing us this opportunity to put what He has shared with us, into action and service for others!

Love and Peace,
Jim & Tracy Newmark

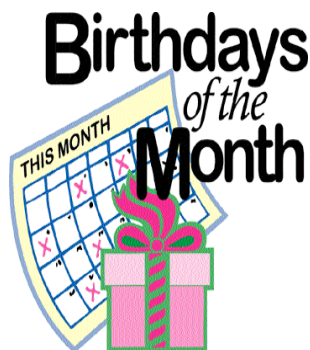
MARCH OUTREACH/SERVICE EVENT

We will be serving dinner at the **South Park Inn** once again on Friday March 13th, 2009. We will meet at St. Paul's no later than 4:15 pm and car pool to the Inn. I have room for nine (9) volunteers to go with me to the Inn and serve the meal. We will not have to purchase, prepare or clean up after the meal. This is a first come, first served event. Contact me early if you would like to go on this Fellowship/Outreach jaunt of love!

Contact Jim Newmark at (860) 268-5070

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

3 Don Krug
5 Jackie Fischer
7 Carol Bruce
14 Mary Procyk
17 Marion Amanek
18 Jennie Dotts
21 Thomas Grottke
21 Carrie Lupoli



NOTES FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND

Drapes were purchased and are now hanging in the upstairs rooms of the P. E. building. The funds for these were donated by friends and family of Helen Rupp. If you haven't been in our educational building in a while take a look please. The drapes are a beautiful addition to the classrooms and a reminder of how Helen loved the Sunday school.

Also a donation was received from Arline Hinton, daughter of Olga Babel in memory of her mother. The monies will be used to reline the silver chalices used for communion. Many thanks to the Hinton family.



We still continue to fundraise for the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans.

Up Coming Fundraisers:

STOCKS will be going on sale. Watch for stock sales on Sundays after the church services. Stocks will be sold for \$10.00 a share and will entitle the stock holder to a Brunch with stories and pictures from the event. Stock sale dates 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, 6/7, 6/28.

TAG SALE: This spring (May?) we will be having a tag sale. As you do your spring cleaning please consider donating any of your gently used goods (no furniture or clothes) you might like to pass on. More information to follow.

EASTER CANDY SALE- We will be taking orders for hand made Easter chocolates. Sample items and order form will be available soon.

EASTER BREAKFAST will once again take place Easter Sunday.

CAR WASH: June 20th

Thank you to all who are always there to support the youth. They are the future of our church.

**THANKS TO JAN PERGANDE
FOR THE CROSS**



Thank you, Jan Pergande, for building (with your brother, Harland's, help) the Lenten Cross that will accompany us through our Lenten Journey!

The cross is made of 2x4's stained brown and wrapped in grape vines.

MORE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**WINE TASTING PARTY
MARCH 21 @ 6PM**

There will be a Fellowship wine tasting event offered on Saturday evening March 21st, 2009. The venue will be conducted at Cindy & Rick Seip's home located at 496 Wolcott Hill Road Wethersfield, CT 06109. The time of the event is 6 PM. All are asked to sign-up with Jim Newmark by telephoning him at (860) 268-5070 no later than March 18th, 2009.

Please be prepared to bring some little goodies for all to nosh on while we are regaled with The Seip's knowledge of wines! Let's make this another St. Paul's Fellowship Extravaganza!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Just to remind all our men: We meet the third Thursday of each month at Denny's Restaurant on the Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield at 7:30AM.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12:00 PM**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

This year's service is written by the women of Papua New Guinea.

There are six World Day of Prayer services in the Greater Hartford area this year.

The service in Wethersfield will take place at the United Methodist Church 154 Prospect Street (529-2025) For more information contact Jan Ironside (633-2154).

Easter Breakfast 2009

April 12th

8:45 - 10:00



Families and friends of the congregation are invited to attend the Annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by St. Paul's Youth Group. Please complete this form to let us know how many people to expect from your family.

Name: _____

_____ will attend the Easter Breakfast from our family.

I/we would like to donate:

_____ lbs Link Sausage*

_____ dozen White Eggs*

_____ Coffee Cakes

_____ dozen rolls

_____ half gallon Milk

_____ large cans Frozen OJ

_____ bottles of Pancake Syrup

*Sausage and eggs should be brought to the church by Thursday, April 9th.
All other items should be dropped off no later that Saturday, April 11th.

A free will offering will be received.

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR March 2009

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Mar 1 - Amanda Piscitello
8 - Josh Marzano
15 - Jamie Piscitello
22 - Gretchen Schultz
29 - Katie Grottke

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Mar 1 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
8 - Andersons
15 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
22 - Mary Procyk & Cindy Seip
29 - Anne French & Winnie Sawrun

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Coordinator

- Mar 1 - Patty Bengtson - 8:00
Jerry Vaillancourt - 10:30
8 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
Bill Fischer - 10:30
15 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
Patty Bengtson - 10:30
22 - Art Bruce - 8:00
Mary Procyk - 10:30
29 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
Bill Fischer - 10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Mar. 1 - Lillian Doerschler
8 - Mike Coyle
15 - Mary Procyk
22 - Patty Bengtson
29 - Helen Peterson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Mar 1 - Sandra & Ken Slowik
8 - Pam & Jody Dinatalie
15 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
22 - Debbie & Amanda Viola
29 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Mar 1 - Cindy Seip
8 - Bob Bowman
15 - Debbie Viola & Mary Procyk
22 - Winnie Sawrun & Mary Procyk
29 - George Howe

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Mar 1 - George Howe
8 - Sue Agne
15 - Patty Bengtson
22 - Mary Procyk
29 - Bill Fischer

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Mar 1 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois
8 - ***Volunteer Needed***
15 - Julie & Matt Perry
22 - AnnMarie & Kate Grottke
29 - Julie & Matt Perry

TAPING MINISTRY:

Coordinator

- Mar 1 -
8 -
15 -
22 -
29 -

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079

- March Carole & Garrett Hughes - 8:00
1 - Dave Bayek & Curt Leonard - 10:30
8 - Dave Bayek & Walter Ruppert - 10:30
15 - Dave Bayek & Curt Leonard - 10:30
22 - Dave Bayek & Curt Leonard - 10:30
29 - Dave Bayek & Curt Leonard - 10:30

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Jack Leahy Baptism Holy Comm. 10:30 AM “Celebrating Our History” Potluck 12-3 PM	2	3 Outreach Meeting 7 PM OA 7:30 PM	4 Bible Study: 10:30 AM Lenten Supper: 5:30 AM Conf. Class 6:15 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir 8 PM	5 Thur. Grp. 10 AM Vision Team meeting 6:30 PM	6 World Day of Prayer 12 PM AA 10 AM	7 Hardy Plant Symposium 9 AM - 4 PM AA 7:30 PM
8 Second Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Rediscovering the Book of Faith: 12:30PM	9 Scouts downstairs 6-9 PM	10 Worship & Music 7PM OA 7:30 PM	11 Bible Study: 10:30 AM Lenten Supper: 5:30 AM Conf. Class 6:15 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir 8 PM	12 Thur. Grp. 10 AM	13 AA 10 AM	14 AA 7:30 PM
15 Third Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Epistle Deadline Harvest Fair meeting after 10:30 service Rediscovering the Book of Faith: 12:30PM	16	17 St. Patrick's Day OA 7:30 PM	18 Bible Study: 10:30 AM Lenten Supper: 5:30 AM Conf. Class 6:15 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir 8 PM	19 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Thur. Grp. 10 AM	20 Spring Begins AA 10 AM	21 AA 7:30 PM
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Rediscovering the Book of Faith: 12:30PM	23	24 OA 7:30 PM	25 Bible Study: 10:30 AM Lenten Supper: 5:30 AM Conf. Class 6:15 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir 8 PM	26 Thur. Grp. 10 AM	27 AA 10 AM	28 “Decoding Our Secret Handshake” Potluck 6-9 PM AA <u>Upstairs</u> 7:30 PM
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	30	31 Par. Adm. 6:30 PM Council 7:30 OA 7:30 PM	Don't Forget!! “Celebrating our History” Potluck: Sunday, March 1 at 12PM “Decoding Our Secret Handshakes” Potluck: Sat., March 28 at 6PM			

SAINT PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM
SCS & Adult Ed. at 9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....	Office: (860) 529-5397
	Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
	pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org
Office Manager	Janet Vasel: janet@stpaulswethersfield.org
Council President.....	Rick Seip
Treasurer	Tom Grottke
Financial Sect'y.....	Mary Procyk
Minister of Music	Melissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....	Alice Ruppap

REMINDERS:

Wednesday Night Lenten Soup and Salad: 5:30PM

Wednesday Night Lenten Evening Prayer: 7PM

Sunday Lenten Series: Opening the Book of Faith: March

Potluck "Decoding our Secret Handshakes": Sat. March 28, 6PM

March 2009