



# Messenger May 2023

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

Rev. Thomas Parrish

## Are We Prepared for Jesus' Return?

We are living in difficult times. There is a lot of truth that has been discarded for political correctness resulting in confusion and division. Christianity and Biblical truth are often mocked, scorned or outright ridiculed in this day and age. The words of the prophet Isaiah 5:20 reflect our reality.

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

At times it seems like Christians are facing 100 Goliath's not just one! What are we to do as times get tough and it seems as though we are losing ground? How do we go from being on the defense to being on the offense for Jesus and His Gospel? Thankfully Jesus has told us what to do.

*"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*

*Matthew 25:1-13*

*"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.*

*Luke 12:35-38*

*"Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.*

*Luke 12:35-36 says:*

*<sup>35</sup>"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.*

So how do we stay alert? To be biblically alert means we not only pay attention to the times and signs of the Lord but we put our energy, thinking, prayers, and life into building the Kingdom of God here and now. Jesus made it clear in John 15:14 when he said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

What has he commanded:

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

*Make disciples of all nations.*

*Be my ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors of the Gospel.*

*Speak the truth.*

We could go on and on. However, if we do what Jesus has commanded we are then prepared for Jesus' return!

# ADULT Class, Spring 2023

SUNDAYS 9:00AM

Coffee Provided!

THE REAL HEAVEN Teacher: Carl Rich

Video Series by Chip Ingram

DATE            CLASS TOPIC

May 7	PRAYER WALK, NO CLASS
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*

DATE            CLASS TOPIC (to be prepared in advance by each participant)

May 7	PRAYER WALK, NO CLASS
May 14	Islam's Beliefs About Jesus
May 21	Islam's Beliefs About the Bible
May 28	Muslim Challenges Today

## PRAYER WALK

Sunday, May 7th at 9:00am

# 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**

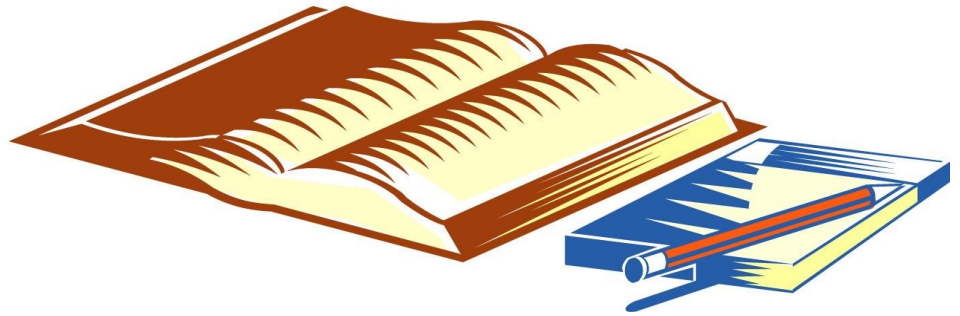
**Time: 5:00**

**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**

# Confirmation Class



WEDNESDAYS 5:00PM

## Men's Saturday Fellowship

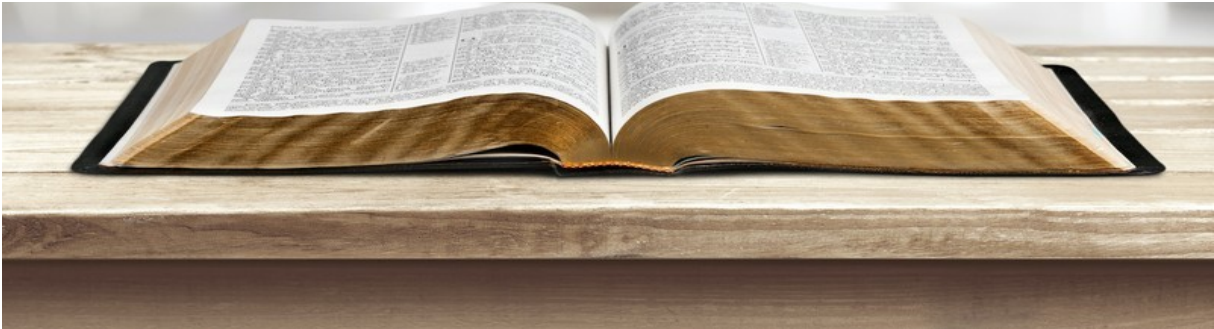
Led by Pastor Tom Parrish

Saturday, May 6 and 20 at 9:00am

*Coffee & donuts are Provided!*

At St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

# 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 James 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.



FOR AS THE EARTH *bringeth forth her bud*, AND AS  
THE GARDEN CAUSETH THE THINGS THAT ARE SOWN IN IT  
TO *spring forth*, SO THE LORD GOD  
WILL CAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE TO *spring forth*  
BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS. -ISAIAH 61:11

*Happy Spring!*



*St. Paul's Women's Ministries*

*Salad Luncheon*

*Theme: Celebrating Mother's Day*

*Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023*

*Time: 12:00-2:00pm*

*At St. Paul's Fellowship Hall*

*Program: A Chat with Rece Seufert: Her Journey To & With Jesus.*

*Music: Kristi and Ruth Bolson*

*Please Bring a Salad to share*

*Coffee Provided*

*Please bring a family picture (past or present)  
to share with others at your table.*



# Missionary Updates

**From Bex Brandt's April letter from Ottawa:**

Rebecca Brandt <[bexmbrandt@outlook.com](mailto:bexmbrandt@outlook.com)>

April 11, 2023



Thank you so much for partnering with me in prayer!

**Praise the Lord for our first official gathering of Tapestry Bible Church! (Pictured Above)** We had our “pre-launch” on Easter Sunday and invited everyone who has been connected with Tapestry either before COVID when we were meeting in a building or during COVID lockdowns when we were doing in-home Bible studies. We are still looking for the right building and are hoping to officially fully launch in mid-May, but will be continuing to meet in Bryan and Michelle’s home until then. Thank the Lord for a sweet time all together again!

**Praise the Lord for the many connections we are making with local ministries, pastors and churches!** We thank the Lord for the new partnerships we have been able to form with many other Believers in Ottawa who are passionate about what we’re doing and want to help in the ministry in any way they can! It’s been so encouraging to see this new network forming, and how the Lord has used the past 3 years to start and grow these relationships to the point they’re at now.

**Please pray that we are able to find a building for Tapestry Bible Church.** We are looking for a building that has at least 2 large rooms in a good location close to bus stops. We have looked at many options so far and even decided on one that seemed perfect for us in every way. However, right after we made the decision to rent that specific building, the Board of Directors contacted us and said they couldn’t offer it to us anymore due to some internal changes in their organization. We have yet to find another building that would suit us as well as that one would! Please pray that the Lord would lead us to the right place, and if it is His will, that He would open up the door again for us to rent or buy the original building we decided on. We know God’s ways are perfect, and we are trusting Him to guide us!





## Upcoming Classes / Seminar

- 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*



<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Joanna Dubra	05/03
Cheryl Rich	05/03
Christopher Bopp	05/05
Leroy Pietz	05/05
Karis Hagen	05/07
Janet French	05/16
Janet Parish	05/17
Judy Grommes	05/27

<b>Missionary Birthdays</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rebecca (Bex) Brandt	05/29

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JOIN US

Online Or In-Person!

Sundays 10:30 A.M.