

March Newsletter 2016

To Know Christ,
To Make Him Known,
To Build His Kingdom.

From The Pastor's Desk:

It's just the way I am. And I'm too old to change. That's the way many of us feel about ourselves. We fear we are trapped in the patterns of our personality, with no hope to ever change. Tim Keller explains in this quote that change comes as we connect to resurrection power;

"The difference between knowing Christ and knowing the power of his resurrection," says Keller, "is the difference between knowing a person and resembling a person . . . It is not about relationship but about supernatural character growth. When Paul says, "I want to know him," it means, "I want to be with him," but when he says, "I want to know the power of his resurrection," it means, "I want to be just like him." Look at the deadness in your life. Look at the anger. How is that going to be turned into forgiveness? Look at the insecurity. How is that going to be turned into confidence? Look at the self-centeredness. How is that going to be turned into compassion and generosity? How? The answer is that the dead stuff gets taken over by the Spirit of God . . . The minute you decide to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit comes into your life. It's the power of the resurrection —the same thing that raised Jesus from the dead." --Timothy Keller

Why does Easter Matter? It matters for many reasons. It matters because it reveals the deity of Christ, it matters because it shows His power over death, it matters because it makes what He did on the cross effective for us, and for us today it matters because as we connect

to His resurrection we find we are able to change.

In our experience dead things stay dead, and that is an absolute reality in our physical existence. But, in our spiritual walk as we submit our lives more and more to the Lordship of Christ we see the dead things in our soul being made alive again. We see power over sins we never thought we would find victory over, and ultimately even our own physical death will be undone. Because of the Resurrection the trajectory of our existence is a trajectory of life. A life that dies to self and lives to Christ. What hope Easter brings, and yet we often miss the power of the resurrection. We often find ourselves wallowing in the shallow waters of self.

Paul says in Romans 6:9 -11

⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This Lenten season as we prepare our hearts for Easter we must realize the fact of the resurrection and reckon it in to our heart and consciousness as we consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason Ford

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

"The Gospel Project"

Children's Sunday School ~ Infants - 6th grade
In the Fellowship Hall classrooms

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade
In the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study
In the Youth Room of the Parsonage

Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

Wednesday Night Bible Study

In observance of Lent regular Bible Study
will resume March 23rd.

Bible Study does not meet on the first
Wednesday of the month.

In the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm we are studying
The Gospel of Mark .

Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible
study. Pastor Jason is teaching.

Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall
classrooms, they are learning from The Jesus
Storybook Bible. Youth

Lenten / Easter Schedule

Lenten Services

Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8 pm in the
sanctuary. Everyone is welcome and invited.

Children's ministry in the fellowship hall
classrooms, they are learning from The Jesus
Storybook Bible. Youth will be in a discipleship
workshop in the fellowship hall.

February 17th through March 16th, except
March 2nd.

Maundy Thursday Breakfast and Communion

March 24th at 8:30 am. Ladies from the
Women's Fellowship are asked to bring a
breakfast dish.

If you have any questions, please contact
the church office at 210 -658-5874 .

Maundy Thursday Evening

March 24th at 7 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service

Friday, March 25th at 7 pm.

Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise service at 7 am, followed by a pancake
breakfast. Worship service at 10:30 am. We
will attach fresh cut flowers to the "Living
Cross" at the 10:30 worship service.

Eggtacular Party

You are invited to save time and avoid the
mess while involving your kids with Christ.
Good Friday March 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Bring a dozen hardboiled, undecorated eggs in

a basket or container for EACH of your
children. We will have lots of decorating

supplies to make fabulous eggs in time for
Easter Morning. Then there will be fun
activities, a photo area for the little ones and
games! There will also be a short lesson on
how the egg tradition ties to Christ and the
celebration of Easter. We will have a light lunch
with sandwiches and chips. This will be quite
an event, so feel free to invite friends. If you
would like to help with the light lunch, please
bring sandwiches and or chips to share with
the group. For questions and or to help,
contact the church office at 210 -658-5874 .

HOP to see you there!

SPEC Youth Update

SPEC Youth is underway! I'm glad to say the
youth space is almost complete, confirmation
class has begun, and we're already thinking
about summer plans. No worries...it's not quite
that time yet! Just a reminder we are offering
youth classes on Sunday morning at
9:30 and Wednesday night at 7:00 during the
Lenten season. We're also planning some
events around spring break. Also, I've begun to
ask around about those interested in summer
church camp. We'd love to have your student
join us for a great experience! Feel free to
contact me if you have any questions. Thanks
for your support! Stephanie Ford

Upcoming Events

SPEC Supper Club

Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will not meet in March. They will provide the breakfast for the Maundy Thursday Breakfast. Ladies are asked to bring a breakfast dish and or dessert. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

The Sewing Sisters

March 10th

They will not meet on March 24th. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the parsonage from 9 -11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210 -658-5874.

Community Breakfast & Bingo

Thursday March 17th at 8:30 am.

Council Meeting

Monday, March 21st at 7:00 pm

General Announcements

Liturgy Sign Up

If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway.

Service Opportunity

If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers, we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. The computer part is a simple program to use and the sound board is basic as well. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two in order to find out

what all is involved. For more information, please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at Beth@StPaulCibolo.com.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach

Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand.

Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D , or Willie & Ann S .

Women's Fellowship

Recycled Card Program

In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes

Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall. They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp., a program of the children at St. Jude's Ranch to learn entrepreneurship skills. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. For information on purchasing of cards go to http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php.

For more information, please contact the church office at 210 -658-5874.

Prayer Team

If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Pastor Willie Stratemann your e-mail address or phone number.

Ushers and Greeters

If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210 -658-5874.

Women's Fellowship

Cookbooks Available

The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall.

They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs:

Boxed Meat Helpers / Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce / Canned Fruit / Dish Soap
Toothbrushes

Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.

Read Through the Bible in a Year program from Tabletalk daily devotional

(Tabletalk is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1 -800-435-4343)

MarchReadings

Old Testament: Numbers 26 – Judges 7

New Testament: Mark 6:30 – Luke 6:26

AprilReadings

Old Testament: Judges 8 – 1 Kings 6

New Testament: Luke 6:27 - 21

Notification of Events - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to admin@stpaulcibolo.com with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

Church Office Hours ~ Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Heidelberg Catechism

55 Q. What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all His treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it his duty to use his gifts readily and cheerfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

56. Q. What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

A. I believe that God, because of Christ's atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, in His grace

God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

Lord's Day 22

57 Q. How does "the resurrection of the body" comfort you?

A. Not only my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.

58 Q. How does the article concerning "life everlasting" comfort you?

A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no man has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.

St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor

Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Stephanie Ford,

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Stephanie@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist

tindo@gvec.net

Beth Johnson, Secretary

Beth@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian

Webbsondra@yahoo.com

Serving the Lord since 1876

A mission focused kingdom building family of Christ followers seeking to be faithful to
Jesus' Great Commission {Go and make disciples Matthew 28:19 and
His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.}