

# DISCIPLE



Volume 23, Issue 3

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

March, 2018

*Making Disciples for Jesus*

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## "The Cross"

There are many people in this world who wear a cross, but do not really believe in what it stands for. For them it is mere jewelry. There are many others who see the symbol of the cross on buildings, steeples, t-shirts, and bumper stickers but don't know of the love of the One who was sacrificed there to give us eternal life.

May we give the right message of salvation along with the symbol of the cross. For to see the cross without knowing the message of the cross will only leave people empty and without hope. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* (1 Corinthians 1:18)

During Lent we focus on the cross of Jesus Christ. Our Gospel readings this month will tell of Jesus' sacrifice for sins; that He would be put to death; that God gave His only Son; that Jesus came as a ransom for the many; and "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (as He rode into Jerusalem to die for us.)

For Jesus, the cross was an instrument of torture. He suffered for all the sinners who have ever sinned. That is why He said from the cross, "Father, forgive them..." His atoning sacrifice was for all people. He paid the price that sinners could not pay. *"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:13-14)

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*  
(LSB 425, verses 1 & 2)

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ richly keep you in the shadow of His cross this Lent and always.

Pastor Walsh

