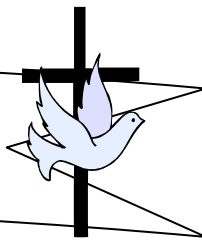


# The St. Mark Messenger



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## Foolishness

April 1 has been known as April Fool's Day. Maybe you can remember some of the April Fools pranks you played on your family and friends in your youth. And perhaps you have seen some of the pranks on Facebook such as putting a tray of healthy vegetables inside a donut box in the work lunchroom or making cake pops out of Brussel sprouts. And maybe we don't mind being fooled by such harmless pranks. There is a place and time for such foolishness, but not when it comes to the salvation of one's soul and eternity. The Apostle Paul writes "For the word 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) We have just come out of the season of Lent, where we focused on Jesus and the willful sacrifice of His innocent life on the cross for the forgiveness of all our sins. The empty tomb of Easter and Jesus' resurrection is proof that indeed all is finished and the debt of our sin has been paid in full. Our hope of eternal life and heaven is real as Jesus fulfilled His words to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

With a faith like Martha's, we too respond, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (John 11:27) At the heart of our faith is the precious Gospel focused on Christ Jesus who died for our sins and was raised to life for our eternal salvation. In Paul's day, Jews demanded miraculous signs and Greeks looked for wisdom. But he preached Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are being saved, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (1 Corinthians 1:25)

Some may laugh at our faith in Christ and say we are wasting our time going to church and praying. They may declare us "fools" for trying to walk and live in the light of Christ. But on the Last Day, when Christ returns in all His heavenly glory, we will see who the fool is. For our faith is not in vain. Christ died on the cross for our sins. Christ rose from the dead. Christ ascended into heaven. Christ lives and He IS coming again. And we look forward to that day.

Yours in our Crucified and Risen Savior, Jesus Christ,  
*Pastor Paul*