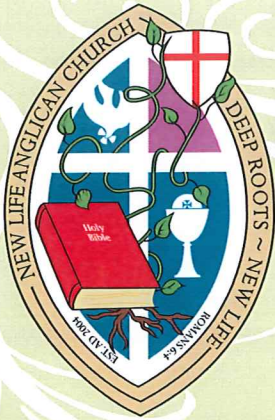


219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



This month I want to talk about something that I have talked about before, but that we can always use a good refresher on. I want to talk about some basic principles of biblical interpretation. I know I talk a lot about the importance of reading your bible, but that really needs to be coupled with how to understand your bible.

The first step to understanding your bible is to get one with good commentary and notes attached to it. Some good examples of this would be the ESV Study Bible and the Reformation Study Bible. They are not the only good ones, but they are the ones I use. Having good notes and commentary to follow along with as you read is incredibly useful for understanding things like the original context and how the passages fit together with the larger story of scripture.

Aside from having a bible with good notes and commentary, I would like to suggest at least three principles for good biblical interpretation that will help you to understand the scriptures at a higher level. First, context is king. If you want to know what a passage is about, you have to understand the context. In real estate, they say the three keys are location, location, location. In scripture, the three keys are context, context, context.

Knowing the context helps us understand how the passage is intended to be taken. It keeps us from applying promises to our own lives that weren't meant for us. It is important to know, for example, who the original audience was. What is the genre of the passage? Are we reading theology or history? If we are reading historical narrative, are we reading what is descriptive (simply describing what happened), or is it prescriptive (does it intend that we follow what is being said)? Are we reading a poem, which is meant to be interpreted differently than an epistle? Are we reading from the wisdom literature, such as Proverbs, which has a specific way it is to be interpreted? For example, Proverbs isn't intended to be read in a way that says, "If you do A, B will always follow." Instead, it is intended to be read in a way that suggests that if you do A, B is the likely outcome, but not necessarily the outcome in every case. Context tells us that there is a difference between what God is promising to the Israelites in the tenth century BC and what God is promising to the Christian Church.

Second, we let scripture interpret scripture. What that means is that we don't want to isolate individual verses or passages from the larger body of scripture. A good principle is to never read a bible verse in isolation. Read the context and get the full picture of what is happening. But then we let scripture be the chief interpretive tool we have. This is why good bibles with commentaries in them are helpful, because they help make the connections between various passages. Perhaps we have a verse that we think says something. But we have five verses that seem to say the opposite. We let scripture interpret scripture, so we read the one verse in light of the five verses to see how they can be harmonized. Scripture doesn't contradict itself, so when we see places where passages seem to be at odds with each other, we know that the issue is not with the scriptures, but with our reading of it.







Continued on page 4



April 2025

at New Life



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour Toni DuBois	31	1 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	2 Soup & Salad Dinner at 6pm Lenten Study at 6:30pm	3  6:30pm Morning Prayer 8:00am	4 Men's Bible Study 9:00am	5 Women's Fellowship Gathering 9am - 11am @ TBD
6 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour Brenda & Ginny	7	8 April Vestry Meeting 6:00pm Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	9 Soup & Salad Dinner at 6pm Lenten Study at 6:30pm	10 Morning Prayer 8:00am	11 Men's Bible Study 9:00am	12
13  Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour Susan & Ron	14	15 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	16	17  MAUNDY Thursday 6:30pm Morning Prayer 8:00am	18  GOOD FRIDAY 6:00pm Men's Bible Study 9:00am	19 Women's Fellowship Gathering 9am - 11am @ TBD
20  Happy Easter! Worship Service 10:00am	21	22 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	23	24 Men's Ministry Group 5:30pm in Blanz Hall Morning Prayer 8:00am	25 Men's Bible Study 9:00am	26
27 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Diekmans	28 Joyous News May Issue Deadline	29 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	30	1  6:30pm Morning Prayer 8:00am	2 Men's Bible Study 9:00am	3 Women's Fellowship Gathering 9am - 11am @ TBD

WALLY'S GALLERY —

Some time ago, possibly more than a year, Michael presented an interesting question in a Joyous News article. In watching The Truth Project series of DVD's recently, Del Tackett proposed the same question. This is the question - "Is an act right because God wills it, or does God will it because he knows it is right?" In other words, is it right just because God said it, or is it right because He knew it was right and He told us about it?



The question is presented in a way that we have to choose between two possibilities, - that it is right because God wills it, or it is right because He knew it was right. It turns out that neither statement is correct because both responses are contrary to the nature of God.

Del Tackett explains that the response - that it is right because He knew it was right - implies that God knew about something external to himself.

The other response offered - that something is right because God wills it - implies that God could will anything. He could even will that a previous command be rescinded and changed.

Scripture, however, does not allow for either. "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19) The God of Scripture does not change. He always acts in accordance with His nature.

According to Del Tackett, and what I was able to search from the internet, the question arose in a dialogue between Plato and an individual named Euthyphro in 399 BC. Their search for an answer was left unresolved. Why? Because the gods of the Greeks were flawed much like humans. They were creatures of myths.

Del Tackett uses this discussion to remind us that in this life we are going to be confronted with many ideas that will conflict with the truth revealed in Scripture. The most effective will be those whose agenda is disguised under a mask of smilingly innocent statements. He gives an example that occurred in the opening of the Cosmos program that aired years ago.

In that program Carl Sagan says the following: "The cosmos is all there is or ever was or ever will be. Our contemplations of the cosmos stir us. There is a tingling in the spin.. a faint sensation as if a distant memory of falling from a great height. We know we are approaching the grandest of mysteries."

To the unsuspecting, what Carl Sagan is really saying is that there is no God. He is preaching his belief in materialism without ever saying so. Had he come out and said, "there is no God," then it is very likely that the Cosmos series would not have achieved the popularity that it did.

Continued on page 4

Mr. Tackett says this manner of expression is called “Assumptive Language” and is dangerously effective in capturing the unsuspecting. Why? Because when an individual buys into the statement, he can be entrapped in the underlying assumption (that there is no God) without realizing it. This is one means by which Satan draws people away from the truth of God’s Word. Mr. Tackett says that we are bombarded with this deceit all the time in a myriad of ways, even if just a cover on a magazine that captures our attention.

So, what are our instruction in such times?

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

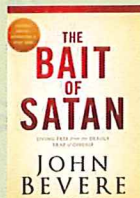
Continued from page 1

Third, we interpret the difficult passages in light of the clear passages. If we have several verses or passages that seem to make something clear, then we have one passage that could possibly be saying the opposite, we should interpret that passage in light of the ones that are clear. To give an example, the bible has several clear statements about male leadership in the Church and that women are not to be pastors. But I know a female pastor who said that because Mary sat at Jesus’ feet while he taught, that meant that she (the female pastor) was called to sit at Jesus’ feet and study and to become a pastor. The argument doesn’t even really make sense, but reading her “call” to the ordained ministry into a text that has nothing to do with ordained ministry at the expense of clear texts that teach that men are to be pastors and leaders in the Church does extreme violence to the text of scripture. We always read what might be unclear in light of that which is clear.

Finally, and this is just a bonus point, how you feel about what the text teaches is irrelevant. If there are five or ten places that seem to teach something, and your response is, “Well, I disagree with that,” or, “I don’t like that teaching,” that doesn’t change what the bible teaches. For example, on the issue of divine election (God’s choosing of some people and not others), there are numerous passages that seem to teach this. The response I have gotten to it from people who disagree with it usually goes like this, “Well then it doesn’t matter what I do. I may as well just go to the golf course and let God sort it out.” That isn’t a biblical argument. That is just stating your feelings against what the scriptures teach. If you disagree with the teaching, show from the scriptures why it is wrong.

To sum up, context is king, we interpret scripture in light of scripture, we interpret unclear passages in light of clear passages, and our feelings on a text or teaching don’t determine the validity of the teaching. If you keep these things in mind, you will be well on your way to interpreting the bible well. This doesn’t mean that we will all draw all the same conclusions on all the same issues. But it does mean that you will have a firm biblical basis for your beliefs, and that is ultimately what we want.

~ Fr. Mike

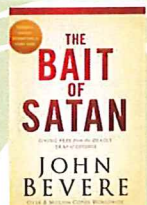


LENTEN SOUP & SALAD DINNER

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH APRIL 9TH AT 6:00PM

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH APRIL 9TH AT 6:30PM ~ LED BY FR. MIKE



LITURGICAL SEASON — *by Karen Dielman*

JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM AS KING - PALM SUNDAY

As they approached Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples into the village for a donkey and told them to exclaim... the Lord needs them. This fulfilled the prophesy "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" When coming in to town, a very large crowd spread their cloaks and palm branches on the ground shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Palm leaves represent righteousness. Thus begins the journey of Holy week.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

We began our journey into Holy Week with Jesus entry in to Jerusalem. As we progress on his walk we hear of the last supper and foot washing with the disciples on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday.....the goodness of our sins paid with the death of our Lord and Savior. Easter...the rising of the Son! As Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. She runs and cries, "they have taken him and we don't know where he is". The disciples go, see, and believe. Scriptures fulfilled. On the third day the temple will be rebuilt. Alleluia! The Lord has risen. He has risen indeed. Alleluia!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service on April 17th at 6:30pm,
Altar of Repose beginning April 17th at 8pm thru April 18th at 7am,
Stations of the Cross & Good Friday Service on April 18th at 6:00pm

FR. MIKE'S OFFICE HOURS Tuesday & Wednesday 1 – 5pm Thursdays & Fridays 9am – 1pm

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



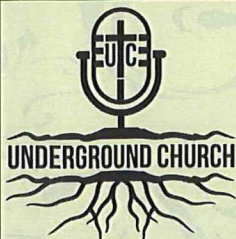
WOMEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP — meets at 9-11am, Saturday, April 5th & 19th, host and location TBD. Join us on the first and third Saturdays of the month. **Sign-up sheet to host in Blanz Hall.** All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend.

MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST — meets each Tuesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at Southwood's Restaurant

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — meets Fridays at 9:00am the annex study.

MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM — Our next meeting is April 24th in Blanz Hall. Led by TBD. Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. I hope you will join us. Bring your own beverage of choice and a friend. Sign up sheet in Blanz Hall.



THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Join us here at New Life, the first and third Thursdays of each month.

April 3th, May 1st & 15th at 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

Come read the Bible and share testimonies of what Jesus has done for you and others with D. W. Lucky III and Fr. Mike Bridge. We working through Matthew and take our time with an open question and answer event.

Adults 18+ are welcome to join us.

April 2025 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	April 6	Palm Sunday April 13	Maundy Thurs, April 17	Good Friday April 18	Easter April 20	April 27
ALTAR GUILD	Liz Ostrander	Liz Ostrander	Liz Ostrander	Liz Ostrander	Liz Ostrander	Liz Ostrander
SOUND/ MUSIC	Ferd, Wes & Dylan	Dylan, Wes & Ferd	Dylan, Wes & Ferd	N/A	Dylan, Wes & Ferd	Dylan, Wes & Ferd
USHER/ COUNTER/ GREETERS	Don L. / Dan W. / Sally Stump	Dan W. / Randy F. / The Flynns	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Randy F. / Don L. / Sally Stump	Don L. / Dan W. / Taylor DuBois
LECTOR	Erika Dielman	Dylan Williams	Volunteer Needed	Bonnie Bridge	Leah Williams	Dan Wandrie
LAY MINISTER	Wally Stansbury	Erika Dielman	Volunteer Needed	Erika Dielman	Howard Bates	Karen Dielman
PRAYER TEAM	Sally & Leah	Sharalen & Betty	N/A	N/A	Sally & Leah	Sharalen & Betty
CHILDREN'S NURSERY	Darlene & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Brenda F.& Ginny P	Susan S. & Ron D.	N/A	N/A	Happy Easter	The Dielmans



Thursday
Morning Prayer
8:30am in
Fr. Mike's Office



ALTAR GUILD

April..... Liz Ostrander
May Karen Dielman
June Gretchen Lucky
July Liz Ostrander

Birthdays

April



Wedding Anniversaries



Wes Ostrander 4/2
Taylor DuBois 4/4
David Honeycutt 4/4
Nate Greenwell 4/18
Sharalen Greenwell 4/22
Chris Woods 4/23
Josh Greenwell 4/24
Wally Stansbury 4/28



May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year!
Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary
so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

Altar Guild:	Karen Dielman	231/347-3532
Altar Flowers:	Karen Dielman	231/347-3532
Music/Sound:	Dylan Williams	206/295-9816
	Wes Ostrander	231/330-4930
Ushers:	Dan Wandrie	231/347-5871
Greeters:	Carol Bowman	231/459-4566
Lectors:	Tracey Jepsen	231/347-3448
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Acolytes:	Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Children's Sunday School:	Darlene Wandrie	231/347-5871
Youth Sunday School:	Taylor DuBois	231/340-1748
Adult Sunday School:	Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Nursery:	Bonnie Bridge	231/445-1810
Fellowship/Hospitality:	Liz Ostrander	231/348-2802
Women's Ministry:	~ Leader Needed ~	
Men's Ministry:	Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
InReach:	Gretchen Lucky	231/622-2057
OutReach:	Lacy Bates	231/373-7997
Christian Ed. Scholarship:	Susan Stout	231/330-4821
	Toni DuBois	231/330-8626
Missions:	D. W. Lucky	231/330-6559
Building and Grounds:	Dan Wandrie	231/347-5871
	Ron Davis	231/330-6355
Art and Architecture:	Susan Stout	231/330-4821
Church Historian:	Liz Ostrander	231/348-2802
Communications:	Bonnie Bridge	231/445-1810
	(newspaper articles, etc.)	
Student Visitor's Liaison:	Lacy Bates	231/373-7997
Treasurer:	Wes Ostrander	231/330-4930
Assistant Treasurer:	Susan Davis	231/330-4821
Assistant Treasurer:	Sally Stump	231/881-2818
Assistant Treasurer:	Dan Wandrie	231/347-5871
Stewardship:	Dan Wandrie	231/347-5871

New Life Anglican Church 2025 Vestry

Sr. Warden, Erika Dielman
Jr. Warden, Dylan Williams
..... Carol Bowman
..... Taylor DuBois
..... Randy Flynn
..... April Honeycutt
..... Liz Ostrander

Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting
an article or item of interest
for the next issue of the
Joyous News.

Submission deadline

is April 28th.



SAVE YOUR

OLESON'S RECEIPTS

We appreciate grocery receipts
from Oleson's Food Stores. You
may leave your receipts in the
coffee hour donation basket, in the
Outreach shopping cart or on
Tracey's desk.



IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR
AN ARTICLE OR EVENT
YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE IN A
FUTURE JOYOUS NEWS PLEASE
CONTACT TRACEY AT
OFFICE@NEWLIFEANGLICAN.NET
OR 231.347.3448



Treasurer's Report ~ February 28, 2025

	February			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offering	10,066.33	13,508.00	(3,441.67)	22,340.00	27,016.00	(4,676.00)
Other	29.00	2,987.00	(2,958.00)	237.40	5,474.00	(5,236.60)
Income	10,095.33	16,245.00	(6,149.67)	22,577.40	32,490.00	(9,912.60)
Expense	(16,301.42)	(17,448.00)	1,146.58	(30,482.04)	(34,886.00)	4,403.96
Difference	(6,206.09)	(1,203.00)	(7,296.25)	(7,904.64)	(2,396.00)	(5,508.64)
Assets				\$567,499.62		
	Feb. 1, 2024	Dec. 31, 2024	Donations	Expenses	Difference	Feb. 28, 2025
211 Fund		113,054.94	-	-	-	113,054.94
211 Fund In/Out Reach		20,291.94	-	-	-	20,291.94
Kathi Kan Scholarship Fund		15,299.47	-	-	-	15,299.47
	Operating	211 Fund	211 In/Out	Deposit	Total Interest	
Interest Bearing Accts.	-50,000.00	-110,000.00	-15,000.00	175,000.00	11,755.92	
St. Francis CD		Deposit		175,000.00	186,755.92	

To Help Keep You Informed

You may contact Tracey Jepsen our
Administrative Assistant at 231.347.3448
for copies of Vestry Approved: Financial
Statements and Vestry Meeting Minutes.

New Life Anglican Church

P.O. Box 481

PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN 49770

office@newlifeanglican.net

newlifeanglicanchurch.org

*We were therefore
buried with Him
through baptism into
death in order that,
just as Christ was
raised from the dead
through the glory of
the Father, we too
may live a new life.*

Romans 6:4



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

JOYOUS NEWS

April 2025

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*The glory of light
from the mountain
opens this new born day,
a herald of Christ,
who is risen,
to be our strength
and our way.
The Lord is risen.*



*The glory of life unfolding
for us
in this covenant new
assuring love and forgiveness
which our hearts
did stubbornly rue.
The Lord is risen, indeed.
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!*

*In the sweetest sounds
of thanksgiving,
from the ends of the earth
great praise
that our Lord, Jesus Christ
has risen
from the fast, dark depths
of the grave.
The Lord is risen, indeed.
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!*

BES