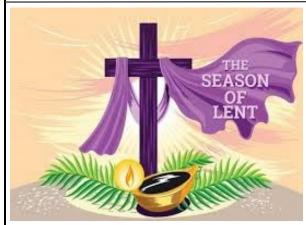
# St. Paul's Epistle

"St. Paul's Lutheran Church glorifies God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, and telling!"

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church1700 Carridale Street SW Decatur AL 35601

256.353.8759 www.StPaulsDec.com



Friends in Christ.

In the month of March, we begin our journey through the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. And there is no question where we are heading as we begin this Lenten season—the cross of Jesus Christ on Calvary. That event so carefully detailed in all four Gospels is the centerpiece of the New Testament. It is the event that secures Good News for the world, that whosoever believes it shall not perish but have eternal life in heaven (John 3:16).

There is also no question that the season of Lent is a time to reflect on and repent of our sins. Sin first infected the world in Genesis chapter 3 and is shown to us in stark reality in the thundering of Mount Sinai and the Commandments that we fail to keep. But it's wrong to think that people had to wait all those Old Testament centuries to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His cross. For from the very beginning, right after the first sin, God was promising the Savior.

Genesis means "beginnings," and the first book of the Bible tells not only of the beginning, the creation, of the world, but also of the first words of Good News. So that is what we will explore specifically during our Lenten midweek services—the Gospel as it is so richly proclaimed in the book of Genesis. And below is our schedule for Lenten midweek worship focusing on Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis.

Ash Wednesday, March 5th - The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin (Genesis 3:1-13, 21) Wednesday, March 12th – The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil (Genesis 3:14–15) Wednesday, March 19th - The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning (Genesis 6) Wednesday, March 26th - The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place (Gen. 22:1-18) Wednesday, April 2nd – The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth (Gen. 28:10–22)

From the darkness of Calvary, God brings the light of our salvation. From Christ's death, our Lord brings us life. And because that is what our gracious God is like, we know that neither our sins nor the injustices of this world, neither life nor death nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Wednesday, April 9th – The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil (Genesis 50:15–2)

Yes, there is definitely good news in the book of Genesis. From the very beginning, all the way back to the first sin, God has been dealing with that sin, always through the greatest event of all history that we will hear again during Holy Week and at Easter: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That Good News, the Gospel, is really the message of every page of Holy Scripture.

From the beginning, God has been working for our good. Our Lord continues to work all things for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). And with Him there is always more good to come (1 Corinthians 2:9). So may our saving God's name be praised forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ Jesus our Savior,

Pastor Aaron Kretzschmar

**Sunday Morning and Wednesday Lenten Worship** Now livestreamed on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulslutherandecatural

### March 2025

8:15am Traditional Worship In-Church & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School all ages 10:00am WZDK 98.5 FM Radio 10:45am CrossLife in the ARC

> **Holy Communion** March 2, 5 and 16

Staffed Nursery 8am until noon

### **Sunday Bible Studies**

**Adult Bible Study** Sundays 9:30am Pastor's Bible Study 9:45am

### **Weekday Bible Studies**

Wednesday 10:30am Wednesdays 6:00pm

### **Looking Ahead**

**Summer & Fall Registration NOW OPEN for Preschool & KTT** 

> Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday Services at noon and 7pm Lent services, Wednesdays March 12 - April 9 at noon

March 9 Daylights Savings begins

> March 10-14 **Decatur Spring Break**

> April 6 at 5:30pm Christ in the Passover **Seder Potluck**

Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Theme Verse: Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."





St. Paul's Family,

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 5:1

The season of Lent is beginning which means we're close to the wonderful celebration of Easter! Lent is 40 days of praying, fasting, and preparing our hearts for Easter. Lent is a time for us to reflect on our need for a savior and ending with the remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection three days later on Easter Sunday!

Looking forward to the end of the month we will begin collecting candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt (be sure to look for the collection bins in the lobby and narthex).

Looking ahead to the Summer, our 2025 VBS will be June 23-27th from 9-12pm! We hope your children can join us as we learn to trust Jesus in a wild world at True North VBS! And we need many volunteers to make this event a success so please talk to me about how you can volunteer!

God's Blessings, Skylar Smith, DCE



SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS

JUNE 23-27, 2025

# FAITHLINKS

FaithLink Activities happening every Wednesday:
Dinner - 5:30pm - Fellowship Room
Children's Activities - 6:15pm - ARC/Gym
Nursery - 6:15pm - Rm 101
Bible Study - 6:15pm - Rm 317

### ENDURING FAITH

### **March Sunday School Lessons**

3/2 - The Egypt Exit: Exodus

3/9 - All together in the gym

3/16 - A Loving Law: Ten Commandments

3/23 - The Land at Last: Joshua

3/30 - A Judge Leads: Gideon

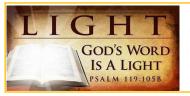
# Bible Reading Challenge

### March - Resurrection and Renewal

Join our 2025 Bible Reading Challenge! These daily readings look at verses that focus on a different theme every month. These verses may only take a few seconds to read, but we encourage you to read them multiple times throughout the day and spend time in prayer with God over the verses. We also encourage you, if you have the time, to READ MORE! These verses are a starting point!

Day 1: Ephesians 2:8 Day 17: 1 Peter 2:24 Day 2: Romans 5:1 Day 18: Luke 10:19 Day 3: 1 Corinthians 6:11 Day 19: Romans 8:37 Day 4: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Day 20: Revelation 12:11 Day 5: 2 Peter 1:4 Day 21: 1 John 4:4 Day 6: Galatians 3:20 Day 22: 2 Corinthians 5:7 Day 7: Colossians 1:13 Day 23: 2 Corinthians 10:5 Day 8: Romans 8:14 Day 24: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 Day 9: Philippians 4:19 Day 25: Romans 12:1-2 Day 10: 1 Peter 5:10 Day 26: Psalms 91:11 Day 11: Philippians 4:13 Day 27: 1 Corinthians 3:9 Day 28: 2 Corinthians 5:21 Day 12: Romans 8:17 Day 13: Ephesians 6:10 Day 29: Ephesians 5:1 Day 14: Galatians 3:13-14 Day 30: Matthew 5:14 Day 15: 1 John 5:11-12 Day 31: 2 Corinthians 9:8 Day 16: Ephesians 1:3

You can pick up a monthly bookmark at church, like our Church Facebook page to get the daily reading (and be sure to Like and Share the reading for the day so that your friends can see them too!), or to receive daily text reminders talk to Skylar to get signed up!



Here are several studies along with our 2024 Bible Reading Challenge on page 2 to help us be in His Word and in His light!

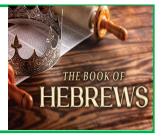
### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday mornings we are reading 1 Samuel! We hope you can join us at 10:30am in Room 318! Talk to Skylar if you have any questions!



# Adult Bible Study Sunday Morning 9:30am and Wednesday at 6pm in Room 317

Join us for an interesting and lively discussion.



Men's Bible Study Saturday March 3 and 22 at 7:30am

Daniel Bible Study Saturday, 11:00am March 15



## Adult Bible Study 1st & 2nd Thessalonians: Keep Calm & Carry On

Have you ever wondered if your faith has wandered off track in the midst of life's challenges? The church in

Thessalonica did, so Paul sent them letters to strengthen them. Join us for a Bible study that will encourage you to remain diligent as you look forward to Jesus' return. Come on a journey through Paul's letters to the Thessalonians that encourages you to keep calm, remain faithful, and work hard until Jesus returns. Understand what the apostle's words meant to his original readers, and how they apply to us today. Be encouraged in areas you need to grow in your faith, and recognize that many times it takes tribulation to get to jubilation. Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Fellowship Room.

### St. Paul's ladies!! Save the date!!



### LWML WOMEN'S PRAYER BRUNCH

Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend. There is No charge and childcare is Available. An invitation will be Arriving soon in your mailbox.





### Adult Confirmation Class Wednesdays at 6:15pm

In-person and by Zoom
Talk to Pastor for more
information

### Ash Wednesday, March 5th 12noon and 7pm



The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin (Genesis 3:1–13, 21)

GOD'S QUILT OF COMFORT:

# WRAPPING UP IN THE PSALMS

CONTINUED

BY: DIANE J. GREBING/ LWML

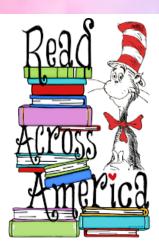
#### A WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

ROOM 317

MARCH 6TH 2025 MARCH 20, 2025

6:30 P.M. SOCIAL 7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY







Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, a book from the Hornish Family Library donated to St. Paul's Library to the glory of God and in honor of Beth Hornish.

St. Patrick's Day (March 17) is known for the color green, corned beef and cabbage, and excesses—like drinking too much beer. It is celebrated this way mainly in America. In Ireland, it is a day to remember a missionary to Ireland—Patrick. A noble man, he did noble work, bearing witness to the Gospel of forgiveness in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

"Irish Blessings" is a collection of blessings, legends, poems, and myths. Reading this book will be inspirational, but it will be a lot like panning for gold—you sift through an awful lot of stuff to get some nuggets.

So dismissing the "luck of the Irish" and "praying to the saints," you'll be enriched by such things as, "May this home and all therein be blessed by God's love" (p.10), and "Christ be with me, within me, behind me, before me, beside me, beneath me, above me, in danger" (p. 24 edited). Look for it on the desk by "New Arrivals."



### LWML ladies of St Paul's In the kitchen preparing soup







The ladies made a delicious chicken vegetable soup for their latest fundraiser











St Paul's Quilters meet in Room 317 each Wednesday at 10am. Join us!

For more information contact Pete Alvis at 256.616.1774.



Come and Knit or crochet with us!
Work on your own project or special church
projects. We have patterns and yarn galore!
Meet us in the Parlor
every Thursday at 11am.

For more information contact MaryKay Hodges.



Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis

Wednesdays at 12 noon

#### Wednesday, March 12th

The Good News of a Savior Who ConquersEvil (Genesis 3:14–15)

### Wednesday, March 19th

The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning (Genesis 6)

#### Wednesday, March 26th

The Good News of a Savior Who Gives
 Himself in Our Place (Gen. 22:1–18)

#### Wednesday, April 2nd

The Good News of a Savior Who Unites
 Heaven and Earth (Genesis 28:10–22)

### Wednesday, April 9th

 The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil (Genesis 50:15–2)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fr i	Sat
23 8:15am Traditional Worship & YouTube 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM 10:45am CrossLife Worship 10:45am Preschool Sunday 12:00pm VBS Volunteer Mtg	, ,	25 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	26 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	27 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch	28	1 8:30am Set up for CrossLife service 9:00am Playground cleanup/ mulching
2 8:15am Traditional Worship† & YouTube 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM Worship 10:45am CrossLife Worship†	3 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 10:00am LWML Meeting (mingle 9:30-10:00) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	4 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	5 Ash Wednesday 12 noon and 7pm Worship 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	6 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch 6:30pm Women's Bible study	7	8 7:30am Men's Bible study 8:30am Set up for CrossLife 9:00am Playground cleanup/ mulching
9 Daylight savings begins First Sunday of Lent 8:15am Traditional Worship & YouTube 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM 10:45am CrossLife Worship	10 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F)	11 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Education Bd 7:00pm Vestry	12 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Worship + YouTube 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	13 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch	14	15 8:30am Set up for CrossLife
16 8:15am Traditional Worship† & Facebook Live† 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM 10:45am CrossLife Worship†		18 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:00pm Fellowship Board	19 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Worship + YouTube 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	20 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch 6:30pm Women's Bible study	21	22 7:30am Men's Bible study 8:30am Set up for CrossLife
23 8:00am Nursery open 8:15am Traditional Worship & Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM 10:45am CrossLife Worship	, ,	25 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Elders meeting	26 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Worship + YouTube 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	27 8:30 9:30&11am Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch	28	29 8:30am Set up for CrossLife
30 8:00am Nursery open 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Radio 98.5FM 10:45am CrossLife Worship	31 7:00am PS Ext Care (M-F) 8:45am Preschool (M-Th) 2:30pm KTT Afterschool (M-F)	1 8:30am 9:30&11am Exercise 9:30am Staff meeting	2 10:00am Quilters 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Worship + YouTube 4:00pm KTT Chapel 5:30pm FaithLinks Dinner 6:00pm Bible study Handbells 6:15pm Adult Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Praise Band	3 8:30am 9:30&11am Exercise 10:30am PS Chapel 11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00pm staff lunch	4	5 8:30am Set up for CrossLife service



Mar 1 Roy Weiland

Mar 2 Carl Pour

Mar 4 Carolyn Harville Mar 6 John Fortune

Mar 6 Skylar Smith

Mar 7 Jimmy Reed

Mar 8 Sue Bowman Mar 12 Maggie Herda

Mar 12 April Nave

Mar 15 Patrick Helpingstine

Mar 16 Adriana McLemore

Mar 18 Crystal Nelson

Mar 22 Kody Asher

Mar 22 April Borden

Mar 23 Chad Kruger

Mar 26 Genene Strom

Mar 26 David Waple

Mar 27 Bonnie Bullen

Mar 28 Meighan Maples

Mar 29 Hunter Livingston

Mar 30 Ronnie Atkins

Mar 31 Leslie Parker

Mar 31 Jordan Herrarte

Mar 31 Ashlee Bauer

Mar 31 Laura Vest

God's Blessings

on your Special Day!



Mar 10 Rick & Carol Morgan

Mar 15 Phillip & Tammy Corlew

Mar 16 Dale & Melinda Carlson

Mar 17 Mike & Sue Bosco

Mar 21 Michael & Stephanie Holway

Mar 26 Mike & Tootie Johnson

Mar 27 David & Jane Burrell

Mar 30 Randy & Carolyn Harville





Randy Burtram February 5

James Thrasher February 10







# How to reuse plastic bags and make sleep mats for the homeless.

Donate your plastic bags from grocery stores, Target, Walmart etc. We are going to turn them into "plarn" (plastic yarn) and crochet/weave them into sleeping mats for the people that are homeless. It takes about 700 bags to make a single mat. So bring in your bags and put in the waiting containers in the lobby and Narthex. If anyone wants more information about this project contact Sue Bosco at her home # 256-350-5876.



### **Outreach Project**

Thank you to everyone who contributes and prays for the visitors to our Blessing Box!

Please help to keep the Blessing Box stocked by placing non-perishable items in the Blessing Box or in the collection box under the Portico at the Sanctuary entrance.

We are blessing our neighbors - one can at a time!



Handbell Choir rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the choir loft.



The Flower Calendar is up in the breezeway. Sign up early for your special day!

# Wednesday Night Dinners 5:30pm



# Bunco night

Bunco game night in February...We had so much fun! Look forward to another game night in the near future! Hope you can join us!









Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the choir loft.
New members welcome!
For more info contact
Mary Morgan



and Flex Classes Pilates Fusion Classes

Stretch

All classes are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Stretch and Flex classes are at 8:30 in the gym and 11:00 in the YAC. This class combines many areas of fitness and is adaptable to many fitness levels. We work around a chair and finish sitting using small weights and resistance bands.

**Pilates Fusion** meets in the gym at 9:30. This class combines cardio, resistance training and Pilates.

For more information please call Chonita at 256-303-0098.





Serving the Lord in Worship this Month at St. Paul's										
		March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30				
Elders	8:15am	Mike Johnson	John Campbell	Mitchell Whiteside	John Campbell	Bill Darwin				
Ushers	8:15am	Graham Peebles Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett Mike Ater	Jim Disher Ken Hamilton Micky Whiteside Mike Widmar	Bob Seibert Rick Daniel Tim Nave Oliver Nave	Owen Blaske Jack Blaske Mike Johnson Jeff Pittman	Graham Peebles Michael Kimmett Mathew Kimmett Mike Ater				
Acolytes	8:15am	Ben	Oliver	Ben	Oliver	Ben				
A/V Techs	8:15am	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant	Rich Maschke	Bob Sullivant					
Readers	8:15am	Jeff Pittman	Gary Nagy	Pam Meadows	Mitchell Whitesdide	Pam?				
Sanctuary Flowers Open		Open	Tootie Johnson	Sue/ Mike Bosco	Linda Hyde	Open				
Altar Guild for March: Melinda Carlson and Leesa Pittman Counters for March: Dave/Jane Burrell and Don Olson										
Elders	10:45am	Gary Nagy	Tim erfurth	Gary Nagy	Gary Nagy	Tim Herfurth				
Host families CL setup 8:30	10:45am am Saturday	Herfurth family Rich Maschke	McRae family Men's Bible study	Morgan family Rich Maschke	Atkins family Men's Bible study	Ballentine family Rich Maschke				
A/V Techs	10:45am	Rick & Carol Morgan	James Gilchrist	Mike Ringers	Tim Herfurth	Tim Herfurth				



### St. Paul's Legacy **Endowment Fund**

provides the opportunity to commitments and plans that may not be possible through our annual budget.

Examples of programs and projects to be supported include:

- · SPLC Preschool;
- Community outreach and social ministries;
- Music and youth programs;
- Global ministries

Thrivent Charitable staff is available to work with you and your attorney, financial advisor and accountant to facilitate a charitable gift that benefits our endowment fund, fits your financial situation and provides you with maximum tax benefits. Phone: 800-365-4172

Email:thriventcharitable@thrivent.com. or online: thriventcharitable.com

Why Give?

All gifts, whatever the size, help grow the mission.



2025 Year-to-Date Average Attendance

In-church attendees 109 Livestream sign-ins 14



Current Loan Balance: \$201,551 Endowment Fund Balance: 15,390

Financial Plan Activity thru January 31, 2025

YTD FirstFruits Giving: \$ 28,921 PLAN: \$40,000

YTD Total Expenses: - \$ 44,898 *PLAN: \$45,382* Plan Activity thru Jan -\$ 15,977 more expenses

than income

### Ash Wednesday, March 5 Serving in Worship

12noon A/V: **Bob Sullivant** Elder: **Gary Nagy** 

7pm A/V: Rich Maschke Elder: John Campbell





### Serving at the Lenten Midweek Services (12 noon)

March 12

AV: Bob Sullivant Elder: Bill Darwin

March 19

AV: Bob Sullivant Elder: Gary Nagy

March 26

AV: Bob Sullivant Elder: Bill Darwin

April 2

AV: Bob Sullivant Elder: Bill Darwin



2025 Registration for the Summer and 2025-2026 school year has begun. Please contact Bethany Eze, Preschool Director, at 256.353.1353 if you are interested in having your child or grandchild enroll for Preschool.









PreSchoOl

News

















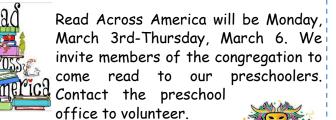
March is sponsored by the number 8, the color yellow, and diamond. This month the children will learn about spring, planting, gardens, farmers, barnyard friends and new life. We will learn about letters Ww, Vv and Kk. Our Bible stories and study will be Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus Eats with Zacchaeus and Jesus Walks on Water.

St Paul's Lutheran Preschool















On Tuesday, March 4 we will have a Mardi Gras parade at Noon.









Wednesday, March 5 is Ash Wednesday. The Pre-k4 class will participate in the Imposition of Ashes at the noon service.





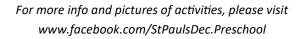


Monday March 10 Friday, March 14 is Spring Break. We will have Extended Care only. No Preschool





Spring pictures will be taken on Tuesday, March 25.













# Summer Camp Kidz, Tweenz, & Teenz, Inc.

Fun, Educational, & Creative Outdoor and Indoor Activities For Kidz K-8th Grade!

Cooking. Invisic. Dreinel. Stillain. Girl's Circle, Field Trips, AND MOREY

June 2nd - July 25th Monday-Friday





St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale St. SW

\$30 registration fee

For more information call (256) 426-7734

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1700 Carridale St SW Decatur AL 35601

www.StPaulsDec.com www.Facebook.com/StPaulsDec





currently not signed up.
ChurchOffice@StPaulsDec.com



March 5—Services at 12noon & 7pm

Calling All
Thrivent Members!!!

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



You can see the number of Choice Dollars you have to direct by logging in to Thrivent.com and scroll to the bottom of your Account Overview page to see your available Choice Dollars, or call 800-847-4836.

The deadline to direct 2023 Choice Dollars is March 31.