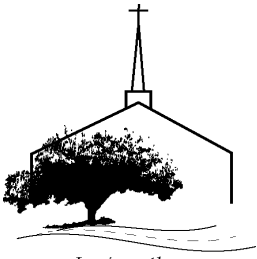


St. Paul Lutheran Church



*Loving others
into the Love of Christ*

Sunday Worship
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class
9:15 a.m.

**Our Church Infant/Toddler
Nursery is available during
the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
hour, and during our
10:30 a.m. Worship.**

Church office
254.799.3211

On the Web
www.splcwaco.com

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
pastorhesse@splcwaco.com

Youth & Family Ministry
Josh McNamara
FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com

Organist/Music Dir.
Steve Randolph

Administrative Asst.
Cindy Byrd
wecare@splcwaco.com

Use your smartphone camera
to download our church app:



Follow us on Social Media:



Very truly, I tell you,
no one can see the kingdom of GOD
without being **born** from above.

John 3:3, NRSV



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

Second Sunday in Lent † March 1, 2026

“Be thoughtful - be silent - be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God bless you as we gather before the throne of heaven. Please take a moment to complete a **“Registration Card”** (located in the hymnal rack). We utilize these cards to have a proper soul-accounting for worship, to keep our member records up-to-date, to collect prayer requests and/or updates, and as a means of communication of other needs through the office and pastoral staff. Please place your completed card in the card collection slot at the end of each pew (center aisle side), hand to an usher or place in the offering plate.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED TODAY!

God’s word says that in this Sacrament we receive Christ’s real Body and real Blood in, with, and under the Bread and Wine. Our Lord Jesus makes these 4 elements present so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Jesus expresses His love to us in such a real presence, He asks us to prepare ourselves and examine ourselves in the following manner before receiving His sacrament.

In Preparation To Receive the Sacrament:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without any hope of eternal life except for God’s mercy to me found only through Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and also a true human being who is my personal Savior from all sin?
3. Do I believe that His true Body and Blood are really present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with the bread and the wine?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life?

As you come to Holy Communion you are affirming a steadfast belief in the statements above. In this belief and by receiving the Sacrament you are affirming that Jesus Christ is your Savior and that you are in unity with those who commune with you. Following the above guidelines allows you to take Holy Communion in a worthy manner. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm and bring God’s wrath and judgment on themselves (I Corinthians 11:27-30), we ask that any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different from the congregations of **Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** are requested to refrain from receiving the Sacrament. Each person may come forward for a blessing with hands folded as an indication to the pastor that they wish to receive a blessing. An alcohol-removed wine (distinguished by its lighter color) is offered in the center of each communion tray as an option. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request during distribution at the altar. The Common Cup will also be offered with each table. If you do not take an individual cup, the pastor will serve the Chalice. If you have any questions regarding the reception of Holy Communion please speak to a pastor or one of the elders of our congregation before the service.

FLOWERS were placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Don & Natalie Newman in celebration of their 3rd wedding anniversary and in thankfulness for their church family.

AS WE GATHER

"Born again" has become a catch phrase in our age. It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. Baptismal water is the womb through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and is eternal. As we make our way through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther's explanation: we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

(Please silence your cell phones and mobile devices during our worship time.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN, 915: "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

- 3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: The LORD will preserve your going out and your coming in,

People: from this time forth and forevermore.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 12:1–9

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1–17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Reading continues on page 5

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY, 571: "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Public domain

SERMON THEME: "Born Again" – John 3:3-4

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before the throne of God’s grace in the name of Jesus and bid Him on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.
For grace that with Abraham our father, we trust in the Lord for all things and this faith be counted unto us as righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to trust in our Baptism from above and for the Spirit to enable us to show forth the fruits of this new life in words and works all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to enjoy a good government and good leaders who do what is good and right and honorable in the sight of the Lord and for the pursuit of peace among the people in our land and across the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to proclaim with courage the Good News of our Lord’s death and resurrection and for the Spirit to open the hearts of those who hear that they might believe in Him whom the Father has sent, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace upon every pastor and church worker that they faithfully fulfill their vocations and for the Lord to raise up many who will follow them into the Lord’s service, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to provide for the widow and the fatherless, the single and the married, the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying, especially..., that in their need they know the comfort of God’s presence and have confidence in His mercy to supply all that they need for this life and for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to receive with ready hearts and in repentance all the blessings of this Holy Communion and that the body and blood of our Lord be kept in holy hearts and lives until we receive the heavenly food on high, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to enjoy the good fruits of the earth with thankful hearts, for grace to be generous with those in need, and for grace to love our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Remembering faithful Abraham who was counted righteous by faith and giving thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, we pray You to bring us at last with them into the place of eternal light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY, 805: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

- 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Text: Public domain

PREFACE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

- Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You as we boldly pray together, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

- People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Hymn, 550: "Lamb of God"

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain
- Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
- 2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

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Hymn, 722: "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005286

Hymn, 431: "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.
- 3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.
- 5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN, 918: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

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POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1-8, 2026

EASTER LILIES: Members of the Altar Guild will be in the church foyer on **Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 22**, to take your orders for Easter Lilies to be used to decorate the altar area on Easter Sunday, April 5. You will be able to dedicate your lily in honor or memory of a loved one and have that information printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. **Cost will be \$10.00 per plant.** You may pick up your Easter Lily following Easter Sunday worship. *Any lilies left will be disposed of on Tuesday, April 7.*

RESURRECTION EGGVENTURE, MARCH 28: Join us as we gather for a free community outreach event that helps to tell the Passion account of Jesus through the lens of Resurrection Eggs. While you're here you won't want to miss out on our: Easter Bunny photo-op, Bounce House, Tasty Treats, and Easter Egg Hunt. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Josh McNamara or Angel Breton. **A sign-up sheet will be available soon in the foyer for people to sign-up to help volunteer at different stations for this upcoming event.**

(In the event of inclement weather, we are planning on using Saturday, April 4th, as an alternative event date from 9am-11am).

COLLEGE STUDENT DINNERS: Our weekly student ministry is going strong and GROWING! The college group meets every Monday evening for dinner, Bible study, and fellowship! **We are still looking for any groups or families that might wish to provide a meal for the semester. DATES STILL OPEN: March 2, March 23, March 30, April 13, April 27, and May 4.** Even if you are unable to provide a home-cooked meal, monetary donations are also appreciated! **This is also an excellent opportunity to apply for a Thrivent Action Team!** If you have any questions or need help with applying for a Thrivent Action Team, please contact Pastor Hesse in the church office.

UPCOMING YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS:

- ☀️ **"Proverbs & Putt-Putt" (Sunday, March 15th, 2-4pm):** The St. Paul Youth Group (grades 6th-12th) is heading to Putters on Sunday, March 15th to enjoy some quality fellowship time and to learn how God's Word and Putt-Putt can help us grow in our Christian faith. We will head off-site for an optional, family-funded lunch at Raising Cane's located at: 801 J H Kultgen Expy Waco, TX 76706 (near Baylor). After the optional meal, we will meet at Putters shortly before 2pm to get signed in so we can start playing at 2pm. We will wrap-up at 4pm. Students need to register with Josh for this upcoming event so that we have an accurate number of how many putt-putt players to plan our event for.
- ☀️ **High School Youth Night (Sunday, March 22nd, 6-8pm):** All high school Youth students and their friends are invited to join us as we gather around God's Word, as we worship together, enjoy a great meal and as we spend time in fellowship with one another. During our time together we will be looking at what it truly means to care for others in our lives and how Jesus models this for us throughout the New Testament.

Please contact Director of Youth & Family Ministries, Josh McNamara, if you have any questions about events.

FREE FAMILY DAY, CAMP LONESTAR LAGRANGE, MARCH 28: We're excited to invite you to join us at Family Day—designed for families (all ages are welcome!) to experience Camp together! This day will be full of adventure, connection, and Christ-centered fun as you make memories and enjoy everything our La Grange campus has to offer. All ages are welcome! Together as a family, you'll have the chance to enjoy Camp favorites like the slip 'n slide, arts & crafts, the rock wall, Target Town, and more! Whether you're new to Camp or have been coming for years, we are excited to help your kids and your family feel confident, connected, and excited about coming to Camp this summer. **Registration Deadline: March 14.** [Register here: www.camplonestar.org/family-day](http://www.camplonestar.org/family-day)

PORTALS OF PRAYER: We have found an outlet for our used/outdated Portals of Prayer again! Once you finish with your quarterly prayer book, you may bring them to the church office or leave them in the Church Office mailbox and they will be donated to Tri-Cities Ministries to be shared at their community outreach events. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy in the church office (254.799.3211)

THANK YOU:

- ☛ Billy & Tracie Holobaugh extend their heartfelt thanks to the St. Paul family for all of the calls, cards, texts, prayers, and words of comfort following the recent passing of his sister, Tracie Eisenman. The love and support of this church family is a true blessing from God.



Sunday, March 28, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we gather for a free community outreach event that helps to tell the Passion account of Jesus through the lens of Resurrection Eggs.

While you're here you won't want to miss out on our:

-  **Easter Bunny photo-op**
-  **Bounce House**
-  **Tasty Treats**
-  **Easter Egg hunt**

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Josh McNamara or Angel Breton.

A sign-up sheet will be in the foyer for people to sign-up to help volunteer at different stations for this upcoming event.

(In the event of inclement weather, we are planning on using Saturday, April 4th, as an alternative event date from 9am-11am).



Please join us for Midweek Lenten Worship and preparation for Easter.

March 4, 2026: Lent Midweek 2

Theme: God Sends a Deliverer (Exodus 4:1-20)

Worship at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

Worship at 6:30 pm in the AFLC with meal sponsored by the Fellowship Committee (Nacho Bar)



March 11, 2026: Lent Midweek 3

Theme: God Passes Over Us (Exodus 12:1-14)

Worship at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion with monthly Fellowship Meal to follow in the AFLC

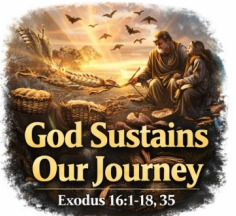
Worship at 6:30 pm in the AFLC with meal, **meal sponsor needed.**

March 18, 2026: Lent Midweek 4

Theme: God Makes A Way For Us (Exodus 14:5-31)

Worship at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the AFLC with meal sponsored by the St. Paul Men's Club (pulled pork sandwiches).



March 25, 2026: Lent Midweek 5

Theme: God Sustains Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

Worship at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the AFLC with meal sponsored by the High School Youth Group (meal to be determined).

April 2, 2026: Maundy Thursday

Theme: New Passover (Luke 22:7-20)

Worship Services are at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion at both services. This service will also include the stripping of the altar ceremony at the end of the service.



April 3, 2026: Good Friday

Theme: New Passover (Luke 22:7-20)

Worship Services are at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will also include a service of darkness.

April 5, 2026: Easter Sunday

Theme: New Tombs (Matthew 27:57-66)

Worship Services will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Easter Pancake Breakfast served by the St. Paul Men's Club at 9:00 a.m.



Classes for All Ages

Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Classes at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study (Albers Family Life Center)

This class is continuing their study of the Book of Nehemiah, learning what change looks like and how to adapt in a world that seems stacked against faith.

ASK PASTOR HESSE: Outside Pastor Hesse's office you will find a box to place any questions that you would like Pastor Hesse to answer during the Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings.

Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

This class is finishing up a study by author Max Lucado: *Ten Men of the Bible*. The men depicted in the Bible were not perfect by any means. We find story after story marked by scandal, failure, and intrigue. Yet we also find many stories of men who were able to look beyond their circumstances, completely trust in the Lord, and follow Him wherever He chose to take them. Like us, these men made both good and bad decisions along the way—and experienced both good and bad consequences—and we find our struggles and hopes in the pages of the Bible that tells their stories.

Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)

This class is going through the study, *Strong and Courageous*, by Donna Snow. Life is full of conflict, daunting tasks, and roadblocks. Few people experience this as viscerally as Joshua did as he was called to lead God's people Israel into the Promised Land. Join us for this verse-by-verse Bible study looking at the life of Joshua and see how you, too, can be strong and courageous amidst any challenges you face.

Grades Nursery - Kindergarten: Simply Loved (classrooms)

This class teaches children to love Jesus and each other, created with the truth found in 1 John 4:7 in mind which says, 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

Grades 1-4: Bible Basics (classroom)

This class is learning how to use the Holy Bible and where to find their favorite Bible stories and characters.

Grade 5: Catechesis Training (classroom)

This class undergoes instruction in the Catechism and how to apply it to their daily lives.

Grades 6-8: Select Devotions (classroom)

This class is learning from a devotion study in preparation for new curriculum.

High School and College Students (Youth Room)

High school students meet in the Youth Room every Sunday for Bible Class! This will be a great time of study, building relationships, fellowship and fun! *Breakfast is usually served.*

College Students (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

After joining breakfast in the Youth Room, college students move to their classroom to study the Sunday Scripture readings used in worship.

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship (LDLT - Lutherans Doing Life Together)

The LDLT group meets in room 207 of Rogers Hall on BU campus on Monday evenings beginning with a meal and fellowship at 5:00 p.m. and Bible study beginning at 5:30 p.m. Upcoming events include Game Night on March 21, in the Youth Room. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Shelton or Pastor Hesse.

Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training and Music (grades 6-8)

On Wednesday evenings, grades 6-8 meet in the Youth Room at 6:30 p.m. for Opening Prayer. After this time of Prayer:

Grades 6-7 will meet with Pastor Hesse (Conference Room)

Grade 8 will meet with Josh McNamara (Youth Room)

(Children/Youth Music is held on Wednesday evenings in the Music Room from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to allow time for any student/family wishing to participate.)

There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!

MEETING AND ACTIVITY NOTICES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1-8, 2026

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 1-4

- 8:00 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m.: Bible Study for All Ages (in various locations in the building)
- 10:30 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 5-7

- 10:00 a.m.: Quilting Group (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 p.m.: LCLT College Group (Rogers 207, BU Campus)
- 7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 8-10

- 10:00 a.m.: Tri-Cities Ministries (Parish Hall/Classrooms)
- 12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)
- 7:00 p.m.: AA Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 11-13

11:00 a.m.: Lent Worship

- 12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)
 - 6:30 p.m.: **Lent Worship with evening meal** (meal sponsored by the Fellowship Committee)
- Confirmation Classes (Grades 6-8) will follow the evening worship*

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 14-16

- 7:00 a.m.: Lawn/Building Maintenance
- 12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)
- 7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 17-19

- 7:00 p.m.: AA Meeting (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Scripture Reading for today: Psalms 22-24

Daylight Saving Time begins, set your clocks ahead ONE hour

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 ~ Faith Milestone Sunday

Scripture Reading for today: Leviticus 20-23

- 8:00 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m.: Bible Study for All Ages (in various locations in the building)
- 10:30 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....	94
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class/Children's Sunday School	69/27
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....	132
Live Stream Sunday Worship.....	45

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR LENT WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

11:00 a.m. Worship.....	49
6:30 p.m. Worship.....	105
11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship.....	2