



SAINT PAUL'S

Lutheran Church
200 N CEDAR ST
IMLAY CITY, MI 48444

**First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.**

Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!

Our mission:

Responding to God's grace, we go out to bring hope and share the love of Christ.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of the Peace

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our

of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. For you alone are the holy one. You alone are the Lord. You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, God the Father, Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day (inspired by Matthew 17:1-8)

Let us pray:

**Pour out your Spirit
upon the bread and the cup,
and upon your children gathered here.**

**As we turn towards Jerusalem, may we reject the temptation
to focus only on ourselves, but engage in radical acts of obedience:**

**feeding the hungry around us,
nurturing the children left behind,
comforting the lonely and ignored,
picking up the brokenness
and restoring our world**

with your peace and reconciliation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

~ written by Thom Shuman

Youth Message

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and

they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

**at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
**whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.**

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All: Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised; we will trust your word. Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of
the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall
down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is
written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn:

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

#325

**Apostle’s Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried; He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**catholic here meaning “universal”*

Prayers of Intercession:

A: Lord, in your mercy... C: **Hear our Prayer**

Offering

Offertory prayer

Let us pray:

May the privileged always share with the forgotten, may the powerful learn the grace of humility, and may our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.

By Thom Schuman

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace. Lamb of God.

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns:

O Jesus I have Promised

#810

The Glory of These Forty Days

#320

Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Benediction

As we go, we go knowing that we too will be tempted as Christ was. And we pray:

That when we fight evil publicly or privately, and conquer well, we will be glad, but won't look down on those who fail;

That when we struggle with the battle still far from won, we won't berate ourselves or get anxious about tomorrow;

That when we lose the fight and fall badly, we will turn to Christ who forgives sins, tends wounds, and restores our dignity as God's own children.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, today and always.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sending Hymn: Lead on O King Eternal

#805

Dismissal: A: Go in Peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Communion is served each Sunday. All are welcome to commune.

Please take our Momentum Network Survey!

Everyone 12 years and older is asked to take this survey. The more who take it, the more accurate and helpful the results will be for our church. The QR code to the right. Survey closes Feb 23!



St. Paul's phone number: 810-724-1200

Website: <https://www.stpaulslutheranic.org/>

Lent: Wednesdays, we will have a service at 6 p.m. followed by a soup supper at 6:30. Our theme for Lent is "... But God."

Raise the Roof Fundraiser: Join us at 3rd & Main on Thursday, March 26, 5p-8p. Invite everyone you know to have lunch/dinner as 10% of TOTAL sales will benefit the Roof Fund! An easy way to contribute and fellowship

Got Sneakers: We are collecting gently used tennis shoes with Got Sneakers! Please leave your sneakers in the marked box in the gathering room. Proceeds benefit the Roof Fund.

Study Hall: Middle school or high school (MS/HS) students needing extra time for homework, meet in the conference room from 6-7. Adult helpers are available.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays from 5:30-6:45pm.

Bible Study: 10am Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall

Scholarship: St. Paul's Lutheran Church offers a \$500 scholarship to eligible seniors seeking to continue their education in college or skilled trades. In order to be eligible students must:

1. Attend church at least once per month over the past two years,
2. Be active in youth group over the course of their high school career,
3. Show proof of service within the church and in the community,
4. Be actively serving during worship in some capacity—technology, ushering, praise & worship band, acolyte, assistant minister, or communion assistant.

Students who qualify for the scholarship should contact St. Paul's office manager to obtain the scholarship essay details and complete the requirements for the scholarship by May 1. Please see the Pastor or youth minister with any further questions or concerns.

Thank you.

St. Paul's Scholarship Committee

Donations needed:

Cereal: For Food for Families

Crunchy Peanut butter: Food for Families

Attendance Sunday - Traditional: 54 Contemporary: 45

Food for Families – Monday- 49 meals 23 pantry, Wednesday- 44 meals 13 pantry

Worship Leaders:

Assisting minister: Louise Diamond

Lector: Larry Lewis

Ushers: Don & Linda Looper

Cantor: Larry Lewis

Acolytes: Payton Hintz

Organist: Sheryl Laidlaw

Youth Minister: Kaylee Kaeding

Pastor: Rev. Sharon Smith

Donation QR Code



OUR High School Students are INVITED



Minneapolis, Minnesota ~ JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2027

Please let Kaylee know if you are interested in attending. More info is coming soon!

Deposits to attend will be due October 2026 – Fundraising Available!!

**EMBROIDERED APPAREL
YOUTH FUNDRAISER**



POLO'S - \$45

VEST'S - \$50

Orders Due March 1st