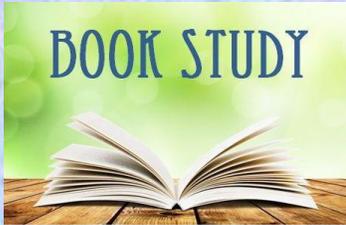


ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISITOR

MARCH 2026



The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to Celebrate and Proclaim to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.



It's not too late to join in! Adult Forum is meeting on Sunday mornings at 11:15amj. They are discussing the book: **Separation of Church and Hate, by John Fugelsang**. It can be ordered on Amazon. Here is what the Amazon website says about the book: "A humorous yet informative guide that challenges far-right Christian fundamentalism by using Biblical scripture to expose hypocrisy and advocate for love, mercy and religious clarity." If you have any questions please talk to Pastor.

Often when people are searching for a new church home they "google" Lutheran churches in the area, then read the reviews. You can help promote St. Paul by leaving a review on google. Follow the instructions below and let others know about the wonderful loving church family they will find if they come to St. Paul.

HOW TO LEAVE A REVIEW OF ST. PAUL ON GOOGLE

The screenshot shows Google search results for "St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church" in Pea Ridge, WV. A blue arrow points to the church name in the "Places" list with the annotation "Click here on the name of the church". Another blue arrow points to the "Write a review" button in the review summary box with the annotation "When this box pops up scroll down until you see 'write a review'". The review summary shows a 4.5 star rating from 10 reviews.

1. Type "google.com" into your search box. Then click on Google.
2. Type "St. Paul Lutheran Church" into the google search box
You will see the screen above:
Click on the name of the church—do not click where it says "website"
The box to the right will pop up. Scroll down a little ways until you see where it says "write a review". Click on this and follow the prompts.

Pastor's Reflections

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. That is the phrase that St Paul uses many times in his writings to the congregations. These congregations are places he has been to (at least most of them). He has sought to continue his mission. That mission is bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles.

I have been wondering lately about our mission here at St Paul. As I have thought about this in my Lent pondering time I wonder if our mission is multi-pronged. There are many aspects to our mission here at St Paul. The question that comes to my mind is this: If a friend or colleague who knows you asked about the church you attend what would you say? Would you speak of being welcoming to all. Would you speak of being a liturgical church in worship style? Would you speak of the social ministry aspects of the ministry – backpack ministry to Southside Elementary school? It might be worth pondering this question as we move through Lent this March.

One of the difficulties in describing our mission is that people I have spoken to about St Paul like to know about the ministries we do. But often we do not have the time to listen to our long explanations. That is why a mission statement is so important. A mission statement that is memorable and we can recite by heart to the people inquiring about St Paul. For me that comes from the words of Jesus when asked by the religious leaders what the greatest commandment is. Jesus simply says: Love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. A shorter version of that is: **LOVE GOD AND LOVE NEIGHBOR.**

It seems to me that is what St Paul Lutheran Church seeks to be/ do – **“LOVE GOD AND LOVE NIEGHBOR”** in all the ministry we do. It also explains who we are. We seek to Love God and Love Neighbor.

As we proceed through this Lent together consider what you might say to an inquirer about St Paul Lutheran Church. May the Holy Spirit guide you and direct you.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor KLM <><

THE GREAT THREE DAYS IN HOLY WEEK

On April 2 – Maundy Thursday, April 3 – Good Friday, April 4 – Holy Saturday are days this year that the church has traditionally celebrated as “The Great Three Days”. These are days set aside every holy week to remember the end of Jesus’ mission. They recall the Last Super as Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. Each of the gospel writers has versions of this last time Jesus has with all his disciples. On Maundy Thursday we as Christians who celebrate in the Lutheran way remember and celebrate Christ’s real presence with us as we partake of bread/ and fruit of the vine (grape juice/ wine). This meal gives us strength for our mission as Christ representatives in the world. This year we at St Paul will have two opportunities for worship on Maundy Thursday. Those services will be at 12 noon and 7:00 pm. Come and join us.

You may be wondering why we call the day Jesus was crucified as Good Friday. It is “good” because Jesus goes to a cross for the world (see John 3:16-17). Jesus does this because of his love for the world. After some research, some linguists suggest that the word “good” meant “holy.” According to the Oxford English dictionary “good” is an antiquated synonym for “holy.” Once again, we will have two opportunities for worship on Good “Holy” Friday. The noon service will be held in the chapel (unless we run out of room then we will go into the sanctuary). The 7 pm service will be held in the sanctuary.

The final day of the Great Three Days is Holy Saturday. This is the day Jesus is in the grave. Some have suggested that God is in the grave also. Holy Saturday was traditionally the time people who had been instructed in the faith (catechesis) were baptized. The tradition also tells us that this service lasted until sunrise with long readings from the Bible beginning with creation all the way through the crucifixion of Jesus and then the service ends with a Sunrise service on Easter morning celebrating resurrection. This service is reflective and somber. We here at St Paul have added some of the lessons and the use of candles and light to our Easter Sunrise Service. We will begin this service on the front steps (facing 12th Ave) with candles and the Baptismal/ Christ candle which will lead us into a darkened sanctuary. This service begins at 7:00 a.m.

Dear St. Paul Congregation:

As always, thank you to everyone participating in the music ministry. In February, Katherine Becker Mansouri visited us and beautifully played two pieces on the violin at our Transfiguration Service: Chanson triste by Pjotr Tchaikovsky as prelude and Beautiful Savior during Communion. She also canted the Kyrie in our liturgy. Thank you, Katherine!

As I wrote before, we are planning another collaboration with First United Methodist Church: we visited them last fall for an ecumenical Worship, and this spring we'd like to meet at St. Paul. The tentative date for this is Sunday, April 19. Please mark your calendars, but watch for a definite confirmation in next newsletter.

Have you ever come across a hymn in church that you were able to sing right away, even though the words seemed unfamiliar? It could have been simply a catchy tune, but it is just as likely that you indeed knew the melody from another hymn. It is actually very common to pair new words with an old melody, a technique that is called *contrafactum* and already existed in the Middle Ages. The reasons back then were of practical nature: people were more likely to join in the singing if they knew the melody. This practice went as far as using melodies of popular – and very secular – drinking songs for sacred music in church.

There are many examples of *contrafacta* in our hymnal. On the first Sunday in Lent this year (February 22), we experienced this in Worship. Did the first Communion hymn Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, ELW 517 feel like you had just sung it? That's because you did. The opening hymn on that day, The Glory of These Forty Days, ELW 320 is set to the same melody. Martin Luther wrote the text for Lord, Keep Us Steadfast, but the words of The Glory of These Forty Days are from an even older Latin chant from the 11th century.

The reverse is quite common, as well: the same words, set to different melodies. An example you will find in our hymnal at Nos. 278 and 279: two different settings of the popular Christmas carol Away in a Manger. One more curious example: We are all familiar with the melody of Amazing Grace (ELW 779). Did you know that this text has been sung to a variety of different melodies, one of them being The House of the Rising Sun?

Henning

Dear St. Paul, Lutheran Congregation,

February arrived with frigid temperatures, ice, and snow, yet our youth continued to gather for Sunday School and CCC whenever the weather allowed. Even in the coldest weeks, their energy, faith, and joy warmed our church family and reminded us how blessed we are to walk together through every season.

One of the brightest moments of the month was our festive Shrove Tuesday—our Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner. The youth filled the undercroft with vibrant Mardi Gras colors, transforming it into a joyful space of celebration and fellowship. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Ron Pease and Kenny Kirby for preparing and cooking all the pancakes, and to everyone who helped with setup and cleanup. Your willingness to serve is deeply appreciated and never taken for granted.

We welcomed about 35 people, including several new faces—evangelism happening right in our midst without us even realizing it. The evening was made even sweeter by the delicious King Cakes lovingly prepared by Shannon Simpkins. This year's Mardi Gras royalty emerged with great delight: Natalee Utley was crowned Queen and Keith Wellman was crowned King after each found a baby in their slice of cake. Natalee's surprised exclamation— "I bit into a baby; there is a baby in my cake!"—was precious and made everyone laugh and smile. These are the moments and memories we cherish. The night overflowed with joy as we paraded, sang "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In" with Henning accompanying on piano, and danced with full hearts. Celebrating together in Christ strengthens our bonds and reminds us of the gift of community God has given us.

As the festivities ended, we stepped into the solemn beauty of Ash Wednesday, receiving ashes and remembering that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. This sacred moment begins our Lenten journey—a season of fasting, repentance, giving, and reflection. Each of our journeys is unique, personal, and meaningful. Lent invites us to pause, look inward, and renew our spirits as we draw closer to God.

We will continue gathering on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent for food, fellowship, and worship. I truly cherish this extra time together. It deepens our relationships, strengthens our faith, and reminds us that we walk this path not alone, but as a family rooted in Christ's love.

As we move through this holy season, may we stop, pray, follow Jesus, and trust God's way. And may others always recognize us as Christians by our love.

Your Loving Sister in Christ,
Jill May





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ben Jones
- 10 Larry Kendall
- 12 John Scott
- 14 Arlan Hesse
- 15 Riley Brumfield
- 19 Bonnie Conger; Bernadette Wellman
- 22 Ashley Brown
- 27 James Case
- 31 Katie Dowis



The Book Club will meet on March 18 to discuss “Frozen River” by Ariel Lawhon. Please join us!



Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry
 In March we will collect boxes of saltyine crackers.
 Please leave your donations in the containers in the narthex.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Starla Kising

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP



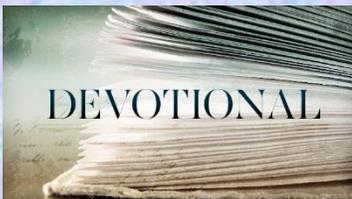
Please join us for coffee and fellowship each Sunday after worship. We meet in the church parlor. If you would like to help by providing treats or making coffee there is a sign up sheet in the parlor.



If you would like your end of year Giving Statement please see Linda Schneider or contact the church office.



	Actual	Expected	Expenses
Jan.	14,259	18,039	19,838
Feb.	21,407	18,039	
YTD	35,666	36,078	



“The Word in Season” is available in the narthex. This is a free devotional provided to you by St. Paul.

WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	ASSISTING MIN.	COM. DEACON	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTE	USHERS
3/1	Owen Murray	David Stuart	Jenny Murray	Daniel Kist	Kennady Kist	Emma Arneson
3/8	Mary Lou Pratt	Linda Schneider	Cheryl Conzett	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman	
3/15	Linda Schneider	Emma Arneson	Jan Kirby	Daniel Kist	Jaylyn Garnett	
3/22	David Stuart	Ruthann Arneson	Steve Golder	Daniel Kist	Willow May	
3/29	Bernadette Wellman	Steve Golder	Martha Danelle	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman	

ALTAR GUILD: Bernadette and Keith Wellman



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Cards are also available to give with the shawls. These shawls are made by members of St. Paul and are offered free of charge.



COMMUNION RECORD

Please fill out a communion card each time you take communion. Cards are in the pews in the same section as the offering envelopes. Cards can be placed in the offering plate. If you are in the choir, cards are available in the choir room to be placed in the basket along with your offering.



Our sympathy to the family of Bob Tucker. Bob passed away in February. Our prayers are with the family.



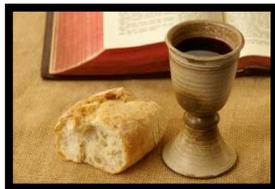
We pray for: LaDonna, Helen, Opal, Francesca, Stephen, Helen, April, Rene, Elisha, Tessa, Nicholas, Bill, Eric, Teresa and Creigh

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday, March 29

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion



Maundy Thursday, April 2

12:00pm Worship with Holy communion

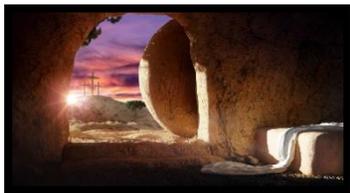
7:00pm Worship with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday, April 3

12:00pm Worship

7:00pm Worship



Easter Sunday, April 5

7:00pm Sunrise Service (begin on front lawn and process inside)

8:00am Breakfast in undercroft

9:15am Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion



Wednesdays

February 25—March 25

6:00pm meal in fellowship hall

7:00pm Worship in fellowship hall



Backpack items are an ongoing need throughout the school year. ***We are providing 30 backpacks each week to Southside Elementary!*** If you can help by donating any of the items below, please leave them in the containers in the narthex or bring to the church office.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| fruit cups | applesauce |
| Mac and Cheese | Beef-a-Roni |
| Beef sticks | Cereal |
| Pop Tarts | Fruit snacks |
| Drink boxes | Shelf stable milk |
| tuna salad/crackers | chicken salad/crackers |

All items need to be individual sizes and not contain peanuts.

Please leave your items in the container in the narthex or bring to the church office.

BACKPACK DELIVERY SCHEDULE

March: Mary Lou Pratt

April: Cheryl Konzett

May: Judy Wade

If you are not able to delivery on your scheduled month please contact Emma Arneson.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:15am Fellowship	2 1:00pm Woman's Club Pastor at QRT	3 9:30am Quilting	4 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir	5 Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation here	6	7
8 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:15am Fellowship 1:30pm Pastor at Woodlands	9	10 9:30am Quilting	11 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir Pastor at QRT	12 Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation here 6:00pm Scouts	13	14
15 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:15am Fellowship	16	17 9:30am Quilting	18 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir	19 NO Noon Bible Study Pastor at Conference Meeting 5:00pm Confirmation here	20	21
22 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:15am Fellowship	23	24 9:30am Quilting	25 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir	26 Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation here 6:00pm Scouts	27	28
29 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:15am Fellowship	30	31 9:30am Quilting				