

ST. PAUL VISITOR

FEBRUARY 2026

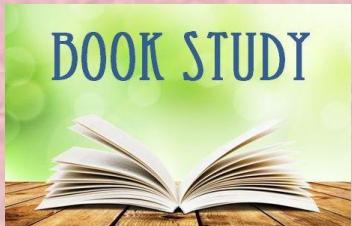
JOIN US EACH SUNDAY
AT 10:00AM FOR
IN PERSON WORSHIP
OR ON FACEBOOK

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ORG



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.

ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE ❤



Pastor Mackey will be beginning a new book study in the Library after worship. **The study will begin on February 1 at about 11:15 am or so.** The book the group will be looking at is entitled: **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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Part 2 of our Congregational Meeting will be held on February 8 right after worship. We will celebrate all of the ministries here at St. Paul.



As I reflect on the season of Lent, I am reminded of a simple, everyday task—doing the laundry. In my house, I am the one responsible for this household chore. Perhaps in your home, someone else takes on this role, or maybe you share the responsibility. For me, laundry is not just a necessity; it is a chore that I genuinely enjoy. In fact, I even take pleasure in doing my own ironing. You may wonder what does doing laundry have to do with Lent.

So, let's think about it. Lent is the season of renewal. When we do laundry, we are doing a renewal – are we not? Lent is a time to consider, a time of turning toward something brand new. A turning toward something like developing a structured time of daily Bible reading and prayer. Maybe it is simply seeking to “be kinder in all our relationships”. In much the same way, doing laundry is an act of renewal. We take what is soiled or worn and, through the efforts of the washing machine, the soiled and worn becomes clean and fresh once again.

The beginning of Lent is on Ash Wednesday. This year that falls on February 18. The Ash Wednesday liturgy has an extended time of confession. During this time, we ask for “cleansing”. We receive a reminder that we are forgiven, and this is God's act upon and for us. God is the “washing machine” for us. This is an act of pure grace and love.

I invite you to be a part of the Lent midweek meals and services. I invite you to consider what this Lent may look like for you as you seek to live your life as a faithful servant of Christ.

May God guide you and keep you through this Lenten journey.

Alleluia and Amen

Pastor KLM <><



The confirmation class enjoyed a visit to Dave and Busters last month.

Dear St. Paul Congregation:

First things first. Thank you to all who helped musically enriching our two Christmas Eve Services: Barbara Garnett and the members of the Diehl Bell Choir, the St. Paul Choir, Dr. Alex Malaimare (violin) and Dr. YooBin Lee (viola), Dr. Dan Beals (French horn), Emily and Tim Conzett (Soprano and Tenor, respectively), Katie Dowis, Alex Mackey, and Adriana Bakley (Sopranos), and Jackson Wellman on the organ! Also, thanks to Jill May for preparing the kids for the nativity play on Advent 3. Phew, that's a lot of names... please forgive me, if I forgot someone. More thanks: to Keith Wellman for filling in for me while I was in Germany and to Dr. Karen Becker for playing a beautiful guest solo on the cello during that time.

I thought it might be interesting for you to shadow me in the music selection process for a typical Sunday (in this case, the last Sunday in January, Epiphany 3).

Choral Anthem

The work I always choose furthest in advance is the choral anthem, for the simple reason that the choir needs to rehearse it. We usually have time to practice three anthems each week, so this happens around three weeks before. During the Time after Epiphany, a wintry and darker season, we focus on how Jesus brings light and warmth into the world through his life. As an anthem for January 26, I picked "The Lord is My Light", an upbeat anthem with peppy rhythms.

Prelude and Postlude

The next works I determine are prelude and postlude (that's the music I have to practice!). With a severe winter storm in the forecast, I had to think of Claude Debussy's prelude "Footsteps in the Snow" (the footsteps theme links with the hymn of the day, see below). You may have noticed that sometimes I like to "round off" the service by playing music by the same composer for prelude and postlude. Considering that this is the last Sunday before Black History Month in February, I thought of a little piece by Debussy that is written in the style of a cakewalk or ragtime, IE music that like Jazz originated with African American musicians (and that features the typical syncopated and peppy rhythms found in both, the anthem and the sending hymn, see below). Debussy was of course French, but at the Turn of the Century, American musical influences had arrived in Paris (in part through the World Expo in 1900) that shaped not only entertainment but also French art music.

Hymns

The music I choose last are the hymns (usually on Wednesdays, so we can sing through them at choir rehearsal and make last-minute changes, if necessary). The hymn of the day is called "Will You Come and Follow Me" (ELW 798). In its fifth stanza you can find a reference to the footsteps of the prelude: "In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show". The gathering hymn is an old familiar opening hymn (Dearest Jesus at Your Word, We Have Come Again to Hear You, ELW 520), and as sending hymn I chose Shine, Jesus Shine (ELW 671) a hymn that relates to the Jesus as light in our world-theme and to the upbeat and peppy rhythms of the choral anthem and postlude. Finally, my two picks for communion hymns include music that is personally meaningful: I gathered from Pastor's sermons throughout the years that he likes the hymn I Love to Tell the Story, ELW 661 (makes sense!). The second communion hymn (Baptized in Water, ELW 456) is set to a melody that evokes happy memories in me, since we used to sing it around the campfire as teenagers in Germany (to the text Morning Has Broken).

Henning

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

I hope this message finds you well. Our youth have been wonderfully active this winter, and I am delighted to share the many ways they are growing in faith, fellowship, and service.

The St. Paul Lutheran Girl Scouts kicked off the year with **Cookie Kickoff 2026**, welcoming over 40 families for a day of games, crafts, cookie tasting, financial literacy, and even lotion and chapstick making. It was a joy to see so many families learning and creating together.

Our Sunday school class celebrated **Epiphany** with a special journey through the undercroft, the Narthex, and into the sanctuary—following the bright star to find baby Jesus. Our CCC group also made beautiful lanterns to remind us that *Jesus is the light of the world*. With Him, all things are possible, and we need not be afraid, for He is always with us.

The CCC youth enjoyed a fun game night with homemade waffles and breakfast for dinner. We were blessed by the musical talents of **Jackson Wellman**, who serenaded us throughout the evening. Ten of our youth gathered for word searches, laughter, fellowship, and joyfully reciting many of the names of God. Moments like these remind me how powerful it is to simply step back and witness the Holy Spirit at work. It warms my heart and humbles my soul to see these children grow in the love and light of Christ. On a Sunday after worship, the youth went to see the movie **David** at the theater. I was moved by their reflections as they talked about David's courage—not because of his strength, but because he knew God was with him. With God by our side, we can face anything: a lion, a bear, a giant, or any challenge placed before us.

On January 23, our LYO and CCC groups attended **Winter Jam** at the Charleston Coliseum. I took a photo of our older youth holding the hands of the younger ones as they walked in—Sisters in Christ, supporting one another. Eleven girls attended, several experiencing their very first concert, and they loved every moment. It was beautiful to watch them sing, dance, praise, laugh, and even shed a few tears together. We left feeling spiritually uplifted and deeply connected.

It is such a blessing to be a child, a disciple, and a servant of God.

We continue to carry the love and light of Christ with us wherever we go.

Lord, help us to continue serving You with joyful hearts. We have come to see, and we will follow wherever You lead.

Thank You, God, for all You do!

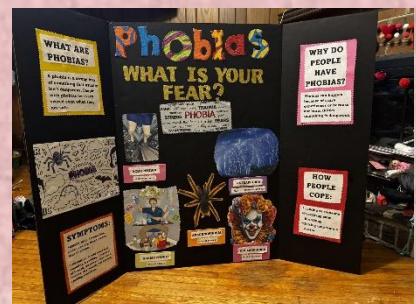
With gratitude and joy,

Your Loving Sister in Christ,

Jill







FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Tyler Tucker; Debra Perkins
- 3 Susan Korstanje
- 4 Pastor Kevin Mackey; Al Tillers
- 9 Olivia Bell; Helen Stuart
- 10 Linda Schneider
- 11 Rex Hale
- 18 Sarah Mariani, Willow May
- 19 Cindy Bakley; Shannon Walker
- 22 Dale Kelz; Jerome Yancey
- 23 Kennady Kist
- 24 Dennis Andrus
- 26 Linda Hay
- 28 William Grimes; Jacki Humphreys



The Book Club will meet on February 25 at 10:00am. We will be discussing "The German Wife" by Kelly Rimmer. Please join us!



Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

In February we will collect cans of vegetable soup. Please leave your donations in the containers in the narthex.

WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	ASSISTING MIN.	COM. DEACON	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTE	USHERS
2/1	Ruthann Arneson	Steve Golder	Creigh Pemberton	Daniel Kist	Kennady Kist	KV Chin
2/8	Annette DuVall	Ruthann Arneson	David Stuart	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman	KV Chin
2/15	Barbara Garnett	Emma Arneson	B. Wellman	Daniel Kist	Jaylyn Garnett	KV Chin
2/18 Ash Wed	Steve Golder	Keith Wellman	Emma Arneson	Daniel Kist		
2/22	Mary Lou Fricke	B. Wellman	Keith Wellman	Daniel Kist	Willow May	KV Chin

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Conger and Debra Perkins



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.



Ash WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

February 18

12:00pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes in the chapel

7:00pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes in the sanctuary



Wednesdays

February 25—March 25

6:00pm meal in fellowship hall

7:00pm Worship in fellowship hall



The St. Paul Quilters recently enjoyed a meal together as they celebrated the 80th birthday of Mary Lou Fricke. Happy Birthday to Mary Lou!!

Karen Becker shared her musical talents with us recently. She is pictured here with Cheryl Conzett, Judy Wade, and Annette DuVall. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Becker.





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

February: Creigh and Hayman Pemberton

March: Mary Lou Pratt

April: Cheryl Conzett

May: Judy Wade

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

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Fellowship	2 1:00pm Woman's Club	3 9:30am Quilting	4 6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	5 NO Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation at CTK Pastor away at Continuing Education event through Friday	6	7
8 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Fellowship Annual Meeting	9 Pastor at QRT	10 9:30am Quilting	11 7:00pm Choir	12 Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation at CTK 6:00pm Scouts	13	14
15 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Fellowship	16 9:30am Quilting	17 Ash Wednesday 12:00am Worship in chapel 7:00pm Worship	18	19 NO Noon Bible Study Pastor at Conference Meeting 5:00pm Confirmation at CTK	20	21
22 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School/Fellowship	23 Pastor at QRT	24 9:30am Quilting	25 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Mid-Week Worship in Fellowship Hall	26 Noon Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation at CTK 6:00pm Scouts	27	28