

WELCOME  
*February*  
2026



Join us this Lent!

Ash Wednesday worship will be held on February 18th at both 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM and will include the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Refreshments will be served following both services.

Taste and See! Taste and See is our theme for this year's mid-week services. Worship will be at 5:15! This is a change from previous years that will hopefully allow those who prefer not to drive at night to be able to also attend worship.

Dinner will follow the mid-week services at 6:00 PM. Please sign up to help with these dinners (this can be soup, casseroles, pasta, etc...) and please plan on attending for a wonderful meal and opportunity for fellowship.

At each dinner, pastor will have a food item that will correspond with the message for that evening. Come and Taste and See that the Lord is Good!

Feb 18th Ash Wednesday Worship at 10:00 and 7:00

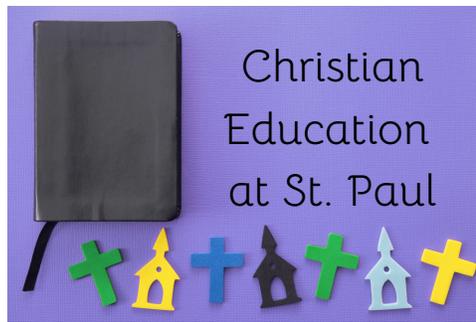
Feb 25: Worship at 5:15, Dinner at 6:00 - Here Am I, Send Me! Isaiah 61-7

March 4: Worship at 5:15, Dinner at 6:00-- A "Loaves and Fishes" Moment John 6:1-9

March 11: Worship at 5:15, Dinner at 6:00 -- Quenching Our Thirst John 4:1-14

March 18: Worship at 5:15, Dinner at 6:00 -- The Great Catch of Fish Luke 5:1-6

March 25: Worship at 5:15, Dinner at 6:00 -- A Feast for the Eyes John 21:1-7



Christian  
Education  
at St. Paul

### Sunday School

Sunday School is in full swing! We have purchased curriculum that will follow our text that is used during Sunday Services to reinforce learning. If you have any questions or would be willing to volunteer to teach please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Morgan Wertz 309-635-0089

### Bible Study!

Pastor Lisa is leading a Bible Study on the Gospel of John. The Bible Study meets on Monday nights at 6:00 pm and on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm. There is always room for more!

### Confirmation!

We will meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>! We will meet in the classroom in the Education Hall following Sunday School! Don't forget your bibles! See you in church!

### 4 Students to be Confirmed!

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> Pastor will lead 4 students through the Affirmation of Baptism service. The 4 youth preparing to affirm their faith are: Eli Fordham, Joe Gramlich, Aaron Simmons and Annabelle Wertz. We are so excited for these students and so proud of the work that they have done! Please pray for these young leaders and their families as they continue to follow in God's path!



### Women's Circle Dates

Quilters: Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
JoAnna: Feb 5<sup>th</sup>  
Esther: Feb 24<sup>th</sup>



### Church Staff

- Rev. Lisa Dietrich, Pastor
- Bev Fordham, Administrative Assistant
- Eric Coffey, Custodian
- Kyle Burkholder, Groundskeeper
- Deborah Garmers, Organist
- Michael Helgeson, Celebration and Praise Music Coordinator

### Church Council

- Abigail Williams, President
- Michael Helgeson, Vice President
- Linda Lowery, Secretary
- Penny Post-Freeman, Financial Officer
- Karen Rocke, Service Ministries
- Mary Jane Moder, Worship
- Morgan Wertz, Education/Youth
- Brian Sharp, Property



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



### Paint with Pastor

Come and join Pastor on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

Check out the sample of the floral painting in the gathering space. Cost is \$15 per person payable to Pastor. Bring a snack to share and let's have some fun painting together! Sign up on the bulletin board so we can have enough supplies!

### Supper Club!

Hey all! I'm hungry! It's time to get together again for great food and fellowship! Supper Club is open to absolutely everyone and your friends! We will meet February 24<sup>th</sup> at River City Grill on Prospect Road at 6 pm. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board so we can let the restaurant know how many of us are coming!



### Council Highlights

The Council voted to replace the old picnic tables because of their warped and splintered condition.

Karen Rocke reported that the Food Pantry is being filled three times a week and that the need is still great.

The Council received and accepted Pastor Lisa's official letter of resignation. We wish her all the best on her retirement and new adventures.

The Council has set up a meeting with the Bishop's office to begin the Call Process.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting has been set for February 15<sup>th</sup>. We will begin with a potluck meal at 11:30 and our meeting will start shortly after noon. Please plan on attending this important meeting. Our primary business will be to approve the budget for 2026. Come and celebrate the work we have done in God's name over the last year and join in the excitement for all that is to come in 2026!

### Worship Assistants

2/1: Elias Fordham  
2/8: Linda Lowery  
2/15: Larry Hansen  
2/22: Hal Fordham

### Fellowship Treats

2/1: Lisa Snyder  
2/8: Kathy Floria  
2/15: Annual Meeting  
2/22:

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/2: Jon Gramlich  
2/3: Julia Coffman  
2/4: Gene Humke  
2/5: Eileen Cunningham  
2/13: William Terry  
2/14: Alan McClouth  
2/15: Mary Hansen  
2/21: Zachary Rocke-White  
2/26: Hal Fordham

### Counters

Feb. 1: Karen Rocke and Amber Lowery  
Feb. 8: Scott Lee and Hal Fordham  
Feb. 15: Julia Coffman and Mary Jane Moder  
Feb. 22: Mike Coffman and Kyle Burkholder

## From the Synod: Congregational Ethics: Members Relating to Former Pastors, Particularly Retired Pastors

At the time of retirement, a pastor is no longer pastor of a congregation and therefore must discontinue the functions of the pastoral office in the congregation unless specifically authorized to do so. Strictly speaking, the service of retired pastors is governed by the Constitution for Synods, which describes the role of ordained ministers in congregations in which they do not serve

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“Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.” (§14.14. in the Constitution for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Congregational members make and maintain loving and caring relationships with the former pastors and their family members. Within the environment of friendship, it is appropriate to continue such relationships socially. Hospitality is always proper. However, it is not appropriate to engage a former pastor in conversation such that the former pastor is put in a position of rendering an opinion on matters related the current pastor's service to the congregation or an opinion on policies, procedures, personnel decisions, worship styles, or missional priorities of the congregation.

Congregational members should not turn to a former pastor with a hope that the former pastor will perform any pastoral acts, i.e. weddings, funerals, baptism, home communions, hospital visitation, etc. These times are special opportunities to allow the called pastor, along with current congregational care givers, to minister to you and, thereby, to build a pastoral relationship with you.

### Upcoming Events!

Mark your calendars for these two events coming up in March!

- March 1<sup>st</sup> we will have an Olympic Game Night at 4pm. Come and have some fun playing some olympic type games! Don't worry there will be something for all abilities!
- March 12<sup>th</sup> we will have a funeral planning workshop at 6pm. We will have folders with all the information you will need.

### **We Pray For:**

Shirley Barber, Rob Hackett, Floyd Rademaker, Andrea Williams, Susie Ney, Jeff Williams, Kendra Tallman, Abby Mundwiller, Shannon Perales, Jim Chamberlain, Terri Montgomery, Joe Ferrie, Nina Marquart, Boyd Conrad, Willie Miller, Rachel Jenks and Steve Locke.

### **Our Shut-ins:**

Floyd Rademaker, Nina Marquart, Tom Schreiner and Sam Kahl

### **Prayer Chain Contacts:**

Cindy Lee 309.635.9691  
Eileen Cunningham  
309.685.0720

### **Article deadlines**

Please submit articles for the weekly bulletin no later than 10am Thursday mornings.

Articles for the March newsletter need to be submitted no later than 10am on February 20th.

### **Notification**

Please if you are in the building for **any reason, or any length of time** contact the office so we know who is in the building.

Thank you!