

# St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

March, 2025

## Extending Christ's Love through Visitation

Dear Friends in Christ,

We talk a lot about **Reaching Out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow** and **Extending Christ's Love**. Often, we think of this as reaching out into our community and ultimately to the ends of the earth with the love of Christ and His saving Gospel. This is important. However, equally important is extending Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in Christ, those of our family of faith here at St. Paul. There are many ways that we can do this, but this month I would like us to consider how God calls us to reach out and extend His love to others through personal visitation and conversation.

Our Lord's earthly ministry is one of presence, care, and compassion. Jesus chooses to leave the glories of heaven and to come to this sinful and broken world to serve and to save. He is Immanuel, our *God with us*. He doesn't wait for people to come to Him. He travels from village to village. He meets people in the depths of their unbelief, sin, suffering, and sorrows and He saves, forgives, heals, and restores them.

We see our Lord's mercy in action when He raises the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:11-17). As He approaches the funeral procession, Luke records that Jesus has *compassion* on this widow (7:13). Then He miraculously restores life to this child and gives him back to his mother. What I find fascinating is what the mourners from Nain say in response to this miracle. They exclaim: "*God has visited His people!*" (7:17)

Their confession is absolutely true. The God-man Jesus Christ had visited them. Jesus would extend love, care, compassion, and mercy to thousands of people during His earthly ministry. After His resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples many times in their doubts and fears. He shows them His hands and His side. He gives them His peace.

This ministry of visitation and Christ-like presence, care, and compassion continues in the early church. Like our Lord, Paul desired to be physically present—going to places that hadn't heard the Gospel and also traveling hundreds of miles to visit established churches to encourage and strengthen believers. When there was a severe famine, Paul not only raised funds to support the believers in dire need, he personally brought these gifts to Jerusalem. It is estimated that Paul traveled over 15,000 miles during his ministry, most of which was by walking!

One of my greatest joys as your pastor is that the majority of my time is devoted to visitation. All three of us pastors are grateful for every opportunity to be present in your life, in times of joy and sorrow and everything in between. To be there for you and for all of God's people here at St. Paul by your hospital bed, in the nursing home, in your home, or meeting with you here at church. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to us so that we can be present with you and for you in whatever your trial—sickness, grief, depression, anxiety, marital and family struggles—and extend the love, compassion, comfort, care, and forgiveness of Christ to you.

Likewise, consider how you can be present for others and be a vessel of Christ-like care and compassion. This begins by being present and actually getting to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. You can't respond to someone in need if you don't know them. Make it a priority to introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you in the pew. Don't rush out the door after church but stay to visit and fellowship with your forever family. During Lent, attend the meals before our Lenten services and sit next to someone you don't know or don't know very well and get to know them better over supper.

When you discover someone is in need, be present for them in their hour of trial. Pray for them. Then, consider how you can best extend the love, care, and compassion of Christ to them. It may be a personal visit or a phone call. It could be delivering a meal. It may be helping with our monthly Hickory Creek visit day or visiting those you know who are homebound or in the nursing home. It may be calling someone you haven't seen at church for a while to check in on them.

Our Lord is always present and there for us. He comes to us and visits us with His mercy, forgiveness, and compassion in His Word and His Supper. He then empowers us by His Spirit to be present in the lives of others, with His mercy, care, compassion, and love.

In Christ's Love to Extend Christ's Love,

Pastor Bauman

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Pastor Douglas Bauman  
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riskplants@yahoo.com

### St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry

Jen Probst, Director and  
Preschool Teacher

director@stpaulcolumbus.org

Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle Schultz, Preschool Teacher

Gayla Alesandro, Sally Haak, Kathy Hoover,  
Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz, Caroline Wilcox,

Glory Wofford, and Amy Yeley  
Teacher Assistants

### Sunday Schedule

8 AM Divine Service

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM

10:45 AM Divine Service

English and Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study

7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

### Prayer Chain

Bonnie England

Phone: 812-447-7895





# Musical Notes

O Christ, You walked the road

Our wandering feet must go.

You faced with us temptation's power

And fought our ancient foe. (LSB 424, stanza 1)

Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "It is written,

" ' Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

" 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

When lures of easy gain

With promise brightly shine,

Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;

Our will with Yours align. (LSB 424, stanza 4)

Lord, we pray that You will be with us through our Lenten journey. We rejoice that You loved us so much that You died for us, and we sing in thanks and praise for our redemption through You.

In Christ's unfailing love,

Dan



**Sr. Handbells** rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15 pm.

**Sr. Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:45-8:45 pm.

**Jr. Choir** rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-9:50 am.

**Small Group Handbells** rehearse on Mondays at 10:00 am.

**Jr. Handchimes** rehearse on Sundays from 12:30-1:00 pm.

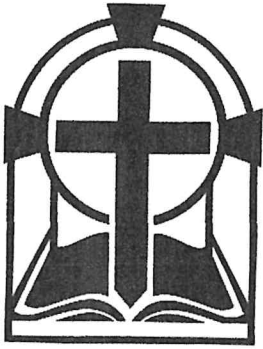
**Jr. Handbells** rehearse on Sundays from 1:15-1:45 pm.

**Choristers** rehearse on Sundays from 1:45-2:15 pm.

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact me at, (mobile) 812-927-9319, or email

[kantor@StPaulColumbus.org](mailto:kantor@StPaulColumbus.org)

Thank you!



## Early Childhood Ministry

There are a lot of great learning opportunities for children (and adults) during seasons of the church year. Activities for Advent and Christmas are well known. How about the season of Lent?

Lent is a penitential season. During this time, we reflect on our sinful condition and take the time to humbly express our regret for our sinfulness. We recall the great sacrifice Jesus made on the cross to take our sins away.

All people have to deal with big emotions. As children grow, they look to adults to help them give name to the emotions they are experiencing and the tools they can use to process through these emotions in a healthy way. Sin brings sorrow, regret, and pain. Jesus' death and resurrection brings hope, joy, and love. Lent is a great time to teach our children about the powerful tools God gives us through confession and absolution.

Lent also brings a significant awareness of numbers. There are 40 days in Lent. These days can be translated to 6 weeks. We also have the days of Holy Week. Children can choose to count up or count down to Easter. As we mark the days, it is important to spend our time in God's Word and read about Jesus' journey to the cross and victory over sin, death, and the devil.

These are only a couple of ideas where we can apply practical learning to faith concepts. May your own learning experience during the time of Lent bring to light how God the Father still teaches all His children.

~Blessings,

Jen Probst, ECM Director



**5** – Ash Wednesday

**9** – Daylight Savings Time

**12** – Bookmobile

**14** – Grandparents' Day at 8:20 AM

**17 to 21** – Spring Break

**25** – Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conferences

**26 to 28** – NLSA Team visits

## Registration

Enrollment continues for the 2025-2026 school year! Registration links can be found on the St. Paul website.

<https://www.stpaulcolumbus.org/ecmregistration>

Please share the good news about our school. If you have additional questions or would like a tour, please contact Jen Probst.

## Interviews begin soon

We are looking for someone who is interested in sharing the love of Jesus with preschoolers who are beginning their first steps in education. If you are interested in joining our staff, please send in your resume to the St. Paul office ([secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org)) with a note indicating you are interested in the lead teacher position. We will begin scheduling interviews. For additional questions, please feel free to contact Jen Probst or any member of the Early Childhood Ministry Board (Andrea Cotton, Marissa Younger, and Emily Linke).

~Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow through early childhood education. ~

# Education & Youth

Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow!

## Youth

### St. Paul Youth

Sr. High Youth 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Christ 4 Life

Jr. High Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>—Valentine's Day Childcare  
Youth attending the National Youth Gathering will be providing childcare from 5-9 PM on Valentine's Day. Youth should arrive by 4:45 PM.

Friday-Saturday, March 7-8, 7 PM-7 AM—Lock-in  
The lock-in will begin at church (arrive anytime after 6:30 PM) and concludes at Trinity Lutheran High School. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to Pastor Bauman (812-350-4115 or pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org) by Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Friends are welcome!*

### Kids for Christ

Elementary Youth led by Chad and Rachel Fohne with Matthew and Sarah Lewis

The February KfC Event is Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:15 PM. Please RSVP to Rachel Fohne (text/phone 812-343-3786 or email rnofling@alumni.iu.edu) by Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to attend.

The March KfC Event is Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:15 PM. Please RSVP to Rachel by Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to attend.

All KfC youth are encouraged to attend the Children's Tea on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-3:30 PM. Please see News and Notes for more information.

### Lenten Supper March 12<sup>th</sup>

Youth and their families are hosting the Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit our three youth groups. Youth and parent help is needed to prepare the food (come anytime 4:30 PM or later), serving the meal, and clean-up.

### SPY, C4Life, and Young Adult Outing

All SPY and C4Life youth and post-high school adults are invited to an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Back 9 Golf and Entertainment (1415 Drover Street, Indianapolis; back9golf.com) on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Meet at church at 1:30 PM for devotions. We will then travel to Back 9 for play from 3-5 PM, returning around 6 PM. Bring golf clubs if you have them. We will also have some "experts" for those who haven't played golf or want to improve their swing. Cost: SPY and C4Life Youth—free. Young adults, parents, younger siblings—suggested \$10 donation. All attendees should bring their own money for food and drinks.

We have a limited number of spaces available so sign-up soon! The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to Eric and Linda Scheidt (812-371-8810; elscheidt@juno.com).

# Christian Education

## Adult Classes

Sundays at 9:30 AM

First Steps of Faith (Parents and children two years and younger) meets in the conference room.

Financial Peace University meets in the Quiet Room led by Phil and Crista Burbrink and Chad and Rachel Fohne through March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Fellowship Room *Signs, Symbols, and their Meaning* led by Pastor Bauman.

Wednesdays

9 AM: The Book of Romans

6 PM: We will continue our study of the Epistle to the Hebrews through February 26<sup>th</sup>. The evening class will be in recess for Lent, resuming on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Moms in the Word meets Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM in the conference room. Join us for fellowship and a children's devotion.

## Confirmation Instruction

Meets on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 AM and 12:15 PM Confirmation Class; 1:15-2 PM Make-up/Work Ahead Time  
Spring Break Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>: Only the 9:30 AM class meets. Noon Make-up session. No lunch served.

## Youth Choirs

Jr. Choir (grades 2-6) and Children's Choir (preschool-first grade) rehearse during the Sunday School Hour.

Our Youth Choirs will rehearse on Sunday afternoons, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jr. Choir sings at both services on Sundays, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please have children in the music room at 7:30 AM to rehearse.

## Alleluia Banner Procession

At both services on Transfiguration Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, children are invited to process the Alleluia Banners. Following the service, the Alleluia Banners will be "buried" for the Lenten season as we do not say or sing "Alleluia" during this penitential season. On Easter Sunday, the Alleluia Banner box will be opened, and the children will process with them to celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

## Sunday Lunches

February 16<sup>th</sup>: Chicken Sandwiches (KfC Day)

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Fettuccine Alfredo

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Taco Bar

March 9<sup>th</sup>: Chicken Nuggets (KfC Day)

March 16: No Lunch Served—Spring Break

March 23: Spaghetti with Meatballs

March 30: Latino Families

# Our Lenten Journey—In the Wilderness

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15 PM. Imposition of Ashes will be offered from 6:30-6:45 PM with special music provided by our choirs and congregational singing. The Communion Service begins at 6:45 PM with the theme: *Your Heart, Your Treasure* based on Matthew 6:19-21.

In the coming months, we will be focusing on the wilderness. The theme of Vacation Bible School this summer is: *The WAY in the Wilderness*, which will be Monday-Friday, July 14-18 from 9-11:30 AM. *Wilderness* is also the theme for Grandparents Day on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

During Lent, we will explore the theme *Sin in the Wilderness* as we make our way through the book of Numbers. More than likely you're not overly familiar with Numbers. Numbers recounts the wilderness journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. The wilderness is a place of danger and difficulty, and for the Israelites the wilderness was a place of temptation and sin. During our five midweek Lenten services after Ash Wednesday, we will follow the Israelites through the wilderness to receive guidance, strength, and encouragement as we journey through the wilderness of this world. Supper is served on these Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15 PM. We will have a hymn sing from 6:30-6:45 PM, with the service beginning at 6:45 PM.

Please plan to attend and invite others to the special services and events.

## Lenten Sermon Series: In the Wilderness

**First Sunday in Lent, March 9:** The Lord in the Wilderness—Luke 4:1-13 Sermon Series Introduction

**Wednesday, March 12:** Opposition in the Wilderness—Numbers 12:1-16

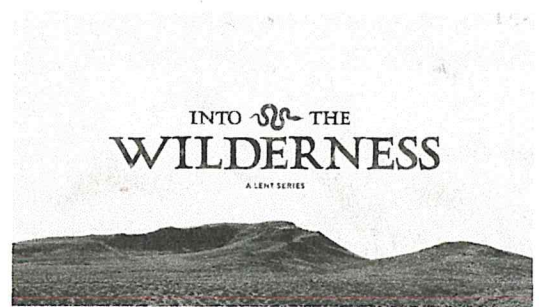
**Wednesday, March 19:** Doubt in the Wilderness—Numbers 13:1, 25-14:35

**Wednesday, March 26:** Rebellion in the Wilderness—Numbers 16:1-50

**Wednesday, April 2:** Anger in the Wilderness—Numbers 20:1-13, 22-29

**Wednesday, April 9:** Idolatry in the Wilderness—Numbers 25:1-18

**Easter Sunday, April 20 at 7, 9, and 10:45 AM**—Through the Wilderness to the Promised Land; Sermon Series Conclusion



## Holy Week Services and Special Events

**Palm Sunday, April 13:** 8 and 10:45 AM Children Process with Palms at both Services

9:30 AM Confirmands Confession of Faith

Noon Easter Egg Hunt (KfC event for April; No lunch served)

**Maundy Thursday, April 17:** 6:45 PM Maundy Thursday Service concluding with the Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday, April 18:** 10 AM Morning Service—ECM Children and Children's Choir sings

10:45 AM Together as Family Day—Family activities that reinforce Good Friday

10:45 AM SPY and C4Life Servant Event, Lunch, and watching *The Passion of the Christ*

6:45 PM Communion Service concluding with the Stripping of the Altar

**Easter Sunday, April 20:** 7, 9, and 10:45 AM Easter Festival Services

7:30-9:45 AM Easter Breakfast Served

*No Christian Education Classes on Easter*

## Extending Christ's Love Update

You may have noticed some activity these past weeks at the future site of our future Christian Education Center. Soil borings were conducted to determine soil density and water saturation rates. The Building Committee continues to meet with Architect Kevin Stuckwisch to design the center to meet the approved \$8.125 million budget.

Thanks to your generosity, total income for Extending Christ's Love is more than \$ 918,000. By fulfilling our pledges, and also by excelling our timeline for fulfilling our pledges and/or increasing our pledges, we will decrease the amount of financing needed for this project. If you have questions about your pledge, did not pledge but want to make a pledge, or want to adjust your pledge, please contact Finance Secretary Rachel Fohne.



**Mark your calendars: Rummage Sale—June 6-7:** The Finance Committee, LWML, and many others are joining together for a Rummage Sale in June to benefit Extending Christ's Love. You can help this endeavor in a number of ways:

- Gather gently used clothing, household items, furniture, etc., to be donated.
- Consider volunteering with set-up leading up to the Rummage Sale, assisting with the Rummage Sale, and/or with cleaning up after the Sale.
- Attend an Informational Meeting for the Rummage Sale. Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. These brief meetings will share information about the Rummage Sale and give opportunities for you to serve:
  - + **Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at 5:45 PM in the fellowship room (meeting during the Lenten supper)
  - + **Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM in the fellowship room

If you have questions, or want more information about the Rummage Sale, please contact Finance Committee Chair Phil Burbrink.



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
& Early Childhood Ministry

# News and Notes

## Valentine's Day Childcare

The youth attending the National Youth Gathering cordially invite you to participate in our upcoming national youth gathering babysitting fundraiser on Valentines Day, **Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** from 5-9 PM at church. Taking part in this wonderful fundraiser that not only benefits our youth but also gives you a chance to enjoy a carefree night out. You can go on a date night, enjoy a movie, or just rest at home; and we'll take care of the kids at the church with fun games and activities planned for them. Freewill donation. Reserve your spot today and enjoy a night out with your loved one!

Please register your child(ren) by **Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** through the following link <https://forms.gle/UHTFxngAmxP8Lxt77> or by texting or calling Jen Probst at 765-491-7818.

## Altar Guild Workshop

The Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is hosting an Altar Guild Workshop entitled *Sacred Time, Sacred Space, Sacred Things for a Holy People* on **Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran in Dillsboro. This one-day workshop will explore some of the external concepts surrounding the worship life of the Church. The presentation was originally developed as a learning opportunity for altar guilds and those who assist in the preparation and care of the worship space. However, it is most certainly open to all who wish to learn more about how the Church year, the Church building, and the Church's items help us to proclaim Christ and Him crucified. The workshop is free, and lunch is included. For more information or to register, please contact Trinity's church office at 812-432-5406.

## Children's Tea Social

All St. Paul and ECM children (boys and girls), and accompanying adult(s), are invited to a dress-up Children's Tea Social on **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 2-3:30 PM in the church fellowship room. Flavored teas and apple juice, scones, petite sandwiches, and dainty desserts will be served (more of a snack than a meal), and an activity is being planned. The focus of the event is primarily for the children and accompanying adult to learn another country's culture by participating in a High Tea modeled after the British custom. The sign-up deadline is **Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>**; this will enable us to plan appropriately. You may sign-up by emailing Vicki Howarth at [dvhowarth@comcast.net](mailto:dvhowarth@comcast.net) or through the following link: <https://forms.gle/jPtc7ha3uPpDujYC8>. A sign-up table is also available in the gathering space. Please join us for an afternoon of High Tea fun and fellowship!

## Alleluia Banner Procession

At both services on **Transfiguration Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, all children are invited to process the Alleluia Banners. Following the

service, the Alleluia Banners will be "buried" for the Lenten season as we do not say or sing "Alleluia" during this penitential season. On Easter Sunday, the Alleluia Banner box will be opened, and the children will process with them to celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

## Brass and Organ Concert

You are cordially invited to a concert on **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 3 PM with the Columbus Brass Quintet and Kantor Dan Mau on organ. A freewill offering will be received for the Music Department. Please plan to attend and invite others!

## Orphan Grain Train Work Day

St. Paul serves the OGT by sorting donated items for distribution the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, come and join us on **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

Donations can be dropped off at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

## Communion Wafer Making

We are blessed here at St. Paul that our Communion wafers are homemade by a group of dedicated volunteers. Our next Communion Wafer Making Day is **Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen. Come, serve, and enjoy Christian fellowship!

## Indiana District Evangelism Conference

The Indiana District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is sponsoring an Evangelism Conference *Modern Evangelism: Historical Tools* on **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** at Epiphany Lutheran in Westfield. For more information, please speak to Pastor Bauman or visit the Indiana District website: [in.lcms.org](http://in.lcms.org).

## Spring Forward

Before going to bed on **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, set your clock ahead one hour as Daylight Saving Time begins.

## March Church Office Hours

On **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**, the church office will be closed as church and school staff will be assisting with Grandparents Day at the church.

During the week of Spring Break, Mackenzie will be in the office on the morning of **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit all bulletin announcements for March 23<sup>rd</sup> by 8 AM Tuesday morning.

If you need pastoral care during Spring Break, please contact a pastor directly.

## Accreditation Team Visit—March 26-28

After months of preparation, we will welcome the Accreditation Team from National Lutheran School Accreditation to our church and school Wednesday-Friday, March 26-28. The visit will begin with the Lenten Supper on Wednesday evening and a Meet-and-Greet with our staff, accreditation teams, and church leadership following the service.

To prepare for this visit, over 40 members have been serving on various committees to gather the necessary documentation. Thanks to all who are serving in this process.

At the conclusion of their visit, the Accreditation Team will make a decision regarding whether our school will be accredited for another five years as well as offering recommendations to strengthen our early childhood ministry.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members: It's time to designate your Choice Dollars if you have not already done so. Login in to [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or call (800) 847-4836 and designate your Choice Dollars before **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Lois Wischmeier or the church office.

## Easter Candy Donations

The youth will be hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Individually wrapped candy donations will be collected in the gathering space to offset the costs of filling Easter eggs. Please bring your donations on or before **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Your donations are appreciated!

## ECM Fourth Annual CARnival

The four annual Early Childhood Ministry CARnival is **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This year's CARnival will have a Hawaiian theme. The ECM board is seeking volunteers to host a booth at the event. Booths may include a fun activity or game; prizes will be provided. Please contact Andrea Cotton to sign up for a booth at 812-344-4580 or [amorris1525@gmail.com](mailto:amorris1525@gmail.com).

## March Mission of the Month

March's Mission of the Month is the Tanzania Mission. Pastor Peter Brock serves along with many others in this important outreach. Our mission support will provide theological education for future pastors as well as support the orphanage.

## Open ECM Positions

We are looking for quality candidates to fill the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Preschool teacher
- Teacher assistant
- Afternoon extended care teachers
- Substitute teachers

Most positions have morning responsibilities. Depending on availability, the weekly work structure can flex between Tuesday/Thursday and Monday/Wednesday/Friday. If you are interested in joining our staff, please send in your resume to [secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org) with a note indicating which position(s) you are interested in. We will be collecting resumes through February 28<sup>th</sup>. For additional questions, please feel free to contact Jen Probst or any member of the Early Childhood Ministry Board (Andrea Cotton, Marissa Younger, and Emily Linke).

## Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. Registration brochures are available in the gathering space and the church website. **Please tell others about our preschool and kindergarten!** Here are some facts to share:

- We are accredited through the National Lutheran School Accreditation, making our school one of few early childhood centers that are accredited in Columbus.
- Small class sizes
- Extended Care available for both before and after school
- STEM enrichment available
- MOST importantly, we offer a Christ-centered education! The children learn about Jesus and the Scriptures every day!
- Our Kindergarten families are eligible to apply for the School Choice Scholarship for tuition assistance. Our Little Doves (four year old) families are eligible for SGO scholarships.

## Official Act

Nancy Eleanor Alysia Burbrink, daughter of Cory and Amber Burbrink, was baptized on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Our Christian Stewardship

We are grateful for your joyful and generous response to our Lord's blessings through your gifts and offerings. January is our largest expense month as we pay for tuition scholarships to our area Lutheran schools for our members who are enrolled in grades 1-12 (34 member children). In January, there are many one-time expenses such as the Trinity Lutheran High School Association Fee. Although expenses are high in January, your giving was generous, significantly lowering the deficit.

### January 2025 Financial Report

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Offerings Needed:   | \$ 63,732        |
| Offerings Received: | <u>\$ 81,530</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit):  | \$ 17,798        |
| Total Income:       | \$ 98,527        |
| Total Expenses:     | <u>\$144,353</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit):  | (\$45,826)       |

If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact Treasurer Mary Ann Nunn, Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne, or a member of the Board of Stewardship.

## Our Latino Outreach

I've had the pleasure of beginning catechesis with Ángel Aguilar López, a friend of member Moisés Pérez Francisco. On Wednesdays a little after 3 pm I pick up Moisés at his apartment in Seymour. Together we then pick up Ángel at Seymour High School. From there the three of us head to Peace Lutheran Church Seymour where we have our quick lesson before we take Moisés to Aisin for work. It's a whirlwind trip to Seymour each week, but I'm delighted to see the young men's desire to squeeze a Bible study into their weekly routine.

Also, rough winter weather caused one of our Indy Sunday afternoon services to be moved to Monday evening online. Those in attendance liked the online format, so they requested a weekday online Bible study. We've begun a Wednesday evening study on the divine service. Thanks to the online format, members from both Indy and Columbus can attend and get to know each other a bit more.

--Pastor Fickenscher

## Sponsor a St. Paul Youth

The LCMS National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 19-23, 2025, under the theme "Endure". Next year, fourteen youth and adults from St. Paul will be attending "Endure," along with 20,000 Lutheran youth and adults from around the United States, and the WORLD!

The National Gathering is one of the major projects of the Youth Ministry Office of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The Gathering provides a great opportunity for young people and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate, and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their church and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God's people through Word and Sacrament. Youth Gatherings provide an arena to raise the visibility of youth ministry within The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

We are inviting friends, family, and congregation members to sponsor youth attendees for the National Youth Gathering trip this summer. Your generous sponsorship gift of \$100/youth will assist the youth with the cost to attend the Gathering (approx. \$1,500 per person for travel, hotel, food, registration etc.), and provide you with an opportunity to stay connected with them while they are at the Gathering next summer.

Please prayerfully consider supporting Adam Arnholt, Isabel Burbrink, Tabitha Hall, Madeline Johnson, Emmitt Jones, Keren Lewis, Logan Warren, Luke Warren, Jesse Wofford and Providence Wofford with a national youth gathering sponsorship gift. Please stop by the display in the gathering space to learn more about our youth attending the Gathering. Your generosity will lessen the financial burden for these youth attending the gathering.

To sponsor one or more youth, please use your "Designated Offering" envelope in the back of your offering box. Indicate "Youth Sponsorship" with your gift. If you are sponsoring specific youth(s), please also indicate their name(s) on the envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact DCE Jen Probst or Pastor Bauman.





## LWML News

The **2025 Annual Meeting of the LWML** was held January 18. Elaine Wilson and Linda K. Scheidt were elected vice president and treasurer on a two-year term, from 2025-2027. Many thanks to outgoing vice president Nora Cleary for her unending willingness to serve the LWML in many ways. Welcome to our seven new members as well. If you missed membership Sundays in January, it's not too late to join our mission-focused fellowship organization. Contact any board member for more info.

Thirty-eight people attended February's **Family Game Night/Euchre Tourney**, and we collected more than \$200 for the Concordia Counseling Center in Seymour. Thank you for coming together for a common cause, and for playing more than just euchre (Ten people joined in for other games last month.). The next Family Game Night will be Friday, May 9.



Last fall, the LWML Indiana District Choir recorded music for **Worship Anew**, and our own Nora Cleary provided piano accompaniment. Some of the recordings will be broadcast on February 16, February 23, and March 9. Check out the Worship Anew YouTube channel to watch and listen.

In early March, we will be hosting **Birthday Bingo at the Lutheran Community Home** in Seymour. We are asked to provide bingo prizes, angel food cakes, and cupcakes for the event. A few ladies plan to carpool from the church and have lunch in Seymour before bingo. All ladies of the church are welcome to join in this fellowship opportunity. The date is TBD, but it could be the week of March 16.

The LWML will serve the **Lenten Meal** on March 26, prior to the evening service. There will be a Nacho Bar sign-up sheet on the LWML bulletin board soon, so please check it out and donate if you are able. We would also love as many ladies as possible to help with set up and take down that evening. **NEW:** We are pairing a **Silent Auction** with our Lenten meal to support the Extending Christ's Love campaign. More details to come.

### Save the Dates

The **LWML Indiana District Spring Retreat** is April 25-26 at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana. The theme for the retreat is "Words that start with RE: Rest, Relax, Recharge, Rejoice, Repeat." Join us for an overnight "recharge" in beautiful Brown County!

The **LWML Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** is Saturday, May 3, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Franklin, Indiana. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with a program to follow at 9 AM. Ladies of St. Paul will likely be carpooling to the event, so let us know if you'd like to go.

COME to the HEARTLAND! Consider making the trip to Omaha, Nebraska, for the **LWML National Convention** June 26-29, 2025. The theme is "Growing in God's Grace" based on 2 Peter 3:18. Registration opens March 1.

### LWML Mission Grant Highlights 2023-2025

Each month the LWML highlights one or more of the 31 adopted 2023-2025 Mission Grants. January's focus was on two programs that support the needs of children. To learn more about these, or any of the 31 mission grants, visit the bulletin board in the gathering space, or [www.lwml.org/mission-grants](http://www.lwml.org/mission-grants).

#### *A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children | \$100,000*

This grant will support Lutheran Special Education Ministry (LSEM) in the expansion of their services for special needs children in Lutheran schools and churches. It will help LSEM develop new resources to serve future needs and ensure their ministry is continually helpful and effective.

#### *Our Place After School Care, Inc. Nebraska | \$20,000*

Our Place is an after-school program for special needs teenagers located in Hastings, Nebraska. It is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. Our Place provides programming designed to promote academic, social, and life skills appropriate to each student's needs. It also provides opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities. The \$20,000 grant will help meet rent and utility costs, purchase the software needed to manage the Freedom Factory store, and provide scholarship aid.

# Serving at St. Paul

| Service  | Usher Team | Elders                        | Greeters |
|----------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 8 AM     | Team B     | Jim Brock &<br>Brian Annholt  |          |
| 10:45 AM | Team E     | Eric Scheidt &<br>Tim Scheidt |          |

| Day                | Acolyte                             | Flowers                      | Radio | Fellowship Hour            | Lunch                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2                  | 8 AM<br>Tabitha Hall                |                              |       | Jesse and Kelly<br>Gonsior | The Helts                |
|                    | 10:45 AM<br>Edwin Chun<br>Escalante |                              |       |                            |                          |
| 5<br>Lent 6:45 PM  | Kevin Chun<br>Escalante             |                              |       | -----                      | -----                    |
| 9                  | 8 AM<br>Danial Helt                 |                              |       | The Helts                  | The Halls                |
|                    | 10:45 AM<br>Emma Gibson             |                              |       |                            |                          |
| 12<br>Lent 6:45 PM | Emmitt Jones                        |                              |       | -----                      | -----                    |
| 16                 | 8 AM<br>Naomi Lewis                 |                              |       |                            | No Lunch<br>Spring Break |
|                    | 10:45 AM<br>Grant Gilmore           |                              |       |                            |                          |
| 19<br>Lent 6:45 PM | Lane Gilmore                        |                              |       | -----                      | -----                    |
| 23                 | 8 AM<br>Kylie Price                 |                              |       |                            | The Vogels               |
|                    | 10:45 AM<br>Caroline Glick          |                              |       |                            |                          |
| 26<br>Lent 6:45 PM | Daryn Vogel                         |                              |       | -----                      | -----                    |
| 30                 | 8 AM<br>Jocelyn Vogel               | Bruce and Natalie<br>Pollert |       | The Burbrinks              | Latino<br>Families       |
|                    | 10:45 AM<br>Zaylie Gonsior          |                              |       |                            |                          |



# St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

## March 2025

**Our Sunday Schedule**  
**8 AM Divine Service**  
 9:10 AM Fellowship  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 9:30 AM Radio Service  
**10:45 AM Divine Service English & Spanish**  
 Noon Lunch (No lunch 3/16)

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study  
 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation (No class 3/16)  
 12:30 PM Jr. Handchimes (Only on 3/2 and 3/30)  
 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells (Only on 3/2 and 3/30)  
 1:45 PM Choristers (Only on 3/2 and 3/30)  
 7 PM Lutheran Hour

**Wednesday Schedule**  
 9 AM Bible Study  
**10:15 AM Matins Service**  
 5:30 PM Lenten Supper  
 5:30 PM Sr. Handbells  
 6:30 PM Hymn Sing  
**6:45 PM Lenten Service**  
 7:45 PM Sr. Choir

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                                      | Fri  | Sat       |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|
| <b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b><br>Mite Box Sunday<br>Sr. Choir<br><b>8 and 10:45 AM Alleluia</b><br><b>Banner Procession</b><br>3 PM Columbus Brass Organ Concert | <b>3</b><br>10 AM Homeschool Religion<br>10 AM Moms in the Word<br>10 AM Small Group Handbells   | <b>4</b><br>9 AM-Noon OGT Workday<br>Noon Staff Meeting | <b>5 Ash Wednesday</b><br>10:45 AM Wafer Making<br>5:45 PM Rummage Sale Meeting<br>6:30 PM Imposition of Ashes<br><b>6:45 PM Communion Service</b><br>Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells<br>8:00 PM Elders Meeting | <b>6</b><br>7 PM Tri-W Meeting           | <b>7</b><br>Church Reserved<br><br>SPY and C4Life Lock-in                      | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>Sr. Handbells<br>Noon KFC Event  | <b>10</b><br>April Newsletter Deadline<br>9:30 AM Homeschool Religion<br>10 AM Small Group Handbells<br>6 PM Finance Committee<br>6:30 PM Rummage Sale Mtg<br>7 PM Council Meeting | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>5:30 PM ECM Board Meeting  | <b>13</b>                                | <b>14</b><br><b>Grandparents Day</b><br>8:20 AM Chapel<br>Church Office Closed | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>Small Group Handbells<br>Noon Confirmation Make-Up Session  | <b>17</b><br>10 AM Small Group Handbells<br>5:30 PM Girl Scouts  | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b><br>1-3 PM Church Re-served     | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b> |
| ECM Spring Break / Pastor Bauman on Vacation / Church Office Open Tuesday Morning Only   |  |   |   |  |  |           |
| <b>23</b><br>Jr. Choir   | <b>24</b><br>9:30 AM Homeschool Religion<br>10 AM Small Group Handbells  | <b>25</b><br>5-10 PM Church Reserved                    | <b>26</b><br>7:45 PM Accreditation Team Meet and Greet  | <b>27</b><br>1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b> |
| <b>30</b><br>Sr. Choir<br>1:30 PM SPY, C4Life, and Young Adults Back9Golf Event  | <b>31</b><br>9:30 AM Homeschool Religion<br>10 AM Small Group Handbells  |   |   | ECM Accreditation Visit                  |  |           |
| Radio Service and Lutheran Hour can be found on<br>91.1 FM Columbus/Madison,<br>89.1 FM Greensburg, 88.1 FM Versailles/Osgood, and<br>94.5 FM Salem                |  |   |   |  |  |           |