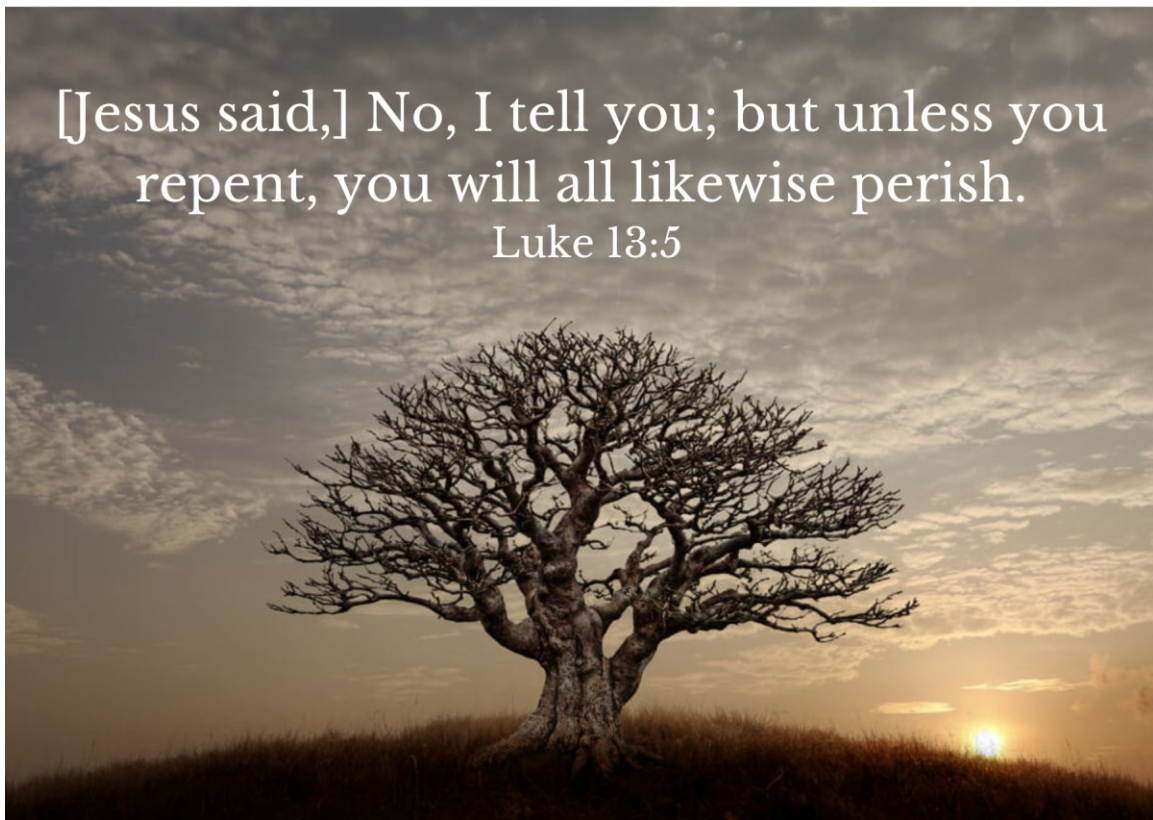


[Jesus said,] No, I tell you; but unless you  
repent, you will all likewise perish.

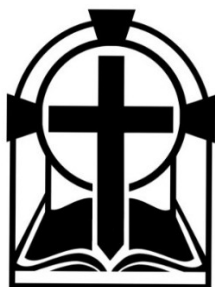
Luke 13:5



*Worse Sinners?*

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod  
Columbus, Indiana

## Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

**The Family Quiet Room and Restroom** are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

**Our Communion Practice:** We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

**Communion Preparation:** To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

### Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent)  
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade  
Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson  
Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room led by DCE Jen Probst  
*Financial Peace University:* The final session is today led by the Phil and Crista Burbrink and Chad and Rachel Fohne

*Hey Pastor, what about...?* led by Pastor Bauman meets in the fellowship room

### Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau  
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Kylie Price  
10:45 AM Service Caroline Glick

## Church Calendar

*Today-Wednesday LWML Silent Auction*  
*Wednesday-Friday Accreditation Team Visit*

Today	<b>8:00 AM Divine Service</b> 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM <b>10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish</b> Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study <b>10:15 AM Matins Service</b> 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 5:30 PM Sr. Handbells <b>6:30-6:45 PM Hymn Sing</b> <b>6:45 PM Lenten Service</b> 7:45 PM Sr. Choir 7:45 PM Accreditation Team Meet & Greet
Thursday	1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit
Friday	1:00 PM Accreditation Team Exit Meeting
Next Sunday	<b>8:00 AM Divine Service</b> 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM <b>10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish</b> Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells 1:30 PM SPY, C4Life, and Young Adults Golf Outing 1:45 PM Jr. Choristers 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

### IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- + April Newsletter
- + April-June *Portals of Prayer*
- + 2024 Contribution Statements

# Third Sunday in Lent

## Prelude

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*—E. Pepping

## Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the Record of Fellowship*

## Ringling of the Bell

## Opening Hymn

*Please stand for stanza three*

824

## Litany

*please stand page 288*

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*please be seated*

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-20

[The LORD said to Ezekiel:] "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

"And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

"And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

"Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just,' when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

[Paul writes:] For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day

*please stand speak together*

**G** I tell you, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the thirteenth chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And He answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*please be seated*

## Little Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

**755** *Small Group sings stanza one*

## Sermon

*Worse Sinners?*

Luke 13:1-9

## Nicene Creed

*please stand page 191*

## Prayer of the Church

## Offering

Handbell Solo: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Hymn 436)

## Service of the Sacrament

*please stand pages 194-198*

**Distribution****765, 614 stanzas 1-7, 421, 426***Visitors—Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.***Closing Liturgy***please stand* pages 199-202**Closing Hymn****614 stanza 8****Postlude***If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee, BWV 642—J.S. Bach**Thanks to Katie Arnholt for the Handbell Solo this morning.*

## Worse Sinners? Luke 13:1-9

The false teaching that Jesus addresses: B \_\_\_\_\_ things happen to b \_\_\_\_\_ people.

**Unless you r \_\_\_\_\_, you will all p \_\_\_\_\_!**

When you hear of tragedy how should you respond?

What do you truly deserve because of your sin?

**Unless you bear the f \_\_\_\_\_ of r \_\_\_\_\_, you will all p \_\_\_\_\_!**

How does Jesus teach us this truth through the parable of the barren fig tree?

**Who is the worst sinner? J \_\_\_\_\_!*****Next Sunday's Readings*** *Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32***LIVING THE SERMON...** The Christian life is one of repentance. But repentance is so much more than just sorrow over sin. Repentance is acknowledging one's sin, turning to Christ in faith for the forgiveness of sins, and seeking the Spirit's help to produce good fruit. Pray that you would daily live in humble repentance before your Lord and abound in good fruit that serves others.**PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH...** Give thanks for Jesus who became sin for you! Pray that you would always live in repentance and faith toward God and respond with care and compassion when others are facing tragedy and trial.**MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK...** *It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.* Luke 15:32

## In the Wilderness—Lenten Sermon Series

During our midweek services we are studying the book of Numbers which recounts the Israelites' journey in the wilderness to the Promised Land. Supper is served from 5:30-6:15 PM. We sing our favorite hymns from 6:30-6:45 PM, and the Lenten services begin at 6:45 PM. Here are the upcoming service themes:

**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

# Extending Christ's Love Update

On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, our church building was filled with incredible joy and activity as more than 200 students, grandparents, and special friends participated in Grandparents Day. The day began in worship with chapel, with voices of all ages singing praises to our God. The theme of Grandparents Day was the Wilderness, which corresponds to our Lenten sermon series and the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School: The WAY in the Wilderness. After chapel, we headed to the fellowship room for a presentation and activities. You can imagine the fellowship room bursting at its seams with all the students and their grandparents.



Events like Grandparents Day highlight our need for additional space for ministry. Through your support of Extending Christ's Love, our Great Hall in the new Christian Education Center will be more than 50% larger than our current fellowship room. With the church and school in one building, classrooms will also be able to be utilized for activities.

In addition, your support of Extending Christ's Love will enable us to serve more children and their families through our early childhood ministry. We are five months from the beginning of the school year, and we already have 59 children enrolled. *Thanks be to God!*

Unfortunately, we have only one opening remaining in the Little Doves, four-year-old class for the coming school year. Once we have one more registration, all others will have to be turned away. The kindergarten and Little Lambs (three-year-old) classes are also nearing capacity with nine openings in kindergarten and eight in the Little Lambs class. The Christian Education Center will give us the ability to expand our early childhood ministry from the current three classrooms to six classrooms, doubling the number of students and families we can serve.

**Rummage Sale is June 6-7 and your help is needed:** Please continue to gather items for our Rummage Sale on June 6-7. Larger items can be stored in the chapel. Donations can be brought to church May 18-June 3. Volunteers are needed to set up for the Rummage Sale on June 4-5, and to serve during the sale on June 6-7. Please sign up in the gathering space if you can serve. If you have any questions, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946.

The Building and Finance Committees are grateful for your continued prayers and support of Extending Christ's Love.

## Youth Events

### **KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)**

Our April KfC event is our annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:45 AM service on **Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. There is no lunch served with this KfC event and no RSVP is needed.

### **SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)**

**Next Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Youth AND Young Adults:** Fun and fellowship at Back 9 Golf in Indianapolis. Meet at church at 1:30 PM for devotions. We will travel to Back 9 for play from 3-5 PM, returning around 6 PM. Bring money for snacks and golf clubs, if you have them. Cost: SPY and C4Life Youth—free. Young adults, parents, younger siblings—suggested \$10 donation. If you have questions, please contact Eric and Linda Scheidt (812-371-8810; elscheidt@juno.com).

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Servant Event:** Sixth and seventh graders and high school youth are invited to remain for lunch and help us fill Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Servant Event:** SPY and C4Life Youth that attend the 8 AM service are encouraged to help hide Easter eggs during the 10:45 AM service.

*Friends are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact a youth counselor or Pastor Bauman.*



**IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering:** Warren Scheidt (heart procedure Friday), James Neawedde, Callan Jones, Amy Yeley, Dennis Peters, Pastor Stache, Ray Cline, Sandy Lagneau, Karen Hendershot, Phyllis Fox, Nancy Lipka, Kathy Hoover, Lynn Hoeltke, Bob Runge, Jill Scheidt, Pam Jenkins, Jean Joyner (Nancy Dyer's sister), Carolyn Kidd (Danny and Sandy Johnson's friend), Morgan Curry (Danny and Sandy Johnson's friend), Candice Rominger (Clearys' friend), Amy Coombs (Darlene Bower's friend), Judy Parker (Gayla Alesandro's friend), Angela Vennemann (Kathy Hoover's niece), Margaret Osman (Nancy Dyer's sister), Paul Schultz (Gloria's son; Sandy Banister's brother); Edward Arnold (Amanda Kruger Arnold's brother-in-law), Greg Hercamp, Mike Alesandro (Gayla's husband), Cassie Murray (Jason and Laurie Schroer's friend), Lonnie Doty (Laurie Schroer's father), Tiffany Wilson (Karen Hendershot's cousin), Connie Ball (Jan Voelz's friend), Dave Jensen (Krugers' friend), Moe Humphrey (Ray and Pat Hall's friend) Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friend), Kristina Hargitt (Kim Chandler's friend), Amy Cockburn (South Decatur principal), Dale Christophel (Ray and Pat Hall's friend), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), Annie Walton (Holly Wischmeier's coworker's daughter), Marcelle Williams (Bridges' friend), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Naomi Gillespie (Haaks' great-niece); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Noah Hoeltke, Evan Rickus, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Michael Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Sam Studler (Kallis' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

**TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR...** is in honor and celebration of our three Sunday School teachers who are expecting little ones this spring: Macy Hogan, Kacey Patterson, and Tatum Potter. There will be a freewill offering for those who wish to contribute to the diaper funds of these little ones.

**SILENT AUCTION BEGINS THIS MORNING...** The LWML is pairing a Silent Auction with its Lenten meal to support the Extending Christ's Love campaign. The auction begins **this morning** in the fellowship room and concludes **this Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45 PM (prior to the Lenten service). Silent Auction rules will be posted at both ends of the auction tables, and each item will have its own bid sheet. THANK YOU to all who have donated items for the auction! Call or text Sariina Kalli 218-451-1026 with questions.

**MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPER AND SERVICE...** We will gather for our midweek Lenten service **this Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45 PM. Our theme for this Wednesday's service is *Rebellion in the Wilderness* from Numbers 16:1-50. The service will be preceded by a hymn sing from 6:30-6:45 PM.

Lenten Supper: This Wednesday's supper is a nacho bar sponsored by the LWML. Proceeds from the meal and silent auction will benefit Extending Christ's Love.

**ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT...** For the past year, more than 25 church members have been preparing the reports for the National Lutheran School Accreditation Visitation Team. The final report has been submitted and the Accreditation Team will be onsite **Wednesday-Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**. The team will be attending the Lenten supper and service on Wednesday. Following the service there will be a Meet-and-Greet with the accreditation team, church and school staff, and church leaders. Please welcome our accreditation team and continue to lift up our early childhood ministry in prayer.

**DRIVERS NEEDED...** Drivers are needed for the Young Adult and Youth Event **next Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you are willing to drive youth, please contact Eric or Linda Scheidt (812-371-8810).

**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.

**UNTHINKABLE MOVIE...** *Unthinkable* is the shocking exposé of the abortion industry and its darkest secrets. You are invited to watch this pro-life and pro-love movie on **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10 AM at Yes Cinema in Columbus. For more information or to purchase tickets, please see the flyer posted in the gathering space.

**EASTER CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED...** 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!

**EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN-UP...** Youth families, please sign up in the gathering space to provide food for the Easter breakfast. Also, help is needed to serve the breakfast, especially from SPY and C4Life Youth. Those attending the 7 AM service should plan to serve after the worship service through clean-up. Those attending the 9 AM service should plan to arrive by 7:30 AM to serve until 9 AM. Those attending the 10:45 AM service should plan to serve from 9 AM-10:45 AM.

**ECM FOURTH ANNUAL CARNIVAL...** The fourth 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.

**YOUTH MATCHING GRANT...** Thanks to everyone who has generously donated to send our youth and chaperones to the National Youth Gathering this summer. Thanks to your generosity, we are only **\$377** from reaching the \$5,500 match and fully funding this endeavor! If you would like to contribute, please use your special offering envelope in the gathering space or your Designated Offering envelope in your offering box.

**DONATIONS FOR JUST FRIENDS...** Just Friends is a nonprofit organization that provides Adult Daycare Services. Donations help Just Friends continue to provide services at a reasonable cost to families. In the gathering space is a collection box for the following

items: Folgers coffee, peanut butter, grape jelly, sugar free grape jelly, alcohol wipes/prep pads, paper plates (small & regular), plastic cups, Lysol spray, Kleenex, 13-gallon trash bags, paper towels, and Elmer's glue bottles. Thanks for your support!

**GREETERS NEEDED...** Greeters welcome members and visitors to our worship services. Greeters typically serve at either the 8 or 10:45 AM service for one month. If you are interested in serving as a greeter, please contact Eric Scheidt at 812-371-8810.

**CONCORDIA COUNSELING...** is hiring an Outpatient Therapist (full or part-time), School Based Counselor (full-time), and Office Manager (part-time). For more information, contact Director Michelle Downey (812-671-8704; michelledowney@concordiacounseling.org).

**THANKS FROM...** Lisele Bockes expresses her thanks for the prayers for healing and the cards she received while she was sick.

## **The Response of God's People**

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Service Attendance: **140**

**Last Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Divine Service Attendance: **307**; Communion: **233**

Sunday School Attendance: **120**

General Fund: **\$10,718.91**      Weekly Need: \$15,933

Extending Christ's Love: \$1,645

National Youth Gathering Sponsorships and Lenten Supper (gifts are matched dollar-for-dollar): \$2,818

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry**

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; [www.stpaulcolumbus.org](http://www.stpaulcolumbus.org)

Pastor Doug Bauman; [pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; [pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; [pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org); 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; [kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-927-9319

Church and ECM Secretary Mackenzie Wint; [secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-528-1176

Church and ECM Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; [financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; [riskplants@yahoo.com](mailto:riskplants@yahoo.com); 812-343-6466

Early Childhood Ministry Director Jen Probst; [director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org); 765-491-7818

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Jen Probst and Michelle Schultz (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sally Haak, Kathy Hoover, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Glory Wofford, Amy Yeley