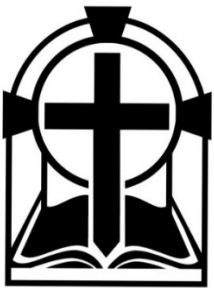




Love, Bless, Forgive

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 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 Mrs. Probst
Financial Peace University led by the Burbrinks and Fohnes meets in the quiet room
Signs, Symbols, and their Meaning led by Pastor Bauman meets in the fellowship room

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Kinze Fischer
10:45 AM Service Jesse Wofford

Church Calendar

*Nave and Sanctuary Painting This Week
Matins will be held in the fellowship room*

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells 1:45 PM Choristers 2:00-3:30 PM Children's Tea Social 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	<i>ECM Parent Teacher Conferences Monday-Friday</i> 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir 7:00 PM Board of Education Meeting
Thursday	1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit
Next Sunday	Transfiguration Sunday <i>Alleluia Banner Procession—both services</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells 1:45 PM Choristers 3:00 PM Columbus Brass and Organ Concert 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

+ 2024 Contribution Statements
+ March Newsletter

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude

Offertory on the *Grands Jeux*—F. Couperin

Welcome and Announcements

8 AM Service: New Members—Mark and Debbie Mensendiek

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

Jr. Choir sings stanza three

790

Confession of Sins

please stand page 203

Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis

page 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Genesis 45:3-15

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

[Paul writes:] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing page 205

G **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the sixth chapter.

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

[Jesus says:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles Creed

page 207

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

843

Sermon

Love, Bless, Forgive

Genesis 45:3-15

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Offering

814

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 208-210

Distribution

696, 820, 728, 706

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 211-212

Closing Hymn

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Postlude

Trumpet Tune in C—H. Purcell

Love, Bless, Forgive—Genesis 45:3-15

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Be merciful even as your Father is merciful.”

Is it easy or difficult to do what our Lord commands us in these words?

How did Joseph’s brothers sin against him? What did Joseph endure because of his brothers’ sins?

How did Joseph love, bless, and forgive his brothers? Did Joseph do it perfectly?

Joseph says to his brothers: “God sent me before you to preserve life.” How did God take the sin and evil of Joseph’s brothers and work through their sin and evil to accomplish His good purposes?

How was God at work through the sin and evil surrounding the arrest and death of Jesus to accomplish His good purposes?

Scripture declares that every person by nature is both a sinner *and* an enemy of God. How does Jesus *perfectly* love, bless, and forgive you?

Why is receiving the Lord’s love and forgiveness through Word and Sacrament and fervent prayer necessary so that we can love, bless, and forgive those who have sinned against us?

Next Sunday’s Readings—Transfiguration Sunday Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36

LIVING THE SERMON... In this broken world, you will sin against others and others will sin against you. Sadly, often those we sin against us are those closest to us—our own relatives—as was the case with Joseph’s brothers. If you have sinned against another, confess your sin to them and seek their forgiveness. If others have sinned you, pray for the Holy Spirit to help you let go of your hatred, anger, and resentment and to graciously love and forgive them as the Lord loves and forgives you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH... Give thanks to the Lord for His free and extravagant love, mercy, and forgiveness! Pray for God’s help to extend that same love, mercy, and forgiveness to others, even to those who have sinned against you.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!* Luke 9:35

Upcoming Special Services

Next Sunday, March 2nd—Transfiguration Sunday: At both services next Sunday, 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!

Ash Wednesday, March 5th: We begin our Lenten journey to the cross on Ash Wednesday. Tri-W is sponsoring the supper which will be served from 5:30-6:15 PM. The menu is: baked ham, potato casserole, green beans, cottage cheese, applesauce, peaches, and assorted desserts. Gluten free options will be available. Those who desire the Imposition of Ashes can receive them from 6:30-6:45 PM. This time will also include special music from our choirs and congregational singing. The Ash Wednesday Communion service begins at 6:45 PM.

Extending Christ's Love Update

The Finance Committee continues to pursue funding opportunities for Extending Christ's Love. The Finance Committee is partnering with our LWML and others to host a churchwide Rummage Sale on Friday-Saturday, June 6th-7th. This has the potential of generating significant support for Extending Christ's Love. Here's some ways that you can support this endeavor:



- Begin to gather gently used items for the Rummage Sale. As you declutter or do spring cleaning, set aside items that can be donated. The chapel is available for storage of larger items (furniture, etc.) until the Rummage Sale.
- We will need **many** volunteers to help with set-up, assist during the sale, and with clean-up after the sale, as well as promoting the sale. If you are interested in serving, we are offering two identical 30-minute informational meetings:
 - Ash Wednesday, March 5th** during the Lenten Supper at 5:45 PM. Arrive before 5:45 PM, get your food and join us in the northwest corner of the fellowship room (by the library).
 - Monday, March 10th** at 6:30 PM in the fellowship room.

Please plan to attend one of these planning meetings. If you have questions or desire to serve but are unable to attend, please contact Finance Committee Chair Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support of Extending Christ's Love.

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Our next KfC event is **Sunday, March 9th** from noon-1:15 PM for lunch, devotions, and activities. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 5th to Rachel Fohne by text or phone at 812-343-3786 or by email rmolting@alumni.iu.edu if your child(ren) plans to attend.

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

Friday-Saturday, March 7-8 Lock-In: The lock-in will begin at church on Friday evening and will conclude at Trinity Lutheran High School on Saturday morning. Please RSVP by phone, text, or email to Pastor Bauman by next Sunday, March 2nd.

Sunday, March 30th Youth and Young Adults: Fun and fellowship at Back 9 Golf in Indianapolis. Meet at church at 1:30 PM. RSVP by March 12th. See the announcement below for more details.

All Youth and Youth Families

Wednesday, March 12th, Lenten Supper: Our youth groups will be sponsoring the Lenten supper. Please plan to attend and assist with this fundraising meal. Arrive at or anytime after 4:30 PM.

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



SPY, C4Life, and Young Adults Golf 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 30th**. 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 12th. Please RSVP to Eric and Linda Scheidt (812-371-8810; elscheidt@juno.com).

IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering: Amy Yeley (surgery this Friday), Lisele Bockes, Jasmine Denny and unborn child, Dennis Peters, Pastor Stache, Ray Cline, Sandy Lagneau, Karen Hendershot, Phyllis Fox, Nancy Lipka, Kay Newton, Kathy Hoover, Lynn Hoeltke, Jan Sherbundy, Bob Runge, Jill Scheidt, Pam Jenkins, 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), Dianne Hargraves (Carolyn Schuette's sister), 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), Jim Baute (Jeff Booher's uncle), 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, Michael Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Sam Studler (Kallis' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

WE WELCOME... Mark and Debbie Mensendiek into our family of faith at the 8 AM service today. May God richly bless them as they worship and serve with us.

SUNDAY LUNCHES...

Today: Chicken Sandwiches (note menu change)

Next Sunday: March 2nd: Taco Bar

March 9th: Chicken Nuggets (KfC Day)

March 16th: No Lunch Served (Spring Break)

CHILDREN'S TEA THIS AFTERNOON... from 2-3:30 PM in the fellowship room. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Vicki Howarth this morning.

NAVE AND SANCTUARY PAINTING CONTINUES THIS WEEK...

The north side of the nave and sanctuary was painted this past week. This afternoon, the pews on the south side will be removed so that the project can be finished this coming week. Due to sanctuary painting, the Wednesday Matins service will be held in the fellowship room. Thanks to everyone who has helped and will help move pews and furniture.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES... The 9 AM morning Bible class is beginning a new study on Paul's epistle to the Romans. Now would be a great time to join us!

The 6 PM class meets **this Wednesday, February 26th** and then will be in recess during Lent.

BRASS AND ORGAN CONCERT... You and your friends are cordially invited to attend a concert featuring the Columbus Brass Quintet and Kantor Dan Mau on organ **next Sunday, March 2nd** at 3 PM. The concert will also include congregational hymn singing. A freewill offering will be received to benefit our Music Department.

INSTALLATION INVITATION... Grace Lutheran, Columbus invites you to the Installation Service of Pastor Todd Riordan **next Sunday, March 2nd** at 4 PM. A meal will follow the service. We give thanks to God that He has provided a shepherd for His people at Grace.

MOMS IN THE WORD... meets **Monday, March 3rd** at 10 AM for a children's devotion and fellowship in the conference room. All are welcome!

OGT WORK DAY... is **Tuesday, March 4th** from 9 AM-noon at the Orphan Grain Train Warehouse in Jonesville. There is a great need for volunteers right now so please consider serving at the Work Day or during regular hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM-3 PM.

COMMUNION WAFER MAKING DAY... is **Ash Wednesday, March 5th** beginning at 10:45 AM in the kitchen. Come, serve and enjoy Christian fellowship!

SPRING FORWARD... move your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed **Saturday, March 8th**.

IN THE WILDERNESS LENTEN SERMON SERIES... Our Lenten series begins on **Sunday, March 9th** as we focus on the theme *In the Wilderness*. For the five Wednesday services after Ash Wednesday, we will walk through the book of Numbers, which recounts the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The sermon series will conclude at our Easter Sunday services at 7, 9, and 10:45 AM on Sunday, April 20th.

2025-2026 ECM REGISTRATION... is now open. Information is available on the front table in the gathering space and online at stpaulcolumbus.org. All registration is online. *Please help us promote our Christ-centered, accredited early learning center!* If you have any questions, please contact Director Jen Probst.

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 with a note indicating which position(s) you are interested in. We will be collecting resumes through **this Friday, February 28th**. 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).

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 or call (800) 847-4836 and designate your Choice Dollars before March 31st. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Lois Wischmeier or the church office.

THANKS TO... all who supported our youth attending the National Youth Gathering at their Valentine's Day fundraiser. \$831 was generously donated.

The Response of God's People **Last Sunday, February 16th**

Divine Service Attendance: **180**; Communion: **142**
Sunday School Attendance: **100**

General Fund: \$16,338 Weekly Need: \$15,933
Extending Christ's Love: \$7,450 including \$100 Fred
Pollert Memorial
National Youth Gathering Sponsorships: \$7,500
SGO: \$75

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201
812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

Church and ECM Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Church and ECM Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Early Childhood Ministry Director Jen Probst; 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,
Caroline Wilcox, Glory Wofford, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow