

**+++ THE GUIDE +++**  
**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-STRASBURG ILLINOIS**

**March 15, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Pastor	Kene Whybrew	Secretary	Sue Bowers
Pastor's Cell	815-383-1148	Secretary HRS	M-W 4-7PM TH 12-4PM
Pastor's Home		Church Office	217-644-2661
Pastor's E-mail	chebrev@yahoo.com	E-mail	<b>stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com</b>
Pastor's Address	512 S Walnut St Strasburg	Address	511 S Walnut St Strasburg
Education Supt	Diane Jack	Website	stpaul-strasburg.com
Altar Flowers	Connie Wirth	YouTube	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Organist	Muriel Merriman		Strasburg Illinois
Choir Director	Karen Rentfro	Pause for Peace	217-644-3124
Accompanist	Sheryl Vonderheide	Prayer Chain	217-821-3038
Greeter	Zach Shelton		

**THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD**

SUN.            8:30 AM Worship Service-Choir Sings  
                   9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S. College+  
                   5:30 PM Worship @ Grace

TUE.            9:00 AM Bible Study  
                   7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

WED.           10:30 AM Lent Service @ Grace  
                   6:30 PM Lent Service @ St. Paul's  
                   7-8 PM WDS

SUN.            8:30 AM Communion Service  
                   8-10 AM LYF Pancake Breakfast @ St. Paul's  
                   9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S. College+  
                   5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace

**March 8 8:30: 102 Year Ago: 107 Sunday School: 40**

**Welcome** "Come and see the works of the Lord... the Lord Almighty is with us!" (Psalm 46:8a, 10a, NIV). We rejoice that you are here today! Let us join together in praising God and witnessing His goodness through Word and Sacrament. To our visitors, your presence brings us special joy—please come again soon! If you are a *visitor*, we invite you to worship with us again and to please fill out the visitor connection card listing your information on both sides and depositing the card in the box in the narthex.

**Open House** You are warmly invited to an Open House, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Shumway in honor of Rev. Steven and Esther Becker as they celebrate 40 years of God's provision and blessings in their marriage. Desserts and drinks will be provided. The link to RSVP is <https://forms.gle/asKyZAMZxppWPXg69>.

**Easter Breakfast** If you would like to donate to the Easter Breakfast, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Palm Sunday** The Sunday School children will parade in before church on Palm Sunday. Children can meet Autumn McCormick in the choir/cry room off the narthex before church. They will parade in during the first hymn or processional.

## THE LORD'S WORK

CURRENT OFFERINGS	\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET	\$ RECEIVED	\$ DIFFERENCE
March 8	\$ 4,191.00	\$ 3,682.50	\$ -508.50
year-to-date	40,910.00	\$ 36,766.55	\$ -4,143.45
<b><u>Synod-Offerings</u></b>			
March 8	\$ 481.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -311.00
year-to-date	\$ 4,810.00	\$ 5,575.00	\$ 765.00
<b>TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000</b>		Total to Date	\$730.00
Building \$480 Sem Student \$700 LYF \$100 Scholarship Fund \$2500.91			
Orr Memorial \$760			

**March 4 \$ 782.50 (Lent)**  
**March 8 \$ 6,850.91**  
**March 8 \$ 760.00 (Orr)**

3/24 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study  
 3/25 8:30 AM Chair Yoga  
       10:30 AM Lent Service @ Grace  
       2:30 PM Social Hall Communion  
       6:30 PM Lent Service @ St. Paul's  
       7-8 PM WDS  
 3/26 8:30 AM Blanket Making

**Congratulations** Congratulations to Blake and Whitney Furr on the birth of their son, Logan Alexander, born on March 4, 2026. Grandparents are Gerry & Dawn Schlechte, Mike & Debbie Furr, and Rick & Glenda Sphar. God's blessings to Logan and his family

### **Lenten Schedule/Theme (Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus)**

Grace -10:30 AM (With Communion), St. Paul - 6:30 PM

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)

25<sup>th</sup> The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

**Easter Sunday** Celebrate the Risen Savior! Communion Service at 8:30AM followed by continental breakfast at 9:30AM in the social hall. There will be an egg hunt for ages 0-6<sup>th</sup> grade at 10 AM in the backyard. All are welcome!! Free will donation to benefit the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry.

**March for Life** The Illinois March for Life is March 19<sup>th</sup> in Springfield at the State Capital. Rally at 1:00pm and march at 2:00pm. Buses reserved at no cost. Contact Dale Wetherell at 217.259.4728.

**Dollar for Missions** We continue to pray for our Dollars for Missions project through the Central Illinois District of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. We appreciate the support of all members of St. Paul's! So far in 2026, we collected \$211 for the months of January and February combined. Please do not forget your weekly "Dollar for Missions" in the box provided in the narthex! Let's reach a new bigger goal for the month of March!!



**ANNIVERSARIES**

19-John & Lisa Cress

**BIRTHDAYS**

15-Will\* Eckstein; Kirtis Stodden  
17-Don Telgmann; Theron\* Newell  
Weslyn Long; Suttyn Wallin  
18-Merle Ragan; Stephanie Petri  
Jesse Williams  
19-Claire Hortenstine; Karen Wirth  
20-Bob Sporleder

**HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK**

Scott & Lori Pieper, Derryl & Sue Pikes, Neil Pikes, Steve Polk, Jessica (Hanfland) Polko, John & Judy Radloff, Ramona Radloff, Merle Ragan, Roy & Mary Reed,

**PRAYER**

Dianna Gibson      John Wittenberg  
Nick Hanfland      Clay Tabbert  
Frances York      Wayne Wirth  
Nick Oller

**LIMITED MOBILITY**

Ramona Radloff (Shelby Rehab & Healthcare )  
Chris Storm (Lutheran Care Center RM#31)  
Beulah Ulmer (The Manor-Shelbyville)  
Robert Stremming  
Imogene Lading – Villas of Holly Brook  
Rosemary Sporleder-Brookstone Mattoon  
Doris Stremming – Willowbrook, Effingham  
Margaret Swank – Willowbrook Effingham

**FRIENDS & FAMILY**  
**(non-members)**

Trevor Roy (accident, Grace Vonderheide friend)  
Ken Daily (Karen Pfeiffer’s father) stroke  
Walker Warden (cancer)  
Christie Dust ( Howard & Kay’s daughter) (Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis)

**Adopted Seminary Students 2025-26**

**4<sup>th</sup> Year Student**

**Joshua Gerken (Wife Rachel, son Callan)  
5418 Brighton Dr.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825**

**2025-26 Vicar assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Eldora, Iowa  
Hunter Kinnison (Wife Naomi)  
1105 Washington St.  
Eldora, IA 50627**

**Benjamin Wagner**

**801 Seminary Place  
St. Louis, MO 63105**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Setting Four

### **O Jesus, King Most Wonderful**

LSB 554

- 1 O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!  
O Source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:
- 2 When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,  
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.
- 3 O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,  
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:
- 4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,  
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!
- 5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone  
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

**Introit**

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

**Kyrie**

LSB 204

C ***Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.***

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 42:14–21

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Sings “In One Accord (Tunney/Schrader)

### Verse

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

## Holy Gospel

John 9:1–41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

## The Gospel is Read

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Apostles’ Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Children’s Message

### God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571

1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon** Ephesians 5:8-14 "Children of Light"

### **Prayer of the Church**

- P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by Your blessed Gospel, and hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble. Provide a home in Your Church for those cast out by this world, and unite them with us in the pure confession of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Lord of glory, You have gathered Your Church and sanctified us in Your truth. Guide and direct our Synodical president; our district president; and our circuit visitor. Preserve all vacant congregations, send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Almighty Father, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve us from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Lord God, You have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays Your glory. Sustain the afflicted in body or soul, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they would take heart, trust You for healing and find You even in the midst of their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P O Lord, those who wait for Your salvation have the promise that You will not forsake them. Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places, that they would find the way of righteousness and not be put to shame. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P All these things, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

## 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Text: Public domain

Next Week's Readings – Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:1-11, John 11:1-45

This Week's Memory Verse – Ephesians 5:8 "for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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