

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

March 22, 2026

Fifth 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	stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
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	Gary & Karen Kull		

THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD

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 @ Grace

TUE. 9:00 AM Bible Study

WED. 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

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

March 15 8:30: 135 Year Ago: 124 Sunday School: 39

Welcome Dear Visitor: We are neither good enough nor do we know enough to be members of the church, the Body of our Lord. Rather, "we are justified by faith" (Romans 5:1, NIV). If you are like us and long for peace with God, you will feel comfortable among us. In any case, we would like to help you find out. Please stay for a while after worship—we'd love the chance to meet you! 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 22nd 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 15	\$ 4,191.00	\$ 4,505.00	\$ 314.00
year-to-date	45,101.00	\$ 41,271.55	\$ -3,829.45
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
March 15	\$ 481.00	\$ 785.00	\$ 304.00
year-to-date	\$ 5,291.00	\$ 6,360.00	\$ 1,069.00
TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000		Total to Date	\$880.00
Building \$470 Sem Student \$250 LYF \$25 Ladies Aid \$100 Trinity \$150			

March 11 \$ 395.00 (Lent)
March 15 \$ 2,505.00
March 20 \$ 3,385.00 (ACH)

3/31 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

4/01 8:30 AM Chair Yoga
6:30-7:30 PM WDS

4/02 10:30 AM Maundy Thursday Serv. @ Grace
1:00 PM Ladies Aid
6:30 Maundy Thursday Serv. @ St. Paul's

4/03 10:30 AM Good Friday Serv. @ Grace
6:30 PM Good Friday Serv. @ St. Paul's

4/04 6:30 Easter Vigil @ Grace

Sympathy Please keep the family of Noel Nippe in your thoughts and prayers. Noel passed away on March 5, 2026. Noel is survived by his daughters Shirley Hermann, Mary Tabbert, and Susan Nippe.

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

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

March 25th 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 0-6th grade at 10 AM in the backyard. All are welcome!! Free will donation to benefit the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry.

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!!

Mites Sunday Mites Sunday will be April 12, 2026.

Sympathy Please keep the family of Ramona Radloff in your thoughts and prayers. Ramona passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.



ANNIVERSARIES

25-Kenny* & Sara Hayes
26-Gary & Sheryl Duncan

BIRTHDAYS

22-Grayson Gilbert
25-Tara Blank; Rick Stodden
26-Deanna Uphoff
27-Deanna Foelsing; Tasha Pieper
28-Darrell Cress

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Dusty & Claudia Rincker, Gary Rincker,
Jim & Sharon Rincker, Luke & Kalei
Rincker, Michael & Laurie Rincker, Otis &
Donna Rincker, Otto & Lisa Rincker,
Maxine Ruff,

PRAYER

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

LIMITED MOBILITY

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
4th 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**

5th Sunday in Lent – Setting One

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?
- 5 If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, 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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C ***Lord, have mercy.***

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C ***Amen.***

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C ***And also with you.***

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

Ezekiel 37:1–14

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C ***Thanks be to God.***

Epistle

Romans 8:1–11

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C ***Thanks be to God.***

Verse (Lent)

LSB 157

C ***Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.***

Holy Gospel

John 11:1–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh 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.***

My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes
That He His foes From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683 Text: Public domain

Sermon "Hear the Word of the Lord" Ezekiel 37:1-14

Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**
- And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offertory

LSB 159

- C *What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.***

Preface

LSB 160

- P The Lord be with you.**
- C *And also with you.***
- P Lift up your hearts.**
- C *We lift them to the Lord.***

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C ***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C ***Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.***

Distribution

Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

LSB 522

- 1 Lord God, to Thee we give all praise, With grateful hearts our voices raise,
That angel hosts Thou didst create Around Thy glorious throne to wait.
- 2 They shine with light and heav'nly grace And constantly behold Thy face;
They heed Thy voice, they know it well, In godly wisdom they excel.
- 3 They never rest nor sleep as we; Their whole delight is but to be
With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to keep Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep.
- 4 The ancient dragon is their foe; His envy and his wrath they know.
It always is his aim and pride Thy Christian people to divide.

- 5 As he of old deceived the world And into sin and death has hurled,
So now he subtly lies in wait To undermine both Church and state.
- 6 A roaring lion, round he goes, No halt nor rest he ever knows;
He seeks the Christians to devour And slay them by his dreadful pow'r.
- 7 But watchful is the angel band That follows Christ on ev'ry hand
To guard His people where they go And break the counsel of the foe.
- 8 For this, now and in days to be, Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
Whom all the angel hosts adore With grateful songs forevermore.

Text: Philipp Melancthon, 1497–1560; German version, Paul Eber, 1511–69; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.
Text: Public domain

If God Himself Be for Me

LSB 724

- 1 If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from His love?
- 2 I build on this foundation, That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.
- 3 Christ Jesus is my splendor, My sun, my light, alone;
Were He not my defender Before God's judgment throne,
I never should find favor And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever As darkness by the light.
- 4 He canceled my offenses, Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful, Courageous on my way;
In Him I am not fearful Of God's great Judgment Day.

- 5 For no one can condemn me Or set my hope aside;
 Now hell no more can claim me: Its fury I deride.
 No sentence now reproves me, No guilt destroys my peace;
 For Christ, my Savior, loves me And shields me with His grace.
- 6 Who clings with resolution To Him whom Satan hates
 Must look for persecution; For him the burden waits
 Of mock'ry, shame, and losses Heaped on his blameless head;
 A thousand plagues and crosses Will be his daily bread.
- 7 From me this is not hidden, Yet I am not afraid;
 I leave my cares, as bidden, To whom my vows were paid.
 Though life from me be taken And ev'rything I own,
 I trust in You unshaken And cleave to You alone.
- 8 No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
 No earthly tyrant's anger Shall ever vanquish me.
 Though earth should break asunder, My fortress You shall be;
 No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever You from me.
- 9 No angel and no gladness, No throne, no pomp, no show,
 No love, no hate, no sadness, No pain, no depth of woe,
 No scheming, no contrivance, No subtle thing or great
 Shall draw me from Your guidance Nor from You separate.
- 10 My heart with joy is springing; I am no longer sad.
 My soul is filled with singing; Your sunshine makes me glad.
 The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
 The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1, 3–5, 10): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (sts. 2, 6–9): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

LSB 694

- 1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
 Thee will I love with all my power, With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
 Thee will I love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

- 2 Thee will I love, my life, my Savior, Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever, For never shall Thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart—Thou my Redeemer art!
- 3 I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven, Whose radiance hath brought light to me;
I thank Thee, who hast richly given All that could make me glad and free;
I thank Thee that my soul is healed By what Thy lips revealed.
- 4 O keep me watchful, then, and humble; Permit me nevermore to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with Thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!
- 5 Thee will I love, my crown of gladness; Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness, And not for hope of high reward,
For Thine own sake, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

- P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benediction

LSB 166

- 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.**

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001500

Next Week's Readings – Isaiah 50

;4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:1-27:66

This Week's Memory Verse – Ezekiel 37:14 "And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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