

THE MESSENGER



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com

MARCH 2026

Dear Friends in Christ:

The second to last part of the Small catechism deals with confession so, What is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Confession is the acknowledgment that we are not living as God has called us to live as His people. It also reminds us that God loves us and has given us a Savior who has saved us from our sins as we receive the absolution from Him for those sins that have been acknowledged. But what drives us to acknowledge that sin in the first place? That is the question that stumps unbelievers. For unbelievers don't want to talk about or acknowledge sin, as they see themselves as "good people," or at least "not that bad." To say that one is a sinner is to proclaim that there is someone who has laid out what those parameters would be that constitute sinful behavior, think the Law, and that we are beholden to that person to do something about them if we do or don't confess them. To confess sin is painful, it causes us to feel guilty, and it hurts to think that I am capable of doing such horrific things that the Law speaks against. If the Law is right, then I am accountable to someone for my actions and therefore I'm not the master of my own outcomes. That reality is not how we want to see ourselves as humans. We would rather believe that I control my destiny, or density (if you get it, you get it)! If I am responsible to someone else that changes everything and I must live differently then I want to as there is now a right and wrong way to live my life according to another.

See, it really is hard to live when you kick against what God has said that we are to do and not do. Because there are consequences that we as sinful human beings don't like, and rebel against. This is why Dr. Luther put confession right before the Lord's Supper. He was merely following the teaching that Holy Spirit led St Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 *"27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."* To receive the Lord's Supper properly, requires us to examine ourselves, and see that we are not worthy on our own, but that our Savior, Jesus, has made us worthy by taking upon Himself our sin on the cross.

Confession is not a New Testament only teaching. Just giving two examples that we see from the Psalms this is a teaching for all believers, I believe it is safe to say from the fall. Psalm 32:5 *"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."* Psalm 38:18 *"I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin."* If there is no fall then there is no sin, but since Adam and Eve chose to believe the Devil over God, here we are knowing the pain of our sin, contrition, as we fail God every day and have to admit it. Confession is not a suggestion it is a necessity of our fallen nature before Almighty God. This is why St. John wrote this little reminder given to us on how we must see ourselves before Almighty God. 1 John 1:8-10 *"8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* Yes, that hurts, but it is also, freeing, because our sin is not just covered over by the blood of Jesus, which it is, but it is also taken from us never to be seen again. Our lives as believers are daily repentance (Confession) and the blessing of Jesus death and resurrection for me (Absolution) Thanks be to God!

Grace -10:30 AM (With Communion)

St. Paul - 6:30 PM

March

4th The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliver (Exodus 4:1-20)

11th The Good News of a God Who Passes Over us in Mercy (Exodus 12:1-14)

18th The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)

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

Maundy Thursday Grace 10:30AM, St. Paul 6:30pm

Good Friday Grace 10:30, St. Paul 6:30PM

Easter Vigil- Grace 6:30

Easter Sunday St. Paul 8:30, Grace 10:30 Grace 5:30



MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 – Zachary Shelton;
- 3 – Dixie Stremming; Wayne Wirth;
Wayne & Connie Wirth (69)
- 4- Gary Kull; Darrell & Laurie Wirth (37)
- 5- Otis Rincker
- 6 – Adrienne Bushue; Jaxon* Doehring;
Nick Esslinger; Blair Ohnesorge
- 7 – Jillian* Merriman; Sharon Rincker;
Cassie Schultheis; Greta* York
- 8 – Bryson Batson; Roger Kull; Kiefer Reel
- 9- Virginia Vogel
- 10- Steven Polk; Jacob* & Shalyn
Tabbert (8)
- 11- Ross McCormick;
Yvonne Pfeiffer; Johnna Schultz
- 13- Barrett Beltz; Rusty* Clifton;
- 14- Janice Moomaw; Veronica Prosser
- 15- Will* Eckstein; Kirtis Stodden
- 17- Weslyn Long; Theron* Newell;
Don Telgmann; Suttyn Wallin
- 18- Stephani Petri; Merle Ragan;
Jesse Williams
- 19- Claire Hortenstine; Karen Wirth;
John & Lisa Cress (38)
- 20- Bob Sporleder
- 21- Madilyn Rincker
- 22- Grayson Gilbert
- 25- Tara Blank; Rick Stodden; Kenny* &
Sara Hayes (26)
- 26- Gary & Sheryl Duncan (43);
Deanna Uphoff
- 27- Deanna Foelsing; Tasha Pieper
- 28- Darrell Cress
- 29- Nicholas Oller; Doris Supan;
Mary Tabbert; Natalie Hayes
- 30- Brody Bence
- 31- Carol Camilotto; Jenna Layton;
Steve & Jill Layton (42);
Stacey* Rincker; Callie Clifton

Pause for Peace

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His message.



- Sun. Mar. 1- Choir Sings
- Tue Mar. 3- Choir Rehearsal- 7:00PM
- Sun. Mar. 15- Choir Sings
- Tue. Mar. 17- Choir Rehearsal- 7:00PM
- Tue. Mar. 31- Choir Rehearsal- 7:00PM

There are several rehearsals in March before the choir sings for Easter. Join us in singing the great news of Christ's resurrection!



Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
 Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
 YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
 Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.
 Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



- Wed. Mar. 4 7-8PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 11 7-8 PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 18 7-8PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 25 7-8PM WDS

Would you like to provide WDS treats one week?

The weekday School children and helpers enjoy snacks or cookies provided monthly by the Education team. If you would be interested in providing treats one week during March or April, please contact Diane Jack.



Thank you The Weekday teachers and Sunday School teachers want to thank the Board of Education for our Christmas gifts. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you A special thanks to Pastor Whybrew for his wonderful service, The Ladies Aid for providing a comforting meal, and Murriel Merriman's special music for making Rosemary's funeral very special. We are so very blessed to have a church family that gathers around those that need support and care during times like these. We love and appreciate every text, phone call, cards, hugs and gifts of food. All of these bring comfort to our broken hearts. The Family of Rosemary Schlechte

Thank you LYF would like to thank all who supported us at the Soup Luncheon. Thanks to your generous donations, we had a successful fundraiser raising nearly \$1500 and serving 125 people! We enjoyed serving you lunch and appreciate your continued support!

Thank You The Ladies Aid wants to thank everyone for helping in anyway with the funeral luncheon for the William Orr family and friends.

Thank You Doreen and I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of generosity and well-wishes over the Christmas season. The Lord truly has blessed us.



March

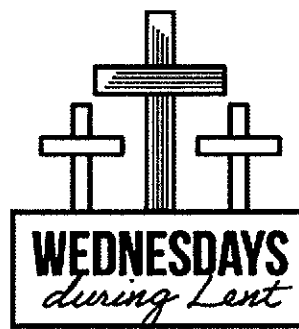
4th The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliver (Exodus 4:1-20)

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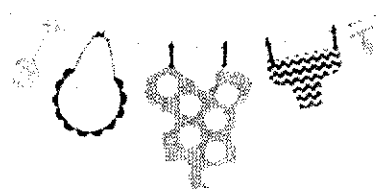
25th The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

Lenten Services are at 10:30AM at Grace and 6:30PM at St. Paul's.



** 10:30 AM Services @ Grace **
** 6:30 PM Services @ St. Paul's**

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MARCH SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Mar 1- Gary Wirth
- Mar 8- Gary & Karen Kull
- Mar 15- Zach Shelton
- Mar 22- Pastor & Doreen
- Mar 29- Heath & Autumn McCormick

APRIL SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Apr 5- Josh Layton
- Apr 12- Dwight Lading
- Apr 19- Darin & Colleen Storm
- Apr 26- Diane Jack

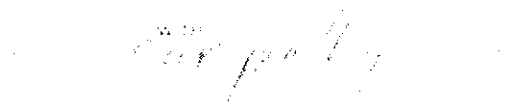
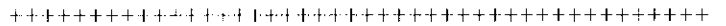


LYF The March LYF meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1st at Trinity at 6:30 pm.

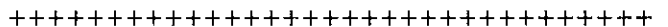
LYF Pancake Breakfast Join us for the LYF Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at St. Paul's on Sunday, March 22, 2026. Serving 8-10AM. Menu includes pancakes, smoked rope sausage, and scrambled eggs. Free will donation. Proceeds benefit the Grace, St. Paul's and Trinity LYF.

Congratulations Claire & James Hortenstine who were blessed with a baby daughter, Maeve Cathleen, on January 21, 2026. Grandparents are Dan and Karen Pfeiffer. Great grandmother is Donna Pfeiffer. God's blessings to Maeve and her family.

Congratulations Lucille Diana Daniels was born on January 22, 2026, at 3:34 a.m. to Jill and Luke Daniels. She weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Lucille is the granddaughter of Tina Daniels and the great-granddaughter of Cathern Stremming and the late Richard Stremming.



Sympathy Please keep the family of William Orr in your thoughts and prayers. William passed away on January 18, 2026. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026 in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL with Pastor Kene Whybrew officiating. Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 19, 2026 and on hour before service time on Friday, both in the church. Burial will be in St. Paul Cemetery, Strasburg, IL.

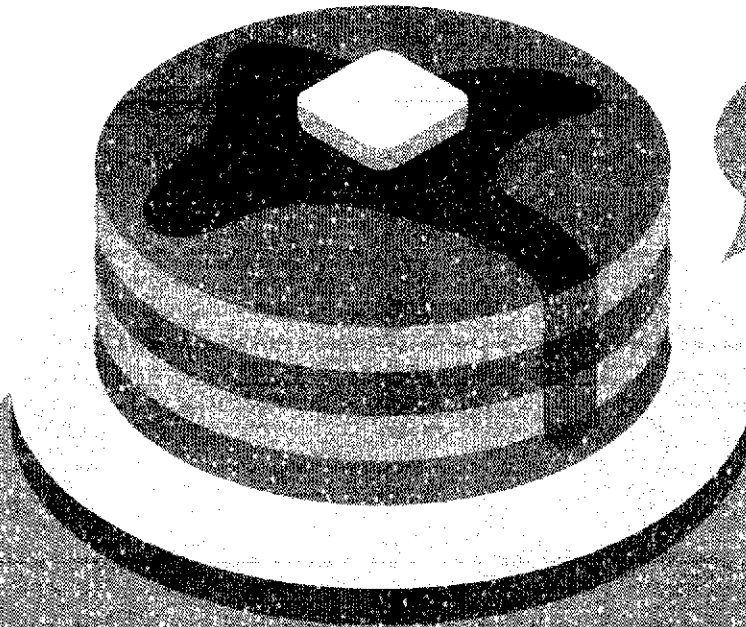


Camp Cilca Information has been received for summer camps at Camp Cilca. Flyers' are available in the narthex. Registration is online @ www.CILCA.ORG. The Education Account will pay half of your child's registration. Please talk to Diane Jack for more information.

Save the Date Trinity Formal Dinner & Live Auction will be Saturday, April 25th with cocktail hour beginning at 5:30 PM. Theme is Black & White Masquerade! Dressing for the theme is optional but encouraged with prizes being awarded to Best in Show.

Trinity Lutheran School The annual Pals spaghetti dinner will be Sunday, March 1 from 11am-12:30pm. Menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce, breadsticks, lettuce salad, dessert, coffee, tea, and lemonade. Carryouts available! Free will donation accepted.

JOIN US FOR THE
LYF
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER



free will
 donation

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Serving 8 - 10 AM

MENU

Pancakes
 Smoked Rope Sausage
 Scrambled Eggs

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

511 S WALNUT ST, STRASBURG, IL

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GRACE · ST. PAUL'S · TRINITY LYF

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you well and that you're ready for some updates—because I've got some big news to share.

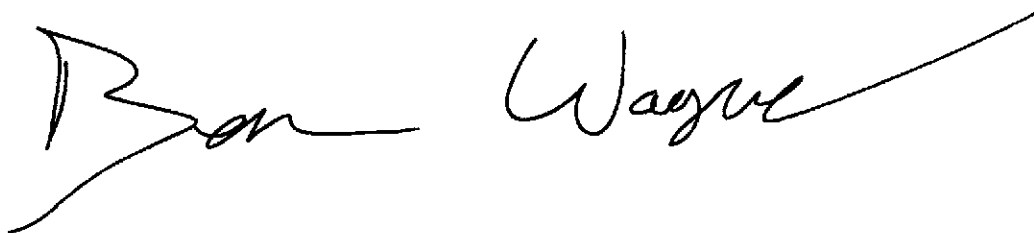
First, the headline: **I'm engaged!** Yes, you read that right. Apparently, preaching at my home church has benefits beyond just spiritual edification—it also includes meeting your future spouse. She's an absolute Proverbs 31 woman with a heart for the Lord like no other. Her first thought when she saw me behind the pulpit was, "That preacher is cute enough to date," and somehow, I managed not to mess it up from there. Fast forward through God's faithfulness and a lot of grace, and here we are—engaged and planning a wedding!

Our premarital counseling is being led by Paul Flo, the same pastor who got me hooked on learning Spanish (so now I can butcher two languages instead of just one). He'll also be officiating our wedding, assuming he survives the sleep deprivation—he's expecting his second daughter any day now. We're anticipating a brief pause in counseling while he adjusts to life with two little ones, but we'll pick back up soon enough.

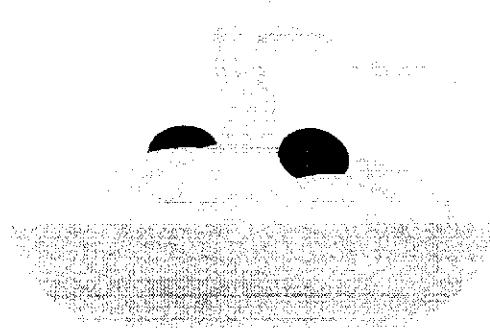
Beyond wedding planning, life continues to be full and good. I'm thrilled to report that I finished last semester with straight A's—turns out staying caffeinated and motivated pays off! This semester, I'm learning the fine art of delegation when it comes to spiritual life events. I tried the "do everything myself" approach last semester, and let's just say that experiment failed spectacularly. So now I'm enlisting close friends to plan events around things they're passionate about, while I handle the logistics like facility reservations and food budgets. Turns out, ministry is better when it's a team effort. Who knew?

All in all, life is good, and I am deeply thankful to God—and to you—for your faithful support and prayers. Your partnership in this journey means more than I can express.

With gratitude and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Wayne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Ben" is written with a large, sweeping initial 'B' that extends downwards and to the left. The last name "Wayne" is written with a long, horizontal stroke that extends to the right and then curves slightly upwards at the end.

PALS
Spaghetti
Dinner



at

Trinity Lutheran School

318 E. South 1st Street in Stewardson

Meal is served in the gym - Please enter through the school doors.

Sunday, March 1
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Menu:

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Breadsticks
Lettuce Salad
Dessert
Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade



Carryouts available!
Free will donations accepted.
For more information, please call 217-682-3881.

Orders Due March 3, 2026

Please return with form of payment to Trinity Lutheran School

*Checks should be made payable to Trinity Lutheran School

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Special Thanks to:



Trusting the Lord to feed our family & yours

| Bundle | Quantity | Total Cost |
|--------|----------|------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*No Substitutions

*Meat will be frozen upon pickup.

*Pickup from Schultz Country Market 4/9-4/11

Total: _____

Thank you!



Support Trinity Lutheran School

Fill your freezer with Local Farm-Raised Meats

To Order:

- Submit order form with payment by 3/3 to the school office.
- Pick up from Schultz Country Market between 4/9-4/11

Burger Bundle - \$75

- 8 - ½ lb Hamburger Patties
- 4 - ½ lb Unseasoned Pork Burgers
- 4 - ½ lb Parmesan Garlic Pork Burgers

Variety Bundle - \$170

- 2 lbs - Ground Beef
- 2 lbs - Seasoned Ground Sausage
- 4 - Boneless Pork Chops
- 2 lbs - Rope Sausage
- 2 - Sirloin Steaks (12 oz. steaks)
- 2 - New York Strip Steaks (10 oz. steaks)
- 1 - Chuck Roast (Approx. 2-2.5lbs)

Pork Bundle - \$85

- 2 lbs - Rope Sausage
- 2 lbs - Seasoned Ground Sausage
- 2 Pkgs - Breakfast Sausage Patties (approx 2.5lbs)
- 4 - ½ lb Unseasoned Pork Burgers
- 4 - ½ lb Parmesan Garlic Pork Burgers

Snack Bundle - \$56

- 1 Pkg - Regular Snack Sticks (6 Sticks)
- 1 Pkg - Regular w/ Cheese Snack Sticks (6 Sticks)
- 1 lb - Jalapeno & Cheese Summer Sausage

**No Substitutions
**Meat will be frozen upon pickup.