



The Messenger

Second Sunday in Lent ~ March 8, 2026

Worship services are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

1126 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 260-423-2496

www.stpaulsfw.org

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Join us for our Bible study series, "Growing, Giving, and Gathering in Christ". This week, we'll study Philippians 3 and explore how life isn't always easy, yet God uses our struggles to form saints and gives our lives back so we may be a blessing to others. Meet in the Gathering Space immediately following the Divine Service. Grab a donut and coffee on your way in. Hope to see everyone there!

Adult Instruction Class—Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Cage is leading this class in which we discuss the chief teachings of the Christian Faith from the Holy Scriptures as presented in the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, and prayed each week in the liturgy of the Divine Service at St. Paul's. Meet in the Conference Room across from the water fountain.

Sunday School—Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Parents, bring your children (ages 2—high school) to the kitchenette outside the new Gathering Room to eat a snack and then meet up with their teacher before they head to their classrooms together.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

Come join Pastor and Kristin at their home as we continue our joyful journey through Genesis! This week, we'll explore Genesis 34, the story of Dinah and her family's difficult choices, which reveal the consequences of sin, the need for justice, and God's faithfulness even in messy situations. Be uplifted by Scripture, strengthened in fellowship, and inspired in your walk of faith. Drinks and snacks provided.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study—2:00 p.m.

With every mention of the "Angel of the LORD" we are given to see the pre-Incarnate Christ in the Old Testament. God's Presence—His rescue and deliverance—unfolding before our eyes. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Gathering Room.

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study—7:00 a.m.

Men, start your day in God's Word as we prepare with the readings for the upcoming Sunday Divine Service. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Conference Room.

Midweek Lenten Services

Now through March 25, our Wednesday Lenten services will begin at noon (Responsive Prayer with students) and 6:30 p.m. (Evening Prayer). Meet in the Neger Room at 5:00 p.m. and enjoy a warm meal before the evening service.

Our Giving For March 1

Budget Envelopes	\$25,425.25
CLHS	\$15.00
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$15.00
Plate Offerings	\$458.45
Seasonal Envelopes	\$485.00
School Income	\$1,429.00
Total Income	\$27,827.70
Gathering In Christ	\$1,030.00
Total of All Donations	\$28,857.70

Attendance

Sunday, March 1 ~ 9:30 a.m. 336

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, March 8 ~

Altar Guild: *Cindy Irie and Rose Davis*

Elder: *Paul Kroenke*

Ushers: *Craig Linnemeier, Tony Lardydel, Dale Doerffler, Dean Doerffler, Kurt Gutman, Dave Hawk, Mike Hawk, Tim Hawk*

Sunday, March 15 ~

Altar Guild: *Cindy Irie and Rose Davis*

Elder: *Brandon Johnson*

Ushers: *Dan Wietfeldt, David Vandre, Josh Vandre, Joshuwa Richamn, Karl Davis, Kevan Davis, Ken Baker, Lindani Baker, Barry Mezger*

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of the Principal, Teachers, and Staff of St. Paul's Lutheran School.

Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Youth Group Bowling—March 8

All high schoolers, join us for our March event...bowling! Meet at Georgetown Entertainment on Sunday, March 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pay only \$5 for 2 hours of bowling! Hope to see you there.

Evangelism Training—March 14

You're encouraged to join us for a day of evangelism, learning, and fellowship. No experience is needed, just a heart that loves Jesus and wants to share His good news. Training begins at 9:00 a.m., and from 12-3 p.m., we will head out to canvas the neighborhoods, spreading the hope and love of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to let others know about the amazing things the Lord is doing at St. Paul's. Lunch will be provided, so come ready to be encouraged equipped, and inspired to make a difference in our community. It's just what Christians do!

YAMS Game Night—March 14

Bring an appetizer and come enjoy some friendly competition from 4-6 p.m.! Feel free to bring your favorite card or board game, or just come to play.

Junior High Youth Event—March 22

Middle schoolers, join us on Sunday, March 22 (*please note the date change from March 15*) from 5:30-7 p.m., for our Junior High Youth Event. We will be meeting in the school gym for our own March Madness Extravaganza! Whether you play basketball or not, come and participate in the fun games and activities!

Annual Fish & Tenderloin Fry

Saturday, March 21 from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for carryout, \$15 for adults, \$8 for big kids (ages 4-11), and free for ages 3 and under. Ticket sales begin Sunday, February 22 and will be available for purchase in the Gathering Space before and after the Divine Service, at the school office, and by email to bmezger@stpaulsfw.org. **The last day for ticket sales will be Monday, March 16.** Tickets are pre-sale only so don't delay! Proceeds from this event will support our students and families. Volunteers are needed and a sign-up sheet will be available on Sundays or in the school office. If you are a Thrivent member, we can use Thrivent Action Grants for this event. Contact Kris Hall in the school office at khall@stpaulsfw.org or 260-424-0049 or Barry Mezger for any questions or for more information.

Midweek Lenten Supper—March 11

Please join us for our midweek Lenten supper at 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent. This week, our meal is sponsored by our High School and Middle School Youth Groups, serving up a chili and baked potato bar with all the fixin's. Enjoy the food and fellowship before attending our Evening Prayer service at 6:30 p.m.

Voters' Meeting Update

Dear friends, in our voters' meeting last Sunday, we voted to extend an exclusive Call to Matt Machemer to serve as the full-time Kantor of our church and school. Matt has prayerfully expressed his willingness to serve at St. Paul's or wherever the Lord would have him serve. We are grateful for his faithful spirit and trust in the Lord's leading. As a seminary candidate, the final placement decision will be made by the seminary placement committee. We will officially know the decision on Call Day, April 29. Until then, we wait and pray. May the Lord guide the committee with wisdom, and if it is His will, place Matt at St. Paul's. Thank you for your prayers for Matt, the seminary leaders, and our congregation.

Easter Sunday Flowers—Order by March 22!

We are still taking flower orders for the beautiful white flowering plants that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5. Order forms are located with the flower order book on the wooden stand near the Gathering Room or near the glass case in the narthex. *Please include your payment with your order form* in the Altar Guild mailbox located in the north transept vestibule or mail to St. Paul's. Please pick up your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Please order before March 22!

St. Paul's SWAT Team

We're looking for additional volunteers to help with grounds keeping this year. If you are interested in doing general clean up of leaves and trash around the church, school, and parking lots, please contact Susie Bruick at 260-415-8932 or email to sbruick2016@gmail.com. If you would be interested in helping with mowing, trimming, etc. please contact Dan Wietfeldt at 260-414-9802 or via email at dbwietfeldt@aol.com.

March 8 – Lent 3

The world tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, even justifying murder (abortion, suicide, assisted suicide) on the grounds that death can be used to avoid further suffering. However, St. Paul reminds us that instead of trying to avoid suffering through death, we "can rejoice in our sufferings" (Romans 5:3), knowing that God uses our suffering to increase our hope in Him and bring us to everlasting glory. Therefore, when suffering comes, "let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker (Psalm 95:6), entrusting ourselves into the hands of the One who "died for us" (Romans 5:8).

CLHS Presents Finding Nemo—March 13

Come and support our talented students as they take the stage alongside fellow Lutheran middle schoolers in a spectacular performance of Finding Nemo! Join us on Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the CLHS auditorium for an evening of music, energy, and undersea adventure as these young performers bring this beloved story to life. Tickets are \$7.00 and are available at the door, and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate their hard work and enjoy a fantastic show!

CLHS Fine Arts Festival—March 15

Concordia Lutheran High School invites you to their Fine Arts Festival from 1-3 p.m. as we celebrate the creativity and talents of our Lutheran schools, from preschool through college. The festival will showcase student art and music, along with food trucks and Concordia's College Fair, making it an engaging afternoon for the whole family. The highlight of the day will be the festival concert at 2:00 p.m. featuring student musicians and ensembles. We look forward to welcoming our school families and community for an afternoon of fellowship, celebration, and the arts at CLHS.

Concordia University System Fair—Mar. 15

The Lutheran Schools Partnership will be hosting a Concordia University System Fair on March 15, from 12:00-3:00 p.m., at Concordia Lutheran High School. This is a fantastic opportunity for prospective students and their families to speak with representatives from each of the Concordia Universities, as well as from both Seminaries. Learn about church work and other programs, ask questions about admissions, scholarships, and campus life. Also, enjoy the Lutheran School Fine Arts Festival and celebrate student talents in music and art. Food trucks will be ready to serve throughout the event.

Altar Guild Flower Book

To reserve Altar/Chancel flowers, the order book (located on the wooden stand just outside the Gathering Room) has the following dates available: March 22, 29, April 12, 26. Reserve a specific date in honor or memory of a special person or event. Payment of \$40.00 is due when you reserve a date. Please make your check out to St. Paul's Altar Guild and include the date that you reserved on your check. You may put your payment in the offering plate or mail it to church. **Please mark your envelope specifically for Altar Guild Flowers.** Please pick up your flowers after the service or they will be delivered to our shut-ins.

CTSFW Music Events—Worship with Us!

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) is excited to host two upcoming music events: **Passion Vespers** and **Easter Evening Prayer**.

Passion Choral Vespers: St. Matthew Passion of Heinrich Schütz with the CTSFW Schola Cantorum and Soloists. Passion Vespers will take place on Sunday, March 29, at 4:00 p.m. ET in Kramer Chapel. The Schola Cantorum and soloists will sing The Passion According to Matthew. This Vespers service, which begins Holy Week, includes the major composition by Lutheran Kantor Heinrich Schütz in which the Passion narrative from Matthew's Gospel is vividly set to music. For more information, please visit ctsfw.regfox.com/2026-passion-choral-vespers.

Easter Evening Prayer with the CTSFW Kantorei. Easter Evening Prayer will take place on Sunday, April 12, at 4:00 p.m. ET in Kramer Chapel. This service of Evening Prayer with music by the Seminary Kantorei continues the proclamation of Easter triumph and joy. This special service will also include music reflecting on the appearance of Jesus to Thomas as well as congregational hymns and canticles. For more information, please visit ctsfw.regfox.com/2026-easter-evening-prayer-with-the-kantorei.

We invite you to worship with us at these special events. If you cannot join in person, both events will be livestreamed at ctsfw.edu/Daily-Chapel. We hope you are able to join us!

March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Voters Mtg & Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Noon - Responsive Prayer 2pm - Bible Study 5pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School 5:30-7:30pm - High School Youth Bowling</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Noon - Responsive Prayer 2pm - Bible Study 5pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7am - Men's Bible Study No Mugs of Grace Today 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 7pm - Council Mtg</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am-3pm - Evangelism Training & Canvassing 4-6pm - YAMS Game Night</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales & Sunday School 1-3pm - Fine Arts Fest at CLHS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Noon - Responsive Prayer 2pm - Bible Study 5pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>19 <i>St. Joseph.</i> <i>Guardian of Jesus</i> 7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace 6pm - BOEE</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4-7pm - Fish & Tenderloin Fry & Bake Sale</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales & Sunday School 6pm - Jr. High Youth Event</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Noon - Responsive Prayer 2pm - Bible Study 5pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Evening Prayer 7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>30 SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>31 SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>April 1 SPRING BREAK 7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> SPRING BREAK 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 <i>Good Friday</i> SPRING BREAK 12-3pm - Tre Ore 6:30pm - Tenebrae</p>	<p>4 6:30pm - Easter Vigil</p>

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

St. Paul's Students, Staff, and Families:

† *Joel, Sophia, Kenneth, Kyra*

For Those Who Mourn:

† *For the family of Ruth Helmreich, mother of Claire Fickenschner, who has been given the gift of eternal life.*

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† *Harris Beck*
† *Colleen Brenner*
† *Jeff Carrier*
† *Sandra Cecchini*
† *Roger Couch*
† *Nathan Davis*
† *Sharon Davis*
† *Nick Demaree*
† *Joanne Engstrom*
† *Chris Gill*
† *Brenda Haecker*
† *Amy Hamer*
† *Russ Harges*
† *Terry Harmeyer*
† *John Huitt*
† *Diana Hunter*
† *Juanita Jefferson*
† *Karen Johnson*
† *Pam Johnson*
† *Jerry Jones*
† *Dennis and Jane Jordan*
† *Dennis Lloyd*
† *Eleanor Marine*
† *Sara Nordling*
† *Ron Rastl*
† *Janice Schmidt*
† *Wanda Schweyer*
† *Sam Suarez*
† *Denise Trentadue*
† *Rosa Villalobos*
† *Timothy Wheaton*
† *Heidi Williams*
† *Martha Young*
† **...and those who care for them.**

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† *Gracelynn Anderson*
† *Dan Ernst*
† *Jimmy Nash*
† *Karen Zander*

Our Homebound Members:

† *Neva Aldridge*
† *Myra Carrier*
† *Mary Ann Cordes*
† *Jane Doehrmann*
† *Carolyn Falkenstern*
† *Judy Helmchen*
† *Lonni Helmchen*
† *Jan Leffel*
† *Joan Messmann*
† *Lois Meyer*
† *Ernestine Morrison*
† *Larry Murphy*
† *Esther Pinnow*
† *Leona Puff*
† *Susan Schamberg*
† *Walter Schroeder*
† *Rev. Ralph Seilaff*
† *Dorothy Taylor*
† *Mary Weick*
† *Sharon Williams*

Serving in the Armed Forces

† *KiVuan Edwards*
† *Cierra Germann*
† *Rev. Brian Hamer*
† *Zachary Harmeyer*
† *Jasmine Jackson*
† *Austin Kerr*
† *Courtney Linnemeier*
† *Sharia Macon*
† *Jamara Moore-Chambers*
† *Rev. Joshua Schiff*
† *Alexander Screeton*
† *John Sheaffer Jr.*
† *Ryan Sheaffer*
† *Brandon Skalicky*
† *Cole Smithson*

Pray for these saints throughout the week.

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office at 260.423.2496 ext. 310

Please note: All non-members will be removed after six weeks. If you would like them to be on the prayer list longer, please contact one of the pastors.