

The Sunday Messenger

March 22, 2026

This Coming Week at St. Paul's

Sun:	Divine Service	9 am
	Fellowship	10:15 am
	Adult bible class/Sunday School	10:40 am
Mon:	Morning Prayer	8 am
Tues:	NICL	11 am
Wed:	Morning Prayer	8 am
	Conf./Abs.	8:30 am
	Pot Luck	5 pm
	Lenten Service	6 pm
Thurs:	Morning Prayer	8 am

53 people worshiped at last week's service

\$3,175 was collected at the service last week.

\$100 was collected for improvement fund.

\$ 4,355.15 is needed every week to meet our church budget.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Pastoral Care – If anyone is in need of pastoral care, please call Pastor Antonetti at (847) 971-0848 and he will help to take care of the situation and address it as quickly as possible. Our elders are also available if you would like to reach out to them as well.

Serving the Lord this Weekend: Preacher Rev. Christopher Antonetti;
Organist/Pianist: Dennis Zimmer/Milton Lillie; **Elder:** Brian Popadowski;
Hannah Guild: Rita Saxon, Kristina Wojciechowski; **Acolyte:** Gavin Popadowski

Good morning to all gathered here today at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. A warm welcome to all of you as we gather together to receive God's gifts, His Word read and proclaimed, His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank you for being here today. A summary of today's readings the Fifth Sunday in Lent follows:

Jesus Is Our Redemption

In the temple Jesus said, *"If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death"* (John 8:51). For Jesus came to taste death for us—to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Heb. 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Gen. 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross.

Upon Entering the Sanctuary – We kindly ask that all conversation cease or be kept to a minimum and at the very most a whisper as we prepare ourselves for divine worship. In the front of the hymnal you will find some excellent prayers for worship.

The Lord's Supper – will be celebrated this morning. Communion is offered to those who are members in good standing of this congregation or other Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations. We ask our visitors and those who have not worshipped with us in a while to please speak to the Pastor or an elder before communing. More information is available on the blue card in the pew.

Next Weekend's Scripture Readings – In preparation for our worship next Sunday, the texts are as follows: Exodus 15:27-16:7a, Phil. 2:5-11, Matthew 26-27.

March Mission Offering: Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Flowers: The flowers on the altar are in honor and thanksgiving for our gracious Lord Jesus for all the blessings given to Ruth Gerk on her 85 years.

Church Directory Photos: We will be taking photos for the church directory. They will be taken after the Sunday Service. Or if anyone wishes you may schedule a time convenient to you. Your photos will be available to you for your own use at no charge delivered by email or your supplied USB drive. For any question or to schedule please contact Allan Luzbetak in person or at 815-325-0010.

Organ Repair Update: This past week we have heard from the company in Indiana that will be installing the operating system upgrade to our organ. It appears that the manufacturer in Italy has been having issues with some element of the hardware in the current system they are using and have paused shipments until they have corrected the problem. They are optimistic that these issues will be corrected soon. At this point it is unlikely that we will have the organ in time for Easter Sunday so will continue to rely on the piano alone for our services. Please consider a donation for this non-budgeted item. You may use your pink envelope. On the My Special Gift line indicate Organ Repairs and the amount of your donation. For information on the scope of the repairs see Kantor Dennis Zimmer or Milton Lillie, Treasurer. For additional information on giving see Laura Wetherbee, Financial Secretary.

Greeter Sign Up - We are looking for volunteers to be greeters on Sunday mornings before the service. Requirements - to arrive about 30 minutes before the service and be friendly and welcoming to whomever comes in. If this sounds doable to you, please sign up in the narthex and we will put you on the schedule.

Clean Up Crews - St. Paul's is establishing a rotation of volunteers to do regular cleaning of the church building. We are looking to establish 4-5 "crews" with leaders who could commit to cleaning once a month. We are also looking for people who would be willing to volunteer for time to time. If you are willing and able to give of your time, please sign up in the narthex and indicate if you would be willing to be a leader. We will have a meeting of all interested on Sunday, March 22, after Sunday School.

“Blessed is She” Women’s Luncheon” - Local congregations are invited to our second even Blessed is She hosted by Concordia University Chicago and led by First Lady, Sharon Dawn. It will be held on Tuesday, April 7th beginning with worship at 11 am in the Chapel of Our Lord, and lunch on the Werner Stage. \$35 per guest (includes lunch and program). RSVP by Monday, March 30 to Concordia University Chicago.

This week we lift Up Prayers

Members of our church family: Linda Sanfilippo, Sandy Michaelsen, Denise Pilz, Richard Anderson, Judy Wiedmeyer, Dorothy Zieseemer, Michael Smulterowicz, Barbara and Glenn Ferrentino, Lois Velemir

Family and friends including: James, Jr. and Miranda Kress and baby (Zavala), Evelyn P. (Smulterowicz), Jamie Drobney (Hinkelman), Jose Hernandez (Land), Patty Barnes, Ryan, Stephanie, & Liza Church, Rick Evans (Hinkelman), Michele Mylan (Hinkelman), Roberta Gerk (Gerk), Jeri Mack (Hinkelman), Martha & Fred Faulkner (Gerk), Carol & Jerry Mroszk (Gerk), Amelia Church (Gerk), Mindy (Popadowski), Waren Smith (Wetherbee), Brian Jewison (Hinkelman), Michael Arient (Hinkelman), Virginia Lewis (Dymek), Alexander Yankowsky (Wetherbee), Anthony Konidaris (Wetherbee), Abel Schmidt (Hinkelman), Taimi Carlson (Smulterowicz), Dennis Zabor (Hinkelman), Judy Percy (Gerk), Levi Howard (Popadowski), Adam Ferrentino (Ferrentino), Theresa Popadowski (Popadowski), Vinnie Gincauskas (Bachmann), Della Jones (Smulterowicz), Nieko Hadley (Penny & Tina McSherry), Jeanne & Roger Sahs (Wetherbee), Parker Vicich (Lemke), Kathy (Wetherbee), Glenn (Wetherbee), Heather Pilz (Pilz), John, Nylsa and Pete Garza (Gerk)