



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 North Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

January – March 2026



*From One of
Our Pastors*

“Held in His Faithfulness, Renewed by His Grace”

“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” Revelation 21:5 (ESV)

To all the saints at St. Paul’s:

Grace to you each of you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus!

A very blessed New Year to you all! As we turn the page into 2026, I pray your hearts are filled with gratitude for the Lord’s faithfulness through the past year, and with hope for all that He will do in the year ahead.

The start of a new year reminds us that God is always at work renewing His creation—and renewing us. Even as the world changes and time moves forward, our Lord’s promises never fade because His Word does not change, as the prophet Isaiah writes: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:8). Praise be to God! Yet our Lord continues to make all things new through the power of His Word and Spirit, bringing life and forgiveness to His people day by day.

The months in the new year will fly by as they usually do and before we know it, we’ll be in February entering the season of Lent. It will be a time of reflection and meditation...a time to slow down, to pray, and to turn toward Calvary’s Cross. Lent will call us to remember our need for a Savior, but the season’s Word will also reveal the depth of God’s mercy shown to us in Christ. Through His suffering and death and our sins gathered up by Jesus, we have been made new—washed clean in baptism and restored to life with Him.

Lent can be an appropriate time for us to remember our baptism and to give thanks for the

sacrament which brought us to faith and into God's kingdom of grace. How many of us know our baptismal birthdays? If not, perhaps St. Paul's has records of that miraculous blessing. Regardless, we can all have joy in our hearts for the gift of baptism and the grace poured out upon us. As St. Paul writes: "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:4-6).

As February gives way to March and winter slowly fades into spring, our journey of faith will lead us to Easter morning—the glorious reminder that our Savior lives! The Resurrection is that moment in time where we embrace the living promise that because Christ lives, we too shall live. As Jesus Himself declares: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). That promise from our Lord carries us through every season of life, especially as time moves on and we wait for the day when all things will truly be made new in His kingdom.

Dear friends, may these months of the New Year be a time of peace and renewal for you. Whatever joys or challenges the days may bring, we rest in the faithful hands of our Lord Jesus, who never leaves us and who makes all things new because He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) and again "Be strong and courageous...it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

I am so grateful to God for bringing us together to share in the partnership of His Gospel. May each of you receive the joy and peace of Christ in abundance and God bless you all in the name of Jesus!

Pastor Klein

A Prayer for the New Year

Gracious Lord, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we step into this New Year, renew our hearts with Your grace and fill us with the hope of Your promises. Keep us steadfast in faith and joyful in the assurance of life in Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.



The Steward Ship

Hi! My name is Diana Carr. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be given a job on the council. My official title is Stewardship Chairperson. What is the meaning of stewardship according to the dictionary it means "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Such as gifts that God has given each and everyone of us. The fun thing about these gifts or talents or blessings is the fact that we each have different gifts. For example, personal talents could be music, arts and crafts, party planning, community well-being, care of natural resources, the environment, demonstrating care and compassion to others and the church, creating positive sustainable change, education, sharing your blessings, speaking out in our church family. Maybe the community, your neighborhood, and friends. It does not matter if it is someone close to you or a stranger. When was the last time you talked to someone in the store line while you are waiting.... Take a minute to call someone you have not seen in church on Sunday just to say HI!

Service is a great way to show stewardship. Helping to keep God's house clean and orderly. Bring your favorite dish on Sunday for "Coffee &" or any time you see a need just "Do It".

This church building does not just belong to someone else; It is your House of Worship. Jesus has invited everyone to come and be welcome. To serve, pray and Praise. You do not have to do the same thing as someone else because after all they may have already done it, but God has a plan for each of us.

Our by-laws states that the following meaning and duties of the Stewardship committee are to encourage our congregation to grow. Please think about answers and suggestions for the following questions as they pertain to you:

1. How can we foster stewardship growth?
2. How can we discover the many different talents of our members?

3. What type of stewardship and mission activities can we do (ex. Talks, discussion, conferences, plays, movies, workshops).
4. How can we give a clearer vision of giving and doing God's work?

There are many ways to reach out to me or anyone in the church. Seeing you in Church. Talk at "coffee &". By phone call. Text. Email or even snail mail. Post something on our bulletin board. What can we do as a team for Christ?

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WORSHIPING TOGETHER

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Psalm 122:1 ESV*

Why is it important to go to church? To Worship? To serve God with other believers? Because we are all created by God to have a deep relationship with God and with His people!

Church services are time to give Praise and Thanks when we join voices singing hymns. The Sermon helps us in discovering God's direction and how we can implement this in our lives! We all need to be Fed On the Word and on the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Does Partnership and Fellowship help us fulfill God's purpose for our lives? YES! The encouragement, love and support we receive helps us become all we were created to be! We are all here to Worship and Glorify God, to share Jesus Christ with each other and out into the world! As we Worship together with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ we learn from, depend upon and help each other on this journey.

"For we are Created On Purpose and For A Purpose" Are You fulfilling Your Purpose?

"For we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" Ephesians 2:10 NIV



Dear Food Basket Helpers,

Thank you for your support of our Food Basket program! It has been a blessing to many who struggle throughout the year. As we look back on the past holidays, we would like to thank those who donated to help purchase the gift cards for food.

This is a difficult time for all, but we still need to care for those less fortunate. Include any donations with your offering and mark your envelope Social Ministry. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

Social Ministry
In His Service,
Norma Allen



King David's Prayer Jumble



SWAH	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
	4	6		
AGRET	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
	9	3	8	10
CEFA	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
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OVLE	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	2		7	
WSNO	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		5		

"Create in me a _____, O God." Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Answer at
<https://www.splcms.org/index.php/newsletters/puzzel>



Scan me!



EPIPHANY SEASON

What does the word Epiphany mean? From the Greek it means “to shine upon” “manifestation or appearance”.

From LCMS NID: After focusing on the Incarnation of our Lord — God becoming flesh — during the 12 days of Christmas, the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ

The Epiphany of the Lord is a Christian feast day, celebrated on January 6, marking the manifestation or revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to the world. Primarily through the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) to the infant Jesus, symbolizing His divinity revealed to all nations.

How long is the Epiphany Season? January 6th thru Feb 8th

If you would like to learn more about this day:

Portals of Prayer offers the scripture readings Matthew 2:1-12 and Psalm 72:1-11

+All Nations Bow Before Him

These Wise Men were Gentiles! With much knowledge of Old Testament Prophecy. Interesting note most of us are Gentiles too!

This season is all about the light of the world, Jesus, being made known to all people.

Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotions *Born to You a Savior.*

Has us reading Luke 2:19,25 on January 6th
QUIET

Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

This devotion touches on Jesus’ childhood.

If you would like to know more about these devotions Please Join us Tuesday January 6th at 8am for Portals for Pray and 8pm for LHM

How has your family celebrated Epiphany? Let us know and it may appear in the next Newsletter.

Text or email us at St. Paul!
Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: news@splcms.org



ASH WEDNESDAY marks the start of Lent with solemn services, focusing on repentance and mortality, often featuring the imposition of ashes (a cross on the forehead) with the words "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return," symbolizing our sinful nature and need for Christ's mercy, leading into a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. While ashes are a traditional symbol, the practice is more recent for many LCMS congregations, often using burned Palm Sunday palms, and signifies humility and turning to God's forgiveness found in Christ's Passion, sometimes followed by Holy Communion.

Key Elements in LCMS Ash Wednesday Services:

Beginning of Lent: It kicks off the 40-day penitential season before Easter.

Imposition of Ashes: A pastor places ashes (often from burned palms) in the shape of a cross on the forehead.

Words of Absolution: The phrase, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), is spoken.

Penitential Focus: The day is solemn, emphasizing our sinfulness and need for God's grace, not a cause for boasting.

Christian Practices: It leads into Lent, a time for prayer, self-denial (fasting/almsgiving), and reflection on Jesus' sacrifice.

Connection to Baptism: Ashes remind us of our mortality, while the coming Easter connects us to Christ's victory over death through our baptism.



We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos . A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship .



Zoom Bible Discussion
Prayerfully Starting in
February 2026

Reading and understanding the Bible can be challenging at times, even with the different Study Bibles. In our "Daily Devotions" 8am and 8 pm Monday-Friday, I always learn something new when others share their ideas and understanding of the verses we read. Sharing God's word together creates a stronger bond and knowledge of this amazing book of Love. For God loves us so much he knew we needed written reminders of all He has done and continues to do for us.

Please consider joining and share your thoughts, experiences and Hope of Heaven.

We are currently looking for a day and time, here are a few suggestions.

Saturday Morning at 8 am
Thursday Morning at 9 am
Tuesday Evening at 6 pm

This will be a Bible discussion; we do not have a Pastor leading us each week. We do have Pastors who are willing to join us once a month to answer our questions.

If you are interested, please contact the church office or cellphone.

MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am
Devotion To Be Decided 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896
Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org



Bible Discussion *The Holy Spirit and the Word*

Let's try something new! Yeah!! I love new, don't you? Our 8am-8pm Daily Devotions is a favorite part of my day! Listening to my fellows share their thoughts and ideas on the scripture reading and the devotion opens my ears and heart to new ideas!

Let's explore during the month of January the day and time to do the Bible Discussion, AS we begin with this single page "Searching Scriptures" located on page 6. (I know for me personally if I don't just jump in with both feet I keep 1 foot in Yes and the other in Fear). So here we go please all jump with me. Tentative thought, we set apart 1 hour in January to discuss "THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD" we can work on this at our own pace and pick a day and time between January 26-30 Or maybe we might want to do this in Person after Church?

Holy Spirit Light Devine
Shine upon this heart of mine:
Chase the shades of night a way,
Turn the darkness in to day.

LSB 496

Deb

The Holy Spirit and the Word

by Matt Richard

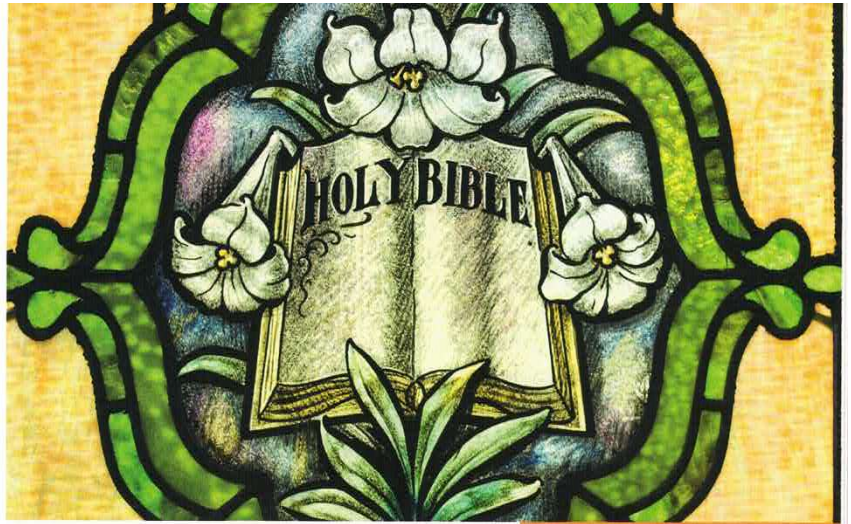
“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. ... Our churches condemn [those] who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.” (AC V, 4)

These words from the Augsburg Confession are essential to a Lutheran understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Word is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit works through the Word. Consider the following questions regarding the interrelationship of Word and Spirit.

1. Read 2 Tim. 3:14–17 and 1 Thess. 2:13. Where does the Word of God have its source? What does it accomplish in the life of a Christian?

2. Many in our time desire (or even claim to have) a direct and unique connection with the Holy Spirit apart from the Word. Read Jer. 23:23–32. What danger is inherent in seeking or believing to have a divine revelation apart from the Word?

3. Some of Jesus' last words to His disciples before His crucifixion, as recorded in the Gospel of John, had to do with the Holy Spirit. Read John 14:26, 15:26 and 16:8–14. What things does Jesus promise that the “Helper” will do for the Church? What common Christian expectations concerning the Spirit's work do we not see promised here?



4. Read John 6:60–65. How does faith come to us? What are “spirit and life” for the believer?

5. There are many who look for signs of the Spirit's work in their own emotions — and who use their emotional responses to interpret Scripture. Read Luke 24:25–32. What made the disciples' hearts burn within them? What does this episode teach us about the relationship between Spirit, Word and human emotion?

6. Read Ezek. 37:1–10, watching closely for the interplay of God's prophetic Word and the work of the Spirit. How do we see the Spirit's action willingly bound up with the Word of God in this familiar passage?

The Word is the only channel and route by which the Holy Spirit has promised to come to us. A word without the Spirit is no Word of God but mere human words. A spirit that comes without the Word is not the revealing Spirit of God (1 JOHN 4:1–6). May we uphold the Word and the Spirit, who counsel us, teach us, convict us of sin, guide us and point us to Jesus — and may we eagerly pour ourselves into the Word, that the Holy Spirit may be poured out into us. LW



THE WORD IS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH THE WORD.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard is pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D., and author of *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* 12 False Christs (CPH).





January, February, March at a

1/4	9:30 ^{AM}	Second Sunday after Christmas
1/11	9:30 ^{AM}	The Baptism of Our Lord
1/18	9:30 ^{AM}	Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1/25	9:30 ^{AM}	Third Sunday after the Epiphany
2/1	9:30 ^{AM}	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
2/8	9:30 ^{AM}	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
2/15	9:30 ^{AM}	The Transfiguration of Our Lord
2/18	6:00 ^{PM}	Potluck
	7:00 ^{PM}	Ash Wednesday
2/22	9:30 ^{AM}	First Sunday in Lent
2/25	9:30 ^{AM}	First Wednesday During Lent
	10:30 ^{AM}	Breakfast
3/1	9:30 ^{AM}	Second Sunday in Lent
3/4	6:00 ^{PM}	Potluck
	7:00 ^{PM}	Second Wednesday During Lent
3/8	9:30 ^{AM}	Third Sunday in Lent
3/11	9:30 ^{AM}	Third Wednesday During Lent
	10:30 ^{AM}	Breakfast
3/15	9:30 ^{AM}	Fourth Sunday in Lent
3/18	6:00 ^{PM}	Potluck
	7:00 ^{PM}	Fourth Wednesday During Lent
3/22	9:30 ^{AM}	Fifth Sunday in Lent
3/25	9:30 ^{AM}	Fifth Wednesday During Lent
	10:30 ^{AM}	Breakfast
3/29	9:30 ^{AM}	Palm Sunday
4/2	7:00 ^{PM}	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
4/3	7:00 ^{PM}	Good Friday
4/5	7:00 ^{AM}	The Resurrection of Our Lord
	8:30 ^{AM}	Easter Breakfast



The beginning of a new year is when many of us make resolutions or try to get our “account” with God in order. If we have offended God by “thought, word or deed,” now is a good time to confess our offenses and to allow God to remove “our transgressions from us.” The Bible says, “... as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.”

In which of the texts below is that promise found?

- A. Matthew 6:14
- B. 1 John 1:9
- C. Philippians 3:13
- D. Psalm 103:12

January

- 2 Tracy Middleton
- 3 Steven Nowicki
- 4 Carrie Pearson
- 18 Jennifer Lovett
- Henry Sella
- 19 Cassandra Michels
- 23 Micci Orth
- 25 Layla Baker
- Dominique Sella
- 29 Paulette Maurer

February

- 1 Tiffany Reichert
- 2 Emily Hudson
- 4 Bill Middleton
- 8 Jenna Wiltjer
- 12 Sondra Budde
- 13 Lisa Sheridan
- 14 William Rich Jr.
- 15 Dean Bloom
- 17 Cindy Eastman
- 19 Jayme Jarden
- 24 Brandi Baker
- 28 Earl Bloom

March

- 5 Denise Riordan
- 10 Wendy Gibson
- 11 Emily Hoeksema
- 12 Rikki Chiattello
- 13 Nicholas DeCamp
- 16 Chelsea Baker
- 20 Steve Kipley
- 22 Karen Diekelman
- 26 Nathaniel Conway
- 29 Genevieve DeJesus
- 30 Aiden Conway
- Dakoda Gaut



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

To be Announced.
In January

LETS DISCUSS

By Zoom .
15 minute Devotion
8 am & 8 pm

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Thornton, IL 60476
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Church Cell 312-533-1869
office@splcms.org

www.splcms.org
www.facebook.com/splcms

Church Office Hours
Monday thru Friday.
In Person by Appointment
By Phone 9 to Noon

Contact the church office to submit
personal testimonials about what God
has done for you. Or original art that is
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

- Chairman** Bill Sommer
- Vice Chairman** David Bloom
- Recording Sec.** Tracy Middleton
- Financial Sec.** Robert Brandy
- Treasurer** Mary Sella
- Elder** Henry Sella
Eric Schaussburger
Brian Wiltjer
Jerry Wiltjer

Trustee

- Stewardship** Diana Carr
- Evangelism** Debi Brandy
- Social Ministry** Norma Allen
- S. S. Super.**
- Asnt. Super.**
- Adult Director**
- Youth Director**