



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

Address Service Requested



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

### April – June 2026



### *From One of Our Pastors*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I was honored to be asked by Bob and Deb to write a newsletter article for you and specifically for you! Glad you are sharing news, information and care through your newsletter! It is a good thing! It is a sign of life and connection.

I served as a Parish Pastor in two congregations both in Northern Illinois District. St Peter, Gilberts, Illinois from 1990-2000 which was my first Call out of the Seminary. Our 4 children were born there and I grew up with the congregation, although when I arrived, they were 103 years old. I was in fact, there first full-time Pastor. What a privilege!

My second Call was as Senior Pastor at Immanuel in Belvidere. (2000-2018) We enjoyed the blessing of a Lutheran School and our children attended that school. Again, I learned much at Immanuel and often was “in over my head.” But God was gracious and have some special memories. Ministry happened and people were connected to Christ...one by one. God uses the Pastor and the people and we are intended to work together.

Each day I still miss being a Parish Pastor! That is the front line and you, St Paul, are on the front line of Ministry and Mission. God and the Church asked me to do something different...serve as a District President. It is like a “Bishop” but without all the power a Bishop has. It is leadership and service!

When I was a Parish Pastor, people would ask, “I know what you do for a few hours on Sunday, but what do you do the rest of the time?” Is it a full-time job? People still ask, what does a District President do? I’ll share with you a few things I do to serve you and the almost 200 other NID congregations.

1) Visitation of congregations, schools and with workers. That is how I have been able to get to know you. It can be Sundays or during the week and it can be happy occasions, sad occasions and sometimes in the midst of conflict or trouble. Yes, I put on quite a few miles on my vehicle. I am at a different congregation in the NID almost every Weekend. This past Saturday I did a funeral for one of our Pastors. This summer I get to do a couple of Weddings, including our son, Josiah and fiancée Connie.

2) I represent the Northern Illinois District to the whole of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. All the District Presidents (35) meet 4 times a year to discuss Theology, Practices of congregations, issues that face us and hear reports. We also hear what the LCMS is up to Internationally for the sake of the mission. There are many challenges with declining congregations and schools in most places. The shortage of Pastors is growing.

3) We talk a lot in NID about Word (the use of God's Word among ourselves) Wellness (wellbeing of our Professional Workers, Lay leaders and congregations like St Paul) and Witness (following the Lord's command that we share the Gospel to each other and to our communities.)

4) Ecclesiastical Supervision which is making sure we watch our life and doctrine closely (I Timothy 4:16) We desire to bring God's best to each other and to the world in the work of congregations and schools. I spend time with our workers encouraging faithful teaching, preaching and practice. Sometimes, the encouragement moves to discipline so that we honor the vows we make. Much of this work happens behind the scenes.

5) Who is thinking about the people who have left the church or have never been in the church? It is on the Lord's mind for Jesus came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10) We all know them and have them as family and friends. Others are in the church, but really are not connected to Christ, or confess Him as Savior as Lord. That is why the NID spends time encouraging involvement in the community for the sake of sharing the Word of God. "I don't care what you know until I know that you care." Evangelism almost always flows from a relationship where there is trust. This is part of my role as District

President. Healthy congregations and schools think beyond themselves. They have time, energy and money focused on those outside the congregation.

6) As a District President, I get to show up and thank congregations like St Paul for the financial support of the NID! Thank you! I appreciate to see the work of the lay leaders I have come to know over the past 5 years! You have been kind, caring and compassionate to my family and myself! Because Christ has risen, your labor is not in vain! It is bearing fruit in ways you do not even see or know! Your card and memorial at my mother's passing meant so much to me and I thank you!!

Finally, my family and I just prayed for you around our dinner table. We pray over all who send us Christmas cards over the year and I picked your card! I am honored to know you and spend some special time with you. By the way, this is the first congregational newsletter article I have written since 2018. I am glad it is for you!

See you on Easter at 7 am! Invite a friend, neighbor or family member. Pray about the invitation first! With you, My Eyes are on Jesus, (Hebrews 12:2,3)

Pastor Allan Buss



## TREASURER

### Treasurer's Duties

The Treasurer is a key member of any organization, responsible for managing the financial affairs and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Duties typically include overseeing the budget, maintaining accurate financial records, handling incoming and outgoing funds, and preparing financial reports for review by the board or members, monthly.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Our offerings have dwindled the last few years, but thankfully we've been able to pay all of our expenses and keep the church functioning, by

reducing our expenses to keep in line with offerings.

2024	
Offerings	\$72,505.00
-Expenses	<u>\$65,084.50</u>
Surplus	\$7,420.50

2025	
Offerings	\$62,374.39
-Expenses	<u>\$65,897.45</u>
Deficit	<b>\$-3,523.06</b>

2026 Jan. & Feb.	
Offerings	\$10,327.75
-Expenses	<u>\$6,935.25</u>
Surplus	\$3,392.50

It has been my honor and privilege to be serving as your treasurer for several years.

Should anyone have a question about something to do with our church’s financials, don’t hesitate to reach out or call.

Your Trusted Servant, Mary



## Martin Luther’s teaching on Vocation



- **Called by the Gospel** — All Christians have a calling in the church. We all have been called into faith, and we all are called to a local congregation, where we each have a part to play in the community of faith.
- **Called to Be Citizens** — Christians are called to be citizens: to obey laws, pay their taxes, and honor and pray for their governing officials. Patriotic feelings and acts of civic-mindedness are fitting responses to the blessings God has given this country and the citizenship to which He has called us.

- **Called to Our Work** — We don’t choose our vocations; God chooses us for them. The Christian can understand the ordinary labors of life to be charged with meaning. Through our labor, no matter how humble, God is at work.
- **God at Work** — Every Christian has a particular calling from God. With the doctrine of vocation, ordinary relationships, the 9-to-5 routine, taking care of the kids, the work-a-day world — the way we spend most hours of the day — become charged with the presence of God.
- **Masks of God** — Luther puts it strongly: Vocations are “masks of God.” On the surface, we see an ordinary human face — our mother, the doctor, the teacher, the waitress, our pastor — but, beneath the appearances, God is ministering to us through them. God is hidden in human vocations.
- **Vocation: Fruit of the Liturgy** — In Martin Luther’s teaching on the dual existence of the Christian, we observe a connection with the teaching of the two governments or two kingdoms. The Christian does not seek to escape or withdraw from the world as in monasticism, but rather he lives out his calling in the particular place where God has located him.
- **Your Family Vocation** — Every Christian — indeed, every human being — has been called by God into a family. Our very existence came about by our parents. Martin Luther said, “God has given this walk of life, fatherhood and motherhood, a special position of honor, higher than that of any other walk of life under it.”

*Life Ministry • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*



- Excellence can be attained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible.  
*-Author unknown*



As we continue to serve those in need as our Lord directs. Social Ministry will begin offering support to Madison School in South Holland. (See page 6.)

Our very own Michelle Orth is a 4th grade teacher at Madison School. Micci was sharing about the Kindness Club one Sunday morning and how the students and families help support the Kindness Club with food and or donate \$1.00 a month. They collect food each month and stock Micro pantries in South Holland and the surrounding areas. Two of these pantries are located at the South Holland Library and Christ Our Savior Church. The teachers take the items and stock the pantries.

Food items include, instant Oatmeal, Soups, Boxed meals, canned fruits and veggies, individual snacks, peanut butter to name a few. (A flyer will be posted in church)

This Month they are collecting, small travel size, tooth paste and brushes, soaps and Kleenex.

**OPERATION KINDNESS**  
Rooms 7 & 9 Kindness Club

Together we can help local Families in Need

We will have a box as St. Paul's labeled Operation Kindness. Thank you for your support!

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.



Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



**MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS**

This is lively discussion group as we dig a little deeper into the Bible passages and discover a plethora of information. The conversation and fellowship is an AWESOME way to start and end the day! Give it a try!

8:00-8:15 am Portals Prayer Devotional (we have them at church)

8:00-8:15 pm Lutheran Hour Ministries used during Lent and Advent

We will be exploring what Devotionals to try after Easter!

For the Link:

Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: [letsdiscuss@splcms.org](mailto:letsdiscuss@splcms.org)



**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](http://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](http://www.splcms.org/worship) .





Baptized into Christ – Justin Curtis Bruning, son of Jolene Bruning was made a child of the heavenly Father through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 1, 2026 by Rev. Jay Klein. We pray the richest of the Lord's blessings upon this new child of the Heavenly Father. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (*Mark 16:16*)



## From Fellow Members

Just hear me out can we asked our prayers warriors at the church to pray for the church to have strength and have a great awakening because I think God can make ways out of no ways. I feel like we have a unique call in the church to awake and help nonbelievers to be believers as a church body. How can we asked the members of Saint Paul's Lutheran church start praying for the church for a renewal and awakening in our strength of the church . This country has a turning point of churches now and we need to start praying for guidance and direction of the church. This what the Holy Spirit has put in my heart for couple of days but I was meditating on it but now I am ready to share this with you.

The Holy Trinity will make a way out of no way so don't give you up because The Holy Trinity will not give up on you. Stay strong because this shall pass in God time because God is strengthen you in conquering life challenges so you may have a life in Christ Jesus.

Prayer by Casey Stonerock:



## Preparing for Dad's day

Here are some things you can do for your father on Father's Day:

How about taking him out for breakfast before worship or for lunch after the service? Or both!

Consider starting a Memory Book for him. Collect papers such as his birth and baptism certificates, photos of him as a child, a student, a graduate, a groom, a father, at his job and so on. If your mother has any special letters from your father she would be willing to share with the family, put them in the scrapbook.

Some time during Father's Day, ask him to tell stories about his most exciting adventures, meaningful religious experiences, his greatest joys, etc. Record these wonderful memories and then share them again on future occasions such as his birthday, anniversaries, family gatherings, Thanksgiving, etc.



# OPERATION KINDNESS ROOM 7,9 AND KINDNESS CLUB

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

*items you can donate each month*

*Instant Oatmeal*

*Boxed Meals*

*Canned Fruit or Veggies*

*Individual Snacks*

*Peanut Butter*



Each Month, starting in January, Room 7,9 and Kindness Club will be collecting food to stock the micro pantries in South Holland. There are two in town, one is located at the library and one is located at Christ Our Savior Church. Families can also donate \$1.00 a month to help with "Operation Kindness."

### OTHER ITEMS NEEDED:

- *Toothbrush and tooth paste*
- *Kleenex*
- *Hand Soap*
- *Soup*
- *Granola Bars*
- *Pasta*
- *Breakfast Bars*



Food can be donated any time during the month or a cash donation of \$1.00 each month can be made to help stock the micro pantries.



## April, May, June at a Glance

4/2	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Holy (Maundy) Thursday
4/3	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Good Friday
4/5	7:00 <sup>AM</sup>	The Resurrection of Our Lord
	8:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Easter Breakfast
4/12	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Second Sunday of Easter
4/19	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Third Sunday of Easter
4/26	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Fourth Sunday of Easter
5/3	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Fifth Sunday of Easter
5/10	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Sixth Sunday of Easter
5/14		The Ascension of Our Lord
5/17	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Seventh Sunday of Easter
5/24	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	The Day of Pentecost
5/31	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	The Holy Trinity
6/7	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Second Sunday after Pentecost
6/14	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Third Sunday after Pentecost
6/21	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
6/28	9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

### Bible quiz



After the Resurrection, the apostle Philip was on the road to Gaza when he came upon an Ethiopian official sitting in a chariot. The man, on a return trip from worshiping in Jerusalem, was reading aloud. As Philip approached, he recognized the words that the official was reading: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter ...” (Acts 8:32, NRSV).

Philip knew they were the words of what Jewish prophet?

- A. Amos
- B. Micah
- C. Hosea
- D. Isaiah

# A Barrier to Truth

Some people want to see God with their eyes as they see a cow, and to love Him as they love their cow — for the milk and cheese and profit it brings them. This is how it is with people who love God for the sake of outward wealth or inward comfort. They do not rightly love God, when they love Him for their own advantage. Indeed, I tell you the truth, any object you have in your mind, however good, will be a barrier between you and the inmost Truth.

—Meister Eckhart



Wish These Friends a  
"Happy Birthday!"

## April

- 4 BrianWiltjer
- 5 KristiHudson
- 14 HeatherReichert
- 15 AaronSchassburger
- 18 EthanSchassburger

## May

- 1 GeneWiltjer
- 4 JerryWiltjer
- 5 JeanWiltjer
- 6 WarrenVanMynen
- 8 SandyBodza
- 11 JanetSanders
- 16 CherlynPlaia
- 17 NormaAllen
- 28 JacobMiddleton
- 31 BriannaMiddleton

## June

- 1 TaylorVanDommelen
- 3 BrianOrth
- 15 MelanieHudson
- 19 RichardReichert
- 21 MelanieWiltjer
- 22 NoelleVanMynen
- 27 NathanLopez
- 30 DianaCarr



## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

To be Announced.

### LETS DISCUSS

By Zoom .  
15 minute Devotion  
8 am & 8 pm

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
508 N. Chicago Road  
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. Sunday Super.**  
**Asnt. Super.**  
**Adult Director**  
**Youth Director**