

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 15-16, 2025

**“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”**

**“Persevere With Thanksgiving”**



***“Jesus said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ”  
Luke 6:20***

**Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: **“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”**

**Welcome!** Welcome to worship. God plants us like trees beside streams of living water, provided by Jesus himself (Psalm 1:3; John 4:14). All who are thirsty, come and drink!

**Devotions & Publications** are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

**..... WORSHIP NOTES .....**

**\*Communion:      *The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament***

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main (west) entryway.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

**Before worship prayer** - We implore You, O Lord, in Your kindness to show us Your great mercy that we may be set free from our sins and rescued from the punishments which we rightfully deserve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

### We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "All Depends on Our Possessing"

LSB, hymn #732

All depends on our possessing  
God's abundant grace and blessing,  
Though all earthly wealth depart.  
They who trust with faith unshaken  
By their God are not forsaken  
And will keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me  
And to many joys has led me  
Is and ever shall be mine.  
He who ever gently schools me,  
He who daily guides and rules me  
Will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting  
Over trifles and in getting  
Things that have no solid ground.  
I shall strive to win a treasure  
That will bring me lasting pleasure  
And that now is seldom found.

When with sorrow I am stricken,  
Hope anew my heart will quicken;  
All my longing shall be stilled.  
To His loving-kindness tender  
Soul and body I surrender,  
For on God alone I build.

Well He knows what best to grant me;  
All the longing hopes that haunt me,  
Joy and sorrow, have their day.  
I shall doubt His wisdom never;  
As God wills, so be it ever;  
I commit to Him my way.

If my days on earth He lengthen,  
God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding;  
Safe I anchor in His grace.

### INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*  
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*  
P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.  
*(Moment of silent reflection)*  
P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly**

deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: Amen.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

*Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9*

C: (Sung)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Grant us, heavenly Father, to so appreciate Your grace in giving us faith in Your Son that we live each day in thanksgiving for the precious Gospel until we fall asleep in Christ and awaken to the glory You have prepared for us for His sake; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*(Please be Seated)*

### THE READING OF THE WORD

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*(Stand Firm!)*

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

*Stand (as you are able)*

Alleluia and Verse - Common

*John 6:68*

C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 6:17-26

*(Blessings and Curses)*

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you

when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”** *LSB, hymn #737*

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,      A cheerful trust maintain;  
For God, the source of ev’rything,      Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy,      Your life and light and Lord,  
Your counselor when doubts annoy,      Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair,      In restless thought the night?  
On your Creator cast your care;      He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow’r      Guard ev’ry childhood day?  
And did He not in threat’ning hour      Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide,      His rod falls gently down;  
And all your sins He casts aside      In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain      Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain      A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,      And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand      Here and in heav’n above.

**Sermon: “Happiness? or Joy?”** *Luke 6:17-26*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. . . .

Around the world many are poor and homeless, wandering far from home. Heavenly Father, meet their needs through us, Your servants, and even those people who may think they control them. Give them the clothing and shelter they need, and introduce them to the promise of Christ about His rule. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray, Lord Jesus, for Your blessings on all who work in voluntary relief organizations and professional counseling agencies. Protect and guide them so that their efforts bring thanksgivings, health, and new opportunities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O Holy Spirit, hear the prayers of those who are sick, in mourning, or unemployed. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O Lord, answer them as Your plans allow, relieve their suffering, calm their tears, and give them opportunity to use the gifts and abilities You have given them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Visit, strengthen, guide, and direct us in the church here and around the world, Lord, our God. Grant that what we say with our lips be reflected in how we live our lives and what we accomplish with our hands and feet. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

## **Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

P: Dear Friends in Christ, leading and helping in the church of Jesus Christ matters! So I would like to ask that all those in leadership of our church as well as those who serve as volunteers (in any capacity) in our church and school to please stand.

Today, with Heartfelt Thanks, all of us here at St. Paul's thank God for the servant heart we see in each one of you. You are truly gifts of God to us! Even as your service is a gift to us, it's also a privilege that God has given to you. He has qualified you for service and calls you to it.

With this in mind, as you volunteer your time and talents to the Lord's work in our church and school, Will you exercise integrity? Will you model Jesus' love for each person with whom you come in contact? Will you continue to grow in faith as you spend time daily in God's Word and prayer?

**Volunteers: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

P: Let us pray, . . . Lord Jesus, You have given Your people many and varied gifts, talents, and abilities. You open doors for us to use our giftedness in our homes, communities, and here at St. Paul's. Teach us to serve gladly, knowing that by serving one another, we are serving You. Increase our love for You and for one another so that when others see our unity, they praise You for it. Day by day, help us grow in our willingness and ability to speak words of encouragement and appreciation to one another. Protect us from envy and quarreling. Make us more and more like the people whom Paul once named as "workers in the Lord" (Romans 16:12). Make us truly thankful for those among us who serve us in your name, Lord Jesus.

**C: AMEN**

P: To all those who volunteer and serve, in any way in our church and school, we give thanks to God for your presence and your service in His name. Go forth in His peace and with His strength and blessing.

**C: Amen. Thanks Be To God.**

Stand (as you are able)

### **OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards**

*LSB, Hymn # 955*

**C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)*

P: The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Psalms 136*

**C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus



Christ, our Lord, who lived among us, revealing Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

**C: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*John 20:19*

**C: And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God**

*John 1:29*

**C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**LSB618 - I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table**

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole: *Refrain.*

*Refrain*

*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain.*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,  
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain.*

Weary am I and heavy laden;  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain.*

What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain.*

### LSB818 - In Thee Is Gladness

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

### LSB803 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.  
All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank The Lord:

**C: (Sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: (Sung) Amen**

### **Closing Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God"**

*LSB, hymn #895*

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
 With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
 The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

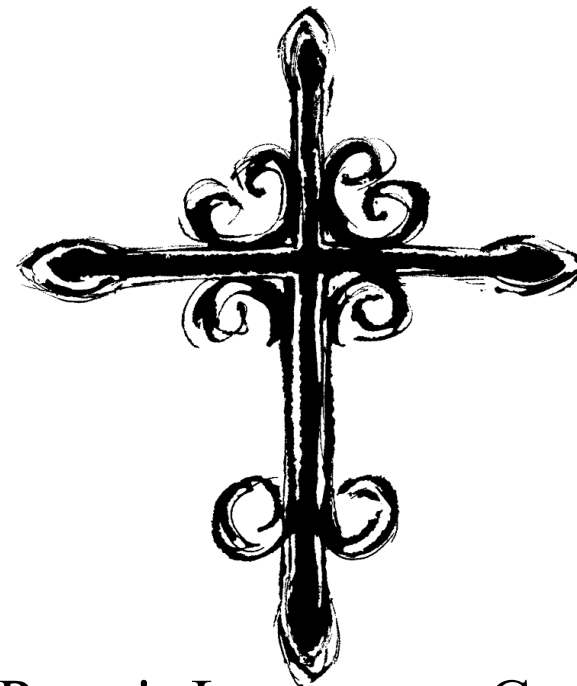
**After worship prayer**

*Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my parents, Henry & Selma Busse, my sister, Delores Busse Wehrenberg, and my brother, Orville Busse, by Connie Busse Ashline; also in loving memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Sharon Riley on her birthday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, by Scott & Sheila Rennewanz; Dustin, Jennifer, Rogan & Bryson Rennewanz; Meredith & CJ Grzincic; and Jeff, Sherri & Kaitlyn Riley.



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> . . . . . Adopt-A-Chaplain
<b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> . . . . . Principal	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . . 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
<b>Church &amp; School Website</b> . . . . . <a href="http://www.stpaulslutheran.net">www.stpaulslutheran.net</a>	

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