

The Visitor

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon,
Associate Pastor

Mr. Brian P. Porter,
Principal

Rev. David Baker,
Missionary to Mongolia

February/
March
2025



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

#changinglives

Worship & Bible Study Opportunities

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm @ the Downtown Church
located at 348 E. Merchant St., Kankakee, IL
Sunday 8:30 am @ the School
located 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

Adult & Youth Bible Class:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School
Classes for Adults & 6th - 12th grade

Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School
Classes for Pre-K through 5th grade

Church & School Office: 815-932-0312

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church Website: www.stpaulslutheran.net

Next Newsletter Deadline March 15th

SPECIAL DATES

- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Presidents Day, February 17
- Transfiguration of our Lord, March 2
- Ash Wednesday, March 5
- World Day of Prayer, March 7
- Daylight Savings Time begins, March 9
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- First Day of Spring, March 20



Don't forget to spring ahead
on March 9th!!

Mid-Week
Lenten
Worship

Wednesdays 7:00 pm -
March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Downtown Church

TRIVIA NIGHT 2025

On Friday, February 28th at 6pm we will hold our annual Trivia Night hosted by St. Paul's Youth Ministry and the 165th Anniversary Committee! This year's Trivia Night will have a Mardi Gras theme in honor of the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Gather your team of history nerds, sports enthusiasts, music lovers, wordsmiths, and other lovers of random knowledge and come out for the fun. The cost for a team of 8 is \$100, or come on your own for \$15 and we will match you with some teammates for the night. To add to the fun there will be a table decorating contest and prizes for best dressed themed team. This is a bring your own snacks and drinks event. Some people go all out on food for their table so start coordinating your team and your food. Adult beverages are welcome. Please drink responsibly - youth will be present as graders and event helpers. Let's pack the gym! Get a team together ASAP! Please invite your friends and family and register online at <https://forms.gle/r6XV9ajjy22XAdBC6> or scan the QR code to reserve your team's table:



PREPARING FOR LENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This time last year we were preparing for Lent. WOW, what a difference a year makes.

But how do you prepare for Lent?

In years past, preparing for Lent meant choosing something to sacrifice. What would you be willing to sacrifice? I would always answer that for Lent, I was willing to give up eating asparagus and brussel sprouts!! The problem with making those things a sacrifice is that I do not like them to begin with so it would not be much of a sacrifice.



Look at what Webster's Dictionary has to say about the word "*SACRIFICE*."

1. the offering of animal, plant, or human life or of some material possession to a deity, as in propitiation or homage.
2. the person, animal, or thing so offered.
3. the surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim.
4. the thing so surrendered or devoted.
5. a loss incurred in selling something below its value.

Look at definition number 3, something prized or desirable.

How would you feel if you had to give up your most prized possession for 40 days? What would you do if you had to surrender your car or your only form of transportation for 40 days? Are you getting the idea of what it means to sacrifice? It is more than just an inconvenience, it is a real challenge.

I guess one of the reasons we have problems with this word is that we never really have to sacrifice a thing. Think about it for a minute. Have you ever really had to sacrifice anything?

Why all this talk about sacrifice?

One of the reasons I bring it up is to bring across the sense of what Lent is all about. It is a time of preparation, a time of sacrifice to prepare for the coming feast of Easter. It also helps us to focus on the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Have you ever thought about THAT sacrifice?

We often do not think about the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Jesus is God's own Son. God willingly allowed His Son to suffer on our behalf so that we would have the forgiveness of sins. Having just celebrated Christmas and our Saviors birth a month ago, it is strange to also talk about His death. Yet Jesus was born to die. God gave Him for that very reason. To me that is a great sacrifice.

Can I sacrifice anything close to that? No I do not think so. Yet I can give what I can of myself, my talents, my time, my treasures to thank God for what he has done for me. The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. What will you sacrifice for Lent this year? Think about it.



I recently read an article that talked about another perspective for us in this Lenten Season and it challenged me. Rather than abstaining during lent, we can also sacrifice by choosing to ADD to our lives at Lent. What can we add?

- † Worship (like our weekly and mid-week services),
- † Bible Study (one Sunday morning or in one of our small groups),
- † Devotions (use Portals of Prayer or the Lutheran Hour Lenten Devotion),
- † Prayer (Use the weekly prayer sheet to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ),

- † Sharing of your time, talents, and treasures (using the blessings that God has given to you to serve and bless others),
- † Adding something to your regular daily routine (like focusing on being more positive and putting the best construction on everything instead of immediately thinking the worst).

All of these Lenten disciplines are intended to draw us nearer to the Lord. Even something like complimenting someone every day, shows God's love to someone who needs it.

As you prepare for Lent, think about giving something up, but also consider adding something to your life to focus on Jesus. May your Lenten journey be blessed.

Blessings in Jesus!!!
Pastor Koeppen



THE PASCAL TRIDUUM

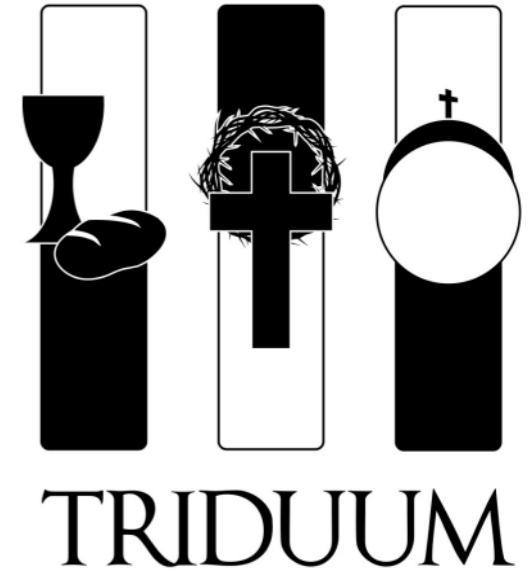
The Pascal Triduum is the three days of Jesus' Passion ending Lent and moving us into the Easter Season. The Triduum begins on Maundy (Holy) Thursday and ends with Easter Day. These three days incorporate three (or four if some observe the Easter Eve Vigil) separate services that are actually part of one, whole worship service. Maundy (Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve Vigil, and Easter. There is no benediction (final blessing) on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday since these services are not concluded, but anticipate the next worship service as part of the whole three days of worship - The Pascal Triduum.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday begins our worship with Corporate confession and Absolution. The focus for this part of the Triduum is on Jesus and the disciples celebrating the Passover - His Last Supper with His disciples. It is from within the Passover that Jesus instituted and gave us His Holy Supper. It was here that Jesus washed the feet of His followers and taught them (and us) humility and service to one another. The celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar bestows the grace of God and the forgiveness of our sins upon us which was won by Christ on the cross. We conclude this worship part of the Triduum with the stripping of the Altar in preparation for Christ's death and burial on Friday.

Good Friday

Good Friday carries on the Triduum with a noon service and in the evening we have a Tenebrae service - a service of darkness. This is a day of joy as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. This service is not a funeral service, but we do worship with restrained joy and minimized music. It is, after all, GOOD Friday - good for us, that is, as our sins were paid for by Jesus. We leave this day of the Triduum in silent, somber, joyful reflection of the God/Man's death in our place, and anticipate the unrestrained joy of Easter Day when we gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



TRIDUUM

Easter Eve Vigil

In some churches, the Vigil of Easter is celebrated. The vigil is a “keeping watch” through the night in anticipation of Jesus’ resurrection early on Sunday. A worship service on Saturday evening may end the Triduum with the benediction and the Easter Acclamation, “Christ is Risen!” When the Vigil is observed, this would then begin the Easter season for those worshiping and keeping the vigil. Worshipers gather on this evening in expectation for the news of Christ’s resurrection. Some churches in our area do have Easter Vigil services.

Easter Morning

Easter does certainly bring the Triduum to a joyful and glorious conclusion. The resurrection of our Lord means nothing without His death in the sinner’s place. And His death would mean nothing without His resurrection to life and His victory over the grave, sin, and the devil. He is Risen, indeed.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER TAKEN PART IN ALL OF THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES WE OFFER, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TRY THEM OUT THIS YEAR - You have to go through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in order to get to Easter Morning.

- 4/17 Maundy Thursday - 7pm - we walk with our Lord and Join Him at the Last Supper.
- 4/18 Good Friday - noon - We consider the suffering of our Lord.
- 4/18 Good Friday - 7pm - TENEBRAE - a service of darkness as we contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus.
- 4/19 SAT - NO WORSHIP SERVICE
- 4/20 EASTER SUNDAY - 6, 9, 11am - Celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection.

During our midweek services we have been walking with Jesus - “*In View Of God’s Mercy*” Continue walking with Jesus throughout Holy Week!

May God bless this time of worship as we receive His gracious blessings in Christ Jesus - our Savior and our Lord.

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Karl Koeppen

Preacher Studio: Behind the Scenes of a Sermon

A Deeper Look into the sermon “Wise Men?” preached for January 4th – 5th

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 1 Timothy 4:1-5

A lot of content gets left on the cutting floor of a sermon in order to get the sermon to the pulpit to preach. The purpose for Lutherans of a sermon is to preach Law and Gospel. The Law accuses us of our sins. The Gospel tells us how Christ saves us from our sins by His all atoning death on the cross. As Dr. Luther explains the art of preaching in *The Freedom of a Christian*, “To preach Christ means to feed the soul, make it righteous, set it free, and to save it, provided it believes the preaching.” However, much of the Bible study and legwork of the sermon explains rather than proclaims. My sermon on Matthew 2:1-12 contains exegetical work that cannot be easily translated into a sermon, but it can be translated into a newsletter article!

In *Chasing the Eastern Star*, Dr. Mark Allan Powell interprets the story of the magi from Matthew 2 through the lens of narrative criticism and then traces the history of the interpretation of this passage throughout church history. A part of narrative criticism is establishing what the implied reader would know and believe about these magi. Matthew’s audience is implied to be Jewish Christians. These Christians would be very familiar with the depiction of the magi in Daniel. In Daniel the court astrologers (magi) are depicted as charlatans and fools compared to the genuinely gifted Daniel. The modern interpretation of the magi as “wise men” would never have resonated with the original readers of the Gospel of Matthew. Instead, these magi were foolish Gentiles who came to worship the king of the Jews. The magi did not come to Jesus by being smarter or wiser than everyone else, but because Jesus led them to Him through the star.

This then amplifies several themes of Matthew's narrative:

- Though Gentiles were pagan fools who did not believe in the true God, the God of Israel, through Jesus God is now bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles and so incorporating them into the people of God, the true Israel. The magi of Matthew 2, the centurion of Matthew 8, the Canaanite woman of Matthew 15, and the centurion and those who with him who confess Jesus to be the Son of God at His death in Matthew 27 are all Gentiles whose faith in Jesus contrasts with unbelieving Israelites. This all anticipates the Great Commission in Matthew 28. Powell assumes that Matthew's original readers and so the implied reader of the narrative is Jewish Christian of the 1st century who needs to be convinced that Gentiles are now being included in the mission.
- Belief in Jesus does not come from human effort, but from the revelation of God Himself. The magi are one example of this. Consider also Joseph in Matthew 1: He believes in Mary's miraculous pregnancy only because God revealed this to him through the angel in a dream. Consider Peter's confession in Matthew 16: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in heaven." The key passage in Matthew regarding this theme is Matthew 11:25-26: "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned and revealed them to babies. Yes, Father, for such was your eudokia (gracious will)." This is how things work in Matthew's narrative: Those who believe in Jesus do so through the revelation of God, not because they are smart and wise enough to figure it out on themselves.

The conclusion of what the magi mean in Matthew 2:

- The magi are not examples of people who figured out who Jesus is, but were pagan fools blessed by God who revealed His Son to them.
- This is evidence because they continuously make mistakes: They travel to the wrong place, Jerusalem, they stir up the paranoia of Herod, they intend to follow the advice of the Chief Priests and Scribes but the star ends up in Nazareth (Luke 2 tells us Jesus was in Nazareth 40 days after His birth), and it seems initially they were going to tell Herod until they were warned in a dream. All of these decisions indicate the wise men were not wise but were stooges.

The magi tend morph into whatever appeals to the culture Christians are in. When Constantine converted to Christianity, the magi were reimagined as 3 kings and therefore the model of secular rule. This paradigm died out around the time of the scientific revolution. Then, the magi were reimagined again in the modern era as scientists who could figure out the right celestial formula to find Jesus.

Regardless of how the magi have been reimagined through the centuries, Matthew depicts the magi as mumbling fools. Yes, they are fools, but they are fools who have faith in Christ. This then sets the precedent that God reveals Himself to the most unlikely people – including Gentile fools!

So, the Christmas card should not read "Wise Men Still Seek Him," but "God Reveals His Son to Stooges."

Thanks be to God He continues to reveal Himself to stooges! I, for one, am grateful He revealed His good and gracious will to this stooge. The season of Epiphany celebrates God's continued self-revelation of Himself to His people through Word and Sacrament. Come and hear God's revelation each and every Sunday at St. Paul's – even to the most unlikely people – even to stooges!

Blessed Epiphany,
Pastor Drinnon





WALCAMP RETREAT

Save the date for our 2025 Walcamp Service Trip: **Friday, April 25th - Sunday, April 27th**. This weekend of service and fun is for youth in 7th - 12th grades. Supportive adults are also invited to join us as chaperones and to serve alongside our youth. Last year, we built benches at the wilderness worship site; we will see what projects camp has in store for us this year. Watch the bulletin, GroupMe, and social media for more information about how to sign up!

YOUTH NIGHTS

The upcoming Youth Nights are on **Sunday, February 23rd and Sunday, March 9th from 6 pm to 8 pm** at the school campus. All 7th through 12th graders are invited to join us for fun and fellowship as we talk about the treasures of our journey.



FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us as we begin Lent with a special Family Sunday School on **March 2nd at 9:45 am** between the church services. Everyone is invited!



YOUTH LOCK-IN

St. Paul's Youth Ministry is hosting a Youth Lock-In **February 7th - 8th** for all 7th - 12th students. The Lock-In will run **from 7pm to 7am**. The cost is \$10 per student. A Youth Ministry Team from Concordia University Chicago (college students) will be the leaders of the night's fun and Bible study. Expect a night of fun and food and probably very little sleep. To sign up, watch GroupMe and youth ministry social media or email katrinadrinnon@gmail.com.



NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"LECTURES IN GENESIS"

Teacher: Pastor Drinnon

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:00 pm

I am excited to announce an upcoming Bible study on the Book of Genesis, beginning February 27th. This study offers a profound opportunity to deepen our understanding of God's creation, His covenant with His people, and the foundational truths of our Christian faith.

Why study Genesis? Genesis is the first book of the Bible and holds a unique place in both the Old and New Testaments. It is filled with profound theological insights, rich narratives, and timeless lessons. From the creation of the world, to the fall of humanity, to God's promises to Abraham and the patriarchs, Genesis sets the stage for the entire biblical account. It is here that we first encounter God's sovereignty, His justice, and His mercy—elements that are essential to understanding the Gospel.

Throughout this study, we will:

- Explore the creation account and its theological and Christological significance.
- Dive into the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- Discuss the implications of original sin, the promise of redemption, and God's ongoing faithfulness.
- Reflect on how Genesis relates to our lives today especially in the light of humanistic rationalism and how the accounts in Genesis point forward to the fulfillment found in Christ.

Materials: The study will utilize the ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal: Genesis to write notes in to take with you beyond the classroom. You can order one yourself on Amazon or email Pastor Drinnon to order you one. Please bring your Bible, your Illuminated Scripture Journal, and a heart ready to dive deep into God's Word.

All are welcome! Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying the Scriptures for years, this study is for you. Come, engage with us as we explore the ancient truths of Genesis that continue to shape our faith and our understanding of God. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email me at rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net. I look forward to seeing you there!



“TRANSFORMING YOUR PRAYER LIFE” BIBLE STUDY

Teacher: Pastor Dave Bottorff
When: February 25th & March 18th, 7 pm
Where: 1573 Surrey Dr., Bourbonnais

Throughout this Bible study, we will examine many Bible verses on the power of prayer, hindrances in our prayer life and what to do about them. We will explore God-instilled prayer habits and prayer helps such as prayer partners, prayer groups, prayer chains. Come and have your prayer life reinvigorated and deepened during this Bible study!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST



Pastor Koeppen is now leading a Bible Study entitled “The God Who Speaks”. We will meet again **Saturday, February 22nd & Saturday, March 22nd** at **7:30 am** in the Riverside Hospital Cafeteria. Join us as we study God’s Word.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Everyone is invited to our monthly fellowship dinners. Each month, we visit a different restaurant and share a great couple of hours eating and getting to know each other better. No special commitment is expected and these evenings are very casual – just come as you are when you are able. Anyone who has come at least once will tell you how much fun we have! The next fellowship dinners will be **Friday, February 21st at 6 pm at Monical’s Pizza in Bourbonnais** and **Friday, March 21st at 6 pm at Tucci’s**. If you would like to join us, please call or text Nancy Eden at 248-842-2837. We would love to see you!



REFRESH, RE-ENERGIZE, & RECONNECT WITH MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

When: March 21st - 23rd
Where: The Springs, Gladwin, MI
Couples gather from Friday night to Sunday afternoon to practice new communication techniques taught by Presenter Couples who share their own marriage experiences in inspiring and relatable talks. This will be the last weekend led by Ruth Fabbro's parents, Ed and Emily Kast. Sign up soon because it will fill quickly. Visit GodLovesMarriage.org, click on The Springs and Apply Now. The cost is just \$100 per couple with a donation opportunity over the weekend to cover room and board. If you have any questions, contact Ruth Fabbro.

PROJECT COMPASSION & GABRIEL’S CALLERS

Would you consider joining? Our only agenda is to share God’s love and to care for the well-being of our members, especially our shut-ins, those grieving, or anyone with special needs. We meet quarterly, at which time we have devotions and prayer and we share our ministry over a meal. Don’t worry about whether or not you have the skills; we will train you. Our next quarterly meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 12th at 6 pm**. Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend. (Please watch the weekly announcements for the location, which is yet to be determined).

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION

We LOVE our volunteers!! The Board of Parish Fellowship is hosting a Volunteer Recognition Reception during coffee hour on **Sunday, February 16th**. St. Paul’s volunteers give countless hours of service to our congregation and the Lord and we want to show our gratitude!

Our volunteers will also be recognized during our worship services that weekend, so we encourage you to join us for worship also.



ST. PAUL’S 2025-2026 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Share this with your friends and family - enrollment is now open to everyone! St. Paul’s has a great school, excellent staff and a strong commitment to provide academic excellence in a safe, Christian environment. We have been blessed with increasing enrollment and our classes have been filling quickly so don’t delay!

SCORE RECYCLING CONTEST



The SCORE program, sponsored by Belson and other area businesses, **will conclude in April**. Helping us earn money for the school is easy. Just mention St. Paul’s when you drop off your cans at Belson’s. You earn cash for the cans, St. Paul’s earns points for the pounds. At the end, St. Paul’s will receive an amount for every point scored. The schools with the top scores will win additional cash and prizes. *We are currently in 4th place out of 20 organizations. Keep those cans coming over the next couple of months and let’s finish strong!* If you would like to drop your cans off at the school, please call the school office.



PTL'S ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER

PTL will be hosting St. Paul's Anniversary Blast & Auction on **Saturday, March 15th** at Quality Inn in Bradley. Join us for an evening of dinner and 60's, 70's, and 80's music (featuring Bill Dyche's band, Cosmic Rewind) as we celebrate our history and God's faithfulness to St. Paul's. Doors will open at 6pm with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7pm and the band will entertain us from 7pm to 10pm with intermittent breaks for live auction items throughout the night.

As we have done in the recent past, our silent auction will be online and will open a week before the event on March 9th and will close at the end of the event on March 15th. Many of the silent auction items will be available for viewing at Trivia Night on February 28th.

If you work for or own a business that would be willing to donate a basket, service, or a sponsorship, please call the school office for the proper paperwork by February 15th. If you have a talent to share, we would also love to get some great handmade products or

experiences for the auction! All donors will be advertised on our auction website, as well as in our Thank You Video, which will run on our school website and Facebook page, and during the live event.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000. All proceeds from the event will be used to provide teaching supplies for our teachers, an update to our curriculum, and a shade structure for the playground.

Tickets will go on sale mid-February and will be available for purchase until March 7th. The cost will be \$50. This year we will also offer Early Bird Seating. For \$500, you may purchase an entire table (seating for 8 people) along the dance floor and receive two cocktail/mocktail tokens per person. Please watch the weekly announcements for more details and a link for tickets. Thank you for your support!



8th GRADE TUMBLER FUNDRAISER

Our 8th grade class is selling St. Paul's tumblers to help raise money for their class trip to Wal-Camp in the spring. The tumblers are on sale now at elitedesigngroup.us (click "Team Shops", then "St. Paul's") and will be available to purchase from the website until February 28th. They are \$25 each. If you would prefer, you may purchase directly from an 8th grader. Thank you in advance for your support!



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

In 2024, St. Paul's received \$16,000 from Thrivent Financial through their Action Team program. Each Thrivent customer can request \$500 per year for special projects. Our board directors and committee leaders have used these funds for landscaping, youth events, church/school anniversary celebrations, concrete pads, food pantry supplies, paint, Phil's friends, and many more activities. Kudos to our leaders for using this financial source to further the mission of St. Paul's.

ALTAR FLOWERS



The Flower Chart for 2025 is now up at the Bourbonnais campus. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of someone or some special occasion, please

sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. When you sign up for flowers please include your phone number next to your name. Thank you!

The cost is \$25.00 for one vase or \$50.00 for two. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Checks or cash payments may be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Koeppen at 932-1545 or lykoeppen@comcast.net.

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2025 financial statements are now available for pick-up in Fellowship Hall or at the school, depending on which service you frequent. The envelopes are organized alphabetically by last name. If you cannot find yours, please contact Christie at 932-0312. Thank you for your generosity!



NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would rather receive St. Paul's bi-monthly newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to Christie at crahn@stpaulslutheran.net or call the church office at 932-0312. The newsletter is also posted on St. Paul's website at stpaulslutheran.net.

BAKER BULLETIN

The latest Baker Bulletin is enclosed and posted in the entryway at the school. Rev. David Baker and his family are doing missionary work across the globe and love to share their stories. Please note that because of the nature of their ministry, we cannot post the bulletin online.

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Baptized	1804
Communicant	1326
Communing	491

Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship (as of the end of the month):

Month	265
Year-to-date	261

Special Services

Avg Midweek	74
Total Midweek	222
Christmas Eve	544
Christmas Day	82
New Year's Eve	48

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES (through 1/5/25)

Thankofferings
Receipts (Envelopes, Plate, Sunday School + Electronic): \$356,449.06
Budgeted Amount: \$432,519.21
% of Need: 82.41%

Building Fund
Receipts(Envelopes+Electronic): \$94,743.44
Budgeted Amount: \$90,865.26
% of need: 104.27%

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES

All of the remaining 2025 giving envelopes are now available for pick-up from the school. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's ministries!

St Paul's Church & School Office
1780 Career Center Road - Bourbonnais
815-932-0312



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional SAT 5:00 pm - Downtown Campus (D)
 Traditional SUN 8:30 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)
 Contemporary SUN 11:05 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)



February

Sunday School/Adult & Youth Bible Class SUN 9:50 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 		1 5:00pm Worship (D) 6:00pm Daddy-Daughter Dance (B)
2 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Family Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 12:30pm LWML Tea Party (D) 	3 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	4 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B) 	5	6	7 7:00pm Youth Lock-In (B) 	8 5:00pm Worship (D)
9 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	10	11 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	12 6:00pm Project Compassion & Gabriel's Callers Quarterly Meeting	13 6:00pm Gospel of Mark Bible Study (B) 	14 VALENTINES DAY 	15 5:00pm Worship (D)
16 8:30am Worship (B) 9:30am Volunteer Reception (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	17 NO SCHOOL 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B) 	18 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B) 	19	20	21 5:30pm Family Reading Night (B) 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Monical's, Bourb) 	22 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D) Various Tables of Eight (Various)
23 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	24	25 7:00pm Transforming Your Prayer Life (1573 Surrey, Bourb) 	26	27 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis Bible Study (B) 	28 6:00pm Trivia Night (B)	

St Paul's Church & School Office
1780 Career Center Road - Bourbonnais
815-932-0312



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional SAT 5:00 pm - Downtown Campus (D)
 Traditional SUN 8:30 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)
 Contemporary SUN 11:05 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)



March

Sunday School/Adult & Youth Bible Class SUN 9:50 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 			1 5:00pm Worship (D) 
2 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	3 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	4 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B) 	5 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship (D) 	6	7	8 5:00pm Worship (D) 
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	10	11 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	12 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D) 	13 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis Bible Study (B) 	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:00pm Worship (D) 6:00pm Anniversary Blast & Auction (Quality Inn) 
16 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B) 	18 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B) 7:00pm Transforming Your Prayer Life (1573 Surrey, Bourb) 	19 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D) 	20	21 MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND GRANDPARENTS DAY 	22 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
23 MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	24	25	26 SPRING BREAK 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D) 		27 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis Bible Study (B) 	28 29 5:00pm Worship (D) Various Tables of Eight (Various)
30 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	31					



Serving our Lord in February

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., February 2	8:30 am 11:05 am	Gavin & J.P. Woods Lucas Porter, Luke Stimaman
Sun., February 9	8:30 am 11:05 am	Gloria Morocho Loja, Nora McHugh Daphne & Delilah Sexton
Sun., February 16	8:30 am 11:05 am	Mo Macari, Quinn Styck Emma Davis, Audrey Nordmeyer
Sun., February 23	8:30 am 11:05 am	Layna Rahn, Olivia Reardanz Norah Callan, Claire Wilson

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., February 1 Sun., February 2	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Mark Hess Sharla Ronchetto	Sat., February 8 Sun., February 9	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Pat Hatch JoAnn Hess Tammie Mesenbring
Sat., February 15 Sun., February 16	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Engel John Veers Karen Beatty	Sat., February 22 Sun., February 23	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Ken Ebert Loree Yoakum David Bottorff

TRUSTEE SCHEDULES

Sat. & Sun., February 1 & 2 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stimaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., February 8 & 9 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Brian Porter 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler
Sat. & Sun., February 15 & 16 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stimaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., February 22 & 23 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Brian Porter 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler



Serving our Lord in March

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., March 2	8:30 am 11:05 am	Aidan & Nolan LaVoie Daphne & Delilah Sexton
Wed., March 5	7:00 pm	Micah Lundmark, Mason Raloff
Sun., March 9	8:30 am 11:05 am	Brody Brinkmann, Trevor Smith Lucas Porter, Trenton Stephens
Wed., March 12	7:00 pm	Layna Rahn, Olivia Reardanz
Sun., March 16	8:30 am 11:05 am	Ava & Jackson Veasey Jacob Kubal, Miles Truax
Wed., March 19	7:00 pm	Gavin & J.P. Woods
Sun., March 23	8:30 am 11:05 am	Nolan Freitas, Ty Luhman Audrey Nordmeyer, Beth Schreurs
Wed., March 26	7:00 pm	Annie Schneider, Quinn Styck
Sun., March 30	8:30 am 11:05 am	Dain & Dylan Blair Norah Callan, Claire Wilson

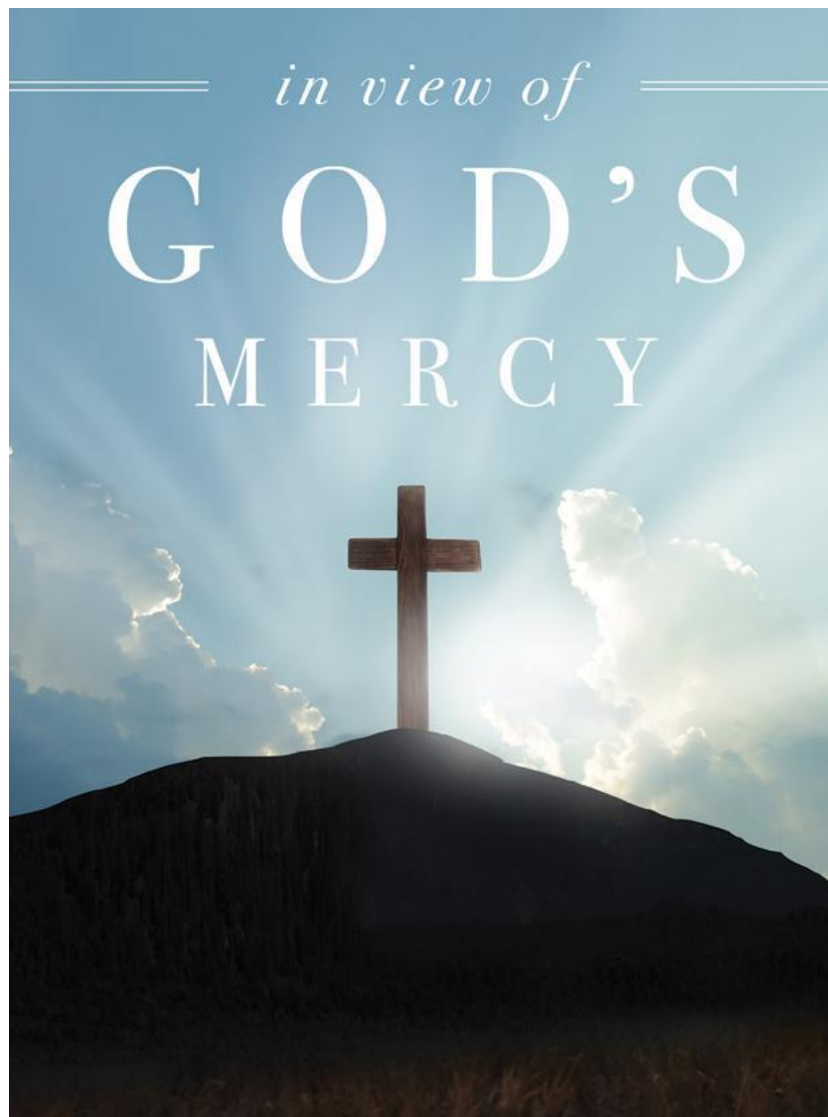
LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., March 1 Sun., March 2	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Dee Cordes Josh Cherry	Sat., March 8 Sun., March 9	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Jennifer Richardson Roy Cordes Tammie Mesenbring
Sat., March 15 Sun., March 16	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Audra Taylor Bill Balgeman Mellody McDonald	Sat., March 22 Sun., March 23	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Engel Loree Yoakum Sharla Ronchetto
Sat., March 29 Sun., March 30	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Diane Barber Nancy Eden Deb Turrell			

(Turn over for Trustee Schedule)

TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

Sat. & Sun., March 1 & 2 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Wed., March 5 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson	Sat. & Sun., March 8 & 9 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Brian Porter 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler
Wed., March 12 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson	Sat. & Sun., March 15 & 16 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	Wed., March 19 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson
Sat. & Sun., March 22 & 24 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Wed., March 26 7:00 pm - Terry Treece	Sun., March 30 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler



IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of His Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for Him, displaying our devotion to Him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in His life, death and resurrection. The services in this worship series for Lent focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in Christ.

I pray that you can join us as we walk with our Savior this Lenten Season and consider this season **In View Of God's Mercy.**

- † 3/5 - Mercy In Ashes
- † 3/12 - Mercy In Temptation
- † 3/19 - Mercy In Suffering
- † 3/26 - Mercy In Betrayal
- † 4/2 - Mercy In Relationships
- † 4/9 - Mercy In Service

All midweek services are held at the downtown church (348 East Merchant, Kankakee) on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm
(Join us for a Lenten Meal each week prior to worship, starting at 5:30pm - meals start on 3/12)

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**Join us for our Holy Week Services**

**Palm Sunday Weekend - 4/12-13** (Regular worship times and locations)

**Maundy Thursday - 4/17 - 7:00 pm** (Downtown Campus)

**Good Friday - 4/18 - 12:05pm & 7:00pm** Tenebrae Service  
(Downtown Campus)

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON SATURDAY, 4/19**

**Join us as we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Savior!**

**Easter Sunday - 4/20 - 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am**  
(Downtown Campus)

# God's Faithfulness: 165 yrs and counting

## **Our Beginning--1854 - 1875**

As I hope you are aware, we as a congregation began celebrating the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on December 21, 2024. 😊 We are being reminded of **God's grace, mercy and faithfulness** throughout all of these years! He provided faith and strength to our Lutheran ancestors so they could **Persevere with Thanksgiving**, which is the theme of our yearlong celebration.

Lutheran families from Germany, some of whom initially settled in New York City, began settling in the Kankakee area by 1854. They moved here because of the opportunities connected with the building of the Illinois Central Railroad in Kankakee County. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary book states: *"it is probable that prior to 1858 some pastoral contacts had been made with Lutheran families in this community. There are strong indications that a Pastor Selle from Crete visited the community and rendered pastoral services. It may also be that his successor, Pastor Heinemann, did the same in 1858, and that in the same year, the pastor from Cooper's Grove (183<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago)(now known as St. John, Country Club Hills), the Rev. Wolfgang Simon Stubnatzi, came to conduct services. The Kankakee County Historical Atlas of 1883 says that the first services were held by Rev. Stubnatzi in the dwelling of D. Ehrich. It was due to Pastor Stubnatzi's efforts that St. Paul's, Kankakee and Zion, Bonfield were established."*

**A beautiful decade-by-decade Timeline** (1854-1864, 1865-1875, 1876-1886, 1887-1897, 1898 – 1908 thus far) is displayed on the wall of the school cafeteria on Career Center Rd. Each month the next decade will be added to the Timeline. Many thanks to Natalie Cherry, Sarah Cherry and Adele Hinze for all of their efforts in creating it!! I strongly encourage you to head to the school, either during the school day (avoid lunch time) or on Sunday mornings in order to enjoy it. The pictures, printed information and national historical events help to bring our history to life, making it much more real to us! 😊

In 1856, a lot for a future church building was purchased for \$80.00, even though the congregation had not been officially established. This lot was on the northeast corner of East Ave. and Chestnut St. Once the congregation was established at the end of 1859, our first pastor, **Rev. George Bernthal** was called. He also served Zion, Bonfield at the same time. His yearly salary was **\$100!!** *"At that time, some thirty to forty attended the services. Besides private home, the courthouse, the public school and a store building are mentioned as places where worship services were held until the first church was completed in 1864."*(150 Anniv. Book). That storefront and surrounding buildings along the future Court Street are pictured on the timeline.

Plans for a church building were set up in January of 1861, with a building fund established. A total of \$23.70, an amount above their regular offerings, was donated over a period of 29 services, which displayed their vision and determination. The first church was 36 by 50 feet and 16 feet high at least partially made of stone. Rev. Bernthal served from 1860 until he received a Call to Michigan in 1862. His wife passed away in 1861 from a snake bite and his infant daughter died the very same day! Finally in March 1863, the cornerstone was laid. The church was dedicated on August 14, 1864, the same day our **2<sup>nd</sup> called pastor, Rev. Carl Meyer** was installed. The building cost almost \$1,000.

Pastor Meyer served St. Paul's for six years, marked by fast progress. He is credited with **starting our school** in the Fall of 1864. This is truly amazing when you realize that this was during the Civil War, during which the times were hard and tumultuous!! In addition to his pastoral duties, he also taught in the school, which was held in the church.

St. Paul's called its 3<sup>rd</sup> pastor, **Rev. Gustav Mueller**, on November 27, 1870. Installed just before the end of that year, he also served the school. Under his leadership *"many difficult problems were solved. He had the ability to bring the Word of God to bear effectively upon every troubling situation. His counsel persuaded the congregation to join the Missouri Synod in 1873. It was during his ministry here that the first little church had to be replaced by a much larger second church."* (150<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Book) What an exciting time for this congregation!!

On April 18, 1872, work began on the new church, which included taking down the first building to make way for the second to be built on the same location. Dimensions were 36 by 72 feet with a steeple 105 feet high. The final cost was \$6800, which included an organ. The new church included a basement, which served as both the teacher's residence and a school room, and was dedicated on September 8, 1872. There is only a drawing of the first church, but a copy of the **one picture** we have of the 2<sup>nd</sup> church is displayed on the timeline.

In 1873, a female teacher, at the age of 16, was hired to teach the youngest students in the school. Her name was Louise Petrow, and she eventually married one of the founding members of St. Paul's, Wilhelm Rieck, in 1875. They had 12 children, 6 of which passed away anywhere from 9 days old to 15 months old!!! **How heart-wrenching!!!**

Natalie loves counting for each decade the number of Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Deaths that are recorded in our historical information. Those numbers are displayed on the Timeline, as well as a running total with each subsequent decade. They are really amazing to read!

To be continued.....

Nancy Eden