

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
2026



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 9:45 am @ the School
Classes for Adults & 6th - 12th grade

Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:45 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
- Transfiguration of our Lord, February 15
- Presidents Day, February 16
- Ash Wednesday, February 18
- World Day of Prayer, March 6
- Daylight Savings Time begins, March 8
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- First Day of Spring, March 20



*Don't forget to spring ahead
on March 8th!!*



Wednesdays 7:00 pm -
February 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th,
18th, and 25th
Downtown Church

TRIVIA NIGHT: OLYMPIC NIGHT OUT



Our annual Trivia Night fundraiser is

coming up on **Friday, March 13th**. Doors open at 6 pm and trivia starts at 6:30 pm. The theme this year is Olympic Night Out in celebration of the 2026 Winter Olympics. Adults, please gather your friends and family and encourage them to register a team for the event! Gather your history nerds, sports enthusiasts, music lovers, wordsmiths, and other lovers of random knowledge and come out for the fun. Registration cost is \$120 a team (up to 8 players) or \$15 for an individual and we will match you with a team. Mulligans will also be available for purchase for \$20 at the event. Medals will be awarded for Best Trivia Team, Best Dressed Team, and Best Decorated Table! Who will bring home the Gold? All proceeds support St. Paul's Youth Ministry program, including the 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering trip. This is a bring your own snacks and drinks event. Adult beverages are welcome but please drink responsibly - youth will be present as graders and event helpers. Let's pack the gym! Register online today using the QR code.



LENT - A TIME TO RETURN, RENEW AND REFOCUS!

On February 18th, we begin the most solemn time of the Church Year with Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent. The Prophet Joel writes, “*Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning” (Joel 2:12).*

Lent is a time to RETURN TO THE LORD.

If you've been away from the Lord, Lent is a wonderful time to return to the Lord by turning away from those things that have become more important to you than walking with Christ. All of us have the privilege of returning to the Lord because we know that the Lord is compassionate and will joyfully welcome us back into His presence because of what Jesus Christ has done for us through His suffering, death and resurrection.

Lent is also a time to RENEW THE HEART.

King David writes, “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:17).* As we return to the Lord as repentant people, God renews our hearts through the forgiveness of our sins and newness of life given to us in Christ. If your heart is in need of renewal (And whose heart does not need to be renewed?), then Lent is a time for you to experience again the love of God. It is a time to hear that all Jesus did He did for you and me so that our hard hearts would be softened by His love and respond in obedience to His will.



Return To The Lord, Your God

Finally, Lent is a time to **REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION (not on ourselves but) ON JESUS.**

What do you look upon? What catches your eye? Where is your focus? During Lent we are called to take our eyes off ourselves and our circumstances and focus upon the incredible love of God that moved Him to send His Son to become the sacrifice for our sin.

The more we focus on the cross, the more we see that God loves us.

The more we focus on the cross, the more we understand that God is on our side.

The more we focus on the cross, the better prepared we are to live each day as people who continue to turn away from those things that are displeasing to the Lord and become renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I invite you to enjoy the many blessings of the Lenten Season as you RETURN to the Lord in repentance, become RENEWED by the great power of His love, and REFOCUS your eyes on the cross of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

I look forward to seeing you at our midweek Lenten services as well as the Holy Week and Easter celebration services.

Blessings in Jesus!!!

Pastor Koeppen



THE PASCAL TRIDUUM

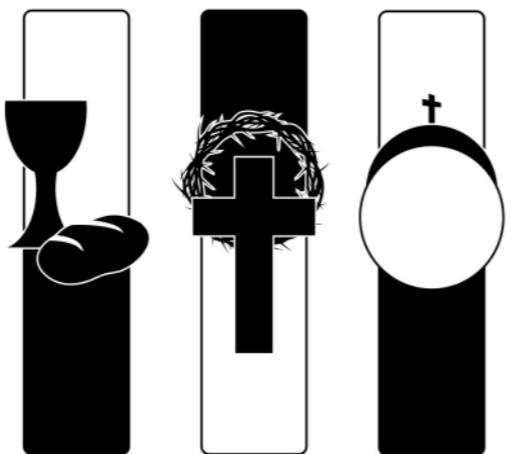
The Pascal Triduum is the three days of Jesus' Passion ending Lent and moving us into the Easter Season. The Triduum begins on Maundy (Holy) Thursday and ends with Easter Day. These three days incorporate three (or four if some observe the Easter Eve Vigil) separate services that are actually part of 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.

- 4/2 Maundy Thursday - 7pm - We walk with our Lord and Join Him at the Last Supper.
- 4/3 Good Friday - noon - We consider the suffering of our Lord.
- 4/3 Good Friday - 7pm - TENEBRAE - A service of darkness as we contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus.
- 4/4 SAT - NO WORSHIP SERVICE
- 4/5 EASTER SUNDAY - 6, 9, 11am - Celebrate our Lord's Resurrection.

During our midweek services we have been walking with Jesus and we 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

“You Shall Not Murder:” God’s Gift of Life and Our Call to Protect It

The Fifth Commandment, “*You shall not murder*,” may seem simple at first glance, yet its meaning reaches much deeper than a mere prohibition. In Luther’s Small Catechism we are guided: *we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need*. This is not only a command to refrain from violence – it is a sacred call to **cherish, protect, and uphold the sacredness of every human life**.

At its core, this is about understanding life as **God’s gift**, not something we create, own, or have ultimate authority over. God alone is the Author and Lord of life from conception to natural death.

Life’s Sacredness in a Broken World

Human life, at every stage, bears the imprint of the Creator. From the moment of conception, the unborn child is a human being worthy of dignity and protection. In the frailty of old age, the suffering of disease, or the vulnerability of disability, each person remains a beloved child of God. Our worth is not determined by usefulness, independence, or physical ability, but by the simple truth that **God made us and redeemed us through Christ’s blood**.

Yet, in our fallen world, this divine affirmation of human dignity is increasingly challenged. The materialistic culture around us is tempted to assign value based on productivity, convenience, or comfort. In such a climate, Christians are called to be unwavering witnesses to a radically different truth: **every life matters because Christ died for every life**.

A New Challenge in Illinois: Medical Aid in Dying

Here at home in Illinois, a major change has recently occurred that underscores the importance of grounding our understanding of life in Scripture and the Catechism. On December 12, 2025, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the **End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act**, also called “Deb’s Law,” which will legalize physician-assisted suicide (termed *medical aid in dying*) beginning in September 2026. Under this law, residents who are at least 18 years old, mentally capable, and diagnosed with a terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less can obtain medication from a physician that they may choose to take to end their lives. The law includes

procedural safeguards such as multiple requests, waiting periods, and confirmation by two doctors.

This development makes Illinois the **twelfth state in the nation** to adopt such a law, joining others that have taken similar legislative steps. Supporters argue that it offers autonomy and relief from suffering in a person’s final days. Yet many – including religious leaders and disability advocates – fear it erodes society’s reverence for life and puts vulnerable people at risk.

Why This Matters

From a theological standpoint, deliberately ending a human life – even with consent – raises profound questions about the value we assign to human existence. As the Church teaches, acts intended to cause death, even to alleviate suffering, are morally unacceptable because they violate the intrinsic dignity of the human person. What we call *medicine* should always be directed toward healing and compassionate care, not intentionally bringing life to an end.

This does not mean we are insensitive to suffering or the profound pain that can accompany serious illness. On the contrary, the Christian’s heart breaks alongside the suffering of the sick and the dying. But our response is shaped not by a desire to escape pain at all costs, but by the promise of Christ who enters into suffering with us, sustaining us, and offering *hope even in suffering*. (Rom. 8:18-19)

Christian Compassion Without Compromise

How do we speak truth with love in an environment where end-of-life options increasingly include state-sanctioned death? First, we must anchor our witness in the Gospel: **every person is precious to God**, even, especially, at moments of extreme frailty or pain. Our compassion for the suffering must never lead us to treat them as burdens rather than beloved children of God.

Many who wrestle with questions about suffering, helplessness, or the end of life carry deep fear and isolation. Some have experienced loss, watched loved ones suffer, or felt overwhelmed by their own physical decline. For them, the Church must be a place of healing, confession, reassurance, and hope – a place where brokenness is brought to Christ, not dismissed or hastened.

We can acknowledge the reality of suffering without conceding that life is disposable. **Compassionate care** – including hospice, palliative care, pain management, and patient-centered accompaniment – honors the person without intentionally ending life.

Living the Fifth Commandment Today

To uphold the Fifth Commandment in today's context is not only to *say no* to actions that directly end life, but to *say yes* to the support and protection of life. This looks like:

- Encouraging and supporting quality end-of-life care that comforts without terminating life.
- Offering practical care for the disabled, chronically ill, elderly, and homebound.
- Supporting ministries that assist women and families facing difficult pregnancies such as River Valley Pregnancy Resource Center and Living Alternatives.
- Extending presence, listening, and prayer to those facing fear and loss.

Every act of mercy, every visit to the homebound, every prayer for the sick, embodies the command to **help and support our neighbor in every physical need**.

Conclusion: A Hope That Transcends Death

The Fifth Commandment reminds us not only of what we must not do, but of who we are called to become as God's people: a community that reveres life as a gift, reflects Christ's compassion in suffering, and points always to the Resurrection — the ultimate victory over death. (1 Cor. 15:57)

As the culture around us continues to grapple with life's most difficult questions, may we be ready to proclaim — with humility, courage, and love — that **life is sacred from beginning to end**, and that in Christ, *even death itself has been defeated*.

In Christ,

Pastor Drinnon



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by His death and resurrection.

That the Son of God joined us in our frail state of humanity is testament to God's overwhelming love and concern for the world. And not only this, Jesus endured scorn and derision from His creation, His earthly subjects. And yet, as King, as Lord of all, He did the unthinkable: He laid down His life for the sins of the world.

Copies of this Lenten devotion will be available for pick-up at the school and church locations beginning February 8th.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us as we begin Lent with a special Family Sunday School on **February 15th** at **9:45 am** between the church services. Everyone is invited!

Thank you to everyone at St. Paul's and in our community who helped make the 2025 Youth Ministry Cookie Sale a success! Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated!

- The St. Paul's Youth

VBS 2026 - SAVE THE DATE!!

All children entering 4-year-old preschool through 6th grade are invited to spend a week with us at Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 15th through Friday, June 19th**!

Rainforest Falls promises a week of wonder as kids explore the powerful nature of God! Through life-changing Bible stories, the coolest animal buddies, and joyful worship, they'll discover who God is and how to stay rooted in His love.





YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

All 7th -12th grade students are invited to join us for youth ministry events. Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the Bourbonnais campus.

- * Lock-In - February 6th -7th 7pm - 7am
- * Youth Leadership Team Meeting - February 22nd 5pm
- * Youth Night - February 22nd 6-8pm
- * Youth Night - March 8th 6-8pm
- * Trivia Night - March 13th, Set-up at 5pm
- * Youth Leadership Team Meeting - March 22nd 5pm
- * Youth Night - March 22nd 6-8pm
- * Easter Breakfast Set-up - April 4th 9am-Noon (Downtown)
- * Easter Breakfast - April 5th (Downtown)
- * Last Youth Night - April 19th 6-8pm
- * Senior Send-off - April 29th 6-8pm

YOUTH LOCK-IN

On Friday, February 6th at 7pm - Saturday, February 7th at 7am will be hosting our annual Lock-In with students from the



Concordia University Chicago Youth Ministry Team at the Bourbonnais school campus. Stay all night for fun, games, food (Nachos Bar!), and Bible study. Bring \$10,



your Bible, comfy clothes, tennis shoes, pillow, a blanket/sleeping bag, and your toothbrush. Please register to attend using the QR Code:

Please note:

- You must have a current Emergency Information form on file to attend this event. If you have not completed this form this year, please bring a parent to complete the form.
- If you have an evening commitment and need to arrive late, please let Mrs. Drinnon know in advance when you will arrive.
- If you cannot stay the night due to a Saturday commitment, please plan to have a parent pick you up at midnight.



NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"The Cross in the Old Testament"

Teacher: Pastor Drinnon

When: Sundays at 9:45 am
(beginning February 22nd)

The Cross in the Old Testament: How Jesus Fulfills God's Promise for a Savior is a six-week Bible study that traces God's plan of salvation through key Old Testament passages and shows how they point forward to Christ and His cross. Together we'll see how sacrifice, promise, and prophecy all find their fulfillment in Jesus. Come deepen your confidence in God's promises for you. All are welcome to attend.



"SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER" BIBLE STUDY

Teacher: Pastor Dave Bottorff

When: Tuesdays at 7 pm,
beginning March 24th

Where: 1573 Surrey Dr., Bourbonnais

Starting Tuesday, March 24th, Pastor Bottorff will start a new home Bible study series on these Seven Principles of Prayer: 1) Get still before God. 2) Get into communion with God. 3) PRAY for God to develop your visions and dreams. We will look at how God used Bible heroes like Joseph, Abraham and the apostle John's visions and dreams to visualize how He would fulfill His promises to them. Then we will apply those same principles to how God will work out His promises from His Word in our lives today! 4) See God's authority over the devil in your circumstances. 5) Keep an accurate record of your prayer requests before God. 6) Thank and praise God in advance. 7) *"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)*

Please call Pastor Bottorff at 815-304-4553 by February 25th for him to make enough copies for all participants. Treats will be served after each Bible study.

“ROAD TO CORONATION”

*Teacher: Pastor Dave Bottorff
When: Tuesday, February 24th at 7 pm
Where: 1573 Surrey Dr., Bourbonnais*

This home Bible study, which will conclude on February 24th, takes you on a journey beside Jesus on His walk to the cross, examining the distinct passion narrative in each of the four Gospels. What emerges is a vivid encounter with a King who lived solely to serve rather than to be served, while challenging the spiritual authorities of His day. Call Pastor Dave Bottorff at 815-304-4553 to come to the conclusion of this Bible study at his home on **Tuesday, February 24th**.

“THE SERVING CHRIST - THE GOSPEL OF MARK”

*Teacher: Roy W. Cordes
When: Tuesdays at 9:45 am
Where: Fellowship Hall*

John Mark, who was not a disciple of Jesus, assisted Peter in his ministry to new Christians and converted Jews in Asia Minor. Peter was crucified in 65 A.D. and by 70 A.D., Mark wrote his Gospel. It was the first of the four Gospels that were written after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Mark obviously learned a lot about Jesus while working with Peter and wrote his Gospel so we could become better acquainted

with our Lord Jesus. We encounter the Risen Christ in person who was a servant to others in His ministry. As we study the Gospels, we get to see the roaring Lion and the sweet Lamb in action, loving people, showing compassion, teaching and discipling, rebuking and correcting, suffering and ultimately dying for us. We encounter Jesus in a very unique way in the Gospels.

If you attend this weekly class, you will be able to contribute to the class in several ways voluntarily. You can bring up a new idea, read a small section we will cover that day, ask a question or two, follow along in your Bible while someone else reads, or just sit and listen and learn as the class studies each chapter verse-by-verse.

Mark's Gospel includes a description of some of the teachings of Jesus along with His healing ministry. Even though Mark does not talk about the birth of Jesus, he follows Him through His suffering and death by explaining how much the crucifixion and resurrection means to us today.

Each lesson is taught independently from the others so you may attend sporadically or join us at any time to grow in your faith and rely on God's Word to assist you with your daily walk with the Lord. Join us this week or sometime in the future.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

 Pastor Koeppen is leading a new Bible Study entitled “Life Lessons from Acts”. We will meet again **Saturday, February 28th & Saturday, March 28th 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! There will be no Fellowship Dinner in February but please join us at **PTL's Boots & Blessings Dinner & Auction on February 28th** (see page 17 for details on this event.) The next Fellowship Dinner will be **Friday, March 20th at 6 pm at Monical's in Bourbonnais**. If you would like to join us, please call or text Nancy Eden at 248-842-2837. We would love to see you!



CREATION MUSEUM & ARK

The Outreach and Connections Board is organizing a trip to the Creation Museum and Ark July 9th-12th. *There will be an informational meeting in the cafeteria at about 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 8th. If you are interested but can't make it to the meeting, please let the church office know so we can get a feel for how many people would like to go.*

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Peace Lutheran, Saginaw, MI is hosting a women's retreat at the Gillman Springs Retreat Center in Gladwin, MI, **February 20th-22nd**. Ruth Fabbro will be attending the retreat so contact her at 815-450-5665 if you would like to attend. The cost is \$165 which includes a two-night stay (double occupancy), 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners. The topic is *The Daniel Plan* by Rick Warren. This is a faith-based health program that focuses on improving overall well-being through five key areas: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends inspired by the biblical story of Daniel. *The deadline for registration is February 11th.*

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 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 **Wed., February 11th at 6 pm at Monical's in Bourbonnais.** Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION

We “Value Our Faithful, Difference-Making Volunteers!” Parish Fellowship is planning a Volunteer Recognition Reception for all of our amazing St. Paul’s Church volunteers on **Sunday, March 15th at 1:00 pm.** If you are a church volunteer, you will receive an invitation in late February with more information and an RSVP deadline. More information will also be in the weekly bulletins. We look forward to celebrating you and your service to our Lord and St. Paul’s!



PHIL'S FRIENDS UPDATE

Phil's Friends is a cancer care package ministry. The Phil's Friends Kankakee Hope Center is located in the St. Paul's Mission and Ministry Center, the building that previously housed St. Paul's School from 1958–1992. The Kankakee Hope Center opened in the fall of 2025 and is entirely volunteer run. All care package items are donated, and all labor to prepare and pack the packages is provided by volunteers.

St. Paul's is blessed to support the Phil's Friends ministry by providing space and dedicated volunteers, and in turn is blessed to help send care packages to friends facing cancer. In 2025, nearly 700 care packages were sent out. Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's partnership with Phil's Friends.



LENTEN DINNERS

Ash Wednesday is February 18th, which means our Lenten Dinners will begin the following week. Dinners will be served in Fellowship Hall downtown from 5:30 - 6:30 pm prior to midweek services at 7:00 p.m.

Dinners will include an entree, salad or veggies, dessert and drinks. A freewill offering will be taken to either cover the cost of the meal or to go toward a ministry of the board/group serving.

The schedule of dinners is:

- * February 25th - Human Care
BBQ sandwiches
 - * March 4th - Outreach & Connections
Pizza
 - * March 11th - Parish Education
Soup & Sandwiches
 - * March 18th - Parish Fellowship
Lasagna
 - * March 25th - Stewardship
TBA

Please join us for good food and fellowship and then worship afterwards!



SCHOOL NEWS

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, especially our preschool classes, so don't delay!

SCORE RECYCLING CONTEST





The SCORE program, sponsored by Belson and other area businesses, **will conclude in April.** 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, the schools with the top scores will win cash and prizes. *We are currently in 3rd place out of 23 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 Lutheran School's *Boots & Blessings* on **Saturday, February 28th** at Quality Inn in Bradley. Join us for an evening of dinner and live music (provided by South Side Social Club)! Doors will open at 6 pm with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7 pm and the band will entertain us from 7 to 10 pm with intermittent breaks for live auction items throughout the night.

Tickets are on sale now until February 16th! Individual tickets are \$55 and include a meal and one beverage ticket (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). You may also buy an entire table for \$500, which includes eight meals and sixteen beverage tickets.

To purchase your tickets, go to <https://stpaulsptlauction.ludus.com/200510681> or scan the QR code:



Our silent auction will be exclusively online again. It will open a week before the event and close at the end of the event. *If you work for or own a business that would be willing to sponsor the event or donate a basket, service, or experience, please call the school office for the proper paperwork.* All donors will be advertised at our live event and on our auction website, as well as in our Thank You Video, which will run on our school website and Facebook page. *If you have a talent to share, we would also love to get some great handmade products for the auction!* All donations need to be received by February 5th.

Our goal is to raise \$40,000. All proceeds from the event will be used to provide teaching supplies for our teachers, iPads and chrome books for the lower grades, laptops for our teachers, and additional security measures for our school. Thank you for your support!

ALTAR FLOWERS



The Flower Chart for 2026 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 per vase. If you would like both vases on a given weekend, please print your name on both lines. 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!



2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

All of the remaining 2026 giving envelopes are now available for pick-up from the school. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's ministries!

MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE

We Praise our Lord that St. Paul's has embraced the Matching Funds Challenge! He blessed us with a donor that put a challenge before us. The congregation was challenged to donate \$50,000 for the General Fund and \$50,000 for the Building Fund. Donations were \$65,233.12 for the General Fund and \$57,792.15 for the Building Fund. The donor has contributed \$100,000. This challenge was made to help our church and school ministry budgets. Many have also taken on the Ten for Ten Program which continues to support our church. We pray the Lord continues to touch your generous hearts to balance the budget to the end of our fiscal year.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would rather receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to crahn@stpaulslutheran.net or call the church office at 815-932-0312. The newsletter is also posted on our 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 | 1797 |
| Communicant | 1324 |
| Communing | 494 |

Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship

(as of the end of the month):

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Month | 280 |
| Year-to-date | 267 |

Special Services

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Avg Midweek | 64 |
| Total Midweek | 191 |
| Christmas Eve | 487 |
| Christmas Day | 63 |
| New Year's Eve | 45 |

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES**Thankofferings**

Receipts (Envelopes, Plate, Sunday School + Electronic): \$410,251.68

Budgeted Amount: \$464,557.67

% of Need: 88.31%

Building Fund

Receipts(Envelopes+Electronic):
\$65,343.50

Budgeted Amount: \$97,596.02

% of need: 66.95%



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)



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

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | |  | | Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month | |  |
| 1 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am New Member Reception (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 2:00pm LWML Tea Party (D)  | 2 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B)  | 3 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B)  | 4 | 5 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 6 7:00pm Youth Lock-In (B)  | 7 9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D)  |
| 8 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 12:30pm Creation Museum Informational Meeting (B) | 9 | 10 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B)  | 11 9:30am Patriarchs & Journeys Bible Study (D) 6:00pm Project Compassion & Gabriel's Callers Quarterly Meeting (Monical's, Bourb) | 12 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 13 | 14 VALENTINES DAY  |
| 15 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Family Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) | 16 NO SCHOOL 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B)  | 17 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B) 5:00pm Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours (B) | 18 7:00pm Worship (D)  | 19 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 20 | 21 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) |
| 22 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) | 23 | 24 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 7:00pm Road to Coronation (1573 Surrey, Bourb)  | 25 9:30am Patriarchs & Journeys Bible Study (D) 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D)  | 26 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 27 | 28 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D) 6:00pm PTL Dinner & Auction  |

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)

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

March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) | 2 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B)  MEETING | 3 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B)  | 4 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D)  | 5 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 6 | 7 9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D)  |
| 8 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) | 9 | 10 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B)  MEETING | 11 9:30am Patriarchs & Journeys Bible Study (D) 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D)  | 12 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 13 6:00pm Trivia Night (B)  | 14 5:00pm Worship (D)  |
| 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 1:00pm Volunteer Reception (B) | 16 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B)  MEETING | 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B)  | 18 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D)  | 19 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 20 LCMS YOUTH LEAD GRANDPARENTS DAY 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Monicals, Bourb)  | 21 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) |
| 22 LCMS YOUTH LEAD 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) | 23 | 24 | 25 SPRING BREAK 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 7:00pm Seven Principles of Prayer (1573 Surrey, Bourb)  | 26 9:30am Patriarchs & Journeys Bible Study (D) 5:30pm Lenten Dinner (D) 7:00pm Lenten Worship (D)  | 27 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D)  | 28 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D)  |
| 29 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) | 30 | 31 9:45am The Serving Christ Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (B)  | Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month  | |  | |



Serving our Lord in February

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Sun., February 1 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Maddie Billingsley, Brody Brinkmann Emma Davis, Annie Schneider |
| Sun., February 8 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Nolan LaVoie, Micah Lundmark Norah Callan, Claire Wilson |
| Sun., February 15 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Lana McHugh, Olivia Reardanz Kaden McDonald, Dylan Nordmeyer |
| Wed., February 18 | 7:00 pm | George Morocho Loja, Luke Stirnaman |
| Sun., February 22 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Ty Luhman, J.P. Woods MacKenzie Norton, Layna Rahn |
| Wed., February 25 | 7:00 pm | Norah Callan, Annie Schneider |

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Sat., January 31 Sun., February 1 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Pat Hatch Dee Cordes Tammie Mesenbring | Sat., February 7 Sun., February 8 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Ken Ebert JoAnn Hess Sharla Ronchetto |
| Sat., February 14 Sun., February 15 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Karen Beatty Bill Balgeman Deb Turrell | Sat., February 21 Sun., February 22 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Audra Taylor Roy Cordes Heather Stroo |

TRUSTEE SCHEDULES

| | |
|--|---|
| Sat. & Sun., January 31 & February 1 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler | Sat. & Sun., February 7 & 8 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler |
| Sat. & Sun., February 14 & 15 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler | Wed., February 18 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson |
| Sat. & Sun., February 21 & 22 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Mike Callan | Wed., February 25 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson |



Serving our Lord in March

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Sun., March 1 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Lucas Porter, Mason Raloff Jacob Kubal, Luke Stirnaman |
| Wed., March 4 | 7:00 pm | Hudson Bade, George Morocho Loja |
| Sun., March 8 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Dain & Dylan Blair Ryleigh Reiniche, Claire Wilson |
| Wed., March 11 | 7:00 pm | Micah Lundmark, Kaden McDonald |
| Sun., March 15 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Maddie Billingsley, Quinn Styck Hudson Bade, Dylan Nordmeyer |
| Wed., March 18 | 7:00 pm | Layna Rahn, Olivia Reardanz |
| Sun., March 22 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Brody Brinkmann, Zachary Porter Emma Davis, Ty Luhman |
| Wed., March 25 | 7:00 pm | Lana McHugh, Quinn Styck |
| Sun., March 29 | 8:30 am 11:05 am | Nolan Freitas, Mo Macari Jacob Kubal, MacKenzie Norton |

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Sat., February 28 Sun., March 1 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Jennifer Richardson Roy Cordes Deb Turrell | Sat., March 7 Sun., March 8 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Pat Hatch Loree Yoakum Sharla Ronchetto |
| Sat., March 14 Sun., March 15 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Audra Taylor Bill Balgeman Josh Cherry | Sat., March 21 Sun., March 22 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Ken Ebert Mark Hess Heather Stroo |
| Sat., March 28 Sun., March 29 | 5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am | Jennifer Richardson John Veers Mellody McDonald | | | |

(Turn over for Trustee Schedule)

TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Sat. & Sun., February 28 & March 1 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Mike Callan | Wed., March 4 7:00 pm - Mike Callan | Sat. & Sun., March 7 & 8 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Mike Callan |
| Wed., March 11 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson | Sat. & Sun., March 14 & 15 5:00 pm - Terry Treece 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler | Wed., March 18 7:00 pm - Rob Wood |
| Sat. & Sun., March 21 & 22 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler | Wed., March 25 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson | Sun., March 28 & 29 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler |



Phil's Friends is a **non-profit organization** that distributes **FREE** care packages and monthly Cards of Hope to cancer patients of all ages across the country. We deliver up to **300 Care Packages per week** and mail **over 9,000 Cards of Hope** each month.

As diagnoses increase and awareness of the Phil's Friends mission grows, we anticipate a continued rise in demand. The **Kankakee Hope Center** is a crucial part of this mission.

Join us in spreading hope by creating boxes, cards, and blankets or join us for a Pack Party where we assemble care packages.

The Kankakee Hope Center has **Volunteer Walk-in Hours** happen **every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm** (expect Thanksgiving and Christmas) and **one Saturday a month**, called a Work Day.

One Saturday a month is the **Pack Party** where a large number of care packages are prepared and shipped.

See the calendar for dates and times.

Kankakee Hope Center

240 S Dearborn Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901
Use the **blue door** under the Phil's Friends sign
For more information contact Sarah Cherry
sarahc@philsfriends.org (815) 651-6864

KANKAKEE HOPE CENTER

FEB/MARCH

THURS, FEB 5

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

SAT, FEB 7

Saturday Work Day - 9am to Noon

THURS, FEB 12

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

THURS, FEB 19

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

SAT, FEB 21

FEBRUARY PACK PARTY - 9:30 to 11 am

THURS, FEB 26

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

THURS, MAR 5

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

SAT, MAR 7

Saturday Work Day - 9am to Noon

THURS, MAR 12

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

THURS, MAR 19

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

SAT, MAR 21

MARCH PACK PARTY - 9:30 to 11am

THURS, MAR 26

Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm

THURS, APR 2

CLOSED for Holy Week

