



St. Paul News

February 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church

***The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod***

**1050 10th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241**

**Rev. David Tilney
Vacancy Pastor
710 9th Avenue
Clarkfield, MN 56223
218-206-5825
dmtilney@hotmail.com**

**Church office:
320-564-2221
stpaulgf@embarqmail.com
www.stpaulgf.org**

**Chairman
Brad Christensen
320-981-0014**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
is to promote the
worship of the Triune God
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,
by teaching the Gospel of
Jesus Christ and administering
the Sacraments, in order to
equip people for Christian
life and service.

Pastor's Message

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

What do you say about God when life hurts—and you don't understand why? That question sits at the heart of the Book of Job, one of Scripture's great wisdom books and the focus of our Lenten journey this year.

Job knows suffering. In rapid succession, he loses his wealth, his children, and his health. And yet, after hearing the worst news imaginable, Job falls to the ground and says, "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). That confession does not come easily. It is learned the hard way.

Our natural assumption is that suffering means God has left us. When hardship comes, we are tempted to believe God is absent, angry, or finished with us.

We see suffering everywhere. A husband loses his job. A child's marriage falls apart. A parent dies. And now, through constant media coverage, we are exposed daily to wars, disasters, and heartbreak across the globe. Suffering is no longer distant—it is constant.

And when suffering hits close to home, faith can feel fragile. We want explanations. We want reasons. We want God to make sense.

Job shows us that faith does not always receive answers—but it does cling to a promise. Job is bowing before God in worship. He blesses the Lord not because he understands what has happened, but because he trusts the Giver more than the gifts.

Martin Luther once said, "The book of Job is magnificent and sublime as no other book of Scripture." Yet the early church father Jerome called Job an "eel"—the tighter you try to grasp it, the more it slips away. Job resists neat explanations. But it does teach us how to live by faith when life makes no sense.

That same confession of faith is echoed in the hymn "What God Ordains Is Always Good," written by Samuel Rodigast in 1675 during a season of illness and hardship. The hymn was not born from comfort, but from suffering.

Like Job, its author trusted God not because life made sense, but because God remained faithful: "What God ordains is always good; He is my friend and Father; He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather. Now I may know both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly That He has loved me dearly."

Job's deepest hope finally breaks through in Job 19: "I know that my Redeemer lives." That Redeemer is Jesus.

Jesus is the innocent sufferer Job points us toward. He bears grief, loss, injustice, and death itself, carrying it all the way to the cross. There, He forgives sins and defeats death by His triumphant resurrection.

cont. on page 4

Items of Interest

Lent

Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self-examination and penitence. Lent is a time to recognize what we truly need, and to prepare for the joy of Easter. It is NOT a time to punish ourselves.

Pastor Dave Tilney from St. Luke's Lutheran, Wood Lake will be leading the Midweek Lenten Services on **Thursday** evenings at 6 pm starting with the Ash Wednesday Service on Thursday, February 19th.

Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday will be March 8th at 11 am and our confirmands are Lucus Canatsey, James Luepke, and Brielle Redepenning. This service is the recognition that these confirmands have been instructed in the essentials of the Christian faith and life, and it also marks the start of a lifetime of further growth in their God-given faith.

LWML News

Thanks to all who contribute to the "Mite Box" and to the monthly "Noisy offerings." In January \$20.75 was donated and this money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Our January 19th meeting was canceled due to the severe cold weather and was rescheduled to the 26th. Since Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday we will not have the Hotdish Supper but go with the "Sunday Soup at St. Paul" on Sunday, February 15th (storm date will be February 22nd). Sign-up sheets for desserts and workers will be in the narthex shortly. Please see page 3 for more info. It was also decided to hold an Easter Breakfast on April 5th before the service.

Volunteers are still needed to help in June for Altar Guild and we also need of 2 delegates for the MN North District convention that will be held June 22-24 in Waite Park. If interested please see Sue Erickson or Judy Rode.

The Spring Rally will be held on Sunday, April 19th at St. Paul in Monte hosted by Trinity Lutheran. Registration will begin at 1:30 pm with a \$5 registration fee. There will be a Devotions, skit performed by our own ladies of the LWML



February Birthdays

Feb 2	Anne Johnson	
Feb 3	Michelle Guza	
Feb 5	Maddison Johnson Jennifer Schmidt	
Feb 6	Bentley Krueger David Skjefte Jr Eileen Wegner	
Feb 8	Carley Redepenning	
Feb 11	James Ryer Jerrad Ryer Kerry Steffen	
Feb 13	Tammy Edman	
Feb 14	Joseph Anderson Linda Berends Heath Kirschbaum Cheyanne Schmidt	
Feb 15	Chase Kemnitz	
Feb 20	Gage DeVries	
Feb 22	Seantae Read	
Feb 23	Kathy Johnson Jan Peterson	
Feb 24	Preston Berends	
Feb 26	Allen Stengel	
Feb 27	Katie Phinney Lennox Stengel	
Feb 28	Donna Hustad	
Feb 29	Jackson Staab	

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



and guest speaker will be Jenn Johnson. She will be speaking on her project called "Kelsi's Hope." Jenn organizes bags that contain things that dialysis patients can use while they are having dialysis several times a week. The in-gathering for the Rally are items that Jenn can put in these bags like travel size lotion, hand sanitizer, and Kleenex. If you would like to donate those items there is a collection box in the coatroom. Lunch will be served also that day. Watch for the flyer to be posted on our bulletin board for more info.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, April 20th at 2 pm in the parish hall.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN

invites you to

“Sunday Soup at St. Paul”

February 15, 2026

(If canceled due to weather, it will be rescheduled to February 22nd.)

12 pm - 1 pm

Menu: chili, and wild rice with chicken,
tomato basil, and veggie beef soup, breadstick,
assorted desserts, and a beverage.

Free-Will Offering

Sponsored by the Lutheran Women in Mission
A Thrivent Action Team Event

Council Notice

At the upcoming March Quarterly Voter's meeting we will be holding election for open positions on the board. They are for a vice chairman and one trustee. If you would like one of these positions or know of someone please let one of the Elders know.



Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Jan 4	67	\$2,386.00
Sun, Jan 11	48	\$2,415.00
Sun, Jan 18	50	\$965.00
Sun, Jan 25	63	\$1,018.00

2026 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,336.00)

Financials as of 1-28-2026

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$6,754.00
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$14,454.91
Difference	(\$7,700.91)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$13,625.51
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	\$14,454.91
Difference	\$829.40

SAC Group 4 will be our greeters and ushers for February. Please prayerfully consider where you are able to and willing to help.

- Anderson, Kristen
- Banken, Janine
- Berends, Alan and Linda
- Bruss, Margie
- Canatsey, Austin
- Donner, Jenelle
- Ebel, Colton and Emily
- Edman, Tom and Tammy
- Gabbert, Don and Jeanne
- Hildahl, Dan and Valerie
- Holtan, Marie
- Hoyer, Lanny
- Jeseritz, Madison
- Jeseritz, Tanya
- Johnson, Mark
- Keller, Katie
- Kling, Verlyn and Barb
- Kvam, Carrie
- Kvam, Gordon
- Kvam, LeRoy and Debra
- Luepke, Mike and Pam
- Meyer, Greg and Jackie
- Meyer, Larry and Karla
- Reese, Tom
- Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis
- Skjefte, Dave and Val
- Skjefte, Mariah
- Steffen, Kerry and Julie
- Timm, Craig and Susan
- Timm, Daphne
- Timm, Lee
- Twedt, Charles and Kari
- Wilking, Larry
- Yeager, Dave and Darlene

cont. from page 1

Because of Christ, suffering is no longer proof that God has abandoned us. Instead, it becomes a place where faith learns to trust God's promises rather than our feelings.

This Lent, our goal is not to "solve" Job, but to walk with him—so that this ancient book becomes less like an eel and more like a companion through life's dark valleys.

Job teaches us to lament honestly, to kneel humbly, and to confess—even through tears—"Blessed be the name of the LORD." And in Christ, that confession is never empty. Your Redeemer lives. And He walks with you still.

Join us this Lent as we journey through the Book of Job, exploring each week how God meets us in suffering, strengthens our faith, and points us to our living Redeemer.

In Christ,
Rev. David Tilney
Vacancy Pastor

Snow Policy

If Sunday Worship Service is cancelled, all other events for the day are also cancelled. If YME School classes are cancelled due to the weather, all church events for that day are also cancelled. The closing can be heard on KMGFM-FM (105.5), KKRC-FM (93.9), KDMA-AM (1460) and also will be posted on Facebook. In regards to worship services during the winter season, please remember to **use your best judgment** in terms of going out in wintry weather. If it is unsafe for you to be out (even in your own driveway), don't go out. Although Pastor is glad to visit you in the hospital, he would rather visit you in your home! So, be safe; missing church due to weather is not an offense to God; remember how much he cares for you too.

Daily Bible Readings for February

Feb 1	Genesis 41 Psalm 32 Luke 23:1–25	Feb 8	Genesis 49–50 Psalm 39 Heb. 4:14–6:12	Feb 15	Exodus 13–14 Proverbs 5 Hebrews 11:1–22	Feb 22	Exodus 25–27 Proverbs 12 Matthew 4
Feb 2	Genesis 42 Psalm 33 Luke 23:26–56	Feb 9	Exodus 1–2 Psalm 40 Hebrews 6:13–20	Feb 16	Exodus 15 Proverbs 6:1–7:5 Hebrews 11:23–40	Feb 23	Exodus 28–29 Proverbs 13 Matthew 5:1–20
Feb 3	Genesis 43 Psalm 34 Luke 24:1–12	Feb 10	Exodus 3–4 Psalm 41 Hebrews 7	Feb 17	Exodus 16–17 Proverbs 7:6–27 Hebrews 12	Feb 24	Exodus 30–32 Proverbs 14 Matthew 5:21–48
Feb 4	Genesis 44 Psalm 35 Luke 24:13–53	Feb 11	Exodus 5:1–6:27 Proverbs 1 Hebrews 8	Feb 18	Exodus 18–19 Proverbs 8 Hebrews 13	Feb 25	Exodus 33–34 Proverbs 15 Matthew 6:1–18
Feb 5	Gen. 45:1–46:27 Psalm 36 Hebrews 1	Feb 12	Exodus 6:28–8:32 Proverbs 2 Hebrews 9:1–22	Feb 19	Exodus 20–21 Proverbs 9 Matthew 1	Feb 26	Exodus 35–36 Proverbs 16 Matthew 6:19–34
Feb 6	Gen. 46:28–47:31 Psalm 37 Hebrews 2	Feb 13	Exodus 9-10 Proverbs 3 Heb. 9:23–10:18	Feb 20	Exodus 22–23 Proverbs 10 Matthew 2	Feb 27	Exodus 37–38 Proverbs 17 Matthew 7
Feb 7	Genesis 48 Psalm 38 Hebrews 3:1–4:13	Feb 14	Exodus 11–12 Proverbs 4 Hebrews 10:19–39	Feb 21	Exodus 24 Proverbs 11 Matthew 3	Feb 28	Exodus 39–40 Proverbs 18 Matthew 8:1–13



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	2	3 8 am Men's Bible Study	4 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	5 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	6	7
8 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	9	10 8 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	11 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	12 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	13	14
15 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service 12 pm - 1 pm "Sunday Soup" 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	16	17 St. Paul Lutheran Church	18 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	19 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study 6 pm Ash Wednesday Service "Dinner at Your Door"	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	23	24 8 am Men's Bible Study	25 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	26 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study 6 pm Midweek Lenten Service	27	28
Acolytes Sun 1 Brielle Redepenning Sun 8 James Luepke Sun 15 Lucas Canatsey Thu 18 Nathan Canatsey Sun 22 Brielle Redepenning Thu 26 James Luepke		Altar Guild Maria Christensen and Carol Podratz	Elders Brian Beyer Larry Cuklanz Dave Guertin Jim Rigge			