



St. Paul News

March 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.

Held by a Sure Promise

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

March often feels unsettled. The calendar says spring is coming, but the weather argues otherwise. The ground is soft in places and frozen in others. Nothing feels quite finished yet.

That unsettled feeling fits the season of Lent. Hebrews 12:2 gives us a clear direction for uncertain times: "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Those words gently expose a familiar struggle. When life hurts and answers are slow in coming, we are tempted to look inward—to our feelings, our understanding, or our ability to make sense of suffering. And when those fail us, our confidence can begin to shake.

Lent redirects our eyes. Scripture does not tell us to look harder at ourselves. It tells us to look to Jesus. He is not only the one who begins faith; He is the one who carries it, sustains it, and brings it to completion. Our certainty does not rest in how strongly we believe, but in whom we believe.

God makes that certainty concrete. He does not leave us guessing about His favor or searching for signs. He attaches His promises to places outside of us—places we can return to again and again.

He puts His promise into water. In Baptism, God does not say, "If you feel forgiven." He says, "You are forgiven." There, Christ claims us as His own and anchors our faith in His Word, not our emotions.

He puts His promise into bread and wine. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives His true body and blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Even when faith feels weak, Christ remains faithful. The gift does not depend on our strength, but on His promise.

Hebrews 12 goes on to say that Jesus endured the cross "for the joy that was set before Him." As we move through March toward Holy Week, our eyes are drawn to that cross. There are no outward signs of victory there—only suffering, darkness, and death. Yet there, hidden beneath the suffering, God is accomplishing salvation. Jesus bears our sin. He pays the full price. He keeps every promise. This is where faith learns where to look.

As the hymn "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" confidently confesses, "Bold shall I stand in that great day For who aught to my charge shall lay? Fully thro' these absolved I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame" (TLH, #371, stzs 2). That confidence does not come from us. It comes from Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

As Lent continues and Holy Week approaches, God invites us again to look to Jesus—crucified and risen—where He meets us in His Word, in the font, and at the altar. There He forgives sins, strengthens faith, and prepares us to follow Him from the cross to the empty tomb.

Look to Jesus. You are held by a sure promise. And that promise will carry you through the cross—and all the way to resurrection.

Blessed Lententide!

Pastor David Tilney
Vacancy Pastor

Items of Interest

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.

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Lenten Midweek Services are being held Thursday (5,12,19,26) evenings at 6 pm with a light supper served at 5:15 pm.

- Maundy Thursday - April 2nd at 5 pm
- Good Friday - April 3rd at 5 pm.
- Easter Sunday - April 5th
 - Breakfast at 10 am
 - Easter Service at 11 am.

Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be Sunday, March 15th before the worship service at 10 am with a potluck dinner following the worship service. An item on the agenda will be election of officers. Open elected positions include Vice-Chairman, Elder, and Trustee. If you are interested about these roles, please speak with a current Council member. All confirmed members 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend.



Potluck Dinner after the
Service
on March 15th.

LWML News

Thanks to all who contribute to the "Mite Box" and to the monthly "Noisy Offerings." In February \$10.61 was donated and this money will go toward LWML mission projects. Thanks for your continued support.

Thanks to all who came to the "Sunday Soup at St. Paul" on February 15th. Special thanks to all the ladies who made the soups and special desserts & bars. Ken and Carol made fresh garlic toast to compliment our meal! Thanks to the workers in the kitchen and everyone who helped in any way including the person who took all the dirty dish towels home to wash! It is appreciated!

The Spring Rally is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at St. Paul in Monte hosted by Trinity Lutheran. Registration begins at 1:30 with a \$5 registration fee. There will be devotions, a skit performed by our own ladies of the LWML and our 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 also be served that day. Watch for the flyer to be posted on our bulletin board for more information. We will be carpooling and leaving our church parking lot by 1:00 that day.

June 22-24 is the MN North District convention in Waite Park. Judy plans to be a delegate and we need one more volunteer to represent our LWML. Judy will be able to help guide you through the process if this is your first time to attend a district convention.

An Easter breakfast will be served on April 5th before the service. We will have a signup sheet for those who would like to bring egg bakes or muffins. We welcome you to bring family and guests to breakfast that morning to celebrate Easter!

The Lutheran Island Camp brochure is on the bulletin board. There are camps for ALL ages! Please tell your kids and grandkids about all the options that are available! A special event for LWML ladies is planned for August 7-9 with Christina Walther being the guest speaker. If you're interested please contact Judy or Sue for more information.

Thrivent

It's time once again to direct your Choice Dollars. You have until March 31st to direct your Choice Dollars. You can go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Please don't let your Choice Dollars expire!

Food Shelf

March is "Food Drive Month" and they need your help. There is a "Donation Box" in the coatroom for our local Food Shelf where you can donate non-perishable items. Cash donations may also be given. Please place the donation in an envelope marked "FOOD SHELF" and put in the offering plate. End hunger in our community by supporting our local food shelf!

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.

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Feb 1	52	\$4,210.00
Sun, Feb 8	63	\$2,255.00
Sun, Feb 15	48	\$4,525.00
Thu, Feb 19	32	\$692.00
Sun, Feb 23	45	\$1,229.00
Thu, Feb 26	N/A	

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

Financials as of 2-26-2026

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$19,908.40
Year to Date Budgeted Income	<u>\$28,909.82</u>
Difference	(\$9,001.42)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$23,391.05
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$28,909.82</u>
Difference	\$5,518.77

March Birthdays

March 1	Renae Anderson
March 2	Boyd Steffen
March 5	Belinda Berends
March 6	Molly Hoff
	Jason Kirschbaum
	Tracy Kirschbaum
March 7	Nancy Guertin
	Ashley Luepke
March 9	Chris Berends
	Chase Luepke
	Lee Timm
March 10	Dawn Lubrant
	Vern Nelson
	Teresa Quintal
March 11	Brad Christensen
	Katrina Nelson
March 13	Anna Olson
March 14	Alan Berends
	Kevin Markgraf
March 15	Emily Cobb
	Marjorie Syring
	Jane Van Sickle
March 16	Ann Johnson
March 17	Rebecca Donner
	Greg Doose
	Tony Redepenning
	James Trotter
March 19	Terry Hempel
	Eugene Miller
March 20	Jenifer Hildahl
March 21	Brianna Markgraf
	McKenna Markgraf
March 25	Linda Streich
March 26	Quinton Staab
	Emily Williamson
March 30	Kaitlyn Luepke
March 31	Jessica Donner
	Chris Hoyer

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



SAC Groups will be our greeters and ushers. If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully consider where you are able to and willing to help.

Group 1

Serving for March

Anderson, Rachel
 Berends, Anthony and Nicole
 Berends, Chris and Belinda
 Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia
 Christensen, Brad and Maria
 Doose, Chad
 Doose, Greg and Susan
 Doose, Mike and Kristi
 Erickson, Wes and Sue
 Gatchell, Dorian and Melanie
 Guertin, Dave and Nancy
 Hammer, Nancy
 Hammer, Tracy
 Hempel, Tim and Jody
 Hildahl, Eric and Teresa
 Janiszkeski, Jackie
 Johnson, Matthew
 Kotek, MacKenzie
 Markgraf, Kevin
 Moe, Marlene
 Odegard, Kody
 Phinney, Katie
 Putnam, Charlie
 Rode, Judy
 Ryer, Lisa
 Ryer, Shannon
 Schmidt, Jennifer
 Schulte, Richard and Kelly
 Staab, Tyler and Tara
 Steffen, Don
 Stengel, Rob
 Syring, Melodee

Daily Bible Readings For March

Mar 1	Leviticus 1-2	Proverbs 19	Matthew 8:14-34
Mar 2	Leviticus 3-4	Proverbs 20	Matthew 9:1-17
Mar 3	Leviticus 5-6	Proverbs 21	Matthew 9:18-38
Mar 4	Leviticus 7-8	Proverbs 22	Matthew 10:1-25
Mar 5	Leviticus 9-10	Proverbs 23	Matthew 10:26-42
Mar 6	Leviticus 11-12	Proverbs 24	Matthew 11:1-19
Mar 7	Leviticus 13	Proverbs 25	Matthew 11:20-30
Mar 8	Leviticus 14	Proverbs 26	Matthew 12:1-21
Mar 9	Leviticus 15-16	Proverbs 27	Matthew 12:22-50
Mar 10	Leviticus 17-18	Proverbs 28	Matthew 13:1-23
Mar 11	Leviticus 19	Proverbs 29	Matthew 13:24-58
Mar 12	Leviticus 20-21	Proverbs 30	Matthew 14:1-21
Mar 13	Leviticus 22-23	Proverbs 31	Matthew 14:22-36
Mar 14	Leviticus 24-25	Eccl. 1:1-11	Matthew 15:1-20
Mar 15	Leviticus 26-27	Eccl. 1:12-2:26	Matthew 15:21-39
Mar 16	Numbers 1-2	Eccl. 3:1-15	Matthew 16
Mar 17	Numbers 3-4	Eccl. 3:16-4:16	Matthew 17
Mar 18	Numbers 5-6	Eccl. 5	Matthew 18:1-20
Mar 19	Numbers 7-8	Eccl. 6	Matthew 18:21-35
Mar 20	Numbers 9-10	Eccl. 7	Matthew 19:1-15
Mar 21	Numbers 11-12	Eccl. 8	Matthew 19:16-30
Mar 22	Numbers 13-14	Eccl. 9:1-12	Matthew 20:1-16
Mar 23	Numbers 15-16	Eccl. 9:13-10:20	Matthew 20:17-34
Mar 24	Numbers 17-18	Eccl. 11:1-8	Matthew 21:1-27
Mar 25	Numbers 19-20	Eccl. 11:9-12:14	Matthew 21:28-46
Mar 26	Numbers 21	Song of Songs 1-2:7	Matthew 22:1-22
Mar 27	Num. 22:1-40	Song of Songs 2:8-3:5	Matthew 22:23-46
Mar 28	Num. 22:41-23:26	Song of Songs 3:6-5:1	Matthew 23:1-12
Mar 29	Num. 23:27-24:25	Song of Songs 5:2-6:3	Matthew 23:13-39
Mar 30	Num. 25-27	Song of Songs 6:4-8:4	Matthew 24:1-31
Mar 31	Num. 28-29	Song of Songs 8:5-14	Matthew 24:32-51

Easter Flowers

We will be ordering Easter flowers for the Altar and for the spring garden at the foot of the large cross. (You may also bring in spring flowers to add to the Easter garden on Saturday, April 4th.) There are sign-up sheets in the narthex or you may also call the church office at 320-564-2221. Orders are due by **March 15th** and payment is to be made by Easter.



Easter Lilies - \$25

Cyclamen - \$25

Asiatic Lily - \$25

Cushion Mum - \$25
 (lavender, yellow, white)

Daisy Mum - \$25
 (lavender, yellow, white)

Kalanchoe - \$25
 (white, yellow, red, pink)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2025

(Covers period from Sept 21 to present.)

Meeting called to order at 9:31 AM with 34 members in attendance.

Opening prayer led by Elder, Larry Cuklanz

Minutes from Sept meeting and Special Voters' meeting 11/9 were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Rigge to approve the minutes as presented. Otto Luepke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report from Nov and Sept - Nov Designated Projects were reviewed.

- Designated Projects account created for Audio/Video. Monies in the account so far have come from memorials and donations.
- Another \$26,125.70 was received from insurance company for payment towards roof repair. Final direct cost from St. Paul to contractor was \$3,526.37 that was paid from Thrivent Choice Dollar

A motion was made by Larry Cuklanz to approve the financials as presented. Jim Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report – No Report

Membership Report

- Released – Jessica (Donner) Isfeld and daughter Emma to Clarkfield Lutheran, Clarkfield, MN (ELCA)
- Wedding - Kristin Canatsey and Jacob Anderson – December 6, 2025

Board and Committee Reports

Board of Elders

- Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, Dec 24 at 5 pm
- No Christmas Day Service.

Board of Trustees

- Discussion was held regarding the various options and scenarios that have been presented for audio/visual. Ongoing project.

Special committees

- Call Committee – Voter's Assembly Meeting will be held December 28th following the service to vote on a pastor to call.
- Discussion was held on the committee's selection process for the pastors.

A motion was made by Jim Wagner to accept the committee reports as present. Otto Luepke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business – None

New Business

- MN North District President Voting Packet was discussed. Looking for an individual who would be willing to be the voter for St. Paul. Contact Brad if interested.
- 2026 Proposed Budget was presented. The changes from 2025 to 2026 were noted. Discussion & questions on various topics were covered. A motion was made by Ken Podratz to approve the budget as presented. Larry Cuklanz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Carol Gabbert brought up the MN North District contribution for 2025. Reminded the group of the cut that was made to the District to help balance the budget and that it could be revisited at the end of year if an extra contribution could be made. With the positive balance, the group was asked if there was an interest in making a further contribution to the District. After discussion, Jim Wagner made a motion to send to the District a one-time contribution of \$2,000. Dave Guertin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Announcements

- Special Voter's Meeting Sunday December 28 following church service.
- Next Board of Elders and Council meetings are January 13.

Jim Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Lanny Hoyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

Submitted: Carol Gabbert, Council Secretary (Unapproved by the Voter's but ok'd to publish by Church Council)



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 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:15 pm Lenten Supper 6 pm Lenten Midweek Service	6	7 Remember... Turn Ahead Your Cloths
8 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Confirmation Service with Communion	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 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:15 pm Lenten Supper 6 pm Lenten Midweek Service	13	14	
15 10 am Quarterly Voters' Mtg 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Potluck Dinner	16 17 St. Paul Lutheran Church delivers	18 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	19 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:15 pm Lenten Supper 6 pm Lenten Midweek Service	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21	
22 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service	23 24 8 am Men's Bible Study	25 6 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Mixed Choir Practice	26 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:15 pm Lenten Supper 6 pm Lenten Midweek Service	27	28	
29 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service	30 31 8 am Men's Bible Study	Elders Brian Beyer Larry Cuklanz Dave Guertin Jim Rigge	Acolytes Sun 1 Lucas Canatsey Thu 5 Brielle Redepenning Sun 8 Nathan Canatsey	Altar Guild Mary Hammer		