



# *St. Paul News*

## *March 2023*

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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

**1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241**

**Rev. Jonathan Varns  
Pastor**

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**Chairman**

**Brad Christensen**

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### **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**

Why on earth would you, a busy person, want to sacrifice what little R&R time you have to attend public worship regularly? Those who attend public worship regularly do so because they believe they are gaining much more than they are giving up. Consider the following:

1. If you knew that Jesus Himself was going to be at a particular place on a regular basis, would you not be motivated to go? The local Christian congregation is that place. Christians gather publicly to be with their risen Savior. The Lord Himself is present as He promises "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Mt. 18:20). Further, Scripture calls Christians assembled together, "the body of Christ." In other words, the answer to the question, "Where can I find Jesus today?" is "Where Christians gather " for they are His body.

2. Jesus is there primarily to give forgiveness to all who repent and believe. Proclaiming the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross is the main point of all Christian worship services. God comes not to receive our praise but to give the forgiveness of sins through the preaching of the Gospel, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper.

3. Never before have people been confronted with so many voices or choices. All the more reason to go to church regularly. For there the voice of God Himself speaks to us through sermon, Scripture, liturgy, and hymnody. God speaks to His people guiding them into truth, reminding them of what is right, warning them about what is wrong.

4. Private study of God's Word is wonderful, it must not be a substitute for hearing the preached Word. The Pastor, who holds the divinely appointed preaching office, is, by God's will, the chief teacher of God's Word, the one through whom Christ Himself speaks (see Lk 10:16; Eph 4:11-16; I Tim 4:13-16; II Tim 4:1-5; Heb 13:17). Furthermore, he has gone through extensive study so as to become a "specialist" in God's Word. He has learned the original languages and spent many years in prayer and study learning God's Word.

5. According to Scripture we are reminded that "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (Deut 8:3; Mt 4:4). God's Word is food for the soul. Public worship is the best place to give your soul the Word-of-God-nourishment it needs. In another place Jesus says, "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you" (Jn 6:27). How tragic to see people zealously provide for their bodies but not their souls.

6. We all have troubles. Life can be cruel in a fallen world. What God said of Adam applies to us all: "It is not good for man to be alone." Why bear your burdens alone? Coming to church means interacting with your fellow Christians, the body of Christ. It means receiving an encouraging word, a hug and a smile. It means having someone listen. More profoundly, it is often through His body that Christ speaks the comfort and crucial direction that we need. How often a timely word of Gospel by one Christian to another dispels the gloom and gives a spiritual insight that benefits another—be loved and encouraged.

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# Items of Interest

## Midweek Lenten Schedule

**Wednesdays** in March (except the 1st)

K - 6th grade Midweek class 5 - 6 pm

- Midweek Lenten Service - 6 pm
- Handbell practice - 6:30 pm
- 7th and 8th grade Confirmation - 7 - 8 pm

## Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be Sunday, March 19th following the service, with a potluck dinner following the meeting. All confirmed members 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend. An item on the agenda will be election of officers. Open positions are for Vice Chairman, one Elder, one Trustee, and secretary. Following are the individuals who terms are expiring. Jim Rigge as Elder and is not eligible to be nominated for this position because he is completing his 2nd term. Trustee, Dan Enninga, is ending his 1st term and is eligible for another term. Larry Cuklanz will moving to Chairman leaving the Vice Chair position open. A secretary to fill the remaining time for Mary Hammer as she is resigning her position.



Potluck Dinner following  
Quarterly Meeting  
March 19th

## Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday April 2nd at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday April 6th at 7 pm

Good Friday April 7th at 7 pm

\* Easter Breakfast April 9th (pending) \*

Easter Worship April 9th at 9:30 am

\* A couple of volunteers are needed to plan the Easter Breakfast. Please let LuAnn, in the church office, know if you willing to help with this event.

## March Birthdays

March 1	Rena Anderson Rachel Roberts Dennis Smith
March 2	Boyd Steffen
March 4	Vernon Rigge
March 6	Molly Hoff Jason Kirschbaum Tracy Kirschbaum
March 7	Nancy Guertin Ashley Luepke
March 9	Chris Berends Chase Luepke Lee Timm
March 10	Vern Nelson Teresa Quintal
March 11	Brad Christensen Katrina Nelson
March 13	Anna Olson
March 14	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.





## 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 individuals may donate. 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!

## Lutheran Island Camp

Check all the various camps that are available for kids ages 8-14 at [www.islandcamp.org/summer](http://www.islandcamp.org/summer). Don't forget that the LWML has financial assistance available.

## 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](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Don't let your Choice Dollars expire!

## Correction

If you received the Annual Report before February 1st, this is the report for the 2022 Shoeboxes project.

This year we were able to give a total of 72 completed boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We gathered items and had a packing party on December 13th to complete some boxes, with the rest donated by individuals. Boxes contain things such as hygiene items, school supplies, toys and clothing. The OCC shoeboxes will be processed and shipped to ministry partners in over 100 countries around the world. Trained volunteers will not only deliver the gifts, but teach the recipients about the Lord Jesus Christ through a program called The Greatest Journey. Just think what an impact these gifts will have! Many thanks to all who participated this year. Molly Hoff, Project Coordinator

## Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report - February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Feb 5	66	58	\$4,090.00
Sun, Feb 12	46	40	\$990.00
Sun, Feb 19	44	40	\$1,180.00
Wed, Feb 22	Cancelled		
Sun, Jun 29	53	48	\$3,915.00

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,521.83)

## Daily Bible Readings For March

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
Mar 1	Num. 26,27	Mark 8:22-38
Mar 2	Num. 28,29	Mark 9:1-29
Mar 3	Num. 30,31	Mark 9:30-50
Mar 4	Num. 32,33	Mark 10:1-31
Mar 5	Num. 34-36	Mark 10:32-52
Mar 6	Deut. 1,2	Mark 11:1-19
Mar 7	Deut. 3,4	Mark 11:20-33
Mar 8	Deut. 5-7	Mark 12:1-27
Mar 9	Deut. 8-10	Mark 12:28-44
Mar 10	Duet. 11-13	Mark 13:1-13
Mar 11	Deut. 14-16	Mark 13:14-37
Mar 12	Deut. 17-19	Mark 14:1-25
Mar 13	Deut. 20-22	Mark 14:26-50
Mar 14	Deut. 23-25	Mark 14:51-72
Mar 15	Deut. 26,27	Mark 15:1-26
Mar 16	Deut. 28	Mark 15:27-47
Mar 17	Deut. 29,30	Mark 16
Mar 18	Deut. 31,32	Luke 1:1-23
Mar 19	Deut. 33,34	Luke 1:24-56
Mar 20	Josh. 1-3	Luke 1:57-80
Mar 21	Josh. 4-6	Luke 2:1-24
Mar 22	Josh 7,8	Luke 2:25-52
Mar 23	Josh. 9,10	Luke 3
Mar 24	Josh. 11-13	Luke 4:1-32
Mar 25	Josh 14,15	Luke 4:33-44
Mar 26	Josh. 16-18	Luke 5:1-16
Mar 27	Josh. 19,20	Luke 5:17-39
Mar 28	Josh. 21,22	Luke 6:1-26
Mar 29	Josh. 23,24	Luke 6:27-49
Mar 30	Judg. 1,2	Luke 7:1-30
Mar 31	Judg. 3,5	Luke 7:31-50

## Financials as of 2-27-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$21,452.27
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$29,402.08</u>
Difference	(\$7,949.81)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$31,879.87
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$29,402.08</u>
Difference	(\$2,477.79)

**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 2

### Serving for March

Anderson, Bryan and Renae  
Berends, Randy and Tamra  
Beyer, Brian, and Laura  
Cobb, Kris and Holly  
Enninga, Dan and Kathy  
Enninga, Dustin and Krystle  
Guertin, Sarah  
Hammer, Brett  
Hammer, Mary  
Hempel, Terry and Rosemary  
Hinz, Paul and Diane  
Jeseritz, Randy  
Johnson, Ted and Kathy  
Kirschbaum, Janet  
Korthuis, John and Kathy  
Luepke, Otto and Theresa  
Miller, Eugene  
Myers, Troy and Jenna  
Nokleby, Dorothy  
Podratz, Ken and Carol  
Redepenning, Tony and Amy  
Rigge, Jim and Cindy  
Sherman, Leslie and Renee  
Sietsema, Barb  
Stengel, Allen and Pat  
Streich, Chris  
Streich, LouAnn  
Varns, Pastor and Lindsay  
Wegner, James and Eileen  
Zempel, Meredith  
Zempel, Nicole

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7. An often-overlooked reason to come to church is to be prayed for. Jesus once promised, "if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven" (Mt 18:19). There is power when the people of God pray. But for those unfortunate souls who have cut themselves off from regular attendance at the Christian assembly, their needs are unknown, and they pray alone.

There are many more reasons to go to Church weekly. Make it a priority to attend service weekly. Nothing grows a Christian life like a serious commitment to a Church week in and week out for years and years and years. Not social media. Not even personal devotions. The Church service is where mature Christians are slowly built and forged in the fires of mundane faithfulness.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

## 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.

## 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 16th). 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 16th** and payment is to be made before Easter.



Azalea - \$40  
Oriental Lily - \$22.50  
Cushion Mum - \$22  
(lavender, yellow, white)  
Cyclamen - \$22.50

Daisy Mum - \$22  
(lavender, yellow, white)  
Easter Lily - \$15  
Kalanchoe - \$22.50  
(orange, yellow)

I would like to order an Easter Flower

\_\_\_\_\_

in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_