



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

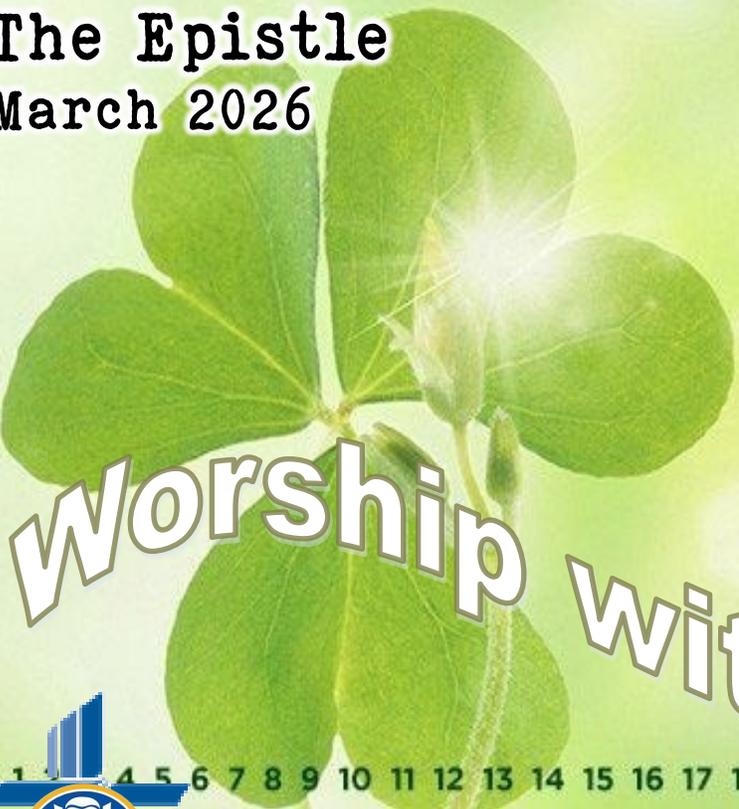
227 N. Goodhaven Drive  
Columbia, IL 62236

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**The Epistle**  
March 2026

**Sundays**  
8 am and 10:30 am  
**Mondays 6:30 pm**



March

**Lent Services:**  
**Wednesdays 11 & 6**

**Worship with Us!!!**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
227 Goodhaven Street  
Columbia, IL 62236

618.281.4600 [stpauls-lcms.org](http://stpauls-lcms.org)  
[facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail](https://facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail)



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm New Member Class</p>	<p>2 Count (Team 1) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>3 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm B of Youth 6:30 pm B of Ed</p>	<p>4 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Lent Service Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 5 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm Lent Service</p>	<p>5 Ladies League 11:30 am</p>	<p>6 2 pm Bria Bible Study</p>	<p>7 8 am - Noon Annual Youth Rummage Sale</p>
<p>8 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service (Baptism) 4 pm New Member Class</p>	<p>9 Count (Team 2) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>10 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 9 am Pastor Circuit Mtg in Millstadt 4:30 pm Trustees Mtg 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Com. Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg</p>	<p>11 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Lent Service Food Pantry 4—5:30 pm 5 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm Lent Service 6:45 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>12 Noon Columbia Clergy Mtg 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Board Mtg</p>	<p>13 6:30 pm Pastor Sievers Bible Study</p>	<p>14 8 am - Noon Annual Youth Rummage Sale</p>
<p>15 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm New Member Class</p>	<p>16 Count (Team 3) No Choir Practice 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>17 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council</p>	<p>18 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Lent Service Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 5 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm Lent Service 6:45 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>19 9 am Newsletter Folders</p>	<p>20 2 pm Bria Nursing Home Worship 3:30 pm Garden Place Worship</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm New Member Class</p>	<p>23 Count (Team 1) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>24 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters</p>	<p>25 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Lent Service Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 5 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm Lent Service 6:45 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Jr. Confirmation</p>	<p>26 6 pm (5:30) Eve's Restoration Trivia Night</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Palm Sunday 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service</p>	<p>30 Count (Team 2) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>31 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters</p>				



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Aaron Haberl Crystal Craft	2 Jonathan Busch Keegan Hale	3 Kim Peery Steve & Donna Lake ❤️	4	5 Gabriel Caldwell Michele Colbert	6	7
8	9 Ashley Reichert Brenda Appel Dean Lungwitz Sylvie Mastrantuono	10 Larry & Cindy Murray Seth Degenhardt	11 Angela Dinkelmann Connie Gummersheimer Dennis & Bonnie Everding ❤️ Tanner Search	12 Campbell Ottwell Dixie Arras	13 Cynthia Hill	14 Charles Bradley	
15	16 Brett Aldridge Michiel L. Ratley Jr	17 Gennifer Luberdia SI Thompson	18 Barbara Ahlbrand Charles Bequette Jr ❤️	19 Jack Russell Theresa Mancarella Tom Dillard	20 Aaron Frazer Sydnie Twillmann Tatum Search Turner Search	21 Deborah Eischer Ginger Crank	
22	23 Kevin Miller Art Woodcock Dan Voelkel John Roessler Jr	24 Laverne Ritter Michelle Kleinschmidt	25 Abbey Heck Connor Holten	26 Alexis Caldwell Barb Goshen Diana Schwartz	27 Jackson Linderer Loren Iorio	28 Aaron Rahn Kyle Riebeling Robbie Rauh Jr	
29	30 Kaylee Grandt Sandy Louis	31					

March Birthdays and Anniversaries ❤️





**Roman Catholic and Lutheran. What is the difference?**

When a person walks into a Lutheran Church and a Roman catholic church there are some similarities in worship styles and forms. Those similarities include a common belief in the Trinity, that Christ is true man and true God, the use and proclamation of the three ecumenical creeds, Biblical morality on issues like abortion and euthanasia, the importance of baptism including infant baptism, and the list goes on. However, there are important differences. Below are some of the significant differences as noted on the FAQ section on the LCMS web site.

**QUESTION: What are the main theological differences between the theology of the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church?**

**ANSWER:** Listed below are what the LCMS would regard as some of the major theological differences between the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church:

**1. The authority of Scripture.**

Lutherans believe Scripture alone has authority to determine doctrine; the Roman Catholic Church gives this authority also to the pope, the church, and certain traditions of the church.

**2. The doctrine of justification.**

Lutherans believe a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The Roman Catholic Church, while at times using similar language, still officially holds that faith, in order to save, must be accompanied by (or "infused with") some "work" or "love" active within a Christian.

**3. The authority of the pope.**

Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, Lutherans do not believe the office of the papacy as such has any divine authority or that Christians need to submit to the Pope's authority to be "true" members of the visible church.

**4. Differences remain about both the number and the nature of the sacraments.**

Roman Catholics speak of seven Sacraments while Lutherans tend to speak of only two (or three). More important than number is how the Sacraments are understood.

To take a single example, Lutherans believe that in the Sacrament of the Altar (Communion) Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, but they do not accept the Roman Catholic doctrine of *transubstantiation*, which teaches that the elements are permanently changed from the substances of bread and wine to the substances of body and blood.

Transubstantiation is rejected for several reasons: It is a philosophical explanation for a work of Christ's almighty Word which we can only believe, not explain. In seeking to explain a mystery it changes the plain and simple meanings of God's Word (Scripture refers to the elements as *both* bread and wine *and* body and blood, 1 Cor. 11:26-27).

Transubstantiation leads to the assertion that the body and blood of Christ remain present "even apart from the administration of the Supper" and so encourages veneration of the elements apart from their sacramental use and detracts from the use Christ commands: "Take eat ... drink ... for the forgiveness of your sins." Lutheran rejection of transubstantiation should not in any way be taken to mean a denial that Christ's very body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins.

**5. Differences remain about the role of Mary and the saints.**

Unlike Catholics, Lutherans do not believe it is proper or scriptural to offer prayers to saints or to view Mary as in any sense a "mediator" between God and human beings.

While Lutherans believe any doctrinal error has the potential to distort or deny Scripture's teaching regarding salvation, we also believe that anyone (regardless of denominational affiliation) who truly believes in Jesus Christ as Savior will be saved. **(These questions and answers come from "The FAQ" on the LCMS web page)**

**Fr Fridays, Once a Month: 2026**

**EYES on Isaiah**

Our **Not-for-Couples-Only Bible Class** led by Pastor Sievers will focus on the OT book of Isaiah in 2026, meeting monthly on a convenient Friday. Learn now the Holy Spirit used Isaiah not only to predict with amazing detail our Savior's birth, death, and resurrection, but also to warn and comfort God's people. For more info or to order your \$12 study guide, call or text Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097).

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 9:25 am to 10:15**

Do join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am as we continue our verse by verse look at the Gospel of Luke. We meet in the fellowship hall, and new people are always welcome. Thank you to Roger and Kathy Stechmesser continue to make sure that doughnuts, coffee, and juice are available for this class.

**Tuesday Men's Bible Study**

Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome. We have been looking at the Weekly Scriptures in the Worship Service.

**Ladies Bible Study w/ Nancy**

10 to 11 am Wednesdays - SS room at end of hall  
A study on some of the women of the Bible. Call Nancy Radentz or email her for more information. 618-340-2995 [donan9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donan9@sbcglobal.net)

**Life with God:**

The next "Life with God" (New member) class began on Sunday, February 22nd at 4pm. Please let Pastor Krenz know if you know of someone who might be interested in this 10 week class. If that time does not work for any of the participants, individuals sessions can be scheduled.

**Adult Bible Education**

**Our Mission Statement:**



**To Provide Parenting Resources & Christ-Centered Spiritual Care in a Residential Setting, to Mothers Whose Children are Currently in Foster Care, Empowering Them to Rebuild & Reunite Their Families.**

**DID YOU KNOW** . . . that Eve's Restoration Ministries is a start-up non-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with our church, and as a charitable organization your gift is tax-deductible.

**2026 FINANCIAL GOAL**

Our goal for 2026 is \$88,000. We are **\$70,000** away! Please prayerfully consider making a monthly donation to support this important ministry.

**UPCOMING EVENT: "THROUGH THE DECADES" TRIVIA NIGHT**

- Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026
  - Time: 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
  - Cost: \$25/per person or \$150/per table of six
- Get together with some friends for a fun evening supporting Eve's Restoration Ministries!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?**

There is so much good work to be done! Will you consider joining the Eve's Restoration Ministries' Committee of St. Paul's? The committee meets every other month for one hour. The **next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at church.** Please reach out to Amanda Douglas at 314-221-6700 for more information.

*Together, we can empower mothers to rebuild and reunite their families!*



"Create in me a clean heart, O God."

— Psalm 51:10

During this season, we remind the children that Jesus helps us have kind and loving hearts. Throughout February we focused on friendship, kindness, forgiving others, and love through a variety of hands-on activities and centers. The children made special cards for friends and family and practiced their cutting skills by creating hearts to decorate our classroom. They also learned about pets and how to care for them in our pet themed centers.

Our dinosaur theme was once again a class favorite! The children had a blast pretending to be paleontologists. Digging for fossils, exploring Dino Land, excavating bones, and hatching dinosaur eggs, all while enjoying meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

We celebrated Valentine's Day with games, special treats, and a Valentine exchange. Watching their excitement while giving and receiving Valentines is such a blessing to see! They are truly a delightful bunch!

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Ladies League for their generous donation towards the Preschool Luncheon and for serving the meal. Their kindness and support played an important role in making the event such a success. The luncheon was enjoyed by many and provided a meaningful time for preschool families and members of the congregation to gather and connect following the service. We are truly thankful for their support of the preschool's ministry.

Others we would like to recognize and thank ...

- ☆ Southern Illinois Pediatric Dentistry for their annual visit during Dental Awareness Month.
- ☆ The Columbia Police Department and Columbia EMS for sharing safety information with the children and giving them the opportunity to explore their vehicles.
- ☆ Thrivent members for their donations of Choice Dollars to the preschool. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Shelly Augustin, Director/Teacher



MARCH VOLUNTEERS ELDERS, GREETER/USHERS, ACOLYTES, SCREENS & VIDEO SCHEDULE

	Sunday 8 am	Sunday 10:30 am	Monday 6:30 pm
March 1 2	David Greeting	Toby Search	Scott Peery
Greeter/Usher	Jonathan Busch	Joydean Beatty	Kevin Miller
Acolyte	Alexis Grandt		
Screens	Josh Colyer	Gary Maske	
Video	Aiden Colyer		
March 4 Wed 11 am Roger Stechmesser and 6 pm Scott Moeslein			
Greeter/Usher			
Acolyte			
March 8 9	Mark Eischer	Charlie Consolino	Glenn Grebing
Greeter/Usher	Lisa Schmidt	Lynn McAuliffe, Ezra Douglas	
Acolyte		Elijah Douglas	
Screens	Josh Colyer	Ava Douglas	
Video	Aiden Colyer		
March 11 Wed 11 am Bob Thoma and 6 pm Levi Ottwell			
Greeter/Usher			
Acolyte			
March 15 16	Scott Moeslein	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma
Greeter/Usher	Mitzi Ottwell	Doug Tolbird	Brenda Appel
Acolyte		Lennon Ottwell	
Screens	Kyva Meyers	Campbell Ottwell	
Video	Kaylee Grandt		
March 18 Wed 11 am Charlie Consolino & 6 pm Scott Peery			
Greeter/Usher			
Acolyte			
March 22 23	Mark Eischer	Charlie Consolino	Glenn Grebing
Greeter/Usher	Stefanie Newbill	David Jestus/ Carole Hancock	Sue Champion
Acolyte	Evy Colyer	Brooke Quevreaux	
Screens	Josh Colyer	Dane Quevreaux	
Video	Aiden Colyer		
March 25 Midweek Wed 11 am Toby Search & 6 pm Glenn Grebing			
Greeter/Usher			
Acolyte			
March 29 30 Palm Sunday	Patrick Grandt	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma
Greeter/Usher	Patrick Grandt	Levi Ottwell	
Acolyte	Collin Grandt	Lennon Ottwell Paloma Niehaus	
Screens		Campbell Ottwell	
Video			

Volunteers—please let the office know of any edits/trades of dates scheduled. Thank you for your help!

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is open.

Please share our number: 618-281-4190 to anyone looking for a great preschool!



# THE EPISTLE

CHILDREN'S  
Sunday School

Sunday School Schedule  
SS hour is 9:15 to 10:15 am.

In the Sunday School lessons from Acts and 2 Corinthians, God uses the Apostles to preach about His promises, bring people to faith, and give Him all the glory. Even though some reject His message, the good news remains the same and the Lord's Gospel is spread through these faithful servants.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

FREE  
Easter  
egg hunt

227 Goodhaven  
Columbia, IL 62236

Saturday,  
March 28th  
1 pm

Children ages 2-11  
All Welcome!

youth  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

Youth 8th -12th grade  
Sundays: 9:15—10:15 am  
In the Loft upstairs



upcoming  
EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY MORNING FOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL IN YOUTH ROOM **EVERY SUNDAY**

### RUMMAGE SALE EVENT

THIS IS A MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH SERVANT EVENTS AND NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE OF THESE TIMES

4:00 - 8:00 PM SET UP

12TH

4:00 - 7:00 PM SET UP

13TH

8:00 - NOON RUMAGE SALE

14TH



Find more details at  
these places or call/text  
Becky at 618-550-3552



# MARCH 2026



Mark Your Calendar!  
Save the dates:  
June 8th—June 12th VBS

Rummage Sale set-up will be happening from  
Wednesday evening, March 11th thru Saturday  
morning, March 14th. Thank you for your help!



St. Paul's Lutheran, Columbia IL

227 Goodhaven - Rt 3 & Bottom Ave (across from Walgreens)

Sat March 14, 8am-noon

Proceeds benefit St. Paul's Youth Group

Bag-a-Bargain all day! \$5/bag (bag provided)

Half price 11:30 - 12:00 (furniture negotiable)



Cash  
only  
please

Gratefully accepting any & all donations  
NO computers, TVs, car-seats or clothing

Drop-off at lower parking lot

Thur Mar 12, 4-8pm & Fri Mar 13, 10-7pm

Questions: Lillian 618.541.4657 Sponsored by Thrivent Financial



**OOPS – It’s CARDS and EGGS Again**

On each opening day of the baseball season in St. Louis, there’s a Kegs and Eggs Breakfast downtown. Here at St Paul’s, it’s CARDS and EGGS in March when it comes to outreach. So, pick up an **Easter Card** or two in the lobby to send to a friend or church member who has lost a dear loved-one to Heaven since last Easter. Members of our St. Paul church family who have been called home Heaven since last Easter Sunday include:

**GARY CRAWFORD**  
**PATSY POWELL**

**MARIANNE MAY**  
**ELLAYEE PULCHER**

You have no idea how meaningful your Easter greeting may be to that still grieving brother or sister in Christ! Then, double your intentional (there’s that word again) outreach pleasure by picking up a flier with information on our **Easter Egg Hunt** scheduled for **Saturday March 28 at 1 p.m.** You might even offer to join them, especially if they have never been to our church before.



**Just another OOPS from your Board of Christian Outreach.**



**DCE Call Process:**

Three initial interviews have been completed. Next steps will be determined at the next meeting. Stay tuned for updates!



**Current Pantry Needs:**  
**Canned Fruit**  
**Diced Tomatoes**

MONTHLY: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays: 1:30 -3 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday: 4-5:30 pm  
Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

**March Wednesdays:** March 4, 11, & 18  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed - 1:30-3pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed - 4-5:30 pm

**Upcoming events to note on the calendar...**

**April 26th—Chili Supper**

**April 29th—Questioning of Confirmands**

**May 3rd—Confirmation Sunday**

**Wednesday, May 27th—Church Family Outing to Grizzlies Game**

**Sunday, September 20th—Church Family Picnic**



**LADIES LEAGUE/ LWML**

Ladies League and LWML February meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Susan Housewright (VP) led us in a devotion, "Living in the Spirit." Romans 8:5 states: "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." As we set up our to-do lists, make sure to include time for God. We all said the Common Table Prayer before enjoying the lunch we each brought and the desserts provided by our Hostesses.



After lunch, Patti Sprich, our guest speaker, shared some of her experiences of helping others through grief. Patti, works as a Grief Share counselor. Personal loss can cause overwhelming emotions--the price you pay for love. She talked about ways to work through the various grief stages and how to help others find comfort after the loss of a loved one. She left some booklets for our church to share.



We then had our business meeting. We finalized our hostess and speaker list. This list will be handed out at our next meeting. Financial reports for the Ladies League and LWML were given by Wanda Gross and Roseanne Bense. We discussed what to do with the table/birthday offerings and what charities were possibilities to give to. This is in accordance with our bylaws. The standing committees gave their reports. The pre school after church luncheon was successful. Thank you to all that helped make it a success. Several of our members attended the hymn fest at St. Paul's in Troy, IL and it was magnificent. I know God could hear the songs of praise for what he did in Paul's life as well as ours.

**Some upcoming events...**

- ★ Lenten meals will start on February 18. The Ladies League will assist the Food Pantry with the meal on February 25.
- ★ March 26 Eve's Restoration Home will have a trivia night.
- ★ Before going to trivia, you can go to Plant Haven on Telegraph for a Monarch Jewelry event.
- ★ The LWML SID Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 18 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carbondale please see Jane Stumpf for registration flyer.
- ★ On April 25 the Zone Spring Prayer Service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran in Waterloo. There will be NO registration fee but if you are going please let Jane know before April 15.



After the meeting we addressed Valentines for our Shut-ins. Thank you to Mary Clyde and Judy Ostendorf for being our February hostesses and the wonderful Valentine Day décor and treats. Our **next meeting will be on March 5 and our hostesses will be Deb Eischer and Lillian Koenigstein.**

All women of the congregation are invited to attend our meetings or events. Monthly mtgs are on the first Thursday of the month, at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.  
If you have questions please contact Jane E Stumpf at 314-852-8776.



**LWML Mission Statement**

As Lutheran Women in Mission,  
we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,  
and equip women to honor God by serving others.

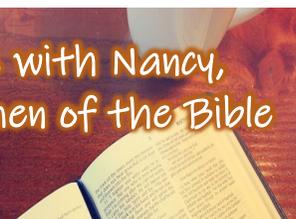
**Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays**

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am -10:30 am  
Please join us! We have "sew" much fun!  
Thank you for all your support! Questions?  
contact Wanda Gross or Marilyn Snider.



Wednesdays with Nancy,  
10 am Women of the Bible

WOMEN'S  
BIBLE STUDY





Member Spotlight

Levi, Carleigh, Campbell & Lennon Ottwell

Levi and Carleigh have been members here at St. Paul's since 2009. We got connected when Carleigh started her work at Columbia Middle School as a Spanish teacher. After traveling a distance to go to childhood churches our first year after moving to Columbia in 2008, we decided to try out St. Paul's, and we've been going since! Our daughters, Campbell and Lennon, were baptized at St. Paul's in April 2011 and July 2014.

As a family, we love traveling to all sorts of different places. Our favorite destination is Disney, but we also love visiting Carleigh's family in Colorado and Connecticut. We enjoy visiting state and national parks and museums. Levi and Carleigh are big baseball fans (Chicago Cubs and New York Mets so not the most popular choices here in the STL Metro area) and we love watching games both live and on TV. Levi also enjoys F1 racing and Carleigh loves all sports. Campbell is a talented artist and musician. She is a freshman at Columbia High School. Lennon enjoys theater, singing, and tumbling. She is a sixth grader at Columbia Middle

School. Levi is a construction manager for Panera and travels the country working on various cafes. Carleigh has been the Spanish teacher at Columbia Middle School since 2007.

What we have loved about St. Paul's since we started attending here is how friendly everyone is. We always felt welcome here and everyone has always been tremendously kind. The congregation here has been welcoming to us and to our children for many years. Carleigh has directed the Vacation Bible School here since 2019, and she appreciates all the prayers and support from her fellow brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Paul's. We also love the youth here. Our girls have made some good friends through the Sunday School and youth group here at St. Paul's. We are blessed to have found such a wonderful church home so many years ago!



Church Family Bowling

Official Acts of the Church

Adult Confirmation: Quintin Roland, 2/2/2026



Funeral: Gary Crawford 1/23/2026



Funeral: Marianne May, 2/21/2026

Order Easter Lilies by Wed., March 16th, 2026

If you wish to order a lily(s) for the church sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form found in the Narthex & include \$9 for each plant ordered. These are collected in the basket in Narthex or in the church office. Thank you!



Monday evenings at St. Paul's...

5:15 pm Adult Choir +

6:30 pm Divine Service



Wednesday evenings at St. Paul's:

7 pm Jr. Confirmation

& 6:45 pm Handbell Choir



Deadline for Submissions

(articles, photos, calendar updates)

For April 2026 Newsletter: 3/16



Let us fix our eyes on 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

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. -Psalm 51:10

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? -Isaiah 58:6

## Friends and Members of St. Paul's,

We are now in season of Lent, and typically we hear this is a season where one is called to give up things. In this consumeristic culture, where desires for things can be quickly fulfilled, taking time to deny ourselves of such material goods can be helpful. However, Lent is about so much more than giving up meat or sugary soda drinks.

Lent involves repentance, which in the Christian view of things involves both turning away from our selves and turning toward the Savior who is the author and perfecter of our faith. This repentance also involves bearing fruit for the sake of those around us.

With that in mind, I would encourage you to find ways, even small ways, to better serve those God has placed in your life.



### 3/4 Midweek 3

"Testimony" Matthew 26:57-75

Pastor Sievers

Meal: Eve's Restoration Home

Passion Reading: Mark 14:43-52

### 3/11 Midweek 4

"Misconceptions" Luke 23:1-12

Pastor Sievers

Meal: Elders

Passion Reading: Mark 14:53-65

### 3/18 Midweek 5

"Truth" John 18:33-40

Pastor Troup

Meal: B of Finance

& B of Education

Passion Reading: Mark 14:66-72

### 3/25 Midweek 6

"Sympathy" Luke 23:26-34

Pastor Krenz

Meal: B of Youth

& B of Outreach

Passion Reading: Mark 15:1-20

This bearing fruit could include sending cards or contacting one or two people a week who could use assistance. During this Lenten season, look to give more of your time and financial help to organizations and/or individuals who would benefit from such care. Throughout the Lenten season look to be more disciplined in reading your Bible, more consistent in your prayer life, and better involved in weekly worship. This enhanced worship involvement could involve reading and taking to heart the many preparation prayers found inside the front cover of the hymnal, and prepping ourselves for communion by reading and taking to heart Martin Luther's Christian questions and answers found on page 328 in the front of your hymnal and in your small catechism.

If you have not in the past come to midweek services do join us this year as we weekly meditate together on the many instances where "God was put on trial" by humanity, and how in Christ Jesus he still continually seeks ways to rescue sinful humanity. Have a blessed Lent.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Krenz

### March Sunday Sermon Schedule: 8 am & 10:30 am & Monday 6:30 pm

March 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>- "Nicodemus and the Clear Gospel" John 3:1-16

#### A Sermon Series on "Divine Essentials"

March 8 & 9 "The Gift of Divine Water" John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 15 & 16 "The Gift of Divine Sight" Isaiah 42:14-21

March 22 & 23 "The Gift of Divine Life" Ezekiel 37:1-14

March 29 & 30 Palm Sunday

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Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0121 Josh Gillespie 405-570-5464 Austin Kudray 586-295-5524	

April 2 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday "Respite" Luke 22:7-10 Pastor Krenz

April 3 Noon & 6:30 pm Good Friday "Evidence" Matt 27:38-54 Pastor Krenz

April 5 8 & 10:30 am Easter "Vindication" Mark 16:1-8 Pastor Krenz

