

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Church Newsletter February 2026

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Dearly Beloved-

February already? More than that- LENT ALREADY? Yes, saints of St. Paul's- Lent is nigh upon us. What with an early Easter (April 8th), that means an early Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th. So, you can still get away with Valentine's Day chocolate- but just barely!

Lent is a time of preparation. In the ancient Church, it was in many places the final countdown for those Catechumens to receive their final instruction, before being baptized at the Easter Vigil. For those already within the bosom of the Church, it was a time of increased discipline: **"Thus, when you give to the needy... And when you pray... And when you fast... (Matt. 6).**

1. Fasting: **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."** (Duet. 8; Matt. 4)
2. Prayer: **"Call upon me in the day of trouble..."** (Ps. 50); **"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven..."** (Matt 6); **"Pray without ceasing"** (1 Thess. 5)
3. Almsgiving (Charity): **"Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?'"** (Matt. 25)

And while it certainly disappointing (and not to mention unbiblical) that, over the centuries, these practices were in many ways corrupted – what with ideas of "meriting salvation", to say nothing of other wonky and over-the-top idea – nevertheless, I would commend them to you. Just because they have been abused, it does not mean their original use is cancelled out. For you, dear Christian, there is freedom in the Gospel on how to approach these things.

But, what about for Lutherans? What is "our" Lenten practice, so to speak? Historically, it is two-fold:

- A. First, we spend extra time focusing on the Cross and Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After all- a single Good Friday service (or even multiple!) isn't enough time to contemplate Christ's bittersweet



sufferings for us poor, miserable sinners.

- B. Secondly, and following the pattern of the Early Church, Lent is often a time for renewed Catechesis, and a chance to dive once more into the Catechism.

To that end, I invite you all to join us as we begin an in-depth review of the Small Catechism, **beginning on the First Sunday in Lent (Invocabit), February 22nd**. Whether you're old hand at it or could use a refresher- everyone is strongly encouraged to attend! Furthermore, if you've been looking for a reason to invite someone to church... well, here is a good excuse!

BUT! Don't just assume it'll be a familiar walk in the park. Don't think that we'll be just rambling our way through the Catechism.

Instead of merely opening and starting from "Page 1", this trek through the Catechism will address the Six Chief Parts according to the rhythm and flow of the Divine Service, and how we experience these things Sunday to Sunday. I won't say any more; you'll have to come and see for yourself!

Again, it all **starts on the First Sunday in Lent (Invocabit), February 22nd**. I look forward to seeing y'all there- and, at the many opportunities that we'll have on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout Lent!

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

- Pastor Steele

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	2	3 Tie the Knot 1:00 pm	4 Chapel Service 8:15 am Confirmation 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm	5 Women's Bible Study 9:00am School Board Meeting 6:00	6 NO SCHOOL (Office Closed)	7
<div>Parent – Teacher Conferences</div>						
8 Communion Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	9 Ladies Circle 6:00 pm	10	11 Chapel Service 8:15am Confirmation 6pm Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm	12 Women's Bible Study 9:00am	13 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm	14 Gym Rented
15 Worship Service 8:30am Students Singing in Church	16 BOARD MEETINGS	17 Tie the Knot 1:00 pm Preschool Kindergarten Open House 5:30PM	18 Chapel Service 8:15am Confirmation 6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	19 Women's Bible Study 9:00am	20 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm	21 St. Paul's Hosts Lutheran Confession Study 10:30 AM
22 Communion Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	23 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm- Staff Training	24	25 Chapel Service 8:15am Lenten Soup Supper 5:45 PM Confirmation 6pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm	26 Women's Bible Study 9:00am	27 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm	28



The Bulletin Board

Online Services are streamed live every Sunday at 8:30am on our YouTube channel. They are available afterward to watch at your convenience and share with family and friends. Our YouTube channel is St. Paul's Lutheran Church Ogallala, NE.

Board Meetings

February 5th

✓ School Board

February 16th

✓ Elders

✓ Council

✓ Trustees

THE CELEBRATION HAS BEGUN

January 18th saw our first celebration service. If you were not in attendance you missed a great sermon. You also missed a great brunch. There was much food and visiting. Thanks for Deb Armknecht for heading up the kitchen crew.

The medallions are due any day now. They will sell for \$20. When they come the committee will be selling them after church each Sunday.

The next celebration Sunday is April 19th. Pastor Stubenrouch will be delivering the message.

Kristin Hoerle was volunteered to be in charge of the kitchen. She wants to cook and serve a ham for the brunch. Please contact Kristin to help with setting up the kitchen.

The June 21 celebration will hear Pastor Dobbertien delivering the sermon, and we will have another potluck brunch.

August 16 celebration will hear Pastor Pralle delivering the sermon.

The committee is busy working on the anniversary book.

If you think of someone that you would like to send the information about the Anniversary plans to, please contact the church office or Rick Bradley.

Please prayerfully consider sending in a contribution to help cover the costs of our celebrations.

Rick Bradley

Beloved:

29 VERSES OF GOD SINGING OVER YOU

FEB 1 - ZEPHANIAH 3:17

FEB 2 - PSALM 32:7

FEB 3 - PSALM 36:7

FEB 4 - ISAIAH 41:10

FEB 5 - GALATIANS 2:20

FEB 6 - ROMANS 8:38-39

FEB 7 - ISAIAH 54:10

FEB 8 - 2 CHRONICLES 6:14

FEB 9 - JOHN 3:16

FEB 10 - 1 JOHN 3:1

FEB 11 - 1 JOHN 4:19

FEB 12 - JEREMIAH 31:3

FEB 13 - PSALM 86:15

FEB 14 - ROMANS 5:8

FEB 15 - EPHESIANS 2:4-5

FEB 16 - 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

FEB 17 - PSALM 36:5-6

FEB 18 - EPHESIANS 5:2

FEB 19 - PSALM 63:3

FEB 20 - LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

FEB 21 - PSALM 103:2-5

FEB 22 - PSALM 86:5

FEB 23 - ISAIAH 43:2

FEB 24 - PSALM 94:18-19

FEB 25 - COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

FEB 26 - PSALM 23:1

FEB 27 - PSALM 143:8

FEB 28 - JOHN 15:13

FEB 29 - PSALM 42:8

Service Schedule



Ash Wednesday- February 18, 2026-7:00 PM

2/25/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/4/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/11/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/18/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

3/25/26- Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday-March 29, 2026- 8:30 AM

Maundy Thursday- April 2, 2026-7:00 PM

Good Friday- April 3, 2026-7:00 PM

Easter Sunday- April 5, 2026- 8:30 AM



Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

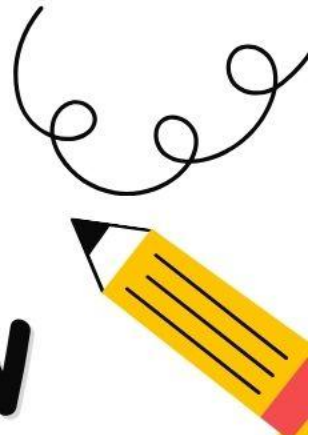
Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

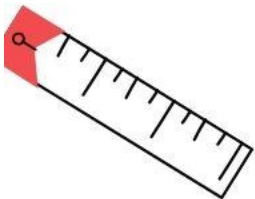
The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.



PRESCHOOL/ KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE



COME MEET OUR TEACHERS & TOUR OUR CLASSROOMS



FEBRUARY 17, 2026

5:30-6:30 PM

**Open to all families of children ages 3-5
who will be attending preschool or
kindergarten in the Fall. Come and learn
more about St. Paul's Lutheran School!**