



The Sermon for Every Sunday

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18, 2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent)
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson
Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room led by DCE Probst
Christian Leadership Class meets in the Music Room led by Zach Mathews
Bible Study meets in the fellowship room studying the Nicene Creed

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Henry Siefer
10:45 AM Service Caroline Glick

Church Calendar

*Pastor Fickenscher at Fort Wayne Seminary this week
Pastor Bauman at Y4Life Conference Thursday-Saturday*

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School
	10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School/Church Office Closed 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Church Reserved 10:15 AM Matins Service 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir
	Thursday-Saturday Y4Life Conference in Washington, DC Next Sunday National Lutheran Schools Week Celebration 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School
	10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish ECM Students Sing Noon Lunch Noon-1:15 PM KfC Event 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- February Newsletter, also available online
- January-March *Portals of Prayer*
- Latest edition of *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*
- 2026 Offering Envelopes

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Sr. Handbells—*Prelude for a Celebration*—J. Behnke

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

688

Confession of Sins

please stand page 203

Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis

page 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C **And also with you.**

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

In this Messianic prophecy, we are privileged to “listen in” on a heavenly conversation between the Servant (God the Son) and the LORD (God the Father).

[The Servant declares:] Listen to Me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb, from the body of My mother He named My name. He made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hid Me; He made Me a polished arrow; in His quiver He hid Me away. And He said to Me, “You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely My right is with the LORD, and My recompense with My God.”

And now the LORD says, He who formed Me from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him; and that Israel might be gathered to Him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and My God has become My strength—He says: “It is too light a thing that You should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make You as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and His Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen You.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing page 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:29-42a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

page 207

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

402 stanzas 1-3

Sermon

The Sermon for Every Sunday

John 1:29-42a

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Offering

702

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 208-210

Distribution

606, 551, 531, 947, 539 standing for stanza 4

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 211-212

Closing Hymn

402 stanza 4

Postlude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star—A. Armsdorff

Celebrating our Lutheran Schools Next Sunday

We will join with Lutheran schools throughout the nation around the theme *Let's Make a Joyful Noise*. Our school students will participate in many special activities and events to celebrate our school the week of January 25th. Our Sunday celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week is **next Sunday, January 25th**. Our early childhood ministry students will sing at the 10:45 AM service. After the service, our KfC event will include both church and early childhood ministry children and their families. Lunch will be provided for all with activities from noon-1:15 PM.

Parking and Communion Next Sunday: Please consider parking around the Education Building and Chapel to allow more parking for our visitors. Communion will be offered following the 10:45 AM service.

The Sermon for Every Sunday—John 1:29-42a

John the Baptizer preached a one-sentence sermon: "Behold the L_____ of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This is "The Sermon for Every Sunday!"

Jesus is the Messiah – the C_____ One.

In the Old Testament temple lambs were offered as blood sacrifices to take away the s_____ of the people. These all pointed forward to Jesus the true Lamb of God whose blood would take away the sin of the world.

So, we c_____ our sins to God and receive His f_____ that was won for us on the holy cross by Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Next Sunday's Readings *Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25*

LIVING THE SERMON... Let the words of John the Baptizer be upon your hearts and minds every day – preaching to you, comforting you, and reminding you that Jesus is your Savior from sin and death. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... "Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Grant us peace!" (from the Agnus Dei – Lamb of God, pages 163, 198 and 210 in our hymnal)

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.* Isaiah 9:2

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Next Sunday, January 25th—Lutheran Schools Week is a celebration of the sharing God's Word with all of God's children. We are blessed in this community to have several Lutheran schools who have the privilege of teaching the Bible in school. Join us from noon-1:15 PM for lunch and special activities that rejoices in God's richest gifts through His word.

Sunday, February 22nd—KfC Event, Noon-1:15 PM

Mark your calendar for an afternoon of fun and fellowship with your church friends.

SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

This Thursday-Saturday, January 22nd-24th—Y4Life Conference in Washington, DC

Please pray for our youth and adult chaperones who will be attending this for life conference.

Next Sunday, January 25th—Sign-up Deadline for Higher Things Conference

Join hundreds of youth from across the nation for worship, Bible study, fellowship and fun in St. Louis June 30th-July 3rd. All 8-12 graders are invited to attend. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Sunday School hallways. Questions? Please contact DCE Probst.

Saturday, February 14th—Valentine's Day Childcare

Our SPY and C4Life Youth will be offering childcare again on Valentine's Day from 5-9 PM. Youth, please come and serve at this fundraiser. All parents are invited to take advantage of this opportunity. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Sunday, February 15th—Broomball at Hamilton Ice Arena

Always a youth favorite. Please plan to attend!



Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact DCE Jen Probst or a youth counselor.

Extending Christ's Love

Thanks for Your Generous Support!

At the conclusion of the first full year of our five-year Extending Christ's Love Campaign, we are both humbled by and grateful for your generosity. Total gifts and income have exceeded **\$3.1 million!** Many of you have chosen to increase your pledge or to fulfill your pledge early which means that we can both postpone the time when we will need to begin outside financing of the project and also decrease the amount that we will need to finance, saving us thousands of dollars in interest. Continue to pray for this endeavor and for those who will be served through our Christian Education Center.



Playground Project: We are closing in on fully funding the Playground Project. We need **\$4,503** to reach our goal. Remember all gifts are matched dollar-for-dollar. Thanks to all who have supported this endeavor.

With the temperatures moderating, look for more activity on the building site. It is an exciting season in our life together as God's family in this place. Thanks to your generosity we are creating a space and place for ministry to occur for many years to come!

St Paul Scholarship Granting Organization

Donate to our Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization at St. Paul! A donation to our St. Paul SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! When you donate to our St. Paul SGO, you are eligible to receive 50% of your donation back in the form of an Indiana tax credit!

Did you know that you can use the SGO to strategically plan your church tithe?

Here is an idea: A couple decides to donate \$10,000 to our St. Paul SGO in 2026. They file their 2026 taxes at the beginning of 2027, and they receive \$5,000 back as an Indiana tax credit. They immediately give that \$5,000 back to the church as their general fund tithe for 2027. The result is that a \$10,000 gift turned into \$15,000 for St. Paul! Please consult with your tax advisor for specific tax advice.

Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. You can also visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal \$135,000; Amount Raised as of December 31, 2025: \$80,676.39

Thanks to all who have donated to our SGO. We have received over \$80,000 since July!

IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering: Emmy Baker, Wilma Yeley, Sheila Shaffer, Henry Wischmeier, Marie Tellman, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jim Probst, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Lynn Ramberg, Ty Ramberg, Deb Larsen, and Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friends), Larry Hoeltke (Dennis Hoeltke's brother/Mike and Wilma Yeley's brother-in-law), Connie Ball, Lisa Williams (Ann Linke's niece/Jordan Patterson's aunt), Pastor Craig Wulf and Jesse Lopez (John and Gail Jones' friends), Lori Lucas (Katrina Smith's friend), Mary Putz (Anne Wiltsey's mother), Curt Carothers, Al Abrams (Pam Roth's brother), Mike Greve (Nora Cleary's cousin), Marcia Carson and Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friends), Jami Maher (Joanne Kirby's niece), Bob McDonald (Wendy

Wiederhoeft's father), Margaret Osmon (Nancy Dyer's sister), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford and Sherry Hart (Hinds' friends); **Grieving:** Family of Erna Reinsel (Tom Reinsel's mother); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

SIGN-UP TO SERVE IN THE LWML... Last week the LWML held their Annual Meeting where they chose their 2026 mission and service projects. All women are invited and encouraged to serve in the LWML. Please stop by the table in the gathering space to learn more about the LWML's mission and sign up to serve, if interested.

SUNDAY LUNCHES... The January-May sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space. Please sign up if you would like to serve.

Today—Meatball Subs

Next Sunday, January 25th—Walking Tacos—KfC/NLSW Celebration

February 1st—Sandwich Bar

February 8th—Fettuccine Alfredo

TLHS INFORMATION NIGHT... Attention future Cougars and families! Trinity Lutheran High School invites current 8th graders, students interested in transferring, and their parents or guardians to attend TLHS Information Night **this Wednesday, January 21st** at 6:30 PM. Join in to learn what makes Trinity a special place to grow in faith, knowledge, and community. During the evening, families will hear about academics, student life, faith formation, and the many opportunities available at TLHS. If this date doesn't work for your family, there is an additional Information Night on April 22, 2026. For questions or more information, please contact Admissions Director Erin Brooks at ebrooks@trinitycougars.org or 812-524-8547.

FAITH FAMILY REUNION... Grace, Columbus invites you to attend a Retreat on **Friday, January 30th** from 5:30-8 PM to support and guide parents of adult children who have left the church and faith in Jesus Christ. Registration is free and includes dinner and materials. For more information or to register, please call the church at 812-372-4859. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 28th.

WAYMANSVILLE SOUP SUPPER AND EUCHRE PARTY... is **Sunday, February 1st** at St. Peter, Waymansville. Soup supper begins at 5 PM and Euchre at 6 PM. \$5 for supper and \$5 to play euchre.

MOMS IN THE WORD... All mothers and their children are invited to attend our monthly Moms in the Word gathering on **Monday, February 2nd** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORK DAY... is **Tuesday, February 3rd** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

Donations can be dropped off at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

EUCHRE AND GAME NIGHT... Your next chance to enjoy a **Euchre Tournament and Family Game Night** is **Friday, February 6th**, at 6 PM at the church. We encourage people of all ages to attend this family game night, as euchre is never the only game on hand, and the food and fellowship are pretty amazing. A freewill offering will be collected to pay for the shipping costs for the Military Care Packages. All are welcome!

BIBLICAL WORKSHOP... St. Peter's, Columbus invites you to a Biblical Workshop on **Saturday, February 7th** from 10 AM-3 PM entitled *Five Targets of a Disciple* with Pastor Zach Zehnder. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Use the QR code for more information and to register.



VALENTINE'S DAY CHILDCARE... The St. Paul youth are hosting a babysitting fundraiser on Valentine's Day, **Saturday, February 14th** from 5-9 PM at church. Taking part in this wonderful fundraiser not only benefits our youth but also gives you a chance to enjoy a carefree night out. You can go on a date night, enjoy a movie, or just rest at home; and we'll take care of the kids at the church with fun games and activities planned for them. Freewill donation. Reserve your spot today and enjoy a night out with your loved one!

Please register your child(ren) by Wednesday, February 11th through the following link <https://forms.gle/GeaKs2XVc1RvMQdL8> or by texting or calling Jen Probst at 765-491-7818.

PARENTING WORKSHOP... The vocation of a parent is a special blessing and a great responsibility. Each age and stage in a child's development benefits from resources and collective support. Please join DCE Jen Probst for our first annual Enrichment Workshop. This year's workshop will address how parents of infants through teens can balance over protection in the real world and under protection in the virtual world.

Who: Everyone is welcome to attend.

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Fellowship Room

When: **Saturday, February 21st** from 4:00-6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Childcare Registration:

<https://forms.gle/2zdqk9DNfUWuaZyW6>

If you would like additional information, please email director@stpaulcolumbus.org or speak to Jen Probst.

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES... The LWML has started a Military Care Package project with the goal of mailing gift cards (stateside) and care packages (overseas) in February. You can help in one of two ways. First, please send Sariina the names and complete addresses of any military personnel you know who are serving overseas or stateside. Then, bring in any of the wish list items, which can be found on the LWML bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Please reach out to Sariina Kalli at 218-451-1026 with questions.

JANUARY-APRIL FELLOWSHIP HOUR... sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space.

ECM REGISTRATION... Registration for the 2026-2027 school year for our early childhood ministry is now open! All registration is online so encourage families to visit the church website (stpaulcolumbus.org) to learn more and to register. Families are also invited to tour our school. Financial aid is available to all families so that no student is turned away. Please contact Director Jen Probst to schedule a tour or for more information.

TLHS AUCTION DONATIONS... The Trinity Lutheran High School Auction is coming up on **Saturday, February 28th**, and we need your help to make it a success! We're currently seeking donations, including homemade desserts, event or experience tickets, and

one-of-a-kind items to include in our live and silent auctions. Your creativity and generosity make this event a blessing for our students and school community. If you'd like to contribute or have questions, please contact Genny Helt (812) 498-9098. Thank you for supporting Christian education and helping us make this year's auction shine!

THANKS FROM PASTOR FICKENSCHER AND TAYLOR... Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity not only at Christmas time but all year! You guys really do take such good care of us. Thank you for making being one of your pastors such a joy!

The Response of God's People

Sunday, January 11th

Divine Service: **373**

Communion: **279**

Sunday School: **184**

Offering

General Fund: **\$26,141.48**

Weekly Need: \$17,721

Extending Christ's Love: **\$51,545** including \$200 Silent Auction; \$100 Earl Stam Memorial; \$65 Richard Kruger Memorial; \$25 Amy Price Memorial

Radio Ministry: \$500 Preschool: \$32.90



GIVE

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow