

St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

February 2026

6045 East State Street

Columbus, Indiana 47201

Phone: 812-376-6504

www.stpaulcolumbus.org

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St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry

Jen Probst, Director

Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, and

Glory Wofford, Preschool Teachers

Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Teacher Assistants

Sunday Schedule

8 AM Divine Service

9 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service

English and Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Sunday School

7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

Prayer Chain

Bonnie England

Phone: 812-447-7895

Joyful Noises

Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies, You have prepared praise.

Matthew 21:16

It is really noisy in this building! Through the years, when I have met people in my office during the school day, I have received this comment or a comment like it. Sometimes this statement is followed by the question: *How can you even work with so much noise?*

It is noisy in our Education Building, but I wouldn't want it any other way! It is noisy, but it is a joyful noise! As children learn, play, and interact together, there are many joyful noises. In Psalm 98:4 we read: *Make a joyful noise to the LORD.* These are the best joyful noises in our early childhood ministry, the joyful noises to the LORD! The joyful noises as the children have Music Time with Kantor Mau and then continue to sing the songs they are learning throughout the school day. There are joyful noises as the children pray together before snack and lunch time. There are joyful noises to the LORD as students speak together their Scripture memory verses, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. A highlight of my day is at school dismissal time when all the children are seated in the entry hallway, and I join with all these little voices in praying the Lord's Prayer.

The Scriptures are clear that there is no minimum age requirement when it comes to being a believer and follower of Jesus. On Palm Sunday, Jesus quotes from Psalm 8 that God has ordained praise even from infants and nursing babies. Jesus didn't rebuke the infants and little children that were being brought to him. He not only welcomed them but proclaimed that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Luke 18:15-17). After His resurrection, Jesus commanded His Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and by teaching. All nations include people of all ages, young and old. In both Old and New Testaments, parents are charged with the responsibility of teaching God's Word to their children from infancy.

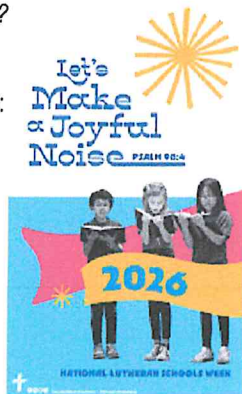
One of the greatest lies of the devil and false teachings in the church today is that babies and children are too young to believe and be disciples, that there is no reason to tell them about Jesus, bring them to church and Sunday School, bring them to be baptized, and teach them God's Word until they are older. How sad it is that there are many children's voices who aren't making a joyful noise to the Lord because they have not been taught the Word or how to pray, worship, and sing God's praises.

In joyful response to our Lord's command to make disciples of all nations by teaching and His invitation to let the little children come, for nearly fifty years we have operated our early childhood ministry so that the young children in our congregation and community can be firmly founded on the solid rock of Christ and His Word. Through our early childhood ministry, hundreds of students and their families have been blessed as the seeds of faith have been sown, watered, nurtured, and grown through the teaching of God's Word in our school.

Let's Make a Joyful Noise is the theme of National Lutheran Schools Week which is January 25th-February 1st. The week will begin on Sunday, January 25th with our school families joining us in worship at the 10:45 AM service where we will be blessed to hear the joyful noises of our school children as they sing the Lord's praises. Our church and school families will enjoy lunch together following the service followed by activities led by DCE Probst and our KfC Youth Counselors. There will be many joyful noises to the Lord in the house of the Lord on this Sunday as there is every Sunday as young and old worship, pray, and receive the gifts of God together.

Please continue to pray for our early childhood ministry, our dedicated teachers and teacher assistants, and the children and families we serve. As construction has begun on our Christian Education Center, give thanks to God for the many more children and their families that we will be able to serve with more classroom space. Pray for parents that they would faithfully teach the faith to their children and bring them faithfully to worship and Sunday School so that the next generation would join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord!

In Christ's Love to Extend Christ's Love,
Pastor Bauman





Musical Notes

You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make His glory known.

The third stanza of LSB 811, Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices, is from the pen of Pastor Johann Mentzer (1658-1734) and vividly depicts that ALL of God's creation exists to praise Him alone. This hymn of praise is a joyful proclamation of the earthly foretaste of the endless hymn of praise that we will join in singing in heaven! The fourth stanza continues as follow:

All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite
Declare the wonders of His might.

Note how Pastor Mentzer invites the singer—*all that have breath and motion*—to not only join in praising God but also acknowledge that we can't begin to comprehend all that He has done for us. This is an interesting hymn stanza, for in our song of praise we reflect on the vastness of God's creation and His love that is beyond our understanding. The hymn closes with a prayer:

Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

As we sing, let our voices join not only in praise and adoration but also in confession and prayer—for we know that we are forgiven and will join with the heavenly choir above for all eternity! Thanks be to God!

In Christ's eternal love,

Dan



Sr. Handbells rehearsals on Wednesday, February 4 and 11 will be from 6:00-7:00 pm. Rehearsals on February 18 and 25 will be from 5:30-6:15 pm.

Sr. Choir rehearsals on Wednesday, February 4 and 11 will be from 7:00-8:15 pm. Rehearsals on February 18 and 25 will immediately follow the Lenten service.

Jr. Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-9:50 am.

Choristers rehearse on Sundays from 12:15-12:45 pm.

Jr. Handchimes rehearse on Sundays from 12:45-1:15 pm.

Jr. Handbells rehearse on Sundays from 1:15-1:45 pm.

Small Group Handbells rehearse on Mondays from 10:00-11:00 am.

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact me at, (mobile) 812-927-9319, or email

kantor@StPaulColumbus.org

Thank you!



Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow through early childhood education

Teachable Moments

The Advent and Christmas seasons are teacher favorites in terms of the wide variety of activities and projects that easily fit into the theme. Time has added more songs, traditions, and events to engage in. The Christmas story is a timeless classic that is only the beginning of God's demonstration of everlasting love. The season of Lent is another great opportunity to complete what the Nativity story started.

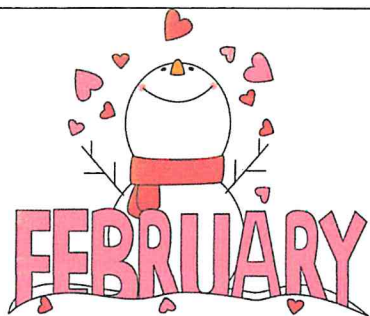
I acknowledge that it is harder to generate excitement during Lent. This church season reminds us that Jesus came to save us from our sins. This makes the mood serious, somber, and repentant. Instead of lighting candles each week to make things brighter, this season seems to reflect a practice of extinguishing candles the closer we get to Good Friday. Despite the sadness that comes with knowing that Jesus suffered and died to take away our sins, the hope within this season rests in the knowledge that Jesus did not stay dead, but came back to life at Easter.

Here are a few ideas on how we can create teachable moments during the season of Lent:

- ✠ The season of Lent lasts for 40 days.
 - Count downs can be made, leading up to Easter.
- ✠ Purple is the color during Lent. Purple is the color for royalty. Jesus is our king.
 - Blue is the color of hope and red reminds us that Jesus shed His blood for our sins. When blending these colors, we can recall the hope Jesus gives us through the forgiveness of sins.
- ✠ Black or no color is used for Good Friday
 - There are 3 primary colors: red, blue, and yellow. When you mix these three in equal proportions, you can make black. With this color blending, we can remind our children that Jesus defeated the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.
- ✠ Lenten Hymns are very powerful.
 - Take the time to listen to the tune of the hymns. We can talk about how these melodies are fast, slow, soft, or loud. They even make connections to memories and trigger emotions.
 - The lyrics of hymns share the powerful message of Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection.

Perhaps you can come up with more teachable moments during Lent. May you be inspired by the significance of this church season!

~Blessings, Jen Probst, ECM Director



3 – Church and School Staff Meeting

4 – ECM Board at 6:00 PM

14 – Valentine's Day Childcare from 5:00 to 9:00 PM

Registration - <https://forms.gle/GeaKs2XVc1RvMQdL8>

17 – Lamb's Chapel at 8:20 AM

18 – Kindergarten and Doves Chapel at 8:20 AM

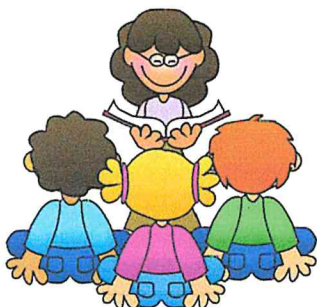
21 – Parenting Workshop from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

24 to 26 – PRESCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences

25 – Bookmobile

ECM Registration

It is not too late to be a part of our school family for the 2026-2027 school year! Please go to <https://www.stpaulcolumbus.org/ecmregistration> to begin the process. If you would like a tour of the school or find out more about our early childhood ministry, please call 812-376-6504 or email (director@stpaulcolumbus.org).





Christian Education

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 me for our first annual Enrichment Workshops. This year, I 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 21 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Childcare: Please register at <https://forms.gle/2zdqk9DNfUWuaZyW6>

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

Daily February Bible Readings

1	Exodus 7-9	11	Exodus 36-38	21	Leviticus 24-25
2	Exodus 10-12	12	Exodus 39-40	22	Leviticus 26-27
3	Exodus 13-15	13	Leviticus 1-4	23	Numbers 1-2
4	Exodus 16-18	14	Leviticus 5-7	24	Numbers 3-4
5	Exodus 19-21	15	Leviticus 8-10	25	Numbers 5-6
6	Exodus 22-24	16	Leviticus 11-13	26	Numbers 7
7	Exodus 25-27	17	Leviticus 14-15	27	Numbers 8-10
8	Exodus 28-29	18	Leviticus 16-18	28	Numbers 11-13
9	Exodus 30-32	19	Leviticus 19-21		
10	Exodus 33-35	20	Leviticus 22-23		

Sunday School Lessons

- Please note that music class for Early and Upper Elementary will be held in the Sanctuary.

Feb	<u>First Steps of Faith</u> <i>Infant to 2-year-olds</i>	<u>Early Elementary</u> <i>Preschool to 4th Grade</i>	<u>Upper Elementary</u> <i>5th & 6th Grade</i>	<u>Confirmation</u> <i>7th & 8th Grade</i>
1	Miracles- Calms Storm	Baptism of Jesus	Jesus is betrayed & arrested	Words of Institution
8	Miracles- Feeding 5000	Temptation of Jesus	Peter disowns Jesus	Words of Institution
15	Miracles- Blind Man	Water into Wine	Jesus before Pilate; crucified	Words of Institution
22	Lent	Jesus & Nicodemus	Jesus dies and is buried	Words of Institution

Senior High (9th to 12th Grade): Resilient Minds: Christ-centered Mental Health

Sunday Adult Bible Study – Nicene Creed - Fellowship Room (Pastor Bauman)

– Developing the Leader Within You – Music Room (Zach Matthews)

Wednesday Adult Bible Studies

9:00 AM – Romans

6:00 PM – Isaiah

Moms in the Word - Feb. 2 at 10:00 AM

Youth Ministry

Valentine's Childcare Registration: Sunday, February 14 from 5:00-9:00 PM

<https://forms.gle/GeaKs2XVc1RvMQdL8>

Gifts of Time and Talent:

Acolytes			Music	
8:00 AM	10:45 AM		8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Jace Vogel	Haley Hauersperger	1	Sr. Choir	
Sarah Arnholt	William Laws	8	Sr. Handbells	
Addie Arnholt	Leo Patterson	15	Sr. Choir	
Wednesday at 6:45 PM – Clark Neawedde		18	Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells	
Julia Burbrink	Ellis Sperry	22	Jr. Choir	
Wednesday at 6:45 PM – Kinze Fischer		25	None	

Connecting to Others:

KfC <i>Kids for Christ youth group for preschool to 5th Grade</i>	<p>Sunday, February 22 beginning at Noon (at the Church)</p> <p>There are a lot of great things to celebrate during the month of February. Youth and families are invited to join us for lunch, a devotion, and a special activity!</p>
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<h2 style="text-align: center;">C4Life</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade</i></p> <p>Sat, February 14 – Valentine's Childcare</p> <p>During the month of February, we celebrate the love that God has for us and the love that we can share with those around us. God created marriage and it is important for dads and moms to build their relationship as husband and wife. Please join us as we take care of children, so that parents can have a special evening together. We need your help! Youth are asked to come to the church at 4:30 PM to help set up and stay until 9:30 PM for cleanup. Donations for this event will help with youth activity expenses. Please let Jen Probst know you can help so we have enough people to help with children.</p> <p>Sat, February 15 – Broomball & Pizza</p> <p>Broomball is a fast-paced game played on ice. Wearing sneakers and carrying a broom shaped stick. Come and join us as we play and laugh. Friends are always welcome. Please sign up on the youth clipboard to determine transportation and pizza amounts.</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">SPY</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Paul Youth group for High School students</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Same Youth Activities listed under C4Life</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Higher Things</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For 8th Grade through Senior High</i></p> <p>This summer, our SPY youth will be traveling to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The event will be held from June 30 to July 3, 2026. We will have the opportunity to join with other youth groups as we learn and have fun. I am also hoping we can participate in a few local hot spots in the St. Louis area. Travel events like these are special activities for the High School group, great opportunities to get to know the members of our church better, and grow in our knowledge of God.</p> <p>Thanks to fundraisers like the Taco Barn, Easter breakfast, etc., we are able to keep the cost to participate significantly lower than the actual trip cost. We are asking participants to pay \$200 to attend. This includes transportation, housing, meals, registration fees, event resources, and more. If your youth would like to go and finances pose an issue, please speak to Jen Probst or Pastor Bauman.</p>
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Please see DCE Jen Probst for additional details or registration information.

~Friends are always welcome. Parents are invited to help out.~



St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry

News and Notes

Lenten Worship Series: *Grace Upon Grace*

From His fulness we have all received grace upon grace. John 1:16

GRACE
upon grace

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on February 18th. For both our Sunday and midweek services from Ash Wednesday to Easter, we will ponder God's abundant grace freely given through Christ and His cross. This grace saves and forgives, and this grace transforms us to live a holy life of good works, faithful confession and witness, and patient endurance while bearing one's crosses. Join us on Sunday and throughout the week, as we witness the transformative power of God's grace in the Scriptures and draw connections and applications to our lives receiving God's grace. Here are the service times and themes as well as special events occurring throughout this sacred season:

Ash Wednesday, February 18th Communion Service at 6:45 PM—David; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Imposition of Ashes 6:30-6:45 PM

Sunday, February 22nd at 8 and 10:45 AM—Adam and Eve; KfC meets Noon-1:15 PM

Wednesday, February 25th—Lenten Service at 6:45 PM—Noah; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing 6:30-6:45 PM

Sunday, March 1st at 8 and 10:45 AM—Nicodemus

Wednesday, March 4th—Lenten Service at 6:45 PM—Abraham; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing 6:30-6:45 PM

Sunday, March 8th at 8 and 10:45 AM—The Woman at the Well

Wednesday, March 11th—Lenten Service at 6:45 PM—Jonah and the Ninevites; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing 6:30-6:45 PM

Sunday, March 15th at 8 and 10:45 AM—The Man Born Blind

Wednesday, March 18th—Lenten Service at 6:45 PM—Namaan; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing 6:30-6:45 PM

Sunday, March 22nd at 8 and 10:45 AM—Mary and Martha

Wednesday, February 25th—Lenten Service at 6:45 PM—Naomi and Ruth; Supper served 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing 6:30-6:45 PM

Palm Sunday, March 29th at 8 and 10:45 AM—Centurion; Children Process with Palms at both Services; Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:45 AM service

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:45 PM—Peter; Communion Service concluding with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3rd at 10 AM—Thief on the Cross; Sunday School and ECM Children Sing; The service is followed by Together as Family concluding at 11:30 AM

Good Friday, April 3rd at 6:45 PM—Mary; Communion Service concluding with the Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday, April 5th Festival Communion Services at 7, 9, and 10:45 AM—Paul; Children process with Alleluia Banners at all services; Easter Breakfast served from 7:30-9:30 AM; No Christian Education Classes on Easter

Extending Christ's Love Update

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thanks to your generosity total income exceeds \$3.1 million to Extending Christ's Love through the first 16 months of our 64-month capital campaign. We give thanks to God for all who have pledged to this endeavor. We are grateful to many member families who have already increased their pledges or are accelerating the fulfillment of their pledges, greatly reducing the amount we will need to finance and saving us thousands of dollars in interest.

We are also thankful for all those who donated items for the Rummage Sale and Silent Auction, those who served before, during, and after these events, and those who purchased items.

We are also grateful for your support for the Playground Project. This project is almost fully funded. As of January 12th, we need \$4,503 to reach our \$120,000 goal. All gifts are matched dollar-for-dollar.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Building and Finance Committees for their dedication of time and talent.

A Time to Build! Despite the cold and snowy December, the foundation piers were installed to ensure that the Christian Education Center is literally built on solid rock. As the weather warms, foundation work will begin in earnest, and our Christian Education Center will begin to take shape.

Please continue to pray for this endeavor and for those who will be blessed through the mission and ministry that will occur in our Christian Education Center.



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 on **Wednesday, January 21st** at 6:30 PM. Join in to learn what makes Trinity Lutheran High School 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.

National Lutheran Schools Week

National Lutheran Schools Week is **January 26-February 1**. 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.

Our Sunday celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week is **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 and events from noon-1:15 PM.

Please continue to pray for our school and our teaching staff. Join us as we celebrate the many opportunities that Lord gives us through our early childhood ministry to extend Christ's love!

Waymansville Soup Supper & Euchre Party

St. Peter, Waymansville invites you to their soup supper and euchre party on **Sunday, February 1st**. 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 News

St. Paul serves the OGT by sorting donated items for distribution the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, come and join us on **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 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 Valentines 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.

Alleluia Banner Procession

At both services on **Transfiguration Sunday, February 15th**, children are invited to process the Alleluia Banners. Following the service, the Alleluia Banners will be "buried" for the Lenten season as we do not say or sing "Alleluia" during this penitential season. On Easter Sunday, the Alleluia Banner box will be opened, and the children will process with them to celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

Lent Begins February 18th

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. Each Wednesday in Lent, supper will be served beginning at 5:30 PM. The midweek services begin at 6:45 PM. The Ash Wednesday service is preceded with the Imposition of Ashes from 6:30-6:45 PM. The remaining five services are preceded by a hymn sing from 6:30-6:45 PM. Please plan to attend as we ponder our Savior's sacrifice for us.

Thanks to everyone who signed up to host a Lenten supper. **Wednesday, March 11th** is the only Lenten supper that still needs a host organization or family. Please sign up in the gathering space if you would like to serve.

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 21** from 4:00-6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Childcare Registration: <https://forms.gle/2zdzqk9DNfUWuaZyW6>

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

Mission of the Month

Our February Mission of the Month is Lutherans for Life. Our mission support enables life-affirming work to be carried out through materials, conferences, and Life Teams, including the free Y4Life Youth Conference held in Washington, DC, that some of our youth are attending. Please pray for the mission of LFL as they equip adults and youth to be Gospel-motivated voices for life!

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 Kalli the names and complete addresses of any military personnel you know who are serving overseas or stateside. Then, bring in any of the following wish list items: Travel size grooming products like bar soap, liquid hand soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, chapstick, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, and shave cream. Single serving snacks like granola bars, cookies, chips, crackers (w cheese or peanut butter), beef jerky, and gum. Please reach out to Sariina Kalli at 218-451-1026 with questions.

Early Childhood Ministry Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year has begun! **We need your help in promoting our Christ-centered, fully accredited early childhood ministry.** Please share the informational flyers with family, friends, and neighbors who have preschool and kindergarten-aged children. Director Jen Probst is always willing to provide tours of our school to interested families. Here are some highlights to share about our school to share with others.

- We are one of the few fully accredited early learning centers in the area.
- We have low teacher-to-student ratios in our classrooms.
- We offer financial aid, so finances are not an obstacle for any family to attend.
- And most importantly, we teach the Word of God to every student every day!

In addition to the above, we are implementing a number of changes to our kindergarten program to better serve families:

- The kindergarten school day will be lengthened to 12:15 PM to allow more instruction time.
- Flexible pick-up time: Parents can pick up kindergarten students anytime between 12:15-2:30 PM at no additional cost.
- Kindergarten students can participate in the Wednesday afternoon STREAM program at no additional cost.
- Extended care is available before school or from 2:30-4:30 PM for a nominal fee.

Kindergarten and STREAM are available at no cost to enrolled families through Indiana School Choice.

For more information, please contact Director Jen Probst.

Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Teams

Thrivent members—Please maximize your membership privileges by owning a Thrivent policy in the following ways:

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Most Thrivent members are given Choice Dollars to designate to their church or some other nonprofit organization. Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2026. If you are a Thrivent member, please do one of the following:

Online: Go to thrivent.com and designate your Choice Dollars to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana.

Phone: Call 1-800-847-4836 during regular business hours. When prompted by the automated service, say "Thrivent Choice". Provide your phone number and date of birth to verify your account. You will then be connected to a customer service representative who will assist you in directing your Choice Dollars to our congregation.

Action Team Grants: Every Thrivent policy holder is eligible to apply for and receive two \$250 Action Team Grants every year. These grants provide the seed money for educational, service, and fundraising events. For ideas for Thrivent Action Team Grants and/or for assistance in completing the application, please contact Rachel Fohne or Pastor Bauman.

Sunday Lunches

We offer lunches for those participating in afternoon events. The sign-up sheet for January-May is posted in the gathering space.

January 18th: Meatball Subs

January 25th: Walking Tacos - KFC event, NLSW

February 1st: Sandwich Ba

February 8th: Fettuccine Alfredo

February 15th: Chicken Sandwiches

February 22nd: Corn Dogs and Tater Tots

St. Paul Lutheran SGO

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 tithing? 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

Official Acts

Taylor Jane Mau, daughter of Christopher Mau and Emma Dawson, was baptized on December 21st.

Callan Wyatt Jones, son of Carl and Kyla Jones, was baptized on January 11th.

Brian Bostwick was received into membership by transfer on December 28th.

Bryan Davidson and Kailey Smith were united in marriage on December 13th.

Amy Price entered into glory on December 23rd and was given Christian burial on December 30th.

Latino Outreach Report

The Saturday before Christmas we enjoyed celebrating our Savior's birth with our annual Las Posadas event. The evening included Advent and Christmas hymns, the traditional posada carol, the divine service, good eats, two piñatas, bingo, and gingerbread houses. We were pleased to welcome first-time Latino and Anglo visitors. The Christmas celebration continued with a Christmas Eve Spanish service coinciding with the 5:30 PM English service. And while we didn't offer a separate Spanish New Year's Eve service, a number of our Latino members attended the English service.

Thank you to everyone who has eagerly supported Rocio in helping her and her daughters reunite with Juan in Mexico. She was overwhelmed by the amount of assistance you offered. Please keep them in your prayers that their move back to Mexico will come quickly and smoothly.



LWML News

The 2026 LWML **Annual Meeting** was held January 10th, and we welcome Wendy Wiederhoeft as president and Sierra Kalli as secretary for the 2026-2028 LWML term. They will join current Vice-President Elaine Wilson and Treasurer Linda K. Scheidt on the board. Thanks go out to past president Sariina Kalli and outgoing secretary Kathy Ownbey for serving the previous three-year terms. Membership Sundays were January 11th and 18th, but ladies 18 years old and older can join (for a \$10 suggested donation) this mission-focused fellowship organization at any time. Please check the LWML bulletin board for a list of projects we are planning for in 2026.



We have started a **Military Care Package** project with the goal of mailing gift cards (stateside) and care packages (overseas) in February. You can help us in one of two ways. First, please send Sariina Kalli the names and complete addresses of any military personnel you know who are serving overseas or stateside. Then, bring in any of the following wish list items: Travel size grooming products like bar soap, liquid hand soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, chapstick, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, and shave cream. Single serving snacks like granola bars, cookies, chips, crackers (w cheese or peanut butter), beef jerky, and gum. Please reach out to Sariina Kalli at 218-451-1026 with questions.

Did you know we have a **Feed My Lambs** project that provides frozen meals and baby gifts for parents who welcome a new baby into the family? Special thanks to the ladies who made meals, pies, and Christmas ornaments, or those who donated items for gift bags last year. There is a bin in the coat room for ongoing donations like toys, board books, bath supplies, booties, onesies, etc. Please contact Kris Taylor at 812-350-0946 for more info or to volunteer to make a meal.

Don't throw out your **empty pill bottles**! Instead, donate them to Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati to help provide medication to developing countries. There is a pill bottle collection bin in the coat room where you can drop off your cleaned and unlabeled bottles. Please contact Sally Haak at 812-579-9065 with questions or to volunteer to help clean donated bottles before delivery. You can also visit <https://m25m.org/pillbottles/> for more information.

The next **Family Game Night and Euchre Tourney** is **Friday, February 6th**, at 6 PM in the fellowship room. This will be the first of four game nights in 2026, so mark your calendars now. Remember, games other than euchre are always available. Game nights for 2026 also include May 8th, August 7th, and November 6th.

You are invited to the **Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** on **Saturday, April 11th** at St. John's Lutheran Church, White Creek. Registration and breakfast will begin at 9 a.m., with a program to follow and a luncheon to close the gathering. Watch for details in the coming months.

There are just five months until the **Indiana District LWML Convention June 26-28, 2026**, at the Vanderburgh 4H Center in Evansville, IN. The theme is "Be Still and Know" based on Psalm 46:10. Kristen Schultz Pratt is slated to be a motivational speaker, while Rev. Gary Liu, missionary to the Chinese, is the mission speaker. Check out the LWML bulletin board for more convention facts or read the Good News at <https://lwmlindiana.org/> for more information.



DONATION FORM

Please complete the entire form; missing information may delay the receipt of your Indiana SGO State Tax Certification number.

PLEASE NOTE: Direct gifts to "The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana", not to the school.

Yes! I am donating \$_____ to support scholarships in Indiana.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor Advised Fund Distribution
Name of the DAF: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit/Debit Online: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate | <input type="checkbox"/> IRA Distribution:
Name of the IRA: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit/Debit Form: Complete the information below | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of Grain:
Name of the Grain Elevator: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PayPal: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate | <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciated Securities: _____
<small>For instructions to donate appreciated securities, call us at 260-203-4509 or visit www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Transfer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |
- ☐ I want our gift to be anonymous to the school (only the Department of Revenue will know).

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____
Email*: _____ Home Church: _____
Card Number: _____ Exp: ____ / ____ CVC: _____

** If an email is provided, we will email your SGO tax code letter; if you prefer to receive the letter via U.S. Postal Service, mark this box:* ☐

- ☐ Please designate this gift to the following Indiana Non-Public

Name: St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry City: Columbus, IN

Name: _____ City: _____

Name: _____ City: _____

- ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Honor of: _____

Please notify this person of my gift: Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Don't have a specific school? To direct your SGO gift to our General Fund for any student in need, mark this box: ☐

*Double your
Support!
We accept
Matching Gifts.*

Submit by mail to:

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting
Organization of Indiana, Inc.
PO Box 5174
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46895

Or email to:

donations@LutheranSGO.org
We will send your unique School State
Tax Credit Certificate Number with your
gift acknowledgement.

Questions?

Contact us:

info@LutheranSGO.org
260-203-4509
www.LutheranSGO.org

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation approved by the Internal Revenue Service to receive tax-advantaged contributions. Our Tax ID number is 45-4856406. We are also recognized as a "scholarship granting organization" under Indiana Code 20-51-1-7 for "school scholarship programs" certified by the Indiana Department of Education under IC 20-51-1-5. We are authorized to make

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team C	Adam Hall & Carl Shaffer	
10:45 AM	Team F	Wiley Umphress & Steve Voelz	

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch/Supper
1	8 AM Jace Vogel			Elaine and Dan Wilson & Eric and Linda Scheidt	Fischer Family
	10:45 AM Hayley Hauersperger				
8	8 AM Sarah Arnholt		Dave and Pam Dailey		Burbrink Family
	10:45 AM Corbin Howarth				
15	8 AM Addy Arnholt	Ashley Neawedde and Brian Bostwick	Jim and Kathy Brock	Burbrink Family	
	10:45 AM William Laws				
18 Ash Wednesday	Leo Patterson	-----	-----	-----	Tri-W
22	8 AM Julia Burbrink				Sarah Gibson
	10:45 AM Clark Neawedde				
25 Lent 6:45 PM	Kinze Ficher	-----	-----	-----	Edlers and Spouses



St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry
February 2026

Our Sunday Schedule
8 AM Divine Service
9:00 AM Radio Service
9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service English & Spanish
Noon Lunch
12:15 PM Confirmation
12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
12:15 PM Choristers (no practice 2/22)

12:45 PM Jr. Handbells (no practice 2/22)
1:15 PM Jr. Handbells (no practice 2/22)
7 PM Lutheran Hour

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mite Box Sunday Sr. Choir	2 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Moms in the Word 10 AM Small Group Handbells	3 9 AM-Noon OGT Workday 12:15 PM Staff Meeting	4 See Schedule Below	5 6 PM Tri-W Meeting	6 6 PM Euchre and Game Night	7
8 Sr. Handbells 1:15 PM 8th Grade Parent/ Confirmand Meeting	Pastor Bauman on Vacation		11 See Schedule Below	12	13 Wedding Rehearsal	14 1 PM Bostwick- Neawedde Wedding 5-9 PM Valentine's Day Childcare
15 Transfiguration Sunday Sr. Choir Process with Alleluia Ban- ners at Both Services 2-4 PM SPY and C4Life Broomball	16 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	17 8:20 AM Lambs Chapel	18 Ash Wednesday See Schedule Below	19	20	21 4 PM Parenting Work- shop
22 Jr. Choir Noon-1:15 PM KfC Event	23 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	24	25 See Schedule Below	26 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	27	28

Wednesdays, February 4 & 11

9 AM Bible Study
10:15 Matins Service
6 PM Bible Study
6 PM Sr. Handbells
7 PM Sr. Choir

Ash Wednesday, February 18

8:20 AM Doves and Kindergarten Chapel
9 AM Bible Study
10:15 Matins Service
5:30 PM Supper
5:30 PM Sr. Handbells
6:30-6:45 PM Imposition of Ashes
6:45 PM Communion Service
Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells
7:45 PM Sr. Choir

Wednesdays in Lent—February 25-March 25

9 AM Bible Study
10:15 Matins Service
5:30 PM Supper
5:30 PM Sr. Handbells
6:30-6:45 PM Hymn Sing
6:45 PM Lenten Service
7:45 PM Sr. Choir

Radio Service and Lutheran Hour can be found on
91.1 FM Columbus/Madison,
89.1 FM Greensburg, 88.1 FM Versailles/Osgood, and
94.5 FM Salem