



**The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but  
to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
1 Corinthians 1:18**

## *Who's the Fool?*

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1, 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 Jace Vogel  
10:45 AM Service Haley Hauersperger

## Church Calendar

*Pastor Bauman on vacation through February 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Today	Mite Box Sunday <b>8:00 AM Divine Service</b> 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School <b>10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish</b> 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	10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Moms in the Word 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Tuesday	9:00 AM-Noon OGT Work Day 12:15 PM Staff Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study <b>10:15 AM Matins Service</b> 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir
Thursday	6:00 PM Tri-W Meeting
Friday	6:00 PM Euchre and Game Night
Next Sunday	<b>8:00 AM Divine Service</b> 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School <b>10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish</b> 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 1:15 PM 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Confirmand Meeting 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

### IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- **2025 Contribution Statements**
- February Newsletter, also available online
- 2026 Offering Envelopes

# Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

## Prelude

*Prelude and Fugue in C Major—G. Böhm*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the Record of Fellowship*

## Ringin of the Bell

## Choral Call to Worship

*O Jesus, King Most Wonderful—K. Kosche*

*You are encouraged to meditate upon the words of **Hymn 554** as the choir sings*

## 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.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*please be seated*

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 6:1–8*

Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against His people, and He will contend with Israel. "O My people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer Me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O My people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

[Paul writes:] The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose

what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

*please stand and sing* page 205

**G 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

Matthew 5:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter. **G Glory to You, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles Creed

page 207

## Little Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

**837**

## Sermon

*Who's the Fool?*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

## Prayer of the Church

*please stand*

## Offering

**567**

## Reception of New Member

10:45 AM Service

Ángel Aguilar López

*The confirmation service will be in Spanish. You can follow the service in English on **page 272** in the hymnal.*

## Service of the Sacrament

*please stand* pages 208-210

## Distribution

**526, 782 stanzas 1-3, 788, 851, 852**

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

## Closing Liturgy

*please stand* pages 211-212

## Closing Hymn

**782 stanza 4**

## Postlude

*Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings*—D. Wood

*Pastor and Michelle Bauman are on vacation through Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

*If you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Patterson.*

# Who's the Fool? 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Apostle Paul writes, "For the word of the c\_\_\_\_\_ is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the p\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

The Question of the Day is: Who's the f\_\_\_\_\_?

What the unbelieving world calls "foolish" (Jesus, the cross, His death and resurrection) is God's amazing w\_\_\_\_\_ to save!

What are some reasons why unbelievers might think that Christianity is "foolish?"

In what ways are Jesus and His Cross God's "Wisdom" for you?

So, "Who's the Fool?" (circle one!) Christian believers? OR The UNbelieving world?

***Next Sunday's Readings*** Isaiah 58:3–9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1–12; Matthew 5:13–20

**LIVING THE SERMON...** In and through Wisdom, God sought and found you and gave you the new birth of Baptism to make you His child. Read through the Proverbs for guidance on living a "wise" life as a child of the heavenly Father.

**PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH...** Lord, give us wisdom to recognize and embrace by faith the true Wisdom of Christ Crucified and raised from the dead. Open the eyes of those blinded by the so-called wisdom of the world, that they may see Jesus and live!

**MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK...** [Jesus said:] *In the same way, let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

## Youth Events

### KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

#### **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>—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)

#### **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>—Service Project and Fundraiser: Valentine's Day Childcare**

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

#### **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>—Broomball at Hamilton Ice Arena**

Always a youth favorite. Please plan to attend! We will enjoy Broomball and pizza at the Hamilton Ice Arena. Transportation will be provided from church, leaving at 1:30 PM or youth can drive or be dropped off at Hamilton Ice Arena at 2 PM. No RSVP needed.

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



# Camp Lakeview Registration

For 60 years Lakeview Ministries has provided incredible faith-filled experiences for kids of all ages, while maintaining the highest standards for the safety and well-being of every person who comes to camp. Coming to camp gives you an all-access pass into life-changing fun. It builds life skills and reduces levels of stress and anxiety. It allows for deeper friendships, and most importantly, lets you experience Jesus in a way that connects with your everyday life.



You can pre-register for all Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages programs **tomorrow and Tuesday, February 2nd-3rd**. Registration for all other programs, including Explorer Camps, Weekend and Family programs, opens on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Programs are available for students and families of all ages! For more information, visit [lakeview.camp](http://lakeview.camp) or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Come and experience the joy of camp this summer!

## Extending Christ's Love

*It's all about Jesus! It's all about Christ crucified and risen for you and for the world. It's all about Jesus, the wisdom and power of God.* The mission and ministry that will occur in our Christian Education Center is all about Jesus and His saving Gospel—Latino outreach, early childhood ministry, children and adult Sunday School classes, confirmation instruction, and youth group events—it's all about Jesus!



**Playground Project:** We are closing in on fully funding the Playground Project. We need **\$4,503** to reach our goal. **Jim Probst Memorials:** The family of Jim Probst has requested that memorials be designated for the Playground Project. Remember all gifts to the Playground Project are matched dollar-for-dollar.

**Thrivent Members—Choice Dollars Designation:** 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](http://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.

It is an exciting season in our life together as God's family in this place. Please continue to pray for this endeavor. Thanks to your generosity in creating a space and place for Christ and the wisdom of God to be taught and shared for generations 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! Why donate to our Lutheran SGO??

- Donors receive a 50% state income tax credit for donations to the St Paul Lutheran SGO.
- Credit may be used to offset 100% of the donor's state income tax liability.
- Unused credit may be rolled over for up to 9 years.
- Credit is allowed on business and individual tax-payer donations.
- There is no limit on the dollar amount of per-taxpayer donations.
- The credit is permitted when made as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA (RMD) or a grant from a Donor Advised Fund.

Please consult with your tax advisor for specific tax advice. Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at [financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org) or 812-343-3786. You can also visit [www.lutheransgo.org](http://www.lutheransgo.org).

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

**IN OUR PRAYERS...** **New Member:** Ángel Aguilar López; **Divine Call:** Pastor Andrew Keller called to be Chaplain and Theology Teacher at Trinity Lutheran High School; **Sick and Recovering:** Pastor Fickenschier (surgery tomorrow), Henry Wischmeier (surgery Thursday), Katrina Smith, Dennis Hoeltke, Emmy Baker, Wilma Yeley, Sheila Shaffer, Marie Tellman, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Sam Straub (Kathy Adams' nephew), 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); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

**WE REJOICE...** as Ángel Aguilar López is confirmed and joins our family of faith today. May God richly bless Ángel as he with us receives Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

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

Today— Sandwich Bar

Next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>—Fettuccine Alfredo

February 15<sup>th</sup>— Chicken Sandwiches

February 22<sup>nd</sup>— Corn Dogs and Tater Tots; KfC Day

### **LWML News**

**MITE BOX SUNDAY...** is **today**. Offerings received in the LWML Mite Boxes support district and national LWML mission grants.

**EUCHRE AND GAME NIGHT...** Please join us for our **Euchre Tournament and Family Game Night this Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** 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 amazing. A freewill offering will be collected to pay for the shipping costs of the Military Care Packages. All are welcome!

**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.

**WAYMANSVILLE SOUP SUPPER AND EUCHRE PARTY...** is **this evening, February 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 **tomorrow, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORK DAY...** is **this Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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.

**BIBLICAL WORKSHOP...** St. Peter's, Columbus invites you to a Biblical Workshop **this Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 14<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup> by the QR code, through this link <https://forms.gle/GeaKs2XVc1RvMQdL8>, or by texting or calling Jen Probst at 765-491-7818.

**ALLELUIA BANNER PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL...** At both services on **Transfiguration Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, children are invited to process the Alleluia Banners. Following the service, the Alleluia Banners will be carried out and “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 18<sup>th</sup>...** Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 and includes Holy Communion. The remaining five services are preceded by a hymn sing from 6:30-6:45 PM.

**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: Church Fellowship Room

When: **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** from 4:00-6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Childcare Registration: QR Code or <https://forms.gle/2zddqk9DNfUWuaZyW6>

If you would like additional information, please email [director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org) or speak to Jen Probst.



**ECM REGISTRATION...** Registration for the 2026-2027 school year for our early childhood ministry is now open! *Please help us promote our Christ-centered, fully accredited school!* All registration is online so encourage families to visit the church website ([stpaulcolumbus.org](http://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 (812-376-6504; [director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org)) to schedule a tour or for more information.

### The Response of God’s People

The attendance and offering from the Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> service will be included in next Sunday’s bulletin.



GIVE

## St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; [www.stpaulcolumbus.org](http://www.stpaulcolumbus.org)

Pastor Doug Bauman; [pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; [pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; [pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org); 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; [kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; [director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org); 765-491-7818

Secretary Mackenzie Wint; [secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-528-1176

Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; [financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org); 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; [riskplants@yahoo.com](mailto:riskplants@yahoo.com); 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; [socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto: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