

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

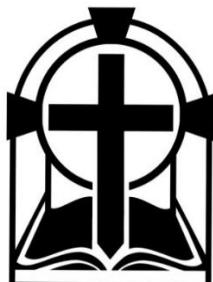


“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” – Matthew 5:13-15 ESV

The World’s Salt and Light

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 8, 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 Sarah Arnholt
10:45 AM Service Corbin Howarth

Church Calendar

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

1:15 PM 8th Grade Parent/Confirmand Meeting

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday

March Newsletter Deadline

9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class

10:00 AM Small Group Handbells

Wednesday

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Matins Service

6:00 PM Bible Study (last session until 4/8)
6:00 PM Sr. Handbells

7:00 PM Sr. Choir

Wedding Rehearsal

Friday

1:00 PM Bostwick-Neawedde Wedding

5-9 PM Valentine's Day Childcare

Next Sunday

Transfiguration Sunday

Children process with Alleluia Banners

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

2-4 PM SPY and C4Life Broomball

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

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

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Sr. Handbells: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*—C. Moklebust
God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It—J. Behnke

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

New Member: Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

563

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. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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

Isaiah 58:3-9a

The people complain to God that He is not favorably answering their prayers, and then the LORD responds.

"Why have we fasted, and You see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and You take no knowledge of it?"

"Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

[Paul writes:] And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man

imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

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

Matthew 5:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus says:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

page 207

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

578 stanzas 1-5

Sermon

The World's Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-20

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Offering

704

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 208-210

Distribution

690, 579, 580, 698, 401 standing for stanza 6

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

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 211-212

Closing Hymn

578 stanza 6

Postlude

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star—P. Manz

The World's Salt and Light—Matthew 5:13-20

The 12 Days of Christmas are all about the g_____ of Jesus. The Epiphany season is all about u_____ the gift, who Jesus is and what He has come to do.

What is true for J_____ is also true for y_____ because of what Christ has done for you. You are the world's salt and light!

What are some properties and purposes of salt?

How is Jesus the salt of the earth? How are you to be the salt of the earth?

How is Jesus the light of the world? How are you to be the light of the world and to let your light shine?

Take home point: These Christmas and Epiphany seasons we have been given the gift and unwrapped the gift of Jesus. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are now called to u_____ the gift. Be the world's salt and light!

Next Sunday's Readings—Transfiguration Sunday Exodus 24:8-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

LIVING THE SERMON... As those who belong to Christ, we are called to be the world's salt and light. Consider how you can be salt and light to those God has placed in your life. How can you bring the light of the Gospel to them? Have you been hiding your light under a basket or letting your light shine?

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Give thanks to God that Christ has saved you *and* the Holy Spirit empowers you to be this world's salt and light. Seek forgiveness when you haven't let your light shine or when your salt has lost its saltiness, and pray that the light of Christ would shine through you to others.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention, as to lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* 2 Peter 1:19

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

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 Saturday, February 14th—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.

Next Sunday, February 15th—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.



Extending Christ's Love

Jesus is this dark world's salt and light. And so are you! The light of Christ and the light of God's Word will be shared every Lord's Day and every school day in our Christian Education Center. As the light of God's Word is shared, young and old will be delivered from the darkness of sin and unbelief and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be salt and light. Thanks for your regular Sunday offerings and your support of Extending Christ's Love so that our congregation might continue to be a "city on a hill" shining the light of Christ in this dark world.



Playground Project: We are closing in on fully funding the Playground Project. We need **\$3,826** to reach our goal. 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 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 that our church would be the city set on a hill and individually we would be the salt of the earth and let our lights shine!

More Ways to Give!

Did you know??? You can donate appreciated securities directly to St. Paul to fulfill your General Fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds may offer a tax advantage to the donor. Generally, the tax deductible value of a gift of securities is the current market value as of the date of the gift. Appreciation (capital gains) of this donated security is generally not taxable to the donor. As always, please consult with your tax advisor for your specific situation. If you would like to donate a gift of appreciated securities or simply want to get your questions answered, please reach out to Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786.

Exciting Update!

Our church has been approved to participate in the Kroger Community Awards Program as a registered non-profit! Through this program, Kroger donates a percentage of shoppers' spending to approved organizations in the community. In order for our church to receive a portion of these donations, shoppers must complete the following steps: Visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into your Kroger account, you can search for St. Paul Lutheran Church either by name or **KW412** and then click Enroll. Please reach out to Rachel Fohne at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 with specific questions.

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! Please consult 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 1/31/2026 \$92,653.01

IN OUR PRAYERS... **New Member:** Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence; **Divine Call:** Pastor Andrew Keller called to be Chaplain and Theology Teacher at Trinity Lutheran High School; **Sick and Recovering:** Doug Brown, Pastor Fickenscher, Henry Wischmeier, 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, Riley Walton (Chris Forbes' daughter) 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:** Bryce Cleery (Judy Sullivan's friend), Garrett McGaha, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperry's friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

WE REJOICE... as Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence joins our family of faith today. May God richly bless Evelyn as she continues to receive Christ and rejoice in the light of His Word.

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

Today—Fettuccine Alfredo

Next Sunday, February 15th—Chicken Sandwiches

February 22nd—Corn Dogs and Tater Tots; KfC Day

March 1st—Taco Bar

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is **tomorrow, February 9th.**

ALLELUIA BANNER PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL... At both services **next Sunday, February 15th**, 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 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.

On Ash Wednesday, Tri-W will serve a supper of sloppy joes, hotdogs, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, chips, applesauce and desserts. A freewill offering will be collected. 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.

Lenten Sermon Series: The theme for all our Sunday and midweek Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter Sunday is *Grace Upon Grace*. At each service, we will witness the transformative power of God's grace in the lives of His people in the Scriptures and draw connections and applications to our lives abiding in God's grace.

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES... The LWML is sponsoring 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.

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) 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) to schedule a tour or for more information.

CAMP LAKEVIEW REGISTRATION... Registration for all Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages summer camps is now open. Registration for all other programs, including Explorer Camps, Weekend and Family programs, opens **tomorrow, February 9th**. Programs are available for students and families of all ages! For more information, visit Lakeview's website at www.lakeview.camp or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Come and experience the joy of camp this summer!

THANKS TO... all who attended Friday's euchre and game night and to the LWML for sponsoring the event.

NOTE OF THANKS...

Dear Family of Faith,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and words of condolence regarding Jim's passing. As we walked through this valley, it was amazing to see the gifts of love and comfort God had provided to our family through your support. We rejoice that Jim has found his rest in the presence of his Savior in Heaven.

~Carol, Dave, and Jen Probst

ONLINE GIVING... Please consider using our secure, online donation platform to give to St. Paul. Did you forget your checkbook or cash today? No worries!

Simply scan the QR code on the back page of the bulletin to give through our website. Also, you have the option to set up a recurring donation that you can adjust or cancel at any time. This is an excellent way to fulfill general fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Please reach out to Rachel Fohne at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 with specific questions.

The Response of God's People

Wednesday, January 28th

Divine Service: **123**

Communion: **86**

Sunday, February 1st

Divine Service: **302**

Communion: **229**

Sunday School: **162**



GIVE

Offering for both January 28th and February 1st

General Fund: **\$24,286.46**

Extending Christ's Love: **\$8,721.76** including

\$527.03 Jim Probst Playground Memorials

\$92 In Honor of Lisele Bockes' 92nd Birthday

\$10 Silent Auction

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