

St. Paul Epistle

February
2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church Our Vision:

**We are broken and blessed followers of Christ,
providing a home for all who wander the weary road.**

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2025 Jackson St.
Dubuque IA 52001
Office Hours: M-F, 9:30am - 1:30pm



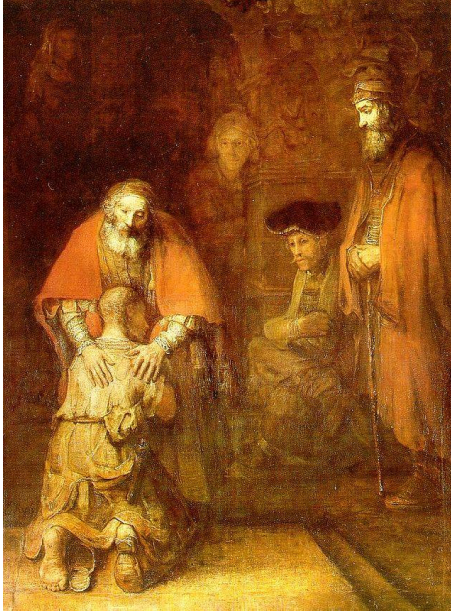
stpauldbq.com
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Weekly Services:
Saturday Worship: 5:30pm - Sunday Worship: 9:00am
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY 2026

Feb 3	Cover Girls 9:00am - 11:00am
Feb 5	Ruth Circle 10:00am
Feb 9	Mission Circle Meeting 6:00pm
Feb 10	Board of Education Meeting 7pm at church
Feb 11	Mission Circle Pizza Ranch Fund Raiser 4pm - 8pm
Feb 12	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
Feb 14	Intergenerational Lent Event 9:30am - 11:00am
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm
Feb 23	Golden Age Euchre Club 1:00pm
Feb 24	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Feb 25	Soup Supper 5:30pm, Midweek Service 6:30pm
Feb 26	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm

Lent 2026 - In the Hands of the Artist



In an interview with the CS Lewis Institute, pastor and author Russ Ramsey said, "When you're in the hands of a great painter, they're not just showing you a picture. They're telling you a story. When you engage with the picture—Rembrandt's *Return of the Prodigal Son* is a perfect example of this—your eye follows a path when you look at that painting. Your eye is going to be drawn to something first and then second and then third and fourth; before you know it, a story has unfolded, not just a picture."

This year, beginning on February 14/15 Transfiguration Sunday all the way through Easter Sunday, we will spend our Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesday evenings together contemplating the story of Jesus' love for us in the hands of some of history's great painters. These artists were not necessarily trying to portray the events of Christ's passion in a historically accurate manner, as if they were taking photographs. Instead, they convey truths in creative and beautiful ways that invite us to meditate on different parts of the story. This is the story of the Great Artist, in whose wounded hands we are securely held.

See you in church



Pastor Jon



WITNESS

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL

The Women of St. Paul met in January and started our meeting with a Bible Study WHAT---IS---HAP---PEN---ING? -- Just when we feel we have gotten over the hump we find out it was just a bump in the long road of potholes. Where can we go for comfort? Psalm 12:1-2 I lift my eyes to the mountains--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Our mite collection for January was \$87.76. We have decided to discontinue hosting Turkey Day the first of November. It has gotten to be too much work for the 8 of us. We really appreciate your donating the baked goods so now as an alternative for fundraising, we will be bussing tables quarterly at Pizza Ranch. We will clear tables and vacuum at the end of the night. Our first night is Wednesday, February 11th 4pm to 8pm. We will get our tips and 10 % of the nightly income. We would greatly appreciate you coming out to eat and support the Women of St. Paul. Look for the dollar off coupon in the Dubuque Advertiser and the senior discount.
President Nancy Henry



MERCY



The Salvation Army Food Pantry - For the month of **February** we are collecting the following items for the Food Pantry:

Spaghetti O's
Liquid Hand Soap

Chili
Soups

Crackers
Ravioli



LIFE TOGETHER

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

- **Lutheranism 101** - Mondays 9am - 10am- Feel free to join us.
- **Sunday Adult Class:** Book Study "Worshiped & Glorified" a study of the Nicene Creed

- **Brown Bag Bible Study** - Brown Bag Bible Study will be February 12th and February 26th at 12pm bring a lunch. Coffee and dessert provided.

PRAYER CHAIN: Need "Links" for prayer chain - simple as phoning a friend to continue prayers. Please call 563-663-4304 ASAP! God Bless!
Karen Paar

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Days off - February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

OFFICIAL ACTS - JANUARY 2026

Baptisms: None
Junior Confirmation: None
Adult Confirmation: None
Weddings: None
Transfer In: None
Transferred Out: None
Funeral/Memorial: Lawrence "Larry" Marcue, Jr.



ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATE: The 2026 flower chart is now out in the fellowship hall. The cost remains at \$30 with payment made to St Paul and ear-marked "flowers" at the time of sign up. Put the payment in envelopes provided with necessary information filled in, and place in the offering plate. Please check if you will take after Sunday service or leave for shut ins. We continue to ask you to return the glass bowls for reuse. Questions-Charlotte Tigges 563 599 2745.



ALTAR GUILD! There is currently a great need for altar guild helpers. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested.

MARCH NEWSLETTER info is due by **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20TH**

RUTH CIRCLE: We want to remind all our church members of the greeting cards we have for sale. The proceeds from the card sales go to cleaning the Pastor's vestments and purchasing the altar linen. We have the following boxes of cards available: Graduation, Confirmation, Birthday, Anniversary, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, Wedding, and Christmas. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 5th at 10:00am.

QUILT FABRIC NEEDED!! Our Cover Girls project is in need of fabric to continue making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you personally, or if you know of someone who may have such material sitting in their closet or basement, we would appreciate putting it to good use! We could also use cotton bed sheets for the quilt backs. For questions or further information, contact Charlotte Tigges at 563 599-2745.

BOARD OF MISSION & MINISTRY

GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND: Please feel free to designate an offering to the Good Neighbor Fund to help meet the needs of our church family and neighbors in their time of challenge.

BOARD OF ELDERS

WORSHIP: We have been examining ways to make our worship more welcoming and accessible and to offer our members opportunities to serve in the church. In addition to recent changes to our policy on readers for worship, we are working to restart the altar guild and to return to our pre-COVID practice of having ushers and greeters in our worship services. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to allow members to volunteer to serve in either capacity.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION POLICY AND PRACTICE: The elders have spent considerable time during recent months seeking to understand what the scriptures suggest about faithful communion policies and practices. To this end, we have read and discussed the statement of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations on "Admittance to the Lord's Table" and have had an extensive conversation (via Zoom) with the Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann, Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Our next step will be to examine our weekly bulletin statement regarding our communion practice to see whether it can be revised to be clearer and more effective in defining our beliefs about communion, especially with an eye to how we communicate to guests in worship.

CHILD SAFETY POLICY – The Education Committee has pointed out that we really should have a policy to ensure that everyone who works with children at St. Paul has been properly vetted. Dave Kelley has been researching details for a Child Safety Policy, which is available through our insurance company. Once this is put in place, we will need to create a small group who will be charged with vetting volunteers through questionnaires and background checks.

GRIEFSHARE: No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful and long process. St Paul is again holding a GriefShare support group for people dealing with the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

At a weekly GriefShare meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned on the video. You will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process. Please join us and/or share this information with someone you know who could benefit: Tuesday evenings, February 24 - May 19, 2026 from 6-8 PM at St. Paul Lutheran, 2025 Jackson St.



For more information and to register visit <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/283674>

Notes + News from the **Board of Christian Education**



Lent and Art

February 14, 2026 from 9:30 to 11 am

Prepare for the upcoming season, as we reflect on the love of our Savior through the lens of art. Join the St. Paul family in exploring how sacred art can be a facet of our Lenten journey. This event is for all ages, no artistic ability required! See flyer for more information.

Vacation Bible School 2026

Mark your calendars for June 7-11, 2026 and journey to Rome with Paul and the Underground Church!

Have questions or would like to be involved? Connect with VBS director Brianna Fry!



DATES TO NOTE:

- **Next meeting**
February 10, 2026,
7pm, at church
- **Intergenerational Lent Event |**
Saturday,
February 14 at 9:30
am
- **Vacation Bible School |** June 7-11,
2026

Questions? Connect with Katy Crawford (katy.munson@gmail.com, 815.876.6426) or Kendra Lafrenz (kendra9897@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to be involved!

Lent AND Art



February 14, 2026 9:30 to 11 am

Art has a way of capturing our imaginations, teaching us things we might not otherwise consider. Join the St. Paul family as we explore how sacred art can be a facet of our Lenten journey, illustrating God's Word and expressing the story of Jesus' immense love for us.

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or RSVP to Katy Crawford at katy.munson@gmail.com or 815.876.6426.



FEBRUARY
Anniversaries

None



FEBRUARY
BAPTISMS

5-Alex Calonder
12-Angie Kelley
17-Lizzy Capacchione
22-Jack Thibadeau

6-Jane Kalvelage
13-Brianna Fry
17-Erin Huebschman
26-Rod Henry

7-Nicole Oliver
15-Jordan Pergande
20-Kip Weland
27-Dave Kelley



FEBRUARY
Birthdays

3-Jill Adams
16-Emmett Worden
27-Marlene Weber

3-Rod Henry
17-Erin Huebschman

15-A.J. Osterkamp
22-Diana Hattula

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN FEBRUARY

Deloris Lindsay Heather Mitchell-Key
Richard Tigges Margaret Fox

PRAYER LIST FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Mindful of the Father's great mercy shown to us in Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who are in need.

For those undergoing cancer treatment:

Roger Riechmann (father of Teri Riechmann & Sheila Zasada)
Jayme Niemeier (nephew of Dave & Sue Krause)
Raymond Kruser (brother-in-law of Dave & Sue Krause)
Zeke Pergande (son of Dan & Doris Pergande)
Mark Geothschius (brother of A.J. Osterkamp)
Toni Jo Stelpflug (niece of Doris Pergande)
Brittni Strege (niece to Richard & Kim Weed)
Rhonda Kittle (sister-in-law to Greg Kittle)
Matthew Kittle (brother of Greg Kittle)
Jerry (family friend of Richard & Kim Weed)
Kenny Stelpflug (brother of Doris Pergande)
Kevin Engler (brother of Nancy Clark, Sr.)
Dan Pergande, Debra Spear, Richard Weed, Jill Adams,
Jim LuGrain

For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Ennoble Manor), Nancy Clark, Jean Henningsen
(Sunnycrest Manor), Doris Pergande, Dusty Colby, Judy Pergande,
Jayson Eichman (Harmony), Damaris Eichman, Jan Anderson,
Dick Kokemiller (Luther Manor)

Additional Prayer Requests: None

- Joseph May (co-worker of Teri Riechmann & Nicole Oliver)

**Note: The "additional" section of the prayer list will be cleared at the beginning of each month. If you would like a name to remain on the list into the next month, please contact the church office and we would be happy to continue praying for your intention.*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2026

	Sat, Jan 31, 5:30pm	Sun Feb 1, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	Kristie Fry	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, Feb 7, 5:30pm	Sun Feb 8, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	TBD
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, Feb 14, 5:30pm	Sun Feb 15, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dave Kelley	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organists:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Wed, Feb 18, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:	TBD	
Organists:	David Pitt	
	Sat, Feb 21, 5:30pm	Sun Feb 22, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Jon Barz	Jon Lutz
Altar Guild:	N/A	Angela/A.J. Osterkamp
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Wed, Feb 25, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:	TBD	
Organist:	David Pitt	
	Sat, Feb 28, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 1, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Mark Litka
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt