

St. Paul Epistle

March
2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church

**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**
Follow us on Facebook

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

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH 2026

Mar 3	Cover Girls 9am - 11am
Mar 3	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Mar 4	Soup Supper 5:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm
Mar 5	Ruth Circle 10:00am
Mar 9	Mission Circle Meeting 6:00pm
Mar 10	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Mar 11	Soup Supper 5:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm
Mar 12	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
Mar 17	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Mar 21	Training for Ushers, Altar Guild, Greeters 9am - 10:30am
Mar 24	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Mar 25	Lenten Service at the University of Dubuque 6:30pm (NO MEAL)
Mar 26	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
Mar 30	Golden Age Euchre Club 1pm
Mar 31	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm

Lent 2026: In the Hands of the Artist

"Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7)

In our Lenten series this year, we will place ourselves in the hands of some of history's great painters as they guide us into the Scriptures. Today, we are invited to contemplate the story of our salvation through: Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery, Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c.1525-1569, Dutch and Flemish Renaissance), 1565, oil on canvas, 24x34cm, Courtauld Institute of Art, London, England



²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (John 8:2-11)

Here's a bonus piece of art. It was difficult to choose which pieces to include for Lent and I was sad to cut this one! Bruegel's choice to paint using only grayscale shifts our attention from color to contrasting tones of light and darkness. The focal point of the image is the ground in front of Christ where he is writing on the ground. The fingers in the painting point towards his words. Ironically, John's Gospel does not reveal the content of what Jesus wrote - wouldn't we love to know! Bruegel chose to have Jesus writing (in Dutch) what he said to the crowd (Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.)

The older ones were the first to leave, perhaps showing the greater wisdom. When we are younger we feel invincible. We think we can take on the world. We might even have lofty ideas about our own ability to conquer sin. As we get older and wiser, rather than feeling more self-righteous, we only grow in understanding the depths of our depravity; the desperation of our need for a Savior.

Bruegel depicts Jesus, the fount of Wisdom, with the appearance of age. Although a young man, Christ appears bent, and his face lined with compassion and care as he kneels to write on the ground. The adulteress stands taller than any other figure in the painting. She wears an expression of gratitude and relief. Jesus' words - first spoken, and then written by his followers - bring us gratitude and relief too. Who of us is without sin? Who of us stands outside our need for Jesus' wise compassion?

As fingers point to Jesus' words, we do well to ponder them carefully from every angle: Jesus points as if to say, "Listen to me. I am the Truth and you can rely on my words." The elders point as if to acknowledge, "He is right. I am not in a position to call for others to be judged more harshly than me." And the adulteress points in amazement that God can be so merciful. As we experience again God's mercy at the cross of Christ, let us marvel in gratitude and relief. He does not condemn me! I am free to go in peace. Thanks be to God!

See you in church



Pastor Jon



WITNESS

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL

Our February meeting started with prayer and bible study. We discussed the Pizza Ranch fundraiser and lined up workers. This is such an easy fundraiser and it will make us some easy money. Thank you to Roger and Martha Driscoll, grandkids Josie and Jack Thibadeau and Misty Lutz. It consists of busing tables and taking the dishes to the kitchen and vacuuming at the end of the night from 4 to 8. Our tips were \$581.26 and 10% of the night was \$311 which equals \$892.26. We plan on doing it again on May 6th and then taking a break with the busyness of the summer schedules. February mites collected was \$137.08 Thank you everyone. We will be cleaning the church in celebration of Easter services. That will be on Monday, March 9th at 6pm if anyone can come and give a hand with windows, vacuuming and cleaning pew cushions we greatly appreciate it. God bless and thank you very much, Nancy Henry



MERCY



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

Tuna	Mac & Cheese	Apple Sauce	Deodorant
Salt	Facial Tissue	Toothpaste	



LIFE TOGETHER

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

- **Lutheranism 101** - Meets Mondays from 9am - 10am in Pastor's office. All are welcome.
- **Sunday Adult Class:** Book Study "Worshiped & Glorified" a study of the Nicene Creed

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

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

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

OFFICIAL ACTS - FEBRUARY 2026

Baptisms: None
Junior Confirmation: None
Adult Confirmation: None
Weddings: None
Transfer In: None
Transferred Out: None
Funeral/Memorial: None



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.

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

RUTH CIRCLE: We need your Help. In order to keep this circle going, stop by our display of cards and stock up. We have cards for all occasions. The cost is \$1.00 per card or a box of 12 cards for \$7.00 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, March 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 the 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, March 2 - 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>

SPRING FORWARD



March 8th starts Daylight Savings.
Remember to sets your clocks ahead 1 hour.

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



Vacation Bible School 2026

Dreaming of warmer days? Mark your calendar for our evening Holyland adventure vacation Bible school, **June 7-11, 2026!** At Rome, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Paul's world.

You'll experience the heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero. God's Word comes alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games!

VBS Supplies Needed

New this year, support the ministry of vacation Bible school by donating supplies via online registry (kind of like a wedding or baby gift)! Find and purchase needed items at myregistry.com/giftlist/stpvbs2026

We're also looking to **borrow the following items:** artificial plants or vines, flameless pillar candles, indoor/artificial campfire, ring of skeleton keys.

DATES TO NOTE:

- **Next meeting**
March 10, 2026,
7pm, at church
- **1st Communion**
April 4 at Easter Vigil service
- **Confirmation**
April 12 at 9am
- **Vacation Bible School** | June 7-11, 2026

Have questions or would like to be involved? Connect with **VBS director Brianna Fry** (563.581.6773 or frybrianna@gmail.com)!

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!



MARCH

anniversaries

9-Will & Hailey Wehrspann 27-Roger & Martha Driscoll



4-Jill Adams
9-Nyx Tuomi-Litka
21-Jim Ayers

5-Kaitlyn Miller
10-A.J. Osterkamp
27-Emmett Worden

9-Leon Clauer
11-Kip Weland, Jr.



MARCH

birthdays

1-Ruth Barz
8-Richard Weed
16-Leslie Davis
18-Mark Litka
21-Shirley Calonder
25-David Oppelt, III
31-Michelle Fanter

2-Colby Lafrenz
11-Katy Crawford
16-Heyo Tjarks
18-Angela Osterkamp
22-Brandon Zasada
26-Annabelle Schaal
31-Dale Miller

8-Lauren Miller
11-Tamra Weland
17-Kathy Patton
19-Elleanna Clark-Adams
23-Hallie Oppelt
30-Bob Kalvelage

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN MARCH

Deloris Lindsay Heather Mitchell-Key
Richard Tigges Margaret Fox

PRAYER LIST FOR MARCH 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.)
Becky O'Connor (former Dubuque Lutheran School teacher)
Dan Pergande, Debra Spear, Richard Weed, Jill Adams,
Jim LuGrain

For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Jackson Ridge, Maquoketa), 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 MARCH 2026

	Sat, Feb 28, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 1, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	Kristie Fry	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Wed, Mar 4, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:		
Organist:	David Pitt	
	Sat, Mar 7, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 8, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	TBD
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Wed, Mar 11, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:		
Organist:	David Pitt	
	Sat, Mar 14, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 15, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dave Kelley	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organists:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Wed, Mar 18, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:	TBD	
Organists:	David Pitt	
	Sat, Mar 21, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 22, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Jon Barz	Jon Lutz
Altar Guild:	N/A	Angela/A.J. Osterkamp
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, Mar 25, 6:30pm	
Head Usher:	University of Dubuque	
Organist:	TBD	
	Sat, Mar 28, 5:30pm	Sun Mar 29, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Mark Litka
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt