



# St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

February, 2026

## Pastor's Notes:

### What, in your opinion, is the best way to achieve church growth?

There is only one way that the church grows, and that is by the preaching of the Word of God.

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;*

*It shall not return to Me void,*

*But it shall accomplish what I please,*

*And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)*

It was the command of Jesus Christ at His ascension that the job of the church is to preach and to baptize all nations.

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

We learn in the Small Catechism that when we pray "thy kingdom come" that we are praying for the Holy Spirit to come to us by the word of God "so that by His grace we may believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and there in eternity." The kingdom of grace, as Christ comes in this life, is a kingdom that grows by preaching, baptizing, and believing.

Personal spiritual growth comes from hearing and delighting in the Word of God.

*He shall be like a tree*

*Planted by the rivers of water,*

*That brings forth its fruit in its season,*

*Whose leaf also shall not wither;*

*And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:3)*

Christians must constantly be reading and hearing God's Word. We speak God's Word to one another, we teach our children, and we speak God's Word to people we know outside the church. It is only by the Word of God that the Holy Spirit makes more Christians.

[continued on next page]

*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*

Now there are two ways in which the Word of God has come to be preached to new people to make them Christians. The primary way the church has grown historically is by having children, teaching them and raising them in faith. This is seen in the command from Deuteronomy 6, above. Abraham taught Isaac the faith, and Isaac taught Jacob. David taught Solomon. In the New Testament, Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul tells men to teach their wives and children at home (1 Corinthians 14:35). When parents get baptized, so do whole households (Acts 16:15, 33). These “new people” who come into our lives need to be raised in discipline and taught the scriptures from a young age. Don’t think the evangelism of your own children is not important because it’s not preaching to someone far away!

The church has also evangelized their neighbors. As above in Matthew 28, Jesus commands the apostles to go to “all nations.” The book of Acts is filled with too many examples to count of evangelism toward our neighbors. These may be people whom we interact with every day and know well, who are a lot like us (Acts 3 – the apostles preached to the other Jews in Jerusalem where they resided), or people who we see seldom and are very different from us (Acts 8:26-39 – Philip preached to an Ethiopian eunuch who was traveling back from Jerusalem).

Both are necessary and commanded by God. This may or may not cause a particular congregation to grow in membership or attendance. We all have experienced that people reject the gospel, both inside and outside our own families. This should not lead us to despair. We should watch and pray and never give up, always speaking the truth in love. Remember, the church overall is always growing, as more Christians are added to the number of those on earth and saints in heaven.

*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:14-18).*

## Ash Wednesday Divine Services With Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 18

Noon and 6 pm

Potluck at 5 pm



## NEWS AND NOTES

**Manna:** Order forms are available on Sunday, February 1, orders with payment are due on February 8 and orders can be picked up on February 15.

**February Mission Offering:** MorningStar Mission

**Flower Chart:** The new flower chart for 2026 is available. The cost will be \$70 per Sunday.

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Lunch with Pastor:** The next Lunch with Pastor will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at 11 am at George's Restaurant in Lockport.

**Fellowship Event** - Please join other St. Paul's members at the Lockport American Legion, 15052 Archer Ave. on Feb. 13, anytime between 4-6pm for a FISH FRY. Baked and fried fish or chicken with fries or baked potato, coleslaw, and bread available for purchase. Nuggets for the kiddos also available. Desserts can be purchased too. Any questions please see Linda Sanfilippo or Pastor Antonetti. Hope you can join us!

**Family Lunch** – Our next family lunch will be Sunday, February 15, at Noon. We will be preparing for Ash Wednesday and Lent.

**Book of Concord** – Book of Concord study will meet Sunday, February 22 at 6 pm.

*“Cast out the old leaven...”*

Church Lenten Cleaning Day

Saturday, March 14

9-11 am

Come and help get the church  
building shiny and clean for  
Easter!





# **JONAH:**

## **MIRACLES OF REPENTANCE**

**4 Midweek Sermons for Lent**

**Wednesday Evening Prayer**

**February 25, March 4, 11, and 18**

**6 pm**

**Potlucks at 5 pm**





## *Happy Baptismal Birthday*

Kristyn Rahn	February 2
Mark Wolfrum	February 14
Allison Saxon	February 17
George Robinson	February 18
Benjamin Rohder	February 23
Richard Czimer	February 24
Ryan Bellas	February 25
Parker Bee	February 26
Pat Schoenbeck	February 26
Donna Bown	February 28
Charlyne Milligan	February 28
Lauren Wojciechowski	February 28

Natalie Rada	February 5
Donna Bown	February 6
Isabella Barmann	February 11
Alyssa Zavala	February 13
Glenn Ferrentino	February 15
Susan Johnson	February 15
Dennis Zimmer	February 17
Julie Novak	February 20
Rachel Nomura	February 23
Catherine Novak	February 24
Rachel Popadowski	February 26



February 18, 1983      Jimmie and Susan Johnson



# February, 2026 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

815.838.1832

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Septuagesima 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School 11:30am Hannah Guild meeting Manna order forms are available	<b>2</b> Candelmas 8 am Morning Prayer 6 pm Divine Service 7 pm Elders meeting	<b>3</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>4</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf./Abs.	<b>5</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>6</b> 4-6 pm Fish Fry Fellowship at American Legion	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sexagesima 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Sunday School Congregation meeting Manna orders w/ payment are due	<b>9</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>10</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch with Pastor	<b>11</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf./Abs.	<b>12</b> 9 am Circuit Meeting at St. Paul's Lockport	<b>13</b> 4-6 pm Fish Fry Fellowship at American Legion	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Trustee meeting 9 am Work day
<b>15</b> Quinquagesima 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School Noon Family Lunch Manna orders ready for pickup	<b>16</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>17</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday Noon-Ash Wednesday Service Imposition of Ashes 5 pm Pot Luck 6 pm-Ash Wednesday Service Imposition of Ashes	<b>19</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9 am Long Range Planning meeting
<b>22</b> First Sunday in Lent 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School 6 pm Book of Concord	<b>23</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>24</b> 8 am Morning Prayer	<b>25</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf./Abs. 5 pm Pot Luck 6 pm Lenten Service	<b>26</b> 11 am NICL	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>





Close up of the Lenten lectern parament

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

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