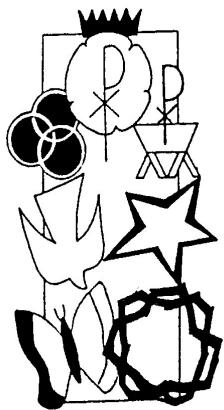


February 1, 2026

*St. Paul Messenger*

Volume 28, Issue 2

*St. Paul Lutheran Church*



*FROM THE  
PASTOR*

Have you ever used laundry detergent, stain remover or bleach? Perhaps your clothes got very dirty and you took your clothes to the laundry room for a special treatment like a stain remover or bleach. In the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord found in Mark 9: 2-3, it says, "Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them."

This lesson describes the transfiguration of Jesus. It is a special time in the Church Year. For the past weeks, we have been in the Epiphany season where we have seen the glory and power of Jesus. This event brings us to the glorious end of the season. Jesus is on a high mountain with disciples Peter, James and John. The disciples are blessed to see that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. In that setting, God the Father again speaks: "This is my beloved Son."

Words cannot describe what happened and what Jesus looked like. Mark's Gospel again shares that Jesus' appearance was brighter and cleaner than and bleach. Jesus was the perfect, holy Son of God. There was no mark of dirt or sin.

Many times, our clothes are dirty and are in need of cleaning. We are covered with the dirt and stains of our sin. Jesus, who was transfigured on the mountain, would go down from the mountain and proceed to the cross. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we begin to follow Jesus on His journey as we start the Lent season of the Church Year.

The Son of God, who was transfigured, would Himself be covered with bruises and scars in His Passion so that we might receive His brightness. Jesus' journey to the cross makes us clean from sin.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, we can't imagine what it was like to see Your glory on the mountain. Because You went from the Mount of Transfiguration to the Mount of Calvary, all who believe in You will see Your glory in eternity. Thank You for covering us in the white robes of Your righteousness as we wait for Your coming. Amen.

A Servant for Jesus,  
Pastor Kramer

## ST. PAUL SHUT-INS

We keep in our prayers the following:

### **DELORES ATKINSON—Lutheran Home**

1036 S. Perry St. #207,  
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **October 13**

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### **MARCILLE KATON— Lakes of Monclova**

6935 Monclova Rd. Room 222  
Maumee, OH 43537

Birthday: **December 19**

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### **VIVIAN OBERHAUS — Her Home**

R219 Co. Rd. 8  
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **September 21**

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Remember our shut-ins with a note, card or a visit when appropriate.

### **WINTER WEATHER POLICY—**

**APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL:**

**If Henry County is in a Level 2 or 3 snow emergency, all activities, meetings, and services are cancelled at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center.**

**Preparing Communion for February is:**

*Mike & Cheryl Mann,  
No Flowers after February 18<sup>th</sup> due to Lent*



**Providing Flowers:**

*Mike & Cheryl Mann*



# February Birthdays

William Zeiter—13  
Robert Firman—14  
Linda Braucher—16  
Carrie Zeiter—19  
Lilymae Kessler—19  
Carl Pippin, Jr.—20  
Vic Smotherman—22

Tom Kern—23  
Joshua Croninger—23  
Bruce Sonnenberg—26  
Scott Armey—26  
Mary Smotherman—27  
Ruth Swearingen—28

# February Anniversaries

Dan & Renee Meyer—7  
James & Geri Murdock—21



# February Baptismal Birthdays

Paul Bergstedt—5  
Kevin Bergstedt—8  
Debbie Hefflinger—9  
Kaden Bergstedt—21

Erv Sonnenberg—23  
Dawn Busick—27  
Alison McCullough—27  
Kathy Smith—27

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

## February 2026

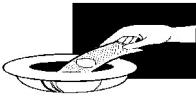
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>February 1</b>	Bill Zeiter	Tom Mohler	John Engler Seth Izor
<b>February 8</b>	Bill Zeiter	Brian Baker	Tom Kern Tom Mohler
<b>February 15</b>	Bill Zeiter	Mike Mann	Ray Carpenter Carl Gault
<b>February 18</b>	Bill Zeiter	Erv Sonnenberg	John Engler Seth Izor
<b>February 22</b>	Bill Zeiter	Tom Mohler	Tom Kern Mike Mann
<b>February 25</b>	Scott Armey	Brian Baker	Tom Mohler Ray Carpenter
February Greeters Selected			

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for February. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand by 9:30 a.m. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come to worship, and request visitors to sign the Registration -Book. If a person is unable to greet, please call Dan Seedorf at 567-694-4934, and he will see that a greeter is in place. A big **“Thank You!”** goes out to all who help to make our worshipers feel more welcome.

### February Greeters are:

<b>February 1:</b>	<b>The John Engler Family</b>
<b>February 8:</b>	<b>The Seth Izor Family</b>
<b>February 15:</b>	<b>The Bill Glanz Family</b>
<b>February 22:</b>	<b>The Bill Zeiter Family</b>

# *Stewardship December/ January*



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
<b>Dec. 17</b>	29		\$420.00
<b>Dec. 21</b>	55	48	\$1,260.00
<b>Dec. 24</b>	81	73	\$1,512.00
<b>Dec. 28</b>	38		\$1,890.00
<b>Jan. 4</b>	49	47	\$1,755.00
<b>Jan. 11</b>	53		\$1,845.00
<b>Jan. 18</b>	55	52	\$1,548.00
	<b>SUNDAY TOTAL</b>	<b>SUNDAY AVERAGE</b>	<b>COMMUNION AVERAGE</b>
* does not include Wednesday services	<b>250*</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>
			<b><u>\$10.230.00</u></b>

## Special Offerings

Basement Rent; Preschool; Door Offering; Parsonage Rent; BG Tips; BG Conc; Sem. Camp

## **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:**

**Matthew 4:7 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written.’”** Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

## BG Concessions Hockey Continues

>We have been so blessed with the concession opportunities. Currently our total income is \$9,500.29. Our tip amount is \$4,625.29, and our working pay is \$4,875.00. December & January payments are still due us. We thank and praise God for providing this opportunity for our congregation.

For hockey we need 6 each time.

### Hockey

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Game Time</b>	<b>Arrival Time</b>
Saturday, January 31	Notre Dame	6:07 pm	4:00 pm
Friday, February 6	St. Thomas	7:07 pm	5:00 pm
Saturday, February 7	St. Thomas	6:07 pm	4:00 pm
Friday, February 20	Minnesota State	7:07 pm	5:00 pm
Saturday, February 21	Minnesota State	6:07 pm	4:00 pm

PLAYOFFS begin Friday, March 6





# The Hands of the Passion

## Lent Church Schedule

Date	Service	Time
<b>February 18</b>	Ash Wednesday	7pm with communion
<b>February 22</b>	Morning Prayer	10am
<b>February 25</b>	Midweek 1	7pm
<b>March 1</b>	Divine Service 2	10am with communion
<b>March 4</b>	Midweek 2	7pm
<b>March 8</b>	Matins	10am
<b>March 11</b>	Midweek 3	7pm
<b>March 15</b>	Divine Service 3	10am with communion
<b>March 18</b>	Midweek 4	7pm
<b>March 22</b>	Prayer & Preaching	10am
<b>March 25</b>	Midweek 5	7pm
<b>March 29</b>	Palm Sunday	10am with communion
<b>April 2</b>	Maundy Thursday	7pm with communion at the
<b>April 3</b>	Good Friday	7pm
<b>April 5</b>	Easter Divine Service One	9am with communion at the

## **Music Department Preparing for Lent**

The Music Department of St. Paul Lutheran Church is working on some wonderful opportunities to share our talent for the enhancement of our Divine Worship Services.

The instrumentalists will play for Transfiguration Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. They will rehearse on Saturday mornings at 8:30 beginning February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Handbell Choir will offer special music for this service. They will assist us for the midweek Lenten Services and Maundy Thursday, as well. They will begin their rehearsals on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The Senior Vocal Choir will sing for our Easter Celebration Service Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. They will rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:30 beginning Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We praise God for richly blessing our congregation with the many musicians to offer their talents for His praise. If you are interested in any of the groups, join us as we begin rehearsing or talk to Dan Seedorf or John Swearingen, Jr.

Rehearsal times are:

Senior Vocal Choir - Sunday morning at 8:30

Instrumental Ensemble - Saturday morning at 8:30

Handbell Choir - 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays during Lent

## **Message from the Board of Evangelism**

We understand that people would like to receive the Newsletter via email. But did you know that you can also get the Newsletter on our website [www.saintpaullc.org](http://www.saintpaullc.org). While you are there you can look at all the upcoming events.

And if you would prefer to read it online, please let the office know, to save on postage.

You can also find us on Facebook, along with our preschool

**Church Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaullutheranlibertycenteroh>

**Preschool Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/st.paullutheranpreschoollibertycenter>

# FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

## LCMS Health Ministry

January is usually the month when people devote themselves to forming new habits or revisiting old ones that have gone by the wayside during the busyness of the holiday season. But New Year's resolutions, if we're being honest with ourselves, rarely get "resolved" with the start of a new year. By February, it's easy to lose our zeal. That's because we are prone to have a "sprint" mentality when the reality is that the Christian life is more akin to a long-distance race. Paul says this in Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Godliness is waking up every day remembering your baptism and walking throughout the day in baptismal grace. Godliness is self-control of body and discipline of spirit for the sake of God's name and for the good of neighbor. Godliness is having hope in the life to come while living faithfully and joyfully in the life we live now. Follow the ways and rhythms that Christ has set for His people in worship, in prayer, in community, in feasting and celebrating, and your year will be filled with the richness of Christ's good gifts. Visit [lcms.org/health](http://lcms.org/health).

## LCMS Stewardship The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.