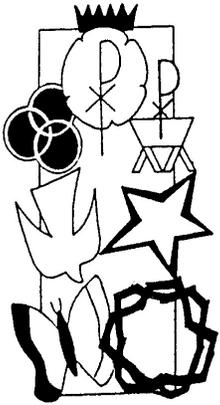


March 1, 2026

St. Paul Messenger

Volume 28, Issue 3

St. Paul Lutheran Church



*FROM THE
PASTOR*

Lambs were very common in Bible times. Abraham and other patriarchs owned lambs. Moses and David were shepherds who watched lambs.

Lambs were also used for worship. Before the children of Israel left Egypt, they were to put the blood of a perfect lamb on the doorpost, and they would be saved from the angel of death. God gave specific instructions for the sacrificing of lambs to take away the guilt of the people. As God's people confessed their sins and brought their lambs for sacrifices, God took away the guilt of their sins. Generation after generation, lambs were sacrificed. All of the Old Testament sacrifices were remembering God's promise to send the Savior who would be sacrificed for the sins of the whole world.

As Jesus begins His ministry and His journey to the cross, John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. As the Son of God, Jesus was the perfect Lamb. Jesus would shed His blood on the cross. There would never have to be another sacrifice.

When we gather for worship, we often sing a chorus called the "Agnus Dei." Those are Latin words for Lamb of God. We worship the Lamb who gave Himself for us.

We have started the Lenten season. During this season we see Jesus' cross where the Lamb gave His life for us.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, You are the Lamb of God. You are the only sacrifice that could take away my sins and the sins of the whole world. Bless us as we worship the Lamb this Lenten season, in Jesus' name. 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**

MARCILLE KATON— Lakes of Monclova

6935 Monclova Rd. Room 222
Maumee, OH 43537

Birthday: **December 19**

VIVIAN OBERHAUS — Her Home

R219 Co. Rd. 8
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **September 21**

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

MARCH

Preparing Communion for March is:

Scott & Tracy Armey

Providing Flowers:

No Flowers—Lent



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

March 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
March 1	Scott Armey	Erv Sonnenberg	Seth Izor Tom Kern
March 4 @7:00pm	Howard Kessler	Tom Mohler	Mike Mann Ray Carpenter
March 8	Scott Armey	Brian Baker	Carl Gault John Engler
March 11 @7:00pm	Scott Armey	Mike Mann	Seth Izor Tom Kern
March 15	Scott Armey	Erv Sonnenberg	Tom Mohler Mike Mann
March 18 @ 7:00pm	Bill Zeiter	Tom Mohler	Ray Carpenter Carl Gault
March 22	Scott Armey	Brian Baker	John Engler Seth Izor
March 25 @7:00pm	Bill Zeiter	Mike Mann	Tom Kern Tom Mohler
March 29	Scott Armey	Erv Sonnenberg	Mike Mann Ray Carpenter

March Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for March. 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.

March Greeters are:

March 1:	The James Murdock Family
March 8:	The Kevin Bergstedt Family
March 15:	The Tom Mohler Family
March 22:	The Dave Busick Family
March 29:	The Shelby Gibson Family

Stewardship January/February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
January 25 <i>No Church service</i>	0		0
February 1	42	41	\$3,105.00
February 8	56		\$1,667.00
February 15	46	43	\$1,455.00
	SUNDAY TOTAL	SUNDAY AVERAGE	COMMUNION AVERAGE
	144	48	42
			\$6,227.00

Special Offerings

Seminarian Camp; Retirement National Financial; Parsonage Rent; BG Tips; Gideons; BG Conc; Herb Elling Memorial; Preschool; Giving Fridge.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Did Jesus really need the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

BG Concessions Season comes to an End

The 2025-2026 BG Concessions season has come to an end. It has been a very beneficial project financially and socially. There is a special friendship among the workers, and God has used us to develop friendships among customers, as well. Currently our total income is **\$15,581.40**. Our tip amount is \$6,506.40, and our working pay is \$9,075.00. February payments are still due us. We thank and praise God for providing this opportunity for our congregation.



Save the Date

The yearly Chicken BBQ will be held on Sunday, April 26th. The donations sheet will be posted the first Sunday in April, but if you would like to donate charcoal, now is a good time to find bargains on it. If possible please purchase Kingsford charcoal in the blue, white and red 18 lb bag. This charcoal burns more even and longer. If anyone is interested in helping that day please talk to Carol Carpenter. There are many jobs available and it is a fun day for fellowship with one another. May God Bless this endeavor.



The Hands of the Passion

Lent Church Schedule

Date	Service	Time
March 1	Divine 3	10am with communion
March 4	Midweek 2	7pm
March 8	Matins	10am
March 11	Midweek 3	7pm
March 15	Prayer & Preaching	10 am
March 18	Midweek 4	7pm
March 22	Divine 4	10am with communion
March 25	Midweek 5	7pm
March 29	Divine 1 Palm Sunday	10am with communion
April 2	Divine 2 Maundy Thursday	7pm with communion at the rail
April 3	Good Friday	7pm
April 5	Divine 3 Easter	9am with communion at the rail

Music Department Enhances Our Lenten Services

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 Handbell Choir offers special music for the midweek Lenten Services and Maundy Thursday, as well. They rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Senior Vocal Choir will sing for our Easter Celebration Service Sunday, April 5th. They will rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:30.

The clarinet duet helped us worship on Transfiguration Day, February 15th. We will be hearing more clarinet music after Easter. They practice Saturday mornings at 8:30.

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.saintpaulc.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/saintpaulclutheranlibertycenteroh>

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

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

LCMS Family Ministry

Visit lcms.org/family to find free family devotional and prayer resources to help make devotions and prayer a family habit. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

Many Christians give something up during Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up everything when He came down to earth to die and rise for us. Lent is a time where we remember our sin, repent and focus on Christ's suffering for us. In this time of reflection and repentance, instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, it can also be helpful to add something into our lives. These verses from 1 Thessalonians tell us to “pray without ceasing” and to “give thanks in all circumstances.” One habit that could be helpful to focus on is prayer. As a family, you can start developing this habit by finding times to pray together such as before meals, before bed or whenever works best in your family's routine.

LCMS Stewardship

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 “We Praise You, O God.”

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tributes we bring. We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; Through trial and tempest our guide You have been. When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us, And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

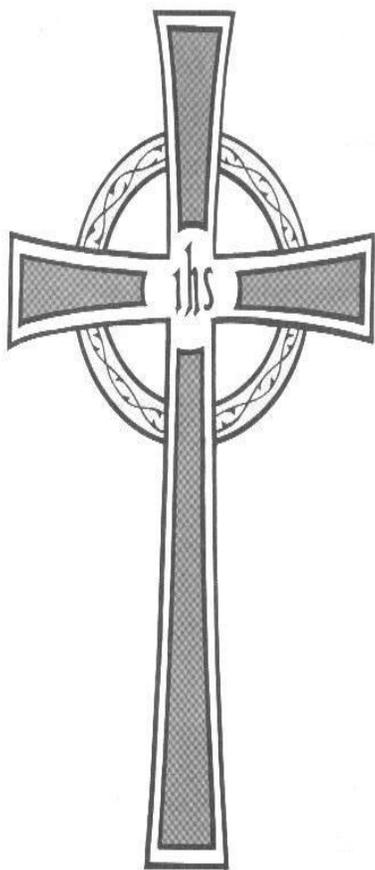
With voices united our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

*St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church &
St. Paul Lutheran Pre-school
8074 County Road T
Liberty Center, OH 43532
Phone: (419) 533-3041*

Don't forget to set your clocks
an hour ahead on March 8th

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*The
St. Paul
Messenger*



Pastor Charles Kramer
Phone: 567-277-1339
Email: pastor@saintpaulc.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church
8074 County Road T
Liberty Center, Ohio 43532

Church & Pre-School Office
419-533-3041

E-mail Addresses:
office@saintpaulc.org
preschool@saintpaulc.org

Website:
www.saintpaulc.org

Divine Service
10:00 a.m. 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
& Festival Sundays

**Matins & Morning Prayer,
Service of Prayer & Preaching**
10:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Every Sunday

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING US TO ASSEMBLE THIS NEWSLETTER:
MARILYN SONNENBERG, LORETTA SEEDORF, DAN SEEDORF, KAREN BERGSTEDT