

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent



# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026*

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

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**GUEST PREACHER SUSAN BALSTAD:** Sue is serving as a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) part time at Kingo in Fosston and Fridhem in Lengby. This is her second time providing pulpit supply, so please extend that trademark Lutheran grace to her.

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE**

**OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

**The word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

**Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

**We worship the Lord our God alone.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace. Let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven! Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

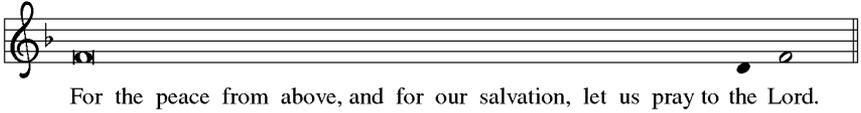
**GREETING (p. 203)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

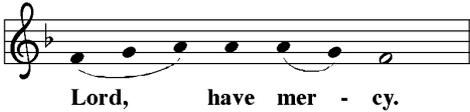
# KYRIE (p. 138)



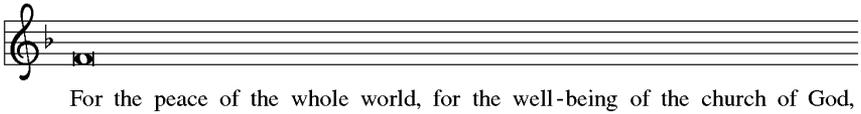
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



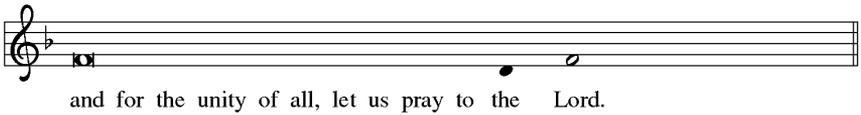
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



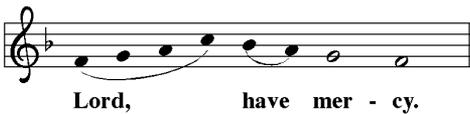
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



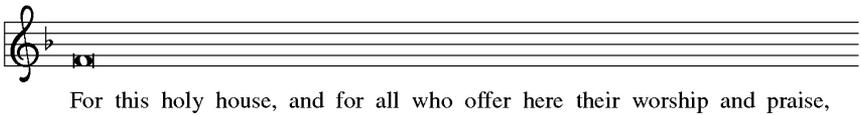
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



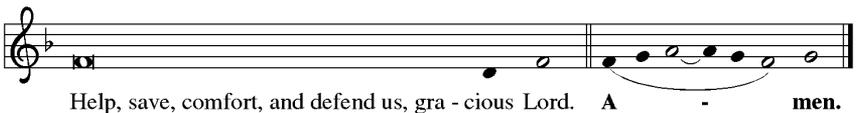
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Wild God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC St Paul's Choir "Medley of the Cross"

### First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (CEB)

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. <sup>16</sup> The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; <sup>17</sup> but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!"

<sup>3:1</sup> The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees <sup>3</sup> but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'" "

<sup>4</sup> The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! <sup>5</sup> God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

### Psalm: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you  
in time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you  
should go;**

**I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19 (CEB)**

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup> Just as through one human being sin came into the world, and death came through sin, so death has come to everyone, since everyone has sinned. <sup>13</sup> Although sin was in the world, since there was no Law, it wasn't taken into account until the Law came. <sup>14</sup> But death ruled from Adam until Moses, even over those

who didn't sin in the same way Adam did—Adam was a type of the one who was coming.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift of Christ isn't like Adam's failure. If many people died through what one person did wrong, God's grace is multiplied even more for many people with the gift—of the one person Jesus Christ—that comes through grace. <sup>16</sup> The gift isn't like the consequences of one person's sin. The judgment that came from one person's sin led to punishment, but the free gift that came out of many failures led to the verdict of acquittal. <sup>17</sup> If death ruled because of one person's failure, those who receive the multiplied grace and the gift of righteousness will even more certainly rule in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> So now the righteous requirements necessary for life are met for everyone through the righteous act of one person, just as judgment fell on everyone through the failure of one person. <sup>19</sup> Many people were made righteous through the obedience of one person, just as many people were made sinners through the disobedience of one person.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*Before:* The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 (CEB)**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup> Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. <sup>2</sup> After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “It’s written, *People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*”

<sup>5</sup> After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, <sup>6</sup> “Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.*”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*”

<sup>8</sup> Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*” <sup>11</sup> The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

*After:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON: “The Word, Bread of Life from Heaven”**

**HYMN: 480 O Bread of Life from Heaven**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED (p. 105)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered**

**under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **OFFERING**

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

**Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**Offering Prayer: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gifts of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May the steadfast love of God surround you throughout these forty days and into everlasting life. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 624 Jesus, Still Lead On**

### **CHARGE**

Worship the Lord; serve only God. **Thanks be to God.**

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

## PRAYER LIST

### **For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:**

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Dale Knotek	Nash Erdman	Barb Erdman
Mark Peterson	Lenny Devos	Glorryne Casmeay
Lucile Torkelson	Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee
Kari L Trudeau	Stuart Hanson	Bev Montieth

**For our missionaries:** Steve & Kelly Solheim  
City of oy Rwanda

**For our servicemen:** Brandon Johnson      D.J. Brace

***Please keep them in your prayers this week.***

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, [marianbakken@gmail.com](mailto:marianbakken@gmail.com).

## MISSION

### To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)

[facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

Phone: 218-281-3638

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Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

### THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Usher

Bruce and Betty Arvidson

Scripture Reader

Betty Arvidson

Acolyte

Lyla Oman

Altar Guild

Ingrid Remick

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Anna Peterson

Livestream

Anna Peterson

Fellowship

CYF (Rolls!)

### MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM

**The Wonderful March Service Team is ready to go! Please sign up on the bulletin board form; the sooner the better. Thanks so much! 😊**

Jeffrey and Ingrid Remick

Carol Chaffee

Dwain and Kirsten Fagerlund

Kathy Normandin

Richard and Denise Niemela

Cole and Kelli Bertils

Mark and Anna Peterson

Thank you, February Worship Team, for serving this month!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Gen. 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

John 3:1-17

**Readings for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm**

**Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: [facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)**

### ***Sunday, February 22***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am  
3:00 pm**

### ***First Sunday in Lent***

**Adult Bible Study NO SS  
Worship  
Fellowship  
Community Movie, "Soul on Fire"**

### ***Monday, February 23***

**8:30 am  
5:30 pm  
6:30 pm**

**LWR Quilting  
CYF meeting  
Church Council meeting**

### ***Tuesday, February 24***

**7:00 am  
7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship  
AA**

### ***Wednesday, February 25***

**5:15 pm  
6:30 pm**

**Lenten Supper  
Lenten Worship**

***Ezra-Nehemiah Bible Study following worship.***

**7:00 pm**

**Choir Practice**

### ***Thursday, February 26***

### ***Friday, February 27***

**Church office closed Pastor's day off**

### ***Sunday, March 1***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

### ***Second Sunday of Lent***

**SS/Adult Bible Study  
Worship and Communion  
Fellowship**

# WEEKLY FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

## Our Response to God's Love

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Attendance: 63**

### **Our gifts towards Budget:**

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,959.72
Loose Offering	\$ 23.51
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$ 50.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 20.00

### **Other (non-budget) Receipts:**

Improvement Fund	\$ 35.25
Improvement (Thrivent Choice Dollars)	\$ 200.00
Solheim Mission (TCD)	\$ 100.00
WELCA Mission and Quilting (TCD)	\$ 655.00

<b><u>Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:</u></b>	\$4,675.42
<i>Total received towards Budget</i>	\$4,063.23
<i>Total (non-budget) Receipts</i>	\$ 990.25
<i>Total Received</i>	\$5,053.48

**The parsonage siding fund is \$24,985.63. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of the siding fund, and all your financial gifts each week!**

The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from February 1<sup>st</sup> or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

## WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS 5:15 PM

<b>Feb. 25:</b>	<b>Baked Potato Bar</b>	St. Paul's Youth
<b>March 4:</b>	<b>Taco in a Bag</b>	Parish Fellowship
<b>March 11:</b>	<b>Pulled Pork</b>	CYF
<b>March 18:</b>	<b>Chili and Cornbread</b>	Choir/Worship/Music
<b>March 25:</b>	<b>Quilters</b>	Soup and Bread

## WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30 PM

<b>February 25:</b>	Returning from Exile (Ezra 1:1-11)
<b>March 4:</b>	Laying the Foundation (Ezra 3:8-13)
<b>March 11:</b>	Facing Opposition (Nehemiah 4:1-6, 15-2)
<b>March 18:</b>	Confession and Covenant (Nehemiah 9:1-3, 32-38)
<b>March 25:</b>	Reading the Word and Celebration (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>March 29: Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday School/Worship/Easter Egg Hunt
<b>April 2: Maundy Thursday</b>	6:30 pm Worship/First Communion
<b>April 3: Good Friday</b>	6:30 pm Worship
<b>APRIL 5: EASTER</b>	10:00 am Worship/Communion

## SPECIAL MESSAGES

### LENT/HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVERS

The Lenten season began last week on Ash Wednesday. The congregation is encouraged to participate in worship services during this valuable time of the year for Christians. Please visit the bulletin board to sign up for serving during Lent as well as Holy Week. Thank you very much if you have already, and thanks to all for your time and dedication!

**\*\*Lenten Devotional books** are available to pick up from the table in the Fellowship Hall.

## LENTEN SUPPERS

The Parish Fellowship Committee gives thanks to everyone who has committed to serving one of the upcoming Lenten suppers. In the Bible, "breaking bread" refers to the act of sharing a meal, symbolizing deep fellowship, unity, and covenantal relationship among believers. It signifies a practical act with profound spiritual meaning, referencing The Lord's Supper and joyous fellowship meals in the early church. A big THANK YOU TO ALL!



## ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S BOOK READ

Our next Book Read group will meet on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Our March book is, "*Everything is Tuberculosis*," by John Green. Ingrid will lead and Amy Ellingson will host.

## SAFE-HOME SURVEY

The Crookston Fire Department is offering a Safe Home Survey, where they will come and check to see if your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are in good order. Call 218-281-4584 to set up an appointment.

## PERSONAL CARE KITS

WELCA invites you to help with Personal Care Kits. During Lent we will be collecting new or gently used lightweight bath towels. (Sizes 20" x 40" to 52" x 27,"") and bars of soap, (3-4 ounces.) Donation collection is in the Fellowship Hall.

## UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN CHOIR TOUR

The University of Jamestown is coming to the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception as part of their Choir Tour. They will perform on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

## HOME DELIVERED MEALS

St. Paul's will be doing Home Delivered Meals, March 30 – April 3, Holy Week. What a privilege for us to bless the homebound with a bit of holiness during this important week! More information to come!

## MOVIE NIGHT AT THE CHURCH

The Fellowship committee is hosting a movie event for everyone **TONIGHT!** Come and gather to watch “Soul on Fire” at 3:00 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. This incredible and inspiring story of John O’Leary, who at 9 years old suffered burns over **100%** of his body, highlights themes of triumph, faith, and community support.

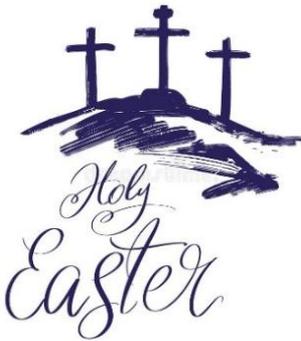


\*\*Invite anyone and everyone. 😊

## COMING IN 2026

### Mark Your Calendars

As we look ahead to the new year, we invite you to mark these important dates in your calendars:



### February - March

- **Lenten Season** Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for suppers and a transformative Lenten journey with our theme. **“Rebuilding:**
- **A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal,”** as we explore powerful themes from Ezra and Nehemiah.

### Holy Week & Easter

- **Sunday, March 29:** Palm/Passion Sunday
- **Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday
- **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday
- **Sunday, April 5:** Easter

### May

- **Sunday, May 3:** Confirmation—celebrating our 9th grade confirmands.

*We look forward to worshipping, learning, and growing together in the year ahead!*