



MARCH EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

MARCH 2026



The Psalms

Jill George, Principal

The Psalms are a rich scriptural source for reading, singing, meditating, and praying. They give voice to the very things we, as Christians, need—confession, lament, praise, and trust. Through them, we are invited into deep personal reflection and reminded that, with true repentance, our gracious God forgives our sins.

This focus on repentance is especially meaningful during the Lenten season. Lent is a solemn, forty-day penitential season that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (excluding Sundays). During this time, Christians are called to examine their sinful nature, confess their sins, and recognize their deep need for God's grace. Fittingly, one of the appointed Old Testament readings for Ash Wednesday is Psalm 51, which provides a clear and powerful example of heartfelt repentance.

In Psalm 51, we witness King David coming before the Lord in profound sorrow after his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and his plot to murder her husband, Uriah. His words are a desperate plea for mercy and cleansing. David acknowledges that only God can forgive sin, purify the heart, and restore a right relationship with Him. The psalm makes clear that true repentance flows from a broken and contrite heart—not from outward ritual alone.

This passage powerfully reminds us that God's grace is greater than even our most grievous sins and failures. There is no sin you have committed, or ever will commit, that can separate you from your Father when you come to Him in humble repentance, seeking His forgiveness.

For this reason, Psalm 51 encourages us—especially during Lent—to practice regular meditation on God's Word. As we read the Psalms, we remember that the Holy Spirit works through the Scriptures to guide, teach, and sanctify us. We not only read God's Word; we dwell on it, delight in His statutes, and commit ourselves to remembering His promises.

In the quiet of the morning, before the busyness of the day begins, may you be blessed by time spent reading and meditating on God's Word. Through it, the Holy Spirit continues His work in you—shaping you as a child of God, strengthening you to live by His grace, and equipping you to serve faithfully in your vocation in response to all that He has done for you.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

Psalm 51:1-4



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Reformation Anniversaries and Opportunities for Growth

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:6–7, ESV)

Many of you may recall that we celebrated the 500th anniversary of "The Reformation" back in 2017. For all Christians, but especially for Lutherans, 500th anniversaries of significant events have continued. For example, last year was the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's marriage to the former nun, Katherine von Bora. 2025 was also the 500th anniversary of the "Anabaptist" movement, a theological position—then and now—with which Lutherans have significant disagreement. Last year was the 500th anniversary of the first use of Luther's "German Mass." The theology behind that missionary effort continues to encourage some—and confuse others—to this day. This year, 2026, the United States celebrates its 250th year of independence. A key aspect of American common life—religious freedom—can remember a significant historical precedent was set 500 years ago when—in the wake of the Lutheran Reformation—the "Diet of Speyer" gave German princes the right to establish the religion of their own territories.

This year our school faculty, the elders, and our circuit pastors are reading "The Ten Commandments" in Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*, which was published in March 1529, 497 years ago. As I've mentioned previously, it had been a little while since I spent any significant time in the *Large Catechism*. I shouldn't be surprised, but as Pastor Schockman and I lead the faculty and elders through this, and as the circuit LCMS pastors study it together, we are rejoicing in how solid, relevant, and important the *Large Catechism* is. We are all reading from the larger book of The Lutheran Confessions published by Concordia Publishing House in 2006, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions. A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord*. (I recommend this version for everybody.) Though not a part of the original text, I'm thankful for the additional Biblical references that noted in brackets. The pastors, elders, and faculty are noticing that we're seeing "[Deuteronomy 6:7]" quite a bit.

As we have entered the Church's season of Lent—and our congregational meditation on the verses in the *Small Catechism's* "Table of Duties"—the verse quoted above reminds us of how important God's Word is for each one of us and the blessing that comes from meditating upon it. Please join us for the services, and take up a disciplined, prayerful and penitential Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Ash Wednesday
18 February, A.D. 2026

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Thank God for all missionaries 50¢	2 Temperature above 32? Yes-25¢ No-15¢	3 Deposit all pennies from pocket or purse today	4 10¢ for each button you are wearing today	5 Sunny today 25¢	6 Took a walk today Yes-20¢ No-30¢	7 Perpetua & Felicitas* Martyrs 30¢
8 Daylight Saving Time Late to church? Yes-\$1 No-25¢	9 5¢ for each text message received today	10 Giving Tuesday Any amount	11 5¢ for each pencil in your home	12 10¢ for each cup of coffee today	13 TGIF Any amount	14 5¢ for each phone call you made today 25¢
15 Thank God for family & friends 50¢	16 Snow on the ground? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	17 Patrick* Missionary to Ireland 50¢	18 Attended church today? Afternoon-15¢ Evening-20¢ None-30¢	19 St. Joseph* Guardian of Jesus 40¢	20 First Day of Spring 25¢	21 10¢ for each piece of mail received today
22 Pray for our Government leaders 40¢	23 5¢ for each person you prayed for by name today	24 Baked today Yes-15¢ No-30¢	25 The ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD 50¢	26 10¢ for each color you are wearing today	27 Color of your hair Blonde-20¢ Brown-30¢ Silver-40¢ Other-50¢	28 10¢ for each family birthday in March
29 Thank God for blessings received \$1	30 Read a book today? Yes-15¢ No-20¢	31 Joseph* Patriarch 40¢	*Commemoration Days			

MITEs MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available. *Commemoration Days are examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by transfer from another LCMS church

Zachary & Krista Zellmer – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grafton, WI
David Wangerin – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Released to another Lutheran Church

Lynn Pelnar

Deaths

Jean Fisher
Marilyn Marohn

Baptized 2035 Confirmed 1251



Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

Information about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: splyouth.group@splco.org
- Instagram: splyouthocon

March Events

† March 1	High School Youth Group	7-8:30pm
† March 8	High School Youth Group	7-8:30pm
† March 15	High School Youth Group	7-8:30pm
† March 22	High School Youth Group	7-8:30pm
† March 29	Deliver Easter Food Bags	11:45am (meet in lobby)
	ALL YOUTH MINI GOLF	1pm



March's Hymn of the Month: *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

(number 422 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

Although we usually think of this as a very short hymn, it began as the middle stanza of a twenty-nine stanza hymn by Thomas Kingo. The entire hymn was first published in the official hymnbook for Denmark and Norway 1699, included in a set of twenty hymns on Christ's Passion. Several of the other stanzas remain in use among Danish and Norwegian Lutherans, but this is the only one that found widespread use in English.

In the complete hymn, the stanza just before this one recalls the title Pilate placed on the cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." This verse however, suggests a more personal inscription, "Jesus crucified for me," as it centers on Christ and His crucifixion to save each of us. Like the ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday, it is a reminder that we are God's children who have been marked with His cross in our baptisms and that not even death can separate us from Him.



Anyone interested in helping to tie 40+ quilts on Saturday, March 7th, at 9:15 am following *Women of Joy* Bible Study is welcome to come. No experience needed. Bring a scissors and helping hands!

Did you know that the SWD LWML publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Mission Lamp*? In it you will find important information on all LWML events, Grant updates, and functions of the district LWML. You can access the information at www.lwml-swd.org. The latest newsletter features pictures of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Rose Parade Float which several women from our district participated in decorating. More information for next year's trip by Luther Tours is included in the article.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, March 3rd, at 6:00 pm in room 219. Remember your MITES!

Sisters in Service

Ladies, when you think of March, what do you think of? Lent? The beginning of spring? March Madness? St. Patrick's Day? Well, Sisters in Service hope that you are also thinking about attending our next meeting on Thursday, March 5th, at 5:30pm! Please join us (make sure to remember to invite a friend to come with you) and those cute little leprechauns for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. Oh, and by the way, you might just learn a thing or two about Moses' mother, Jochebed, that night!



The Lenten meals will be served prior to our evening midweek Lenten Worship services. The meals will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00-6:15pm for a free-will offering. Below are the dates of the meals.

Wednesday, March 4th: Sponsored by the Lord's Cupboard

Menu: Taco Bar

Wednesday, March 11th: Sponsored by *Women of Joy*

Menu: Spaghetti dinner

Wednesday, March 18th: Sponsored by the Board of Elders

Menu: Soups, sides, desserts & refreshments

Wednesday, March 25th: Sponsored by the St. Paul's Faculty

Menu: Chili

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1st
Brian Ewald
Peggy McClintock
Chip Zastrow

March 2nd
Sandra Reddelien

March 3rd
Louis Hickenbottom

March 6th
Darlene Adams
Sheila Rams

March 7th
Peter Radulovich

March 8th
Diane Gartzke
Sue Lindemann
Dianne Thompson
Vicky Tudor

March 9th
Duane Peterson
Dale Weber

March 11th
Ruth Jaeger
Michael Rankin
Ron Schneider

For our members 70+ years

March 13th
Richard Allen

March 14th
Truman Seifert

March 15th
Laurel Poytinger

March 16th
Karen Marquardt
Yvonne Schuetz

March 18th
Mark Baganz
Carol Lenz

March 19th
James Holzhueter

March 20th
Gerri Zwieg

March 24th
Ann Duggan
Connie Schneider

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
 262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
 Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am
 Bible Class 9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 262.567.5001 x217
 Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216
 Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214
 Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213
 Website: www.splco.org

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
 Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
 & www.wtkm.com
 Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
 Director Christine Flores 262.567.4881
 Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
 2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
 ANY ADDRESS CHANGES



MEMORIALS

Delores Schultz \$25.00

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC
210 E. Pleasant St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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Love golf?

We are reaching out to all golfers with the opportunity to create a new Golf League for members and friends of St. Paul's.

Whether you're a scratch golfer chasing a club championship or a weekend warrior, this league is designed for anyone who loves the game. Our goal is simple: to create a league where competitive spirit meets great fellowship and camaraderie.

End your week, or start your weekend with our Friday 9-Hole League at Kettle Moraine Golf Club.

League rounds start after 5:00 p.m. beginning Friday, May 8th, and concluding Friday, August 28th.

Sign-up fee is \$125.00 per person for the season, with weekly League rate at \$16.00 walking, additional \$10.00 per person with a cart, per round.

To start this league, we will need a minimum of 24 players. If we field enough players, we will have an intro league meeting in mid – April.

If interested, or with questions, please contact Kevin Osterndorf @kosterndorf@wi.rr.com