



Saint Paul's  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**MARCH 2026 EPISTLE**

*Lent:*

A Season  
of Preparation

**MARCH 2026**

## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ELIZABETH**

**Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,**

The month of March finds us in the midst of the Lenten Season. I pray that your Lenten disciplines, whether you gave something up or took on a spiritual practice, are giving you time to have a closer relationship with God and your faith.

This year, I invite you to join me around the conference table or on zoom during the Wednesdays in Lent for Bible Study beginning at 6:00 pm. This year we will be looking at a bible study entitled, "Amazing Love". It focuses on the hymn "When I Survey the Wonderous Cross" written by Issac Watts in 1707.

We will end the night with a service of Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. Please consider making Wednesday night part of your Lenten devotions as we journey toward the cross together as a congregation this year.

Please mark your calendars for Holy Week and plan to join us for worship. Palm/Passion Sunday is March 29, marking Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday, April 2, and Good Friday, April 3, are the beginning of The Great Three Days. These services are meant to build upon each other. With the great celebration on Easter Sunday, April 5 this year!

**Wishing you a blessed Lent!**

*Peace and Blessings,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings*

God knows our  
hearts, the **guilt** we  
carry, the **heartache**  
that keeps us awake,  
the **burdens** we bear.

All In: Words for Worship  
"Confession and  
Forgiveness"



# MARCH 2026

## ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:

We of St. Paul's Lutheran Church believe in God's grace given to us freely. We are called to faithfully follow God's Word, sharing in the good news of this grace. We are to be God's hands helping those in need—those we know, and those we do not know.

When we say, "Here I am Lord," we express our desire to become disciples of Christ, accepting the mission to do what is asked of us. Our prayer on this journey is to walk with faith, to love one another, to share God's love and to be the hands of God.

## MARCH GOSPEL READINGS

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 1st:  | John 3:1-17                                |
| March 8th:  | John 4:5-42                                |
| March 15th: | John 9:1-41                                |
| March 22nd: | John 11:1-45                               |
| March 29th: | Matthew 26:14-27:66<br>Passion/Palm Sunday |



**MARCH 2026**

**Wednesday Evenings in Lent...People of Light Bible Study**



We continue our five consecutive Wednesday evenings of Bible Study during Lent, which started on February 25th. Please join Pastor Elizabeth for Bible Study at 6:00 pm followed by a liturgy service of Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

**The Wednesday Get-Together Group** will be starting up again on March 4th at 10:00 AM sharp. All are welcome!!

Looking for new members to come join us and bring any ideas you may have or items you think we might like to copy.



**FULLY WRITTEN ARTICLES FOR  
THE APRIL EPISTLE are due by  
MARCH 24TH.**

Please send your article to me  
exactly the way you would like it  
to appear at:  
[office@stpaulswethersfield.org](mailto:office@stpaulswethersfield.org)

Thank you!  
Lorraine Gianakos



We will be planning for another meaningful year of Outreach in helping our community, state and county. The Outreach program at St. Paul's has been made possible by a bequest from Harold and Vernal Schnabel who were long time members of our church.

The Outreach Committee will host it's first meeting of the year on Sunday, March 15th following worship service. We look forward to seeing you there.



# MARCH 2026

## ST. PAUL'S EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

### FLOWER PRICES

We are looking forward to once again having our memorial garden in the church on Easter Morning. This year the cost of the plants is as follows:

- Tulips - \$14.00 each**
- Daffodils - \$13.00 each**
- Easter Lily Single - \$15.00 each**
- Easter Lilies Double - \$17.50 each**

Please write on your order form your plant selection of Tulips, Daffodils and/or Lilies and the number of each. Forms will also be available at church or in the weekly email.

**Orders and payment must be in by March 30th.**  
Please contact Deb Howe if you have questions.  
Thanks!



## 2026 EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN - PLANT ORDER FORM

Please print name(s) exactly as you want it (them) to appear:  
Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

### FLOWER PRICES:

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tulips (\$14.00 each)               | Number of Plants _____ |
| Daffodils (\$13.00 each)            | Number of Plants _____ |
| Easter Lilies Single (\$15.00 each) | Number of Plants _____ |
| Easter Lilies Double (\$17.50 each) | Number of Plants _____ |

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders and Payment need to be in the church office by March 30th.**

The following are options for your selection:

Take Plant Home \_\_\_\_\_

Donate Plant for our Homebound \_\_\_\_\_



## *Altar Flowers*

You may now sign up to provide a beautiful arrangement of altar flowers for Sunday Worship for only \$25.

We are hoping to see the natural beauty of flowers grace our Sanctuary more frequently. The hope is that the reduction in cost will allow for members to participate more often.

The sign up sheet is on the whiteboard. For anyone who wishes to have two arrangements or share with someone else, the cost will remain \$50.

Please indicate this when you sign up: one bouquet (\$25), two bouquets (\$50).



**Our Food Pantry needs for March 2026 are:**

**Coffee, Canned Soups,  
Canned Tuna, Spaghetti  
Sauce, Mac-n-Cheese and  
Ramen Noodles**

MARCH 2026

# **HELP WANTED!!**

## **Cookie Walk & Bake Sale**

**WHO: FAITHFUL BAKERS**

**WHAT: A VARIETY OF COOKIES  
& BAKED GOODS**

**(WE HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF BROWNIES  
FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR)**

**WHERE: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH  
9 AM - 1 PM**

**WHY: TO BENEFIT ST. PAUL'S  
FOOD PANTRY**

**Sign-up Sheet on Whiteboard!**

**MARCH 2025**

## **HOLIDAY FAIR ITEMS WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN 2026**

**Here are a few items that we'd like to have for our next Holiday Fair:**

### **Wanted - Jewelry**

By popular requests, we are hoping to have a **Jewelry Booth** at the Fair again.

After having this popular booth for many years, we lost Jeanette Serafine when she moved to Florida so we did not have this booth.

There is a special box marked "Jewelry" on the shelf in the "coat room" for your donations. Some ideas are:

Earrings, necklaces, tie clips, cuff links, bracelets,  
Rings, jewelry box, very small mirrors and vanity sets.

**Thank You - Judy Lundin**

We are also looking for the following craft supplies for our **Inspiration Garden : Tea cups and saucers with a flower motif, (2) small circle grapevine wreaths, blue yarn, and wooden thread spools.** If you have any of these items, you can contact Joy Hansen at:

(Joy at 860.930.0865, [jihansenhome@gmail.com](mailto:jihansenhome@gmail.com))

**Thank you - Joy Hansen**

MARCH 2026

# BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH



Jesus replied,  
“You do not realize now  
what I am doing,  
but later you will understand.”

**John 13:7**



# MARCH 2026

**2026 PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEB. 22ND  
THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CAME AND  
TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS TOO!!**



# MARCH 2026

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - March THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

### MARCH 1st:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Jerilyn Roy  
READER: Joan Kratzer  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia  
ALTAR: Matt Perry  
COUNTER: George Hoew  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen

### MARCH 8th

ASSISTING MINISTER: NAME  
READER: NAME  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia  
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker  
COUNTER: Judy Gerken  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME

### MARCH 15th:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen  
READER: Jerilyn Roy  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia  
ALTAR: Carol Bruce  
COUNTER: Heather Christenen  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME

### MARCH 22nd

ASSISTING MINISTER: NAME  
READERS: NAME  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia  
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe  
COUNTER: Mary Procyk  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME

### MARCH 29th—Passion/Palm Sunday

ASSISTING MINISTER: NAME  
READERS:  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia  
ALTAR: NAME  
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME

# MARCH 2026

| SUN  | MON | TUE   | WED   | THU                                     | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| <p>1 2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP</p>   | 2   | 3   | <p>4</p> <p>Wed. Get-Together Grp 10 AM</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Evening Prayer Svc.</p> <p>CHOIR 7:45 pm</p> | <p>5</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00</p>  | 6   | 7   |
| <p>8 3rd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP</p>   | 9   | <p>10</p> <p>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG 4:30 PM</p> <p>PARISH ADMIN MTG 6:30 PM</p>  | <p>11</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Evening Prayer Svc.</p> <p>CHOIR 7:45PM</p>                                    | <p>12</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00</p> | 13  | 14  |
| <p>15 4th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP</p>  | 16  | <p>17</p> <p>5:30 pm Property Mtg.</p> <p>COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM</p>  | <p>18</p> <p>Wed. Get-Together Grp 10 AM</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Evening Prayer Svc.</p> <p>CHOIR 7:45PM</p> | <p>19</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00</p> | 20  | 21  |
| <p>22 5th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP</p>  | 23  | 24  | <p>25</p> <p>6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Evening Prayer Svc.</p> <p>CHOIR 7:45PM</p>                                    | <p>26</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00</p> | 27  | 28  |
| <p>29 Passion/Palm Sunday</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP</p> | 30  | 31  |   |   |     |     |

# MARCH 2025

**PASTOR:**

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings  
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

Lorraine Gianakos  
office@stpaulswethersfield.org

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:**

Melissa Cheyney  
missycheyney@yahoo.com

**SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Rupparr  
arupparr@sbcglobal.net

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Office Hours -

Tuesday — Friday

9am — 1 pm

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