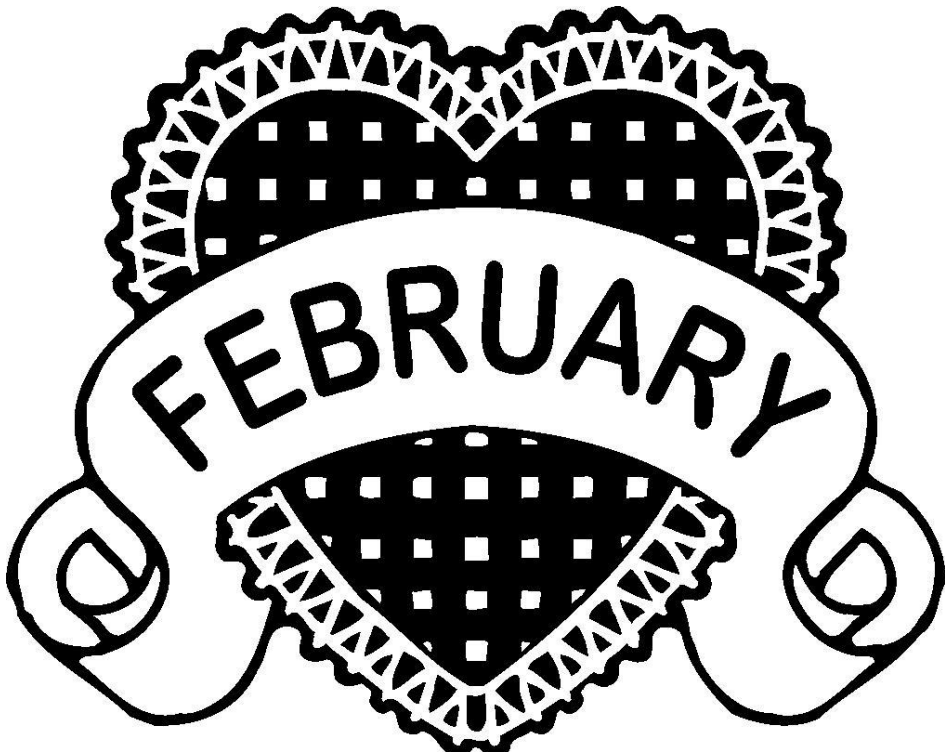


# The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

***February 2026***



*Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.*

## From Pastor Lori

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I think it's safe to say that most of us don't like change. Yet the Bible repeatedly calls us to celebrate the new, to welcome the new, to be encouraged by the new and to even to become new.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth, "If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17) How often I yearn for that new person to be realized, but at the same time, I cling to my old, broken person. Do you?

In the last book in the Bible, John shares God's revelation of a "new heaven and new earth...a new Jerusalem coming down from heaven..." (Revelation 21:1-3) We are invited to be a part of this new kingdom. To play a role in helping it become real here in our midst. What an invitation! But still we yearn for what we know, because that new kingdom will demand that we change. Our aversion to change can be a significant stumbling block to our embracing of the new that God is bringing in and around us.

During our midweek worship this Lent, we will explore the role that change plays in our lives and faith. Please join us on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the narthex for a Midweek Lenten Series called: Making Change. (please note that the time of worship has changed!) Services will be held on February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

I have no doubt that God is doing a new thing in our midst. The question is...will we embrace the new that God is doing in and through us?

*Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lori*

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

*~Martin Luther King Jr.*

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## ***Faith Formation***

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### **Lenten Faith Formation**

This Lent we will explore the parables Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal. We will discover how these table stories illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am starting **February 22nd** and on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am starting **February 25th**. You choose the day that works best for you!

Contact Pastor Lori if you are interested in attending this study or if you have any questions about Faith Formation at St. Paul's.

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## ***Social Ministry***

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### **Hunger Offering for February**



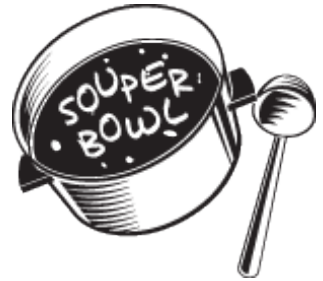
*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in. Matthew 25:35*

**Hunger Offering** Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry and hurting people who live in the Penn Yan area and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to a local organization to help them "nourish" people physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local portion will be given to **Milly's Pantry**.

Your offering can be placed in the offering plate or mailed directly to church. Please designate the amount you want to give on the "Hunger" line of your envelope or by writing "Hunger Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

## Souper Bowl

The Super Bowl Sunday is February 8, 2026. From now until then we will be collecting hearty soups for The Sharing Shed. Vote for AFC or NFC by bringing soup. Bring beef soup to vote for the AFC team and chicken soup to vote for the NFC team. If you don't have a favorite team you may bring Vegetable soup. Place the soup on the Social Ministry table under the correct sign. Let's see how many cans we can collect for The Sharing Shed. Thank you.



## Sharing Shed

The Sharing Shed continues to serve our neighbors with the many items which you provide. Your generosity continues! Thanks be to God!

**Please continue to donate the following throughout the month of February:** Large boxes of cereal; cocoa, fruits, soups of all kinds; snacks; personal hygiene products; and cleaning supplies. Everything is needed, accepted, and taken each time The Shed is filled!

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# ***Worship***

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## **February News from the Pews**

The month of February continues with February 8 being the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. On February 15th we will celebrate **The Transfiguration of Our Lord** and the burying of the Alleluia banner. We will not hear or sing the Alleluias again until Easter.

**February 18** is Ash Wednesday and we begin our journey into the season of Lent. We will worship together on **Ash Wednesday at 7:00 PM** and receive the ashes, hearing the words "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**February 22** is the first Sunday in Lent. You will notice some changes in our Worship Liturgy during the entire Lenten season. Our Gospel readings will be from the Gospel of John rather than the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel Acclamation will be hymn 811 from the ELW: "*On My Heart Imprint Thine Image.*" We will sing verse four of "*When I Survey the Wonderous Cross*" for the Offertory Hymn. The closing Litany will be a responsive reading. The Worship and Music Team hopes that you are hearing the hymns you requested sung on various Sundays. Continue to let us know if there are other favorites you would like to sing during worship.

"Come Worship the Lord for we are his people." Thanks be to God! Amen

*"all my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true, God unknown, God alone, call my heart to be thine own."*  
ELW 757

## Lenten Devotionals

Lenten devotional materials are available on the information table in the narthex.

## Midweek Lenten Services

One of the things we can count on in life is change. Whether it's welcomed or unexpected, change can be hard, especially when we find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and the unknown. Join us on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm for a midweek Lenten series called, Making Change. We gather around the cross in the narthex to explore through scripture, prayer, hymnody and reflection the many ways God is with us during the changing times of life. Services will be held on Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

## Worship Leadership

	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22
Assisting Ministers	██████████	████████████████████	██████████	████████████████████
Ushers (2)	██████████████████		██████████████████	
Greeters	██████████			
Readers	██████████	██████████	██████████████████	
Altar Guild				
Sound Board	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Computer	██████████████████	██████████████████	██████████████████	██████████████████
Counters	██████████████████	██████████████████	██████████████████	██████████████████

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# Congregational Care

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## Winter Weather Updates

When the weather is questionable or if a travel advisory has been issued by the National Weather Service/Sheriff's Department, worship will be cancelled for that Sunday.

## Church Directory

Church directories are a wonderful tool for contacting other members. The 2026 Directory is now available on the table in the narthex. Please reach out to Jennifer if you'd like an electronic version.



## "Shower" Each Other with Messages of Love



Each month, we "shower" someone from our St. Paul's family with messages of encouragement. This month we are showering

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please take a moment to send Carl a note to remind him of God's faithfulness and love.

## Memorials

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

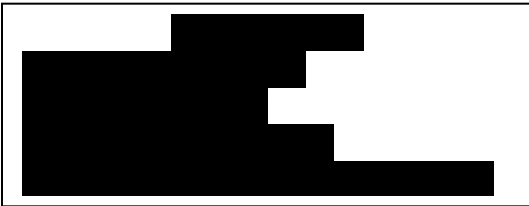
## Sweet Treats Coffee Hour

Please join us for a Sweet Treats Coffee Hour following worship on Feb 15th. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the church office if you would like to bring a treat to share. We look forward to seeing you there for good food and fellowship. *The Parish Life Committee*

## Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Please join us for a Palm Sunday Coffee Hour following worship on March 29. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the church office if you would like to bring something to share. We look forward to seeing you there for fellowship! *The Parish Life Committee*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



## Check Out the Puzzle Shelf!

If you're looking for a way to help pass the cold hours of winter, check out our puzzle shelf in the fellowship hall, which has been relocated to the white shelving unit next to the back door. We have a large assortment of puzzles ranging from 300 – 1000 pieces. Feel free to take one home and either return it to church for someone else to use or pass it on to a friend. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

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# ***Reminders***

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## **Prayer Requests in Public Places**

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

**CHURCH  
OFFICE  
HOURS**



## **Office Hours**



## **Key Policy Update**

The key code will be changed in March. Check the announcements for an official change date. Jennifer will be sending out an email to those who the change would apply to. Please let her know if you think you should have received this email, but did not. Thank you.



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## ***Community Events***

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### **Community Prayer Service**

Join us on Tuesday, February 4th 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service. The theme is Seeking Compassionate Hearts.

## Volunteer Want Ads

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers  
[REDACTED]

### **The Living Well**

Various opportunities to support the programs that serve adults and children in  
[REDACTED]

### **Penn Yan Community Café**

Help prepare and serve meals to the community on the second and last Tuesday of every month.  
[REDACTED]

### **Yates Christmas Program**

Provides a program to ensure that no child in Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts goes without during the holiday season. Donate items, help distribute items, bell ringing  
[REDACTED]

### **Literacy Volunteers**

Volunteer to tutor, help as an office volunteer. Literacy Volunteers serves both native English speakers and those learning English as a second language. Tutoring is done in English, no foreign language skill is required. Tutors receive free training and ongoing staff support as they work one-on-one with learners. Office volunteers provide a variety of support to staff. [REDACTED]

# Thank You Notes

Lutheran Church members,  
As a result of your fine and energetic  
bell ringing on December 19<sup>th</sup> at Morganz,  
The Yates Christmas Program raised over \$400!  
The program served 174 children and 279  
families for this year's Christmas.  
Thank you for your continued support.  
Cindy Turner, Volunteer Coordinator

Families across Yates County  
will have special memories  
to cherish  
because of your generous gift  
to the  
Yates Christmas Program.

Thank you.

Hi St Pauls Lutheran Church, *Joe*

We wanted to thank you for your \$500.00 donation that you made on 12/31/2025.

Because of your generosity, neighbors throughout Yates County are finding hope in the midst of food insecurity. Your gift helps ensure that shelves are stocked, meals are prepared, and families don't have to choose between paying a bill and putting food on the table.

Every Grab-N-Go meal, every bag of groceries, and every perishable pantry restock is made possible through the compassion of donors like you. Together, we are meeting immediate needs while reminding our community that no one has to face hunger alone.

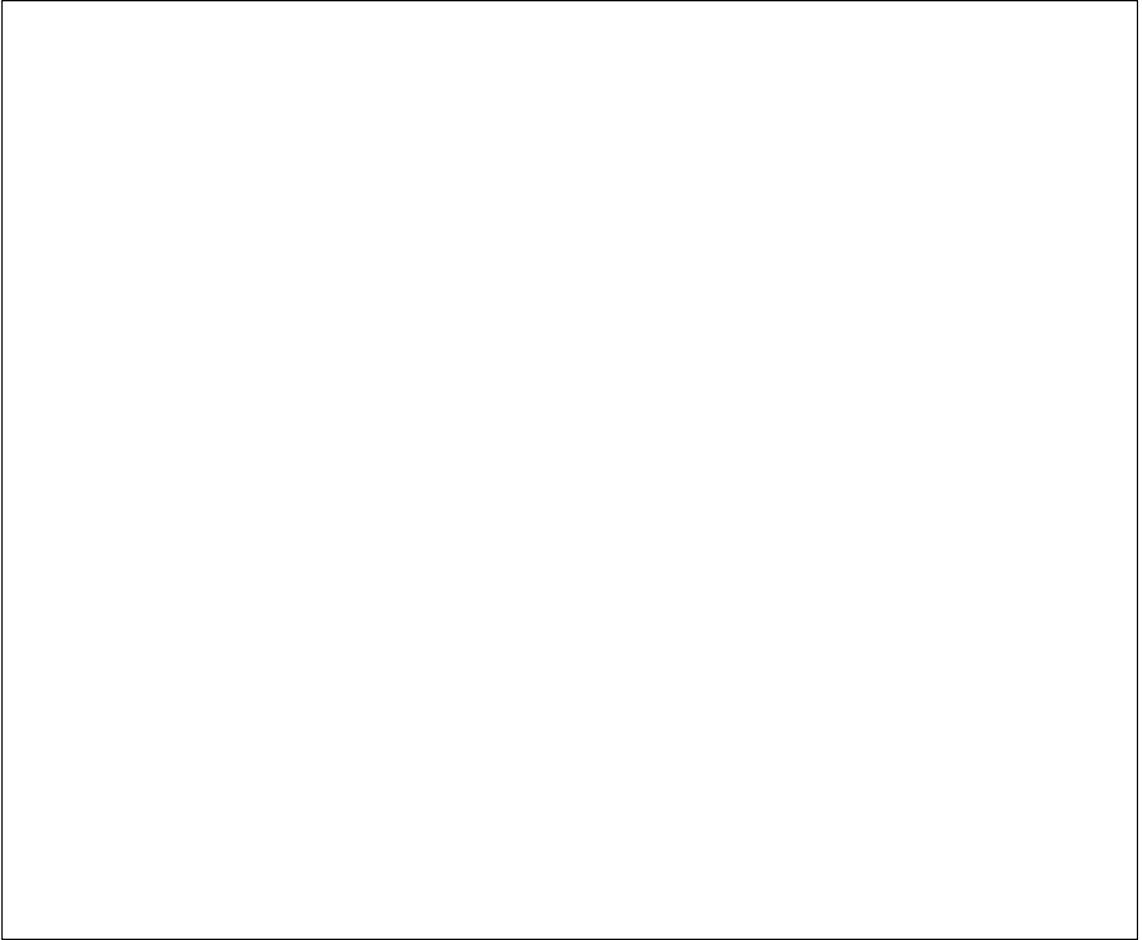
Thank you for partnering with The Living Well Mission to nourish bodies and uplift spirits. Your kindness is helping build a healthier, more resilient Yates County—one meal at a time.

With gratitude,

*Sandi*  
Sandi Perl  
The Living Well Mission  
sandi@thelivingwellmission.org  
5-536-0838

*Thank you for  
sharing your light!  
Happy new year!*

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**



**NEWS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2026 EPISTLE IS DUE FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**