

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

March 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'd like to share prayer with you as we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter. May we be open to the ways the Spirit is growing and forming us during this sacred season.

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Lori

Catch Me in My Scurrying by Ted Loder

*Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my feet to the fire of your grace
and make me attentive to my mortality
that I may begin to die now
to those things that keep me from living with you
and with my neighbors on this earth.*

*Catch me in my mindless scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my spirit in the beacon of your grace
and grant me light enough to walk boldly,
to feel passionately,
to love aggressively;
grant me peace enough to want more,
to work for more
and to submit to nothing less,
and to fear only you...
only you!*

They might not run into a church building but they could run into you.

~saltandlightwords

Church Council News

Core Value – Connectivity

Connectivity, the fifth of our Core Values, connects us all together as one. We are called to be connected both within and outside of the church through Generosity, Service, Hospitality, and Worship.

During the months of March and April, Council hopes to connect the members of St. Paul's with each other in three specific ways.

The first of these three will be asking each and every member to have their picture taken for a church bulletin board to be constructed in the hallway entering the Narthex. This is a large twist on the old picture directory we once had. It is the goal of Council to have 80% of members' pictures on this "Wall of Disciples", helping us all become more familiar with each other.

The pictures will be taken by Council Members on March 15th and 22nd.

Zoom photos will be collected by Kristen Houle.

The second way we are connected as a Congregation is by fellowship events. Coffee hour, brunch church, and special festival potlucks are ways we gather in fellowship and enjoy friendly conversation with each other. Council is hoping with the help of our committees and individuals to have at least one coffee hour a month for all to gather and enjoy. If asked, the Parish Life Team will help in any way they can.

Thirdly and a very exciting way that Council is hoping will connect us all during worship and other events is by upgrading the present sound system. This upgrade will help those on Zoom to participate more in our worship services in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall as well as helping everyone to hear better in the sanctuary. This project is underway as you have received your letter about it and the upcoming meeting is scheduled for Feb 22, 2026. How encouraging this will be for all to hear and participate in worship as one.

Let us join together in exploring Connectivity as we have explored our other Core Values of Worship – Service – Generosity – Hospitality becoming stronger disciples at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Faith Formation

Lenten Faith Formation

Join us this Lent as we explore the parables Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal and discover how they illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am starting **March 8th** and on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am starting **March 4th**. 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.



Social Ministry

Social Ministry Meeting



Social Ministry will be meeting **March 10th at 10:00 AM** at the church. We will be planning the next few months. Bring your ideas to the meeting. Anyone who is interested, please join us.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS and STOCKERS

Along with suppling goods for the Sharing Shed, we need people that are willing to do the shopping. We also need people willing to sign up on a weekly basis to stock the shed. If you are interested in doing either of these things you can contact Ingrid or Jewel for more details.



Hunger Offering for March

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



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 **The Sharing Shed**.

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!

Grab and Go

Grab & Go continues to provide 60 lunches for the Living Well every **second & fourth Thursday**, of the month. We have 3 workers cooking in our kitchen on those Thursdays, as well as a clean-up person, and a delivery person. People have been providing food items for the ingredients needed for the main dish, as well as apples & cookies. They have these items here at church by noon on the Wednesday before cooking day. Thank you to everyone who is so generous with their time to prepare these meals, & to everyone who provides food for these meals. The Living Well is very appreciative of our contribution to this ministry!



Sharing Shed

Please help stock the Sharing Shed shelves this month with **protein foods**: canned chicken, tuna fish, small canned hams, Spam, and thick winter soups. Family size boxes of cereal are also needed. Thank you for your continued generosity.





Kit Assembling

We will be assembling personal care kits and baby kits for Lutheran World Relief in March and April. Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board.

Worship

March News from the Pews

The Season of Lent is upon us. The paraments are now purple and the altar area is covered with the purple Lenten tent. Our Gospel readings for the Lenten season will be taken from The Gospel of John. We continue to have an Old Testament reading as well as a responsive reading of the Psalm. Some of our liturgical pieces have changed for this season and will become more familiar as we sing them each week.

Mid-week Lenten services will be held in the Narthex around the large wooden cross at 12:15 PM for five Wednesdays beginning February 25. The Worship and Music Team hopes that this time will accommodate more folks rather than an evening time. The theme of these services is "Making Change".

EASTER FLOWERS will be ordered with the money collected at Christmas that was not used. Your generosity continues to help beautify the sanctuary for festival Sundays.

Sunday March 22 will be a Brunch Church Sunday and **March 29 will be celebrated as Passion Sunday** in the sanctuary.

Looking Ahead: Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3) services will both begin at 7:00 PM.

Come worship together during this Lenten season as we prepare for Easter.

Lenten Devotionals

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



Lenten Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Series

March 4 th	Change of Habit	12:15 pm
March 11 th	Change of Circumstances	12:15 pm
March 18 th	Change of Heart	12:15 pm
March 25 th	Change of Plans	12:15 pm



H O L Y W E E K

Holy Week

March 29 th	Passion Sunday	10:00 am
April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
April 3 rd	Good Friday	7:00 pm
April 5 th	Resurrection Sunday	10:00 am

Worship Leadership

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
Assisting Ministers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ushers (2)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Greeters			[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Readers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Altar Guild		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sound Board	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Computer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Counters	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

Congregational Care

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.

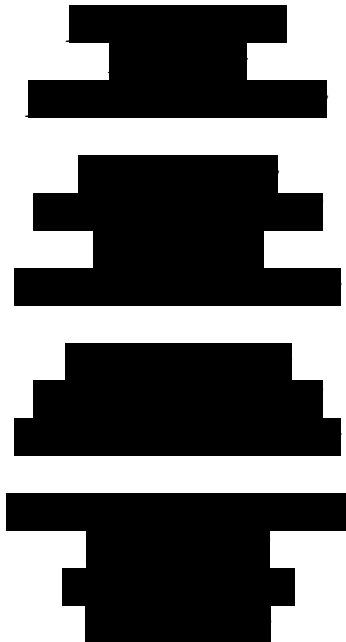


"Shower" Each Other with Messages of Love



Each month, we "shower" someone from our St. Paul's family with messages of encouragement. This month we are showering [REDACTED] [REDACTED] His address is: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Please take a moment to send Paul a note to remind him of God's faithfulness and love.

Memorials





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*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries

No anniversaries are listed for March

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.

Reminders

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.

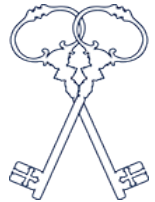


Office Hours

Jennifer is in the office on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Be sure to check the announcements for any changes.

Key Policy Update

The key code will be changed March 1st. [REDACTED]



Don't forget to Spring Forward on Sunday, March 8th



Community Events

Community Prayer Service

Join us on Tuesday, March 4th 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service. The theme is, seeking God on our Lenten Journey.

Message from The Living Well

Dear Servant Leaders of Christ

This letter is to inform you that I have resigned as the Executive Director of the Living Well Mission effective June 1, 2026. This is a decision Dave and I have been discussing since last summer. I have a great deal of peace with this decision.

God has blessed me with each of you and your congregations for the last 13 years. Your dedication to prayer, mission outreach, various collections and financial support has been a gift. The Well is a success because of each of you and your congregations.

I do not have any great plans and will continue in ministry at Yatesville UMC. I trust God to show me a new path in the days and months ahead.

The Wells Board of Directors is working their way through the hiring process. Please include them in your prayers.

Please feel free to share this with your congregations.



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 need in our community.
[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]

NEWS FOR THE APRIL 2026 EPISTLE IS DUE MARCH 20TH