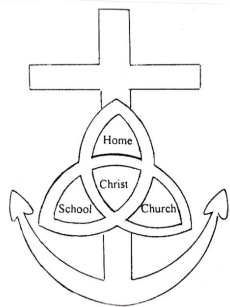


ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2026



Building Relationships
in Christ

St Paul Ev Lutheran Church

1415 Tenth Ave
Rochelle IL 61068
Ph: 815-562-2744

Church Email:

[churchoffice@stpaul](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org)

rochelleil.org

Website: stpaullev.org

Pastor

Rev. Michael Gudgel
Marcia Schnorr, DCM

Parish Nurse

After hours: 562-6823

St. Paul Lutheran School

Ph: 815-562-6323

Steve Hall, Principal

School Email:

office@stpaulrochelleil.org

Website:

stpaulrochelleil.org

JOIN US!

In person at

6:00pm Saturday
or 9:00am Sunday



OR

FacebookLive
At 9:00 am

OR

WRHL Radio
1060AM
At 10:00 am

Or

93.5 FM

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wasn't here for Ash Wednesday last year or the year before that or the year before that. But I know God was, and I know He was blessing those of you who were here in previous years.

I also know that He was with us on Ash Wednesday of this year, blessing us with an attendance much higher than expected. ("Quick, hurry, someone go run off more bulletins! And make sure we have enough wine for Communion!") I give glory and thanks to God for all of you who were here for worship on Ash Wednesday. And I give glory and thanks to God for all of you who will attend during the season of Lent.

Lent is a time to be intentional about our spiritual disciplines – spending more time in prayer, in reading God's Word, and in worshiping our Lord and Savior. Easter is always more meaningful when we have walked through a meaningful Lenten season, and Lent is always more meaningful when we take time to fix our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 can be translated in this way: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." At all times – and especially in Lent – we are called to have eyes that are not fixed on our problems and pain, but on the One who endured all the pain of our problems. Christ endured the cross, scorning its shame, and opened up for us a world in which there will be neither problems nor pain. So, let us fix our eyes on HIM.

A Christ-centered focus leads to great blessings, including perseverance in the faith. Right after Hebrews 12:2 comes this verse: "Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Eyes fix on the crucified Christ go hand-in-hand with souls that do not lose heart. We don't give up. We don't give in. We keep going with eyes fixed on HIM.

Our Wednesday Lenten services will be calm and peaceful services of Evening Prayer, and they will lead us into the holiest week of the year. I expect to see God blessing us during Holy Week. The attendance bump we saw on Ash Wednesday could also be seen on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. It gives me great joy to think about what's coming: many packed pews on both Good Friday and Easter!

On those days, we will experience the joy of looking into the eyes of the Man who loves us more than anyone could. His eyes will close in death (and so will ours), but His eyes will reopen in the resurrection (and so will ours). Thanks be to God for worship and lives that are fully fixed on HIM.

In Christ-centered Peace,
Pastor Gudgel

Lenten Season

Our Lenten series is “The Last Words of Jesus from the Cross”.

1. “Father, forgive them”
2. “Today you will be with Me in Paradise”
3. “Behold your son! / Behold your mother!”
4. “Why have You forsaken me!”
5. “I thirst”
6. “It is finished!”
7. “Into Your hands I commit My Spirit!”

Lenten Worship 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25
all at 6pm

Maundy Thursday 4/2 6pm

Good Friday 4/3 6pm

Easter Sunrise 4/5 6:30 am

Easter Celebration 4/5 9am

Monthly Mission Offering

This month our Monthly Mission Offering will be designated to the ministry of “**Lutheran Bible Translators,**” on the weekend of **March 14 & 15.** Baskets will be provided for your loving and special gift as we pray for this ministry as it helps provide the Word of God in the languages of many peoples, some who have never heard of the Good News of Jesus.



For more information on Lutheran Bible Translators, please go to <https://lbt.org/>

Auction



Mark your calendars for this year's Jane Reineck Crusader Dinner and Auction being held on Friday, April 17th with the theme “Make a Joyful Noise”. There will be a Ralfie's BBQ pulled pork sandwich dinner from 5:00-6:30. The meal price is \$10, and tickets will be available for purchase the last weekend in March. The evening will also include both a silent and live auction. Hope to see you there for this night of fellowship and fundraising to support the school ministry!



It was nice to see the turnout for the congregational meeting last month. I am grateful that most of the Board and Council openings were filled. Just remember that if you wish to serve in one of the unfilled positions you do not have to wait until next year's election. You can be appointed to a 1 year term. Please see Pastor or myself.

Blessings,
Bob Mortimer 312.316.6519

Thrivent Matching Funds

Are you a Thrivent member? It is time to designate your Choice Dollars. Please take the couple of minutes it takes to make your designation by going on their web-site or by calling 1-800-847-4836. If you aren't sure if you are eligible, please call the 800 number or contact your Thrivent rep. It is an easy process and we appreciate your donation. The deadline for releasing your 2025 dollars is March 31, 2026.



If you are planning on attending an accredited college or trade school and are an active member in good standing, we have some undergraduate scholarship that you might be interested in. Applications and more information can be





Michelle Jozefowicz		3/1
Abby Metzger		3/1
Lela Pemberton	80	3/2
1107 N Third St		
Gary Schabacker	84	3/3
1326 Highland Rd		
Marilyn Murphy	85	3/4
1329 Northlake Ct		
Brinley Belmonte		3/6
Glen Mehrings		3/6
Katie O'Rorke		3/8
Wendy Horn		3/9
Eric Schulz		3/11
Angela Stewart		3/12
Patrick Pauser		3/13
Gerald Wistrand	93	3/15
1079 E Wilson St Apt 2202 Batavia IL 60510		
Jace Metzger		3/15
Charles Cole		3/17
Colton Rowley		3/20
Kate Friestad		3/20
Steve Chappa		3/24
Janet Sarver		3/25
Bob Hay	92	3/27
Liberty Village rm 317 2203 E Flagg Rd,		
Maggie Niemi		3/28
David Mayer		3/30
Brandon Svela		3/30
Brooklyn Sarver		3/31
Don Kosterman		3/31

Anniversaries

M/M Bruce Johnson		3/5
M/M Mike Hayes		3/9
M/M Bill Pemberton		3/28
M/M David Mayer		3/31

If we missed your important day or have it listed incorrectly, please call the church office (815.562.2744)

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

March 1	9:00 a.m. Liturgical w/Communion
March 4	6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
March 7	9:00 a.m. Liturgical w/Communion
March 8	6:00 p.m. Liturgical
March 11	6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
March 14	9:00 a.m. Contemporary
March 15	6:00 p.m. Liturgical w/ Communion
March 18	6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
March 21	9:00 a.m. Liturgical w/Communion
March 22	6:00 p.m. Liturgical
March 25	6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship
March 26	2:15 p.m. Thursday Fellowship Worship
March 28	9:00 a.m. Contemporary
March 29	6:00 p.m. Liturgical w/Communion

E-Mail Addresses Needed

There's only one additional newsletter that will be mailed out. If you didn't get today's newsletter by email, **either we don't have your current email or have it listed incorrectly.** Please turn in your email address to the office or send it in to churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org. Announcements and notifications as needed will also be sent out this way. A small number of newsletters will be printed for those who don't have email addresses. Call Julie in the office if you have any questions..

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

WRHL 1060 AM—7:30am Sundays

March 1	"The Fifth Act"
March 8	"What Was the Price on That"
March 15	"No Command from the Lord"
March 22	"Meeting You Where You Are"
March 29	"Dime Sized"

Join us for our 9:00am Sunday service or listen to our broadcast on WRHL(1060AM) or (93.5 FM) at 10a.m. It is also on Facebook Live at 9:00am.

Worship Anew

Comcast channel 138 on TLN—11:30am Sundays

March 1	"Land, Legacy, and Life!"
March 8	"Living Water"
March 15	"Eyes That See"
March 22	"Is, Not Was"
March 29	"Do You Understand?"

April Newsletter Deadline

March 15

Please turn your items in by the deadline.

Thanks!

The Parish Nurse's Notes:

Dear St. Paul Family and Friends,

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love... (Psalm 25:6)

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions... (Psalm 25:7)

If you are like many people (including me), there are some things we never seem to remember—and other things we never forget. When we forget things we “should” remember, we may brush it off—and blame dementia. But, if we are observing these symptoms in a loved one, we may either “explain” the memory lapse away or secretly fear that it is dementia.

The February meeting of the NID-LCMS Parish Nurse Network provided a wonderful update on dementia for the parish nurse to use while helping worried family members navigate the needs of a loved one with dementia. If you need an update or some caregiving skills, please stop in the office and I will be happy to discuss these with you. The focus of this brief health letter is to consider the difference between normal aging, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia.

Normal Aging is the natural process that everyone experiences as they get older. Mild changes in memory include occasionally forgetting names or appointments. It may take longer to process information, but you can still learn new things. There is no major impact on daily life. You are still able to be independent.

Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a condition where cognitive decline is more than expected for age, but not severe enough to have a significant effect on daily life. There are noticeable memory problems, forgetting important events or conversations. The person has difficulty with complex tasks such as managing finances or planning. People with MCI can still live independently. It does not necessarily progress to dementia. It is more common in people who are more isolated and lack social stimulation. (St. Paul has several group opportunities for worship, education, fellowship and /or service. Any of these will provide healthy sensory stimulation.)

Dementia is a group of symptoms caused by brain diseases that lead to significant memory loss and thinking problems. Severe memory loss disrupts daily life. The person has difficulty communicating or recognizing people. They have trouble with problem solving and performing familiar tasks. There are mood and/or behavioral changes. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, but it is not the only form.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me. I will be happy to assist you.

In His Service, **Marcia (Marcy) Schnorr, -EdD, MS, RN-BC (DCM-Parish Nurse)**

Parish Nurse Office Hours remain Monday through Friday mornings 8:00-11:30 unless noted otherwise. You may also call Marcy at home (815-562-6823) at other times. If she is not home, please leave a message. It will be returned at the earliest possible time.

The Senior Special will be on Friday, March 6 at 10am with Wendy Horn presenting her experiences hiking the Appalachian Trails. Light refreshments will be swerved. There is no charge. Bring a friend.



People have asked when Marcy will give a presentation about her recent mission trip to Ethiopia. Plans are underway to have Rev. Dr. Tilahun Menedo (CEO of Master Builders Center and LCMS pastor) be with us May 30 and 31 to provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities in Ethiopia. Marcy will have a comprehensive display related to her experiences at the same time. Watch for more information. For now, mark your calendars.

The Monthly Outreach to Lincoln Manor will be on Thursday, March 5th at 2pm. This group is short and small—but growing. Anyone who wishes to participate is invited to join us in the activity room. For more information, contact Marcy.

OK Club will meet Friday, March 13 at noon at Church The Bible study/devotion will be from *Devotions for the Chronologically Gifted*. A few Irish limericks will be shared in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day. If you wish to participate, please contact Evelyn Hintzsche at 815-562-4668.

A Senior Outing will be by carpool on Tuesday, March 17th leaving the church parking lot at 11:30am for lunch at the Village Bakery in Oregon. This is simple, but a favorite for several of our seniors. We have a pleasant drive in the country, enjoy a pleasant lunch, and can encourage and support the Village of Progress. If there is interest, we also sometimes stop at Merlin's Greenhouse and Boutique and/or the Oregon Soap Factory. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marcy by March 12 so sufficient drivers can be arranged.



When God's the baker, every bite is a blessing!

Senior Supper Club will meet Friday, May 20th at 5:30pm at Grubsteakers. The Bible study/devotion will be from *Concordia Primary Studies* (1930) followed by a simple activity based on Hot Cross Buns. If you wish to attend, please contact Dave Stewart at 815-973-4938.



Spring Cookie/Bake Sale sponsored by the seniors of St. Paul will be before and after both worship services on March 21 and 22. All proceeds will be donated to the Frieda Pickereign and Jane Reineck Scholarship Fund. Donations of cookies or other baked goods are appreciated. Nothing is priced, so donate what you can and take what you want. Thank you for considering this worthy cause.



Thursday Worship and Fellowship Service will be Thursday, March 26 at 2:15pm. This service is especially for those whose health concerns make attending a regular weekend service difficult. Pastor Gudel will provide an abbreviated service with communion. Marcy will be available to assist with any health-related concerns and provide a time for fellowship after the service. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact Marcy a few days ahead and every effort will be made to locate a driver.

OK Club will meet on Friday, March 27 at noon at Culvers. Following the discussion from *Devotions for the Chronologically Gifted*, we will participate in a simulated Palm Sunday Parade". If you wish to participate, please contact Evelyn Hintzsche at 815-562-4668.

Join us during this season of Lent.



WOW Bible Study

The WOW Bible Study group will be starting a new



study in March and invite you to join us. The study is "Measured by Grace: How God Defines by Grace". WOW meets the second and fourth Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the overflow room. If you would like to join us or have any questions, please talk to Susan Duffy (815) 440-3221 or call the church office.

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=☼	H=☼	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=●	E=+	I=*	N=↑	R=●	U=☐	Y=☞
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☞

Mt. Hermon ☐ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ * ★ ☼

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☼ ☺ ★ ☼ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ☼ ☐ ○ ■ ☞ ☒ * ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast ☼ ● + + ☞ ☞



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

St. Paul Lutheran School

“Putting Faith in Education”



Thoughts from the Principal...

I will miss him.

When I got to St. Paul in 2017, I was welcomed by the people of St. Paul with open arms. It was a blessing that I will never forget.

One of the people who made me feel so welcome was Pastor Hoffmann. I remember walking into his office on my first day. I had met him previously as I had attended church at St. Paul a few times before I had received the Call to serve here. Having only briefly met him, I certainly didn't know him, and so I was a little nervous when I walked over to his office that day. He was a large, impressive man, and so I had a little trepidation that morning.

How silly that trepidation turned out to be. What I encountered was a kind and loving man who was happy to see me. He was a true “gentle giant”. I remember that we talked for quite a while, and what struck me is that he was genuinely curious about me, my family, my ministry, etc. He didn't know me at all, but he wanted to. It wasn't about him. Rather he made it about me.

As I served with him until his retirement, I can't remember even one time that he was anything but kind to me. He was never in a bad mood. He was always happy to see me. And it was genuine. During the summers that I was cutting the grass around the St. Paul property, he would often bring a plate of food out to me on the lawnmower. His little granddaughter would play peek-a-boo with me as she looked out the various windows of the house while I was mowing around the parsonage.

Pastor Hoffmann is in heaven now. He truly was a gentle man who exhibited kindness and gentleness in the way he lived his life. He was always faithful to his Lord.

I will miss him.

Steve Hall; Principal

Thank you to those who helped with the St. Paul basketball tournament. I really appreciate it!



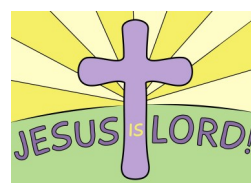
K-4 Choir Sings in church March 8th

Our annual Curriculum Fair is scheduled for March 19 from 6:00-8:00pm. Academic displays and musical presentations highlight the evening. All are welcome!



The school will be closed March 22-26 for spring break

The Annual Jane Reineck Crusader Dinner Auction in April 17th. Come and join us for this fabulous teacher created event which supports the ministry of the school. Tickets will be available in late March.



School chapel services are held each Wednesday at 8:40 and the congregation is invited. Mark your calendars as we are blessed to have President Buss leading chapel at St. Paul on April 8. God is good!

This year more than ever funds are needed to support the Frieda Pickreign /Jane Reineck Scholarship Fund. Please consider a donation to this essential fund as we “Make Disciples of All Nations”!



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Bible Class	2 5:30pm Dayschool Board	3 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 5:30pm Inreach/Outreach	4 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Lenten Worship	5 2:00pm Outreach to Lincoln Manor	6 10:00am Senior Special - Wendy Horn - Appalachian Trail	7 9:00am Parish Nurse Team Mtg 6:00pm Liturgical Worship w/Communion
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Bible Class	9 4:30pm Board of Health & Human Care 5:30pm Elders	10 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 1:00pm Hannah-Tabitha Circle @ Church 6:30pm WOW Bible Study	11 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Lenten Worship	12 1:30pm Esther-Naomi Circle	13 12:00pm OK Club @ Church RSVP Evelyn 815-562-4668	14 Monthly Mission Offering - Lutheran Bible Translators 6:00am Contemporary Worship
15 Monthly Mission Offering - Lutheran Bible Translators Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Bible Class	16 6:00pm Church Council	17 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise	18 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Lenten Worship	19 6:00pm - 8:00pm School Curriculum Fair	20 5:30pm Sr Supper Club @ Grubsteakers	21 Senior's Bake Sale for the Pickreign/Reineck Fund 6:00pm Liturgical Worship w/Communion
22 Senior's Bake Sale for the Pickreign/Reineck Fund 9:00am Worship 10:00am Bible Class	23 School Spring Break Begins through 27th	24 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 6:30pm WOW Bible Study	25 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Lenten Worship	26 2:15pm Thursday Fellowship Worship	27 OK Club @ Culvers RSVP to Evelyn 815-562-4668	28 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
29 9:00am Liturgical Worship w/Communion - Palm Sunday Bible Class	30	31 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise	1 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies	2 2:00pm Outreach to Lincoln Manor 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 10:00am Senior Special 6:00pm Good Friday Worship	4 NO Worship

Prayer Chain Requests: Glennie Eyster 815-761-2782

Pastor Gudgel: 815-562-2744 After hours emergency: 708-253-5761

Parish Nurse – Marcy Schnorr Office 815-562-2744 Home 815-562-6823

Office Hours M-F 8:30 – 11:30

ST PAUL EV LUTHERAN CHURCH
1415 Tenth Avenue
Rochelle IL 61068

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ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS 61068
PERMIT NUMBER 93

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church:
Building relationships in Christ now and forever.

JOIN US!

Live in person on Saturday at 6:00pm or Sunday at 9:00am



OR

9:00 am Facebook Live - St. Paul Lutheran Church Page

OR

10:00 am on WRHL Radio 1060AM or 93.5 FM

Pastor Michael Gudgel, Pastor 562-2744
Marcia Schnorr, Parish Nurse 562-6823
Steve Hall, Principal 562-6323



Church Office 562-2744, School Office 562-6323,
Church Office E-Mail Address: churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org Website: stpaullev.org

