



The Epistle February 2024

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2

Dear Friends and Members of St. Paul's

This year we have an early Easter (March 31st), which means that the season of Lent is right around the corner. We will hear a good deal about repentance during Lent, but often we are confused about its meaning. The Greek word for repentance is Metanoia and it is used 58 times in the New Testament. To be repentant includes recognizing and turning away from sin, but repentance also calls us to look toward something new and good ("The kingdom of heaven is at hand").

1 Corinthians 7:10 says *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."* Judas and Peter each sinned against the Lord, one by betraying him and the other by denying him. While both were filled with sorrow after their egregious acts, only repentant Peter was able to move forward because he recognized, by the grace of God, that Jesus and his atoning work was greater than his denial.

In contrast, Judas was deeply sorrowful after his betrayal, but he was never repentant. The life of repentance is a life that both, turns away from sin, and turns toward someone far greater. Even in a season when the call to repentance is quite common, we are never without hope. A blessed Lenten season to all!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Krenz

February Sermons

February 4th & 5th

The Gift of Renewed Strength
Isaiah 40:27-31

February 11th & 12th

Unveiled and Transformed
2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6

February 18th and 19th

Empowered in the Face of Temptation
Mark 1:9-15 and James 1:12-18

February 25th & 26th

The Blessed Impact of Being Justified by Faith
Romans 5:1-11

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Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0121	

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 227 Goodhaven Street,
Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement:
*Proclaim Christ,
Teach Christ's Word and Reflect Christ's Love to All!*

**Baptisms:**

Jett Alexander Blankenship,
December 23, 2023

Griffin Ray Rule,
December 23, 2023



Corinne Monroe Schickedanz,
December 23, 2023

Funeral:

Robert Schafer, 12/23, 2023

Deaths:

Shirley Kramer, 1/8, 2024
Trudy Penno, 1/11, 2024

Wedding:

Gabe & Katie (Lacefield) Bierman, 12/31, 2023

**Official Acts of the
Church****Save the Date for 2024 VBS**

Celebrate the
Savior!

Our dates
this year are

June 10th-14th,

2024 from 9 am to 12 pm

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

It is going to be a great week with
games, songs, and fellowship

as we celebrate

God's greatest gift of saving grace.

Register here: [https://](https://vbsmate.com/events/StPaulsColumbia/28392)

[vbsmate.com/events/
StPaulsColumbia/28392](https://vbsmate.com/events/StPaulsColumbia/28392)

**Christmas Caroling**

February 19th =Newsletter Deadline Usually the 3rd Monday of most months.

Please send articles, photos, etc. to secretary@stpauls-lcms.org -Thank you for your help!



LWML Mission Statement

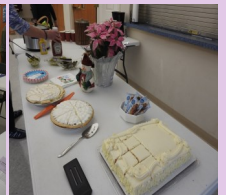
*As Lutheran Women in Mission,
we joyfully proclaim Christ,
support missions,
and equip women to honor God
by serving others.*



LWML/LADIES LEAGUE

Cute snowmen decorations greeted us at our Jan 4th meeting. Nancy led the day with an active devotion entitled "New Year, New You." We enjoyed a lunch of roast beef sandwiches and chips, as well as the desserts and drinks provided by our hostesses, Nancy and Barb. Pastor Troup presented an interesting topic entitled "The Story of the Reformation as Told through Medals and Coins." Pastor Troup brought coins and medals from his collection to show. A meeting followed where committee reports were given, LWML news was presented, and we were reminded to pray for our Ladies League and Confirmation prayer friends.

Our February meeting will be held on February 1st at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Scott Peery will be our guest speaker. We are looking forward to hearing him tell about his summer mission trip. Alice J. and Jean K. will be our hostesses.



LWML News

- 1) Zone Meeting and Ingathering at Messiah, Lebanon, IL on 3/2/24;
- 2) SID retreat at Camp Wartburg on 4/20/24;
- 3) SID Convention on 9/13 & 9/14/24. More details will be put in the bulletin and/or the next newsletter as they are received.

*You are welcome to join us at our meetings, events, service projects,
or just to visit anytime. For more information, contact Wanda at 618-281-4691.*



Thank you! On Sunday, January 14th, Roger & Kathy Stechmesser were recognized for the 40 plus years of service given to this congregation.

Over that time period Kathy has held positions of congregational bookkeeper, church secretary, Ladies League Treasurer, and helped in a variety of other ways here at the church. Roger has served as Elder, custodian, and has been on the finance board during that time period.



Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am to 10:30 am.

Please join us! We have "sew" much fun! **Thank you for all your support!**

Wednesdays with Nancy, 10 am
studying the Gospel of Luke

WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Generally meets on the
third Monday of each month.
Please join us in February, (2/19)
at **6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**



WOMEN'S
MINISTRY



OOPS – BE INTENTIONAL

It continues to be the goal of your Board of Christian Outreach **to plan and support events and activities that encourage our pastor, leaders, and members to regularly and intentionally engage in spiritual conversations with each other and others.** That's why there will again be an **OOPS** (Outreach **OP**portunity **S**uggestion) article in each monthly 2024 newsletter. That's why we will encourage you again and again and again to be **INTENTIONAL** and to keep sending those Easter Cards, wearing those new St. Paul T-shirts, hanging those pretty door hangers, and inviting all those children and grandchildren in our family and friendship circles to hunt those Easter eggs and learn about Jesus at our VBS, Pre-School, and Mary and Joseph Breakfast. What will the Holy Spirit do with our individual and collective outreach efforts? That's up to Him. Our goal and challenge to each of you is simply—**BE INTENTIONAL**. Sounds like a good 2024 New Year's Resolution to us!

Outreach **OP**portunity **S**uggestion



Current Pantry Needs:

Cereal, Granola Bars and Egg Cartons

February Dates: 2/7 /14 2/21
1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 1:30-3pm
2nd Wednesday - 4-6 pm

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days



5:15 - 6:15 pm
February 14th
Tbd February 21st
Tbd February 28th

2024 Lenten Schedule **Wednesdays—4 and 6:30 pm**

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday
 Feb 21 Lent One
 Feb 28 Lent Two
 Mar 6 Lent Three
 Mar 13 Lent Four
 Mar 20 Lent Five
 Mar 24 Palm Sunday
 Mar 27 Maundy Thursday
 Mar 28 Good Friday
 Mar 31 Easter Sunday

2023 contribution statements

have been mailed. If you have any questions, please call Lisa Schmidt (281-8413).



10 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT LEAP DAY

Our calendar is designed to sync with the Earth's revolutions around the sun.

The planet takes approx. 365.242189 days to circle the sun. Broken down, this is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds.

This is why the Gregorian Calendar has 365 days.

LEAP DAY

To match up our calendar accurately, we need to add a day every four years. This day is called **Leap Day**, and always falls on February 29.

1 JULIUS CAESAR EST. LEAP DAY

Roman Dictator Julius Caesar first adopted a Leap Day concept in 45 BCE (Before Common Era) for his Julian calendar. It occurred on February 24, instead of the 29. Also, February was the last month of the year in their calendar.

2 NOT REALLY EVERY 4 YEARS

Leap Years don't always come every four years, because the true length of a solar year is less than 365.25 days. Years evenly divisible by 100 are not leap years unless they are also evenly divisible by 400.

3 POPE GREGORY XIII'S CALENDAR

Today, we observe the Gregorian calendar first popularized by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. He introduced it because it uses a more accurate method for dealing with leap years, which were called bissextile or intercalary years back then.

4 CHINESE LEAP YEAR WAS IN 2015

The Chinese observe a calendar that adds an entire month to the year. The month is added to different places, but it always carries the same name as the one before it. The last Chinese leap year happened in 2015.

5 100+ LEAP DAYS SINCE 1582

Between 1582 and 2016 there have been approximately 108 to 109 leap days. This is because the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not considered leap years. Altogether, there have been about 515 to 517 leap days from its creation in 45 BC.

6 ROLE REVERSAL

One common Leap Day tradition calls for a reverse proposal where a woman proposes to her boyfriend, instead of the other way around. This is not as impactful today as it used to be in the past, thanks to the dissolution of gender roles.

7 LEAP-YEAR-BABIES

A person born on Leap Day is given a special name. They are called "leaplings" or "leap-year-babies". Most celebrate their birthdays on February 28, or March 1, during non-leap-years.

8 4 MILLION LEAPLINGS

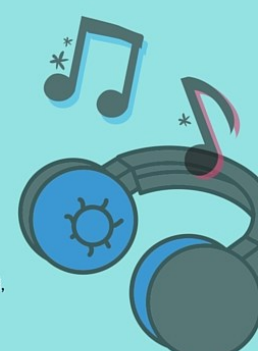
According to the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies there are approximately 4 million leap-year-babies or leaplings out there.

9 ODDS OF A LEAPLING

The odds of being born on a Leap Day are actually quite significant when compared to the total population of the planet. There is a 1 in 1,461 chance of being born on February 29, or a leap day.

10 JA RULE IS A LEAPLING

Popular rapper Ja Rule, who's real name is Jeffery Atkins, was born on February 29, 1976. His real age is 40, but his leap day age is 10. He's pretty successful for a 10-year-old, don't you think?





CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School Corner

Happy New Year!
Wait, is it happy?



I don't know about you, but I hear a lot of grumbling during the winter months. The Christmas decorations and cheer are often replaced with dreary, cold weather and less exciting activities to fill our calendar squares. Miles will once again separate friends and family, the work/school routine is back in full swing, and many are still struggling with physical and mental challenges. We have quickly forgotten about the precious gift we "unwrapped" just a few short weeks ago.

Have you ever imagined being one of the Israelites as they got closer and closer to the promised land? The Bible tells us of all the miracles given to them along their journey and they STILL grumbled, doubted, lied, and tried to deceive God. They, too, lost sight of the gifts God promised them. But God never lost sight of them.

There is good news! God doesn't change with the weather, the new year, or on holidays! The Sunday School Theme for this quarter is "God Leads His Nation". The children will be learning about the law and mercies of God, how He calls us to love and serve others, and how He continues to lead us even when we grumble and doubt. Let's make it a Happy New Year by keeping our eyes fixed on the gift of forgiveness and life through Jesus our Savior!

The Fall Short Report – The Twelve Spies (Numbers 13:1-14:38)

The Unlikely Ally – Rahab Believes (Joshua 2)

The Downfall Wall – The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

A Mercy-Full Message – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Save the date - the annual **Rummage Sale** will be **Saturday, March 16**. Please save your items to benefit the church vs. donating elsewhere.

This year the funds will help pay for the preschool's new playground equipment.

So, we will ask for help from the congregation a bit to staff the setup and sale. Any and all items are gratefully accepted, but **No TVs, computers or clothing please**. If congregation members need help getting their items to church, we can arrange for pickup possibly. **Contact Lillian Koenigstein at 618.541.4657 for more information**. More details to follow. Spread the word we need donations and shoppers.

Rummage Sale

St. Paul's Lutheran, Columbia IL
227 Goodhaven - Rt 3 & Bottom Ave (across from Walgreens)

Sat March 16, 8am-noon

Proceeds benefit St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool

Bag-a-Bargain all day! \$5/bag (bag provided)

Half price 11:30 - 12:00 (not furniture)



Gratefully accepting any & all donations
NO computers, TVs or clothing
Drop-off at lower parking lot

Thur Mar 14, 4-8pm - Fri Mar 15, 10-7pm

Questions - 618.541.4657 Sponsored by Thrivent Financial

2024 Youth Event Calendar

February 16

- Middle School Youth Movie Night at the Church, 6:30-8:30pm

February 18

- High School Youth Event with Sugar Loaf Youth Group

See the full calendar at

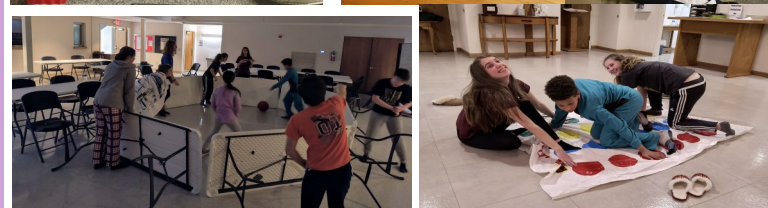
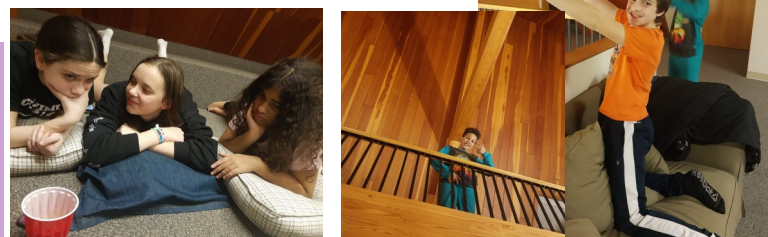
<https://stpauls-lcms.org/youth.html>



Ice Skating



MS Lock-In





February 2024 Preschool News

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open!

If you know someone looking for a loving, quality, Christ-centered preschool, please have them call our Director for more information. **618-281-4190**

We are very excited to have the new playground equipment and the children were able to enjoy it before the freezing temperatures hit. This is a wonderful addition and a much needed improvement to the playground. We are thankful and blessed.

-Shelly Augustin, Director/Teacher



February Jesus Lessons

Jesus Teaches
about Birds and Flowers

+
Jesus Stops a Storm

+
Jesus Feeds 5,000

+
Mary & Martha



Playground Equipment

Thank you! To the Trustees and All who helped with the new playground equipment! It is in place and ready to be enjoyed by the children! Donations are still being accepted, and can be placed in the offering box or sent into the church office.



Pastoral Ponderings

What is the difference between Roman Catholics and Lutherans?

To many, walking into one of our services seems very Roman Catholic. The formal order of the service along with some of the content is very similar. On any given week the Scripture readings can seem the same. Here are some of the doctrinal similarities between Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

-Both Lutherans and Roman Catholics are part of the Historic Christian Church.

- Both confess the Triune God- One God three Persons
- Both confess that Christ was sacrificed on a cross and rose again from the grave for the sins of the world.
- Both say that Christ is True God and True Man
- Both say that the Ecumenical Creeds reflect the truths of God found in the Scripture. (Nicene, Apostles, Athanasian)
- Both believe the Body and blood are really present in the sacrament of the altar.
- Both believe in the saving power of God working through baptism, and this power includes infants.

However, there are differences, and these differences do impact how salvation is proclaimed and received. Rather than simply speak these differences, I would invite you to take the first of a two-part quiz and read the supporting Bible verses that underscores the Lutheran view on that particular teaching. The second part of the quiz will be part of the March Newsletter.

Place an **R**(Roman Catholic) next to the Roman Catholic View & a **L**(Lutheran) next to the letter line.

1. BASIS OF BELIEF

A. ___ Scripture alone is the source of all that we believe and confess.

(Scripture interprets Scripture)

B. ___ Bible, Tradition, Reason, and Teaching authority of Church.

C. ___ The Pope, and Teachings of the church are infallible. (New teachings-immaculate conception)

D. ___ The Bible is the inerrant perfect Word of God for all time.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. -2 Tim. 3:16-17

2. SIN

A. ___ Original Sin is a weakening of ones free will.

B. ___ When humanity fell into sin they (died) to sin.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. -Ephesians 2:1-2

3. GRACE

A. ___ The grace of God makes one ready for salvation.

B. ___ The grace of God in Christ both begins and completes our salvation.

The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. -Romans 3:22-24.

4. LORD'S SUPPER

A. ___ The Lord Supper has a sacrificial emphasis (us to God)

B. ___ The Lord's Supper has a sacramental emphasis (God to us)

C. ___ The body and blood along with bread and wine are present in the Supper.

D. ___ Only the body and blood are present in the Lord's Supper.

²⁸for this is my blood of the ¹⁹covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. -Matthew 26:28.

5. MARY

A. ___ Mary is the mother of our Lord, a sinner loved by Christ. Christ alone intercedes for us before the Father.

B. ___ : Mary is perfect representative of humanity, and she can intercede for us to God.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior - Luke 1:46-47

5. A-L B-R
4. A-R B-L C-L D-R
3. A-R B-L
2. A-R B-L
1. A-L B-R C-R D-L
Answer Key

Adult Education

Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15am

The Book of Hebrews: Join us on Sunday mornings as we continue through this book which shows us both the superiority of Jesus, and his invitation to faithfulness.

Tuesday Men's Bible Study

Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome. We are studying the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings for the following Sunday.

Wed. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays with Nancy, 10 am studying the Gospel of Luke.

Fridays, once a month

It's MATTHEW'S GOSPEL in 2024

We're going to be studying the Gospel of Matthew in our second Friday of the month Not Just for Couples Bible Study Group.

Our first class will be on Friday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Cost of CPH study guide is \$10 each. Before class preparation is strongly encouraged. Adults of any age are welcome. Please contact Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097) or pastorsievers@yahoo.com by January 20 so he can order you a study guide.

Home Bible Studies: Colossians

Thursday, January 18th at 6pm a new Home Bible Study began at the home of Theresa and Tony Mancarella's (978 Sugar Loaf Hill Road in Dupo, IL.)

Title: "The Mighty and Mysterious, A study of Colossians".

This will be an every other week six session study on Thursdays. Bethany Niehaus has gracious volunteered to provide childcare in the basement of the Mancarella residence. We are limiting the study to 10 people, so sign up soon.

Please call the church office (618-281-4600) or sign up in the church narthex if interested.



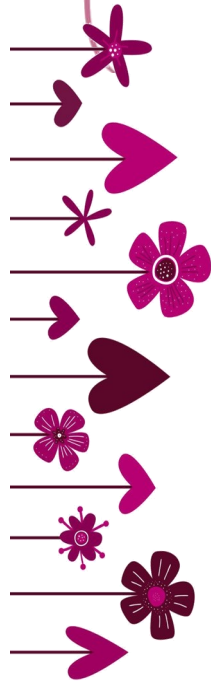
2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Donna Lake	5 Karen Mueller Rick and Susan Stemler ♥	6 Ryan Schwartz	7 Karen Sweet Leah Douglas Sam Woodcock	8 Brantley Toolen	9 Christopher Hancock Quinn Ramsey Steve Lake	10 Debbie Jordan Patrick Tygett
11 Chloe Hrabusicky Taylor Holten	12 Daniel Zavadii Nathan Schmoll Norma Feldman	13 Misty Wilson Scott Peery	14 Danielle Schwartz Dave Greeting William Dietz	15 Nelson and Joan Mathews ♥ Penny Raub Percy Mueller	16 Bill and Cyndee Luther ♥ Catherine Mathews	17 Dorothy Tomlinson Larry Kimmel Lisa Schmidt Scott Heck
18 Stacey Filipiak	19 Daniel Zavadii Nathan Schmoll Norma Feldman	20 Kelci Hofstetter	21 Alex Idoux	22 Nelson and Joan Mathews ♥ Penny Raub Percy Mueller	23 Leah Farris Paige Bierman	24 Mark and Ellen Heise ♥
25 Aimee Ebersohl Christopher Clyde Randy Moeckel	26 Matthew Collet Scott and Heather Heck ♥	27 Jan Glaenzer	28 Audrey Krump	29 Carol Ericson		



BIRTHDAYS
&
ANNIVERSARIES



NEW YEAR

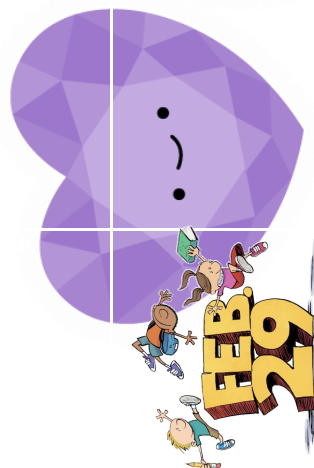
2024 —

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY. 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study -Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm Brownie Scouts Mtg	5 Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm	6 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters 5:30 Youth Mtg 6:30 pm Education Board	7 10 am Women's Bible St. Food Pantry 1:30-3 pm 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	8 6 pm Colossians Bible Study @ Mancarella Home	9 Pastor Sievers Class Mtg	10 sible Bridal Shower
11 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study -Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	12 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm	13 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am Circuit Pastor Mtg 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Elders	14 10 am Women's Bible St. Food Pantry 4-6 pm 4 pm Lent Service 5:30-6:15 pm Jr Confirmation 5 pm Handbell Choir 5:15 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lent Service	15 Worship @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm 6:30-8:30 pm Middle School Movie Night at St. Paul's	16 17	
18 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study -Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service PM Youth Event (Sugar Loaf)	19 Count (Team 3) Divine Service 6:30 pm Women's Ministry 6:30 pm <div> Newsletter Articles Due </div>	20 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters	21 7:30 am Rotary Business 10 am Women's Bible St. Food Pantry 1:30 - 3 pm 4 pm Lent Service 5:30-6:15 pm Jr Confirmation 5 pm Handbell Choir 5:15 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lent Service	22 9 am Newsletter Fold 11:15 Pre-School Chapel 6 pm Colossians Bible Study @	23 24	
25 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study -Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	26 Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm	27 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters	28 10 am Women's Bible St. 4 pm Lent Service 5:30-6:15 pm Jr Confirmation 5 pm Handbell Choir 5:15 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lent Service	29 4 pm Lent Service 5:30-6:15 pm Jr Confirmation 5 pm Handbell Choir 5:15 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lent Service	30 31	

Dates, times, & locations subject to change. Additional activities may be added at a later date. For the most up-to-date calendar listing, go to: stpauls-lcms.org then click on the "calendar" tab.





St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236**

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THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY. 2024

Sundays

@ 8 & 10:30 am

Mondays - 6:30 pm

Worship with Us...

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
227 Goodhaven Street, Columbia, IL 62236**

**618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail**

