



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236

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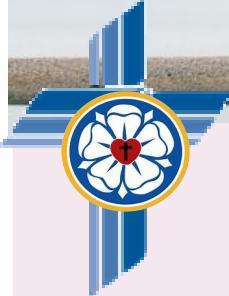
The Epistle
February 2026

Worship with Us...



For God so loved the world that at he gave his only begotten son so that whoever believes in him shall have everlasting life John 3:16

Sundays
8 am and 10:30 am
Mondays 6:30 pm



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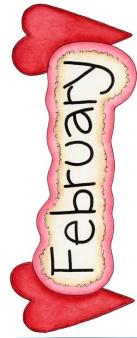
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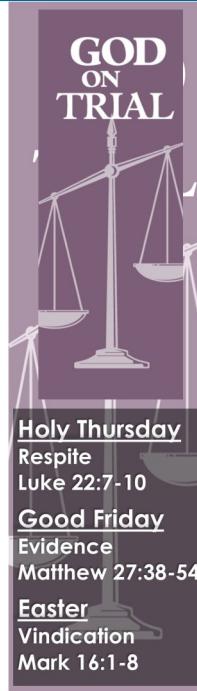
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 6pm Annual Family Min. Bowling	2 Count (Team 3) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service 	3 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm B of Youth 6:30 pm B of Ed	4 10 am Women's Bible Study Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 4 & 6 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	5 Ladies League 11:30 am	6 2 pm Bria Bible Study	7
8 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	9 Count (Team 1) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service	10 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 9 am Pastors Circuit Mtg in Freeburg 5:30 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	11 10 am Women's Bible Study Food Pantry 4—5:30 pm 4 & 6 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	12 10 am LWML Zone Mtg in Waterloo 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Board Mtg	13 Pastor Sievers Bible Study	14
15 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	16 Count (Team 2) No Choir Practice 6:30 pm Divine Service 	17 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters Newsletter Articles Due For March newsletter	18 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Ash Wed Service Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 5 pm Lenten Meal (Trustees) 6 pm Ash Wed Service 6:45 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Jr. Confirmation	19 9 am Newsletter Folders	20 2 pm Bria Nursing Home Worship 3:30 pm Garden Place Worship	21
22 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm New Member Class	23 Count (Team 3) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service 	24 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters	25 10 am Women's Bible Study	26	27	28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Collins Acker- mann	2 Laura Camp	3 Mark & Susan Nolte ❤	4 Donna Lake	5 Karen Mueller	6 Ryan Schwartz	7 Leah Douglas Sam Woodcock
8 Brantley Toolen Maria O'Guin	9 Christopher Hancock	10 Debbie Jordan Patrick Tygett	11 Chloe Stoffel Taylor Holten	12	13 Misty Wilson Scott Peery	14 Danielle Schwartz Dave Greatting William Dietz
15	16 Bill & Cyndee Luther ❤	17 Dorothy Tomlinson	18 Larry Kremmel Lisa Schmidt Scott Heck	19 Daniel Zavadil Ken Burgdorf Nathan Schmoll Norma Feldman	20 Kelci Hofstetter	21 Alex Idoux
22 Nelson & Joan Mathews ❤ Penny Rauh Percy Mueller	23 Leah Farris Paige Bierman	24	25 Aimee Ebersohl Christopher Clyde Randy Moeckel	26 Eric Upson Matthew Collet Scott & Heather Heck ❤	27 Jan Glaenzer	28 Audrey Sparks Carol Ericson

**"God on Trial" Our Midweek Lenten Series**

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

**Lenten Services****2/18 Ash Wednesday**

Accusations.....Job 40:1,2; 42:1-6- Pastor Krenz
Meal: Trustees
Passion Reading: Mark 14:12-25

2/25 Midweek 2

Restraint.....Luke 22:47-53- Pastor Troup
Meal: Food Pantry & Ladies League
Passion Reading: Mark 14:26-42

3/4 Midweek 3

Testimony.....Matthew 26:57-75-Pastor Sievers
Meal: Eve's Restoration Home
Passion Reading: Mark 14:43-52

3/11 Midweek 4

Misconceptions....Luke 23:1-12- Pastor Sievers
Meal: Elders
Passion Reading: Mark 14:53-65

3/18 Midweek 5

Truth.....John 18:33-40- Pastor Troup
Meal: Finance and Education?
Passion Reading: Mark 14:66-72

3/25 Midweek 6

Sympathy....Luke 23:26-34- Pastor Krenz
Meal: Youth & Outreach?
Passion Reading: Mark 15:1-20

**Call Committee update:**

The call committee met recently to discuss what the congregation is looking or in a DCE, set a time line for the call process, and go over information on five individuals who have already been provided to us by the District Office. Congregational members are invited over the next few weeks to share names of synodically trained DCE's with members of the call committee. Upon receiving these names the call committee will work with the District Office to see which candidates might be open to such a called position. The call committee hopes to start interviewing potential candidates sometime in February. The members of the call committee are Scott Peery (chair), Carleigh Ottwell, Patrick Grandt, Mitch Essert, and Becky Stevens. Please keep this whole process in your prayers.

Adult Bible Education**Fridays, Once a Month: 2026****EYES on Isaiah**

Our **Not-for-Couples-Only Bible Class** led by Pastor Sievers will focus on the OT book of Isaiah in 2026, meeting monthly on a convenient Friday. Learn how the Holy Spirit used Isaiah not only to predict with amazing detail our Savior's birth, death, and resurrection, but also to warn and comfort God's people. First class is February 13 at 6:30 p.m. For more info or to order your \$12 study guide, call or text Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097).

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class:
9:25 am to 10:15**

Do join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am as we continue our verse by verse look at the Gospel of Luke. We meet in the fellowship hall, and new people are always welcome. Thank you to Roger and Kathy Stechmesser continue to make sure that doughnuts, coffee, and juice are available for this class.

Tuesday Men's Bible Study Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex.

All men welcome. We have been looking at Isaiah.

Ladies Bible Study w/ Nancy

10 to 11 am Wednesdays
- SS room at end of hall

A study on some of the women of the Bible. Call Nancy Radentz or email her for more information. 618-340-2995
donan9@sbcglobal.net

Life with God: The next "Life with God" (New member) class will start on Sunday, February 22nd at 4pm.

Please let Pastor Krenz know if you know of someone who might be interested in this 10 week class.

If that time does not work for any of the participants, individuals sessions can be scheduled.



St Paul's
Pre-school

THE EPISTLE FEBRUARY 2026

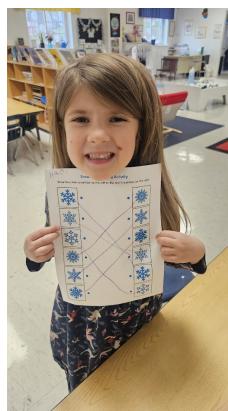
Preschool News Pre-School 2026

February is always full of fun and excitement in our preschool classroom as the children explore learning through a variety of engaging themes, including Love and other class favorites like Dinosaurs, Pets, and Transportation. With special guests for Dental Health and Safety Awareness, along with hands-on activities, and projects, each theme offers opportunities to learn, create, and enjoy time together.

We are so grateful for the grandparents and special guests who will be joining us at the end of January for our annual Grandparents' Breakfast. The children will be singing for their guests and working side-by-side on a special keepsake, making it a truly special morning.

As we share these moments together, we are reminded of God's Word: "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14). Thank you for your continued support of our preschool ministry.

*Blessings,
Shelly Augustin, Preschool Director*



Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 school year! If you know a family looking for a nurturing, high quality, Christ-centered preschool experience, they may contact our preschool Director, Shelly Augustin for more details about our program. 618-281-4190



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

February 1, 2026

Acts 3:1-16; 4:5-22

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit empowers God's people to show mercy.

FAITH FOCUS

The Second Article, Part 3

LAW & GOSPEL

I show symptoms of living in a fallen world full of disability and illness. Through His Son, God gives me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—the cure for all sin.

BIBLE VERSE

Give thanks to the Lord!

Psalm 106:1

Feb 8, 2026

Acts 10

BIBLE TRUTH

God's love in Jesus is for everyone.

FAITH FOCUS

The Office of the Keys

LAW & GOSPEL

I sinfully deny that the Gospel is for all humankind. God forgives me and helps me share the Gospel with others.

BIBLE VERSE

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

February 15, 2026

Acts 9:26-31; 11:19-30

BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit works through God's Word.

FAITH FOCUS

The Third Article, Part 2

LAW & GOSPEL

I disgrace the name of Christ when I fail to live as one of His followers. Through His grace, God forgives my sin and makes me His child, giving me His name.

BIBLE VERSE

Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34

February 22, 2026

Acts 12

BIBLE TRUTH

God preserves us to serve Him.

FAITH FOCUS

The Seventh Petition

LAW & GOSPEL

In this world of sin, I and the whole Church of God will be persecuted on account of Christ. God works through His Word to break the chains of sin, relieve the suffering it causes, and sustain me and the rest of His Church.

BIBLE VERSE

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds. James 1:2



Find more details at
these places or call/text
Becky at 618-550-3552



Rummage Sale

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

Sat March 14, 8am-noon

Proceeds benefit
St. Paul's Youth Group

Bag-a-Bargain all day!

\$5/bag (bag provided)

Half price 11:30 - 12:00

(furniture negotiable)



Save the date and your items:

The **annual youth group Rummage Sale will be Saturday, March 14, 8 am - noon**. We are asking for help from the congregation in general for setup and particularly sale day please. It is our largest fundraiser; we usually raise about \$3,000. The next National Youth Gathering will be costly to travel to as it's in San Antonio, July 2028, so we need to build our coffers starting this year.

Sign up in the Narthex please.

you th
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
Youth
8th - 12th
grade

Sundays:
9:15—10:15 am
In the Loft upstairs

Cash Only Please
*Gratefully accepting
any & all donations*
**Exceptions: NO computers,
TVs, car-seats or clothing**
Drop-off at lower parking lot
Thur Mar 12, 4-8pm
& Fri Mar 13, 10-7pm

Questions: Lillian 618.541.4657
Sponsored by Thrivent Financial



OOPS – Take Our OOPSes to Heart

For several years now, your Board of Christian Outreach has provided you with an **OOPS** (**Outreach OPPortunity Suggestion**) in each newsletter. We do this to give the Holy Spirit another little opportunity to stir you up in your daily Christian living. We don't know how many of you actually read them, but if you are reading this one you do, don't you? Because you do, we encourage you to take each of them to heart. Try them out like you would a new pair of shoes. Whenever one of them fits and looks good on you, wear it and add it to your faith sharing wardrobe. That's our first but not our last 2026 OOPS to you from the bottom of our Jesus filled heart. Happy New Year OOPSing!

**That's this month's OOPS
from your Board of Christian Outreach.**



Our Mission:
To Provide Parenting Resources & Christ-Centered Spiritual Care in a Residential Setting, to Mothers Whose Children are Currently in Foster Care, Empowering Them to Rebuild & Reunite Their Families.

Did you know... that Eve's Restoration Ministries is a start-up non-profit 501©(3) organization affiliated with our church, and as a charitable organization—your gift is tax-deductible.

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Giving Tree in December. \$1,530 was collected through this effort. Thank you to Judy Ostendorf who donated pecans for the pecan sale in December and raised \$100. Our goal for 2025 was \$55,000, and we exceeded that goal by \$3,000! We are so blessed for the support from this congregation!

2026 FINANCIAL GOAL

Our goal for 2026 is \$88,000. We are \$71,000 away! Please prayerfully consider making a monthly donation to support this important ministry.

UPCOMING EVENT: TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Get together with some friends
for a fun evening supporting Eve's Restoration Ministries!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

There is so much good work to be done! Will you consider joining the Eve's Restoration Ministries' Committee of St. Paul's? The committee meets every other month for one hour. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at church. Please reach out to Amanda Douglas at 314-221-6700 for more information.

Deadline for Submissions

(articles, photos, calendar updates)
for March 2026 Newsletter: 2/16



Please consider an increase in your giving, to support a new DCE position. In 2026, we will need even more contributions!

2025 contribution statements

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



Current Pantry Needs:
Coffee, Crackers, Chicken Broth

MONTHLY: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1:30 - 3 pm 2nd Wednesday: 4-5:30 pm

February Wednesdays: February 4, 11, & 18
1st & 3rd Wed - 1:30-3pm 2nd Wed - 4-5:30 pm



LADIES LEAGUE/ LWML

February 2026



Our January meeting was held on January 8. Newly elected Vice President Susan Housewright led us in a devotion, "A New Beginning A New Year" based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Colossians 3:9-10. As we begin 2026, this devotion reminded us to say "no" to evil and "yes" to a life in Christ. We all said the Common Table Prayer before enjoying the lunch we each brought and the desserts provided by our Hostesses.

LWML and committee reports were given during our business meeting. Thank you to Marianne May for taking care of the Poinsettias and she has placed a new flower chart for the year. Thank you to Lillian Koenigstein and her helpers for the Nativity scenes placement in the sanctuary. We have received many compliments about them.

The group worked on finishing the hostess and topic worksheet. Some upcoming events:

★ Nancy Radentz started a new Bible study about the women of the Bible. Wednesdays at 10 to 11am in SS room.

★ The Preschool children will be signing on Jan 25 during the 10:30 service. Afterwards there will be a luncheon for their families and the congregation, in the fellowship hall. Sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Several of the LWML ladies will help serve. Also, on January 25 there is a Hymn fest. The following St. Paul churches, Hamel-Columbia-Wood River-Troy, are coming together for a Hymn Fest. It will be held at St. Paul's in Troy. It begins at 3:00. The churches' Pastors and choirs will be participating, and you are invited.

★ The LWML Spring Retreat will be in Carbondale on April 18 from 9am to 2:30p. If interested contact Jane Stumpf 314-852-8776 for information.

We sang Happy Birthday to Helen Nowak. Our Activity for the meeting was we each chose a picture from a group of pictures that people brought and were placed on display. We were told to each pick a picture that brought up a memory. After returning to our seat, we each held up our picture and told everyone what memory made us pick that picture. It turned out to be a very enjoyable activity. We heard some very interesting stories.

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

ALL ladies in the church are invited to our monthly meetings.

Monthly mtgs are on the first Thursday of the month, at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.

If you have questions please contact Jane E Stumpf at 314-852-8776.



Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am -10:30 am

Please join us! We have "sew" much fun!

Thank you for all your support! Questions? contact Marianne May or Marilyn Snider.



Official Acts of the Church**Death:**
Skyla Gage, 1/15/26 (non-member)New Member

Donna Stine 1/2026

**It's time for the Annual Family Ministry Bowling night!**

Sign up now in the Narthex to guarantee a spot. Mark your calendar and invite a friend! \$10 per adult, \$5/ student. Family lanes & youth lanes available.

At Westpark Bowl, Columbia on **Sunday Feb 1, 6pm but arrive at 5:45** for lane assignments and to get your shoes. Payment at the event includes shoes and one large pizza and pitcher of soda per lane. Other menu items available for purchase separately. Indicate on the sign up sheet if your student wants to be on the youth lane(s) or as a family lane.



Barbara	Ahlbrand	13190 South Outer 40 Road, Town & Country Apt.350	MO	63017 5951		
Willa	Bates	209 Dale Street	Waterloo	IL	62298 2439	
Melvin	Becherer	1626 Ghent Road	Columbia	IL	62236 2712	
Gary	Crawford	20 Catherine Drive	Fairview Heights	IL	62208 2604	
Marge	Drexler	Garden Place 480 DD Road, Apt. 310	Columbia	IL	62236 3841	
Donald & Pat	Gruber	413 N. Main St.	Columbia	IL	62236 1707	
Ricky	Gulin	111 West Liberty St. C	Columbia	IL	62236 2358	
Virginia	Jeffery	Cedar Hurst 518 Legacy Drive, Apt. 8	Waterloo	IL	62298 1706	
Judith	Kellenberger	505 West Park Drive	Columbia	IL	62236 1024	
Larry	Kremmel	32 Fieldcrest Drive	Columbia	IL	62236 2557	
Marilyn	Miller	Freeburg Care Center 746 Urbanna Drive	Freeburg	IL	62243	
Juanita	Ritter	20 Ritter Road	Columbia	IL	62236 2090	
Barbra	Schneider	939 N. Briegel Street	Columbia	IL	62236 1311	
Marilee	Schueler	Garden Place 480 DD Road	Columbia	IL	62236	
Margaret	Simmons	1418 State St.	East Carondelet	IL	62240 1316	

Monday evenings at St. Paul's...

5:15 pm Adult Choir *
6:30 pm Divine Service

**FEBRUARY ELDERS SCHEDULE**

		Sunday 8 am	Sunday 10:30 am	Monday 6:30 pm
February 1 2	David Greatting	Levi Ottwell	Scott Peery	
February 8 9	Mark Eischer	Charlie Consolino	Glenn Grebing	
February 15 16	Scott Moeslein	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma	
Feb 18 Ash Wed	11 am Toby Search & 6 pm David Greatting			
February 22 23	David Greatting	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma	
Feb 25 Midweek Wed	11 am Toby Search & 6 pm Mark Eischer			

Volunteers	8 am	10:30 am	6:30 pm
February 1 2	David Greatting	Levi Ottwell	Scott Peery
Greeter/Usher	Jonathan Busch	Joydean Beatty	Kevin Miller
Acolyte	Alexis Grandt	Lennon Ottwell	
Screens	Josh Colyer	Campbell Ottwell	
Video	Aiden Colyer		

February 8 9	Mark Eischer	Charlie Consolino	Glenn Grebing
Greeter/Usher	Lisa Schmidt Jane Stumpf	Lynn McAuliffe, Ezra Douglas	
Acolyte	Evy Colyer	Elijah Douglas	
Screens	Josh Colyer	Leah Douglas	
Video	Aiden Colyer		

February 15 16	Scott Moeslein	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma
Greeter/Usher	Stefanie Newbill	Doug Tolbird	Brenda Appel
Acolyte	Colin Grandt	Paloma Niehaus	
Screens	Kyva Meyers	Gary Maske	
Video	Kaylee Grandt		

Feb 18 Ash Wed	11 am Toby Search & 6 pm David Greatting		Meal: Trustees
Greeter/Usher		6 pm Bob Thoma	
Acolyte			

February 22 23	David Greatting	Levi Ottwell	Bob Thoma
Greeter/Usher	Marianne May	David Jester/ Brooke Quevreaux	Sue Champion
Acolyte	Nathan Schmoll		
Screens	Josh Colyer	Dane Quevreaux	
Video	Aiden Colyer		

Feb 25 Midweek Wed	11 am Toby Search & 6 pm Mark Eischer		Meal: Food Pantry
Greeter/Usher			
Acolyte			

Wednesday evenings at St. Paul's:

4 & 6 pm Jr. Confirmation **
**** 7 pm during Lent Wednesdays**



6:30 pm Handbell Choir
**** 6:45 pm during Lent**





The Epistle

2026

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Pastor Stephen Krenz
618-363-0121
Josh Gillespie 405-570-5464
Austin Kudray 586-295-5524

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is participating in the Baby Bottle Fundraiser on behalf of Life Network of



Southern Illinois (Waterloo and Red Bud) to protect the sanctity of human life. You are invited to bring back the Baby Bottles to the church office thru the month of February.

Friends and Members of St. Paul's,

For years our congregation has supported Life Network in Waterloo and Red Bud Illinois through our mission budget and our yearly collection of baby bottles filled with coins. Since 1995 Life Network has offered free and confidential services, resources and education related to pregnancy and sexual health. For over thirty years they have empowered thousands of women and families facing unexpected pregnancies by providing accurate and up to date information with a holistic and compassionate approach.

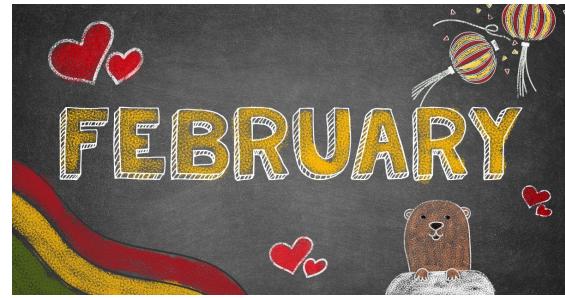
This is a rich blessing in our area, especially considering that there are two nearby clinics, one in Fairview Heights and the other in Granite City, that perform abortions. According to the Guttmacher Institute over 90,000 abortions were performed in Illinois in 2024. This number has doubled since 2017. In 2024, an estimated 42% of pregnancies in Illinois ended in abortion (*This number does not take into account miscarriages*).

While these statistics are sobering, we are blessed that places like Life Network and soon Eve's Restoration Home can provide life affirming places for women and their families who need assistance. While Eve's Restoration Home will not provide pregnancy related services, it will bring Christ centered and holistic assistance to women and their families who too often feel trapped by the lack of helpful life centered choices. I would encourage you to check out Amanda Douglas August article titled "Eve's Restoration"-A Pro-life Mission" that can be found on the Eve's Restoration Web Site. In this post she skillfully explains why this organization is life affirming in a world that so badly needs it.

A blessed February to all!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Krenz

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



February Sermon Schedule: 8 am & 10:30 am & Monday 6:30 pm

February 1st & 2nd-
February 8th & 9th-
February 15th & 16th
February 22nd & 23rd-

"**Needy and Blessed**"
"Neighborhood Centered Fasting"
Transfiguration Rev. Bruce Kesemann
"The Look of Sin, and the power of the Promise" **Genesis 3:1-21**

Matthew 5:1-12
Isaiah 58:3-9am