

St. Paul's Scope



A Faithful and Welcoming Church

March 2026

From Empty Pits to Green Gardens

During the season of Lent, we usually focus on "giving things up." We stop eating sweets, we log off social media, and we try to quit our bad habits. But a spiritual life doesn't work well when it's empty. As the Bible tells us, we aren't just supposed to take off our old, ragged clothes; we are supposed to put on "new clothes" that make us more like God (Ephesians 4:22-24).

If you just dig a hole in your life by removing a bad habit, you haven't really solved the problem—you've just created a pit. To stop your old habits from rushing back in, you have to fill that empty space with something new. This Lent, I suggest we fill that space with reconciliation—the work of making things right with God and each other (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Reconciliation isn't something that happens by accident; it requires a brave conversation. To fix a friendship or a relationship, you first have to admit there is a problem. However, *how* you start that conversation decides if you are building a bridge or a wall. Long ago, the philosopher Plato said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

When we are upset with someone, our first instinct is to act like a judge. We ask "why" questions that feel like an interrogation: "*Why would you say that?*" or "*What were you thinking?*" This makes people feel attacked. It triggers a part of their brain that makes them want to fight back or run away.

A better way—the way of "New Creation"—is to assume that the other person had what they thought were good reasons for their actions, even if they were wrong. Instead of accusing them, try to understand them. You might ask what was going on in their life that made that choice seem like their best option. You could say, "I can see you've been struggling lately. I know life has been hard, and I see how much you're trying to keep it all together."

By doing this, you aren't saying their behavior was okay. You are just acknowledging that they are human. You are putting yourself in their shoes and remembering that none of us is perfect. We all have moments where we aren't our best selves (Romans 3:23).

We see Jesus do this in the Book of Revelation. When He talks to the early churches, He doesn't start with a list of their mistakes. He almost always starts with a compliment—He notices what they are doing well (Revelation 2:2-3). Only after He shows them their value does He suggest a change. He shows them that changing isn't a punishment; it's a benefit to their own lives.

There is a danger in only looking at what is wrong. If we spend all our time studying our sins, we become experts in failure rather than students of life. When Jesus brings us back to God, He doesn't just give us a report card of our mistakes. He points us away from a miserable existence and toward a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). He doesn't leave us in a hole of shame; He fills that hole with His presence.

Think of it like a gardener: if you only pull weeds but never plant seeds, you will eventually just have a patch of mud. Being a "new creation" means planting a rose where a weed used to be. You are not a hopeless case. While it's true that "the wages of sin is death," don't forget the rest: "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus" (Romans 6:23). Where mistakes are many, God's grace is even bigger (Romans 5:20).

This Lent, don't just leave a hole in your life. Fill it with the same mercy you've been given, and share that mercy with the people around you.



Attendance for Last Month				
Date	8:00am	10:15am	Sunday School	Online Viewers
02/01	A 70 / C 2	A 68 / C 10	A 16 / C 19	540
02/08	A 72 / C 0	A 61 / C 0	A 24 / C 20	479
02/15	A 78 / C 2	A 68 / C 5	A 16 / C 26	431
02/22	A 59 / C 0	A 85 / C 4	A 15 / C 22	336

Sunday Volunteer Schedule					
Time	Date	Council Ushers	Greeters	Lector	Acolyte
8:00	03/01	Kim Borja	Stain Niemann	Jeanie Stumpf	
		April Beisiegel	Sandy Dickens		
	03/08	Tom Heppermann	Mary Endsley	Tami Hughes	Tenley Heppermann
		Lisa McDonald	Debbie Ross		
03/15		Craig Brazelton	Pat Smoker	Scott Weber	Tara Beisiegel
		Kim Borja	Donna Smoker		
	03/22	April Beisiegel	Thomas Saia	Donna Smoker	Alise Freebairn
		Tom Heppermann	Shirley Saia		
	03/29	Lisa McDonald	Stan Niemann	Carol Brazelton	
		Craig Brazelton	Cheri Emge		
10:15	03/01	Tom Heiken	Angela Kurburski	Teresa Huston	Tyson Kociemba
		Julie Rickert	Mathew Kurburski		
	03/08	Adam Tritt	Harry Dapron	Donna Asbridge	Emily Kuhn
		Chad Lindauer	Shere Dapron		
03/15		David Mitchell	Jim Kaiser	Vicki Channer	Audrey Lawson
		Lauren Borger	Lori Kaiser		
	03/22	Tom Heiken	Brittany Kaiser	Amy Walton	Dean Shaw
		Julie Rickert	Betty Weber		
03/29		Adam Tritt	Jim Jacobs	Julie Rickert	Dean Shaw
		Chad Lindauer	Char Jacobs		

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you!
 If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!

Audio/Video Volunteer Schedule

Time	Date	Sound	Projection	Camera
8:00	03/01	Sandi	Sandi	Gregg
	03/08	Sandi	Sandi	Scott
	03/15	Sandi	Sandi	Gregg
	03/22	Sandi	Sandi	Scott
	03/29	Sandi	Sandi	Gregg
10:15	03/01	Sandi	Elizabeth	Jerry
	03/08	Sandi	Sean	Jim
	03/15	Sandi	Elizabeth	Jerry
	03/22	Sandi	Sandi	Jim
	03/29	Sandi	Lori	Jerry

Communion Set-up/Clean-up

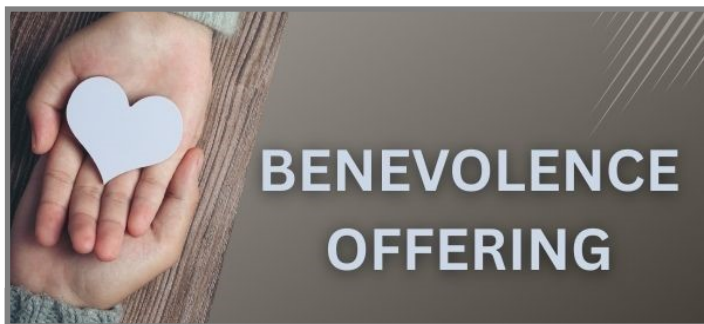
Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15 am
03/01	Jim & Char Jacobs	Sandy Dickens Jeanie Stumpf	Amy Walton
04/03 Maundy Thursday	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler		Debbie Ross
04/05 Easter	Thomas & Shirley Saia	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler	Gloria Niebruegge
05/03	Debbie Ross	Thomas & Shirley Saia	Lauren Borger

Blood Pressure Checks (Between Services in the Parlor)

March 8	Jeanie Stumpf
April 12	Phyllis Ellerbusch



Thank you to all who gave to the Food and Clothing Bank through their offerings during the 4th quarter of 2025. These donations are greatly appreciated.



The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our February offering for Kids for Christ was \$275.

March benevolence offerings will be for Feed the Kids at the Freeburg schools.

Thank you!



...MINISTRIES ...



Food Pantry needs for the month of **March** are:

- Canned Salmon
- Canned Red Beets
- Kleenex
- Cake Mix & Frosting
- Pasta Sauce

Food Collection Sunday is **March 8th**. The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!

**VOLUNTEER TO FEED OUR YOUTH
ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM**
WWW.MEALTRAIN.COM/YKZM4



St. Paul's Women's Guild

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

AT NOON

LADIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Lent

Wednesdays 7:00 PM

SPRING FORWARD

Don't Forget to Change Your Clock

+1 hour

Saturday

March 7th

Before You Go to Bed



Teeny Tot

waffle breakfast

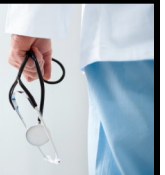
\$10 All You

Can Eat

March 15
8am - 11am



**HOSPITALIZED
OR NEEDING
MEDICAL CARE
LAST MONTH**



David Lindauer

*With Our
Deepest
Sympathy*

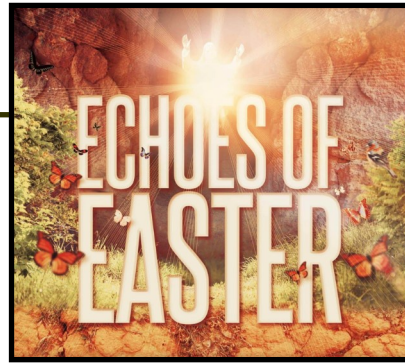
To the Family and
Friends of
James Klass
and Marlene Frazer

...MINISTRIES ...

Building & Grounds

In February, Building and Grounds performed the following repairs and tasks:

1. A roof leak in the office was repaired. We will have the roof checked to see if it needs to be resealed.
2. Electrical outlets were installed in the north end of the Fellowship Hall.
3. The gutters on the office were cleared of ice and snow.
4. Excess medical supplies were taken to Goodwill .
5. Elevator was repaired.



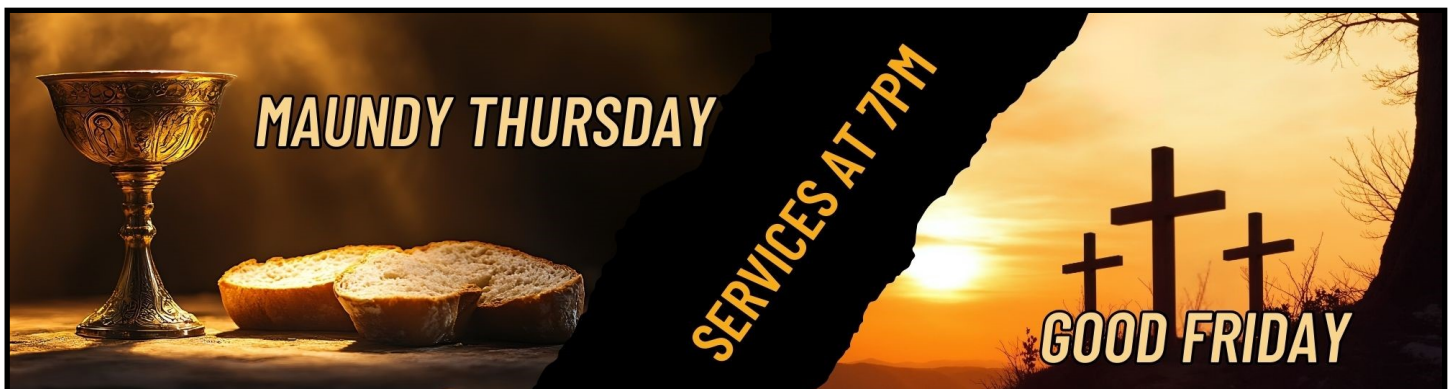
St. Paul's Easter Cantata

The St. Paul's chancel choir will be presenting a very emotional and powerful mini Easter cantata titled "Echoes of Easter" on Sunday, April 5, at the 8AM and 10:15AM services accompanied by a full digital orchestra and video presentation.

Have you ever tried to imagine the Echoes of Easter, the sounds of all that took place when Jesus went to the cross and gave His life to save us, and when He defeated death so that we could live forever with Him? This cantata is a musical that is all about the echoes from Gethsemane, Calvary, and the Garden Tomb followed by an uplifting ending of Him walking out of the tomb.

Please invite your family and friends Easter morning to attend this worship experience.

Andy Channer
Music Director





MARCH BIRTHDAYS



03/02 Steve Lindauer
 03/02 Ainslie Parrish
 03/03 Emma Dumke
 03/03 Sarah Harms
 03/03 Debra Sebol
 03/04 Mark Schanuel
 03/05 Rook Adamson
 03/05 Shannon Brueggemann
 03/07 Craig Brazelton
 03/07 Ethan Foster
 03/07 Alise Freebairn
 03/08 Linda Schneider
 03/10 Dean Salvatore
 03/13 Colin Brueggemann
 03/14 Dahlia Payne
 03/15 Janet Thrasher
 03/17 Mike Wangelin
 03/18 Bryan Vogel
 03/19 Lee Hartmann
 03/19 Tammy Jacobs
 03/19 Diane Nordhaus
 03/21 Al Castens
 03/21 Pat Groth
 03/21 Eric McDonald
 03/22 Diane Beisiegel
 03/22 Rusty Kern, Jr.
 03/22 Jessi Smith
 03/23 Joanne Braun
 03/23 Mark Vernier
 03/24 Cameron Harms
 03/26 Karen Forcade

03/27 Whitley Adamson
 03/27 Ethan Baldwin
 03/27 Chris Joseph
 03/29 Lauren Beisiegel
 03/29 Becky Rippelmeyer
 03/29 Catherine Rohlfing
 03/31 Kathy Alt
 03/31 Jacob Pruet
 03/31 Ken Stumpf



03/05 Rickey & Donna Stahl
 03/17 Lynn & Karen Gipson
 03/21 Mark & Alice Mullen
 03/24 Billy & Kerry Menn, III
 03/31 Ken & Jeanie Stumpf



Normal Sunday Schedule:

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School

Children’s Church 10:15 am

First Sunday of the Month – Communion Observed During Both Worship Services

MARCH			MARCH		
1		COMMUNION OBSERVED	14		ELECTRONIC RECYCLING
2	6:15 PM	E & O Meeting	15	8:00 AM-11:00 AM	Teeny Tot Waffle Breakfast
3	2:00 PM	Pantry	17		ST. PATRICK’S DAY
3	7:00 PM	Building & Grounds Meeting	17	7:00 PM	Church Council
4	7:00 PM	Lent Service	18	7:00 PM	Lent Service
5	9:00 AM	Painting	19	9:00 AM	Painting
5	1:00 PM	Services at Cedar Trails	19	5:00 PM	Pantry
8	9:15 AM	Blood Pressure Checks	25	7:00 PM	Lent Service
8		FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY	25		SCOPE DEADLINE
10	NOON	Women’s Guild Luncheon	27	9:00 AM	Food & Clothing Bank Sale
10	2:00 PM	Pantry	28	7:30 PM	Flashlight Egg Hunt
11	7:00 PM	Lent Service	29		PALM SUNDAY

Normal Weekly Schedule:

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation: Sunday 9:15 am

C.S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday 7:15 pm

Bible Study: Sunday 9:05 am, **THURSDAYS** at 7:00 pm (Zoom) (***During Lent***)

Quilting: Tuesday & Thursday at 8:00 am (Ministry Building)

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Choir Rehearsal: **TUESDAYS** at 6:00 pm (***During Lent***)

The Outlet: Wednesday 6:30 pm (Youth Room)

Faith Journey Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Morning “Recon” Bible Study with Pastor Lovins: Thursday at 10:00 am (Baltz Parlor)

“Recon” Bible Study with Pastor Lovins: Thursday at 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
210 W. White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Bringing Jesus' Love to All People to Make Heaven More Crowded

St. Paul's Church

7 North Belleville Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

Mailing Address:

210 W White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM

Office Phone: 618-539-3262

Church Phone: 618-539-3962

Email address: churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org

Web address: www.stpaulsfreeburg.org

Rev. Andrew Lovins, Pastor

