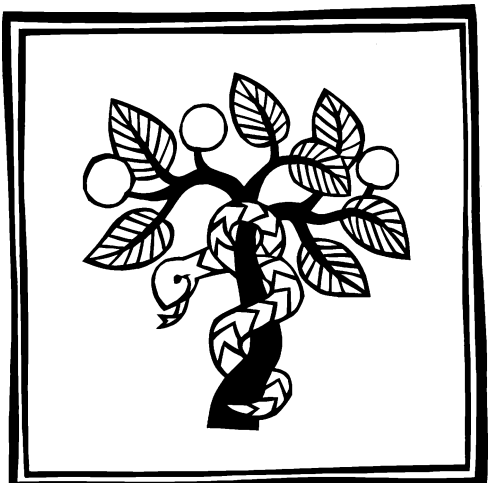

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Worship Service—9:00 a.m.

Church Phone: 301-845-4600
E-mail: info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org
Web Site: http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Sheila Kahler
Vice-President—Lauren McCloskey
Treasurer—Patty Rimel
Secretary—Gary Wachter

Stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH BELL RUNG

CANDLES LIT

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days.....ELW 319

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE* (p. 147)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Anthem: ***"Lead Me, Lord"*** Arranged by John Leavitt; Music by Samuel S. Wesley

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FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

P: *The Word of the Lord.*

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION* (p. 151) *Return to the Lord

GOSPEL: *Matthew 4:1-11*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.
The gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon……..……..Pastor Douglas Jones

Silence for Reflection

*HYMN OF THE DAY……***The Glory of These Forty Days**……ELW 320
Text: African American spiritual Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

P: We affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: … God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING Please place your gift in the offering plate, mail to the church office or consider online giving.

OFFERTORY HYMN ***PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW (ELW 884)***

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship,* admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING, MEAL (sung, p. 152)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE PREFACE*:**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **(p. 153)**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

C: Amen

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:*

P: Gathered into One with the Holy Spirit, we now pray as Jesus taught…

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION HYMN (p.154)

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P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,
Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION (ELW p. 155)

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN……..*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**……..ELW 325

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

DISMISSAL

GO IN PEACE, CHRIST IS WITH YOU.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

PRAYER LIST

Betsy Galliher, Member
Joe Collins, *Cousin of Joann Valainis*
Mark Holloway, *Husband of Kate Stottlemyer*
Sue Snyder, *Member*
Bert Fiske, *Friend of Sue Snyder and Lin Snider*
Jack Lotwick, *Friend of Robb and Dianne Port*
Parker Bazarewski*, Extended family of Ed Chaney*
Dudley Cate*, Family friends of Ed Chaney*
Patty Plitt, *Cousin of Ed Chaney*
Leanne Colwell, *Friend of Sue Snyder*
Kira Wynne, *Friend of Sue Snyder*
Pastor Phyllis Haynes*, A colleague of Pastor Phil Beck.*
Nancy Wynne, *Friend of Sue Snyder*
Linda Koelsch, *Friend of Ed Chaney*
Marion Lawrence**,** *Cousin of Kate Stottlemyer*
Emily Kilmon, *Daughter of Betsy Galliher*
Richard Pratt, *Brother of Patty Rimel and Mary Sulima*
Dawn Lee Knoebel**,** *Daughter of Robb and Dianne Port*
Regina Baker, *Member*
Jaqueline*, Friend of Kay Wachter and Charlotte Jones*
Mary Zeiman, *Mother of Amy Mildenstein*
Linda Brown, *Friend of the Mildenstein Family*
Steve Jones**,** *very close personal friend of Joann Valainis*
Laura Wertz, *Daughter of Betsy Galliher*
Bob Schmidt*, Brother of Dottie Titmas*
Emily Hess*, Friend of Sue Snyder*

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How our Prayer List Works:
You may call into the Parish Office (301-845-4600) or email the Office Administrator (officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org). When a prayer list request is added, the request will stay on the list for three consecutive weeks. First week it will be noted in ***Super Bold***, the second week it will be noted in **Bold**, and then the third week it will be noted in regular text. Then the request will be removed from the prayer list unless you specifically ask for your request to remain on the prayer list until otherwise noted by you. The power of prayer is amazing!

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." **Matthew 18:20**

PRAYERS
FOR OUR MILITARY
AND THEIR FAMILIES

† Zachary Williams, U.S. Airforce, grandson of Jim & Dottie Titmas
† U.S. Navy Corpsman Matthew Kasik, grandson of Sam Purswell
† Dan Beck, Captain., U.S. Army, son of Pastor Phil & Susan Beck
† Carlin Rabie, U.S. Navy, son-in-law of Marcia & Raj Gupta
† Eric Fong Sam, U.S. Army, friend of Mary Ann Ferguson
† Leo Tanja, U.S. Airforce, nephew of Mary Ann Ferguson's sister-in law
† Aaron Martz, U.S. Navy, grandson of Ken Martz

Please remember all the names on our prayer list, and especially those that are **bold.

They have specific current need for Christian love and support.

Do you or someone you know have need for prayer?

If so, please know that we have a prayer team at St. Paul's that is ready to help.

Simply contact Merle Anderson at

OFFERINGS

We are so blessed and grateful for your continued offerings during these unprecedented times. It is only with your support we can maintain the everyday activities of the church and our work in the community. Please consider mailing your offering to the church or if you have access to the website, there is an online giving option as well.
https://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org/give/

This Week at St Paul's

Sunday, February 22, 2026	
Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
First Sunday in Lent	
Faith Formation	10:00am
Bell Court Worship	2:00pm
Monday, February 23rd	
FEC	8am-5pm
Worship and Arts	10:00am
Girl Scouts	6:00pm
Tuesday, February 24th	
FHS	9am-3pm
Wednesday, February 25th	
Soup and Sandwich in the Parish Hall	6:00pm
Worship	7:00pm
Thursday, February 26th	
FHS	9am-3pm
Cub Scouts	6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Saturday, February 28th	
Confirmation	7:00pm
Sunday, March 1st	
Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
Second Sunday in Lent	
Ministry Sunday	10:00am
Troop 1070 Meeting	5:00pm
Cub Scout Committee Meeting	7:00pm

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

Current Fund Weekly Need:
$3,110.00

Property Renovation Loan Fund Need:
$350.00

Electronic/Mail-ins Income
February 1, 2026

Weekly Contributions: $
Property Loan Fund: $
Total: $

In Worship Offerings
Weekly Contributions: $
Property Loan Fund: $
Total: $

ATTENDANCE:

February 15, 2026

In person: 54

Virtual: 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*******IMPORTANT*******

For those without Facebook please tune into our YouTube channel for live streams of last week's service. Video link https://youtu.be/5_YLQiAnWOI February 15, 2026. Please look for future notices regarding live streaming and YouTube videos at St. Paul's Official YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1l7_-Q

Glade Valley Community Services

Donations for ***Glade Valley Food Bank*** are always accepted!

****UPDATED ITEMS OF NEED ARE:****

Cereal, Hamburger Helper,
Macaroni and Cheese,
Canned Fruit and Peanut butter

Please bring them to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall, or you can put them in the basket by the side door and we will get them to the food bank for you!

Free Community Dinner

DINNER AT WOODSBORO IS CANCELLED ON

Saturday, February 21, 2026 5pm-7pm

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church,
101 S Main St., Woodsboro, MD

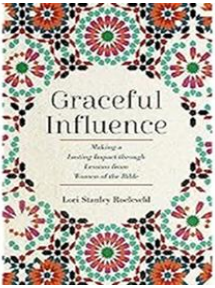
Please see Roxanne Smith with any questions.

MAR-LU RIDGE

Our past members have generously donated funds specifically designated for camperships at Mar-Lu-Ridge. If you are interested in having your children participate in a campership at Mar-Lu-Ridge, please contact Lauren McCloskey for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BOOK STUDY



The Faith Formation Ministry is offering an opportunity for learning using the book **Graceful Influence – Making a Lasting Impact through Lessons from Women of the Bible** by Lori Stanley Roeleveld. Here is what one reviewer stated, "Ever wonder if you're making a difference in your world?

There's a lot on your plate. Everyday tasks pile up and your weeks are packed. Too often activities take precedence over people. It's easy to feel like you're not making a real impact on your loved ones, workplace, or community.

But the stories of biblical women answer resoundingly, Yes, you do make a difference!

Lori Stanley Roeleveld offers you the chance to realize the power of your influence. In examining the lives of pairs of women from the Bible, you will discover how their contrasting choices allowed them to influence future generations. And whether their decisions were wise or unwise, God was able to use their stories to make Himself known. The relevance of their struggles will shed light on the challenges modern women face in making similar choices." Join us for conversations using this text after church during the month of March. Let the office or Susan Hayes know if you are interested (even if you can't come to every session) and we will order the book for you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY

3 in 1 body wash for kids and Chapstick
(Available at Dollar Tree)

You may bring donations to worship and place them in the designated Christmas box or you may drop them off at the Parish Hall Monday through Friday between 9am and 1pm.
Please see Kay Wachter with any questions.

Lenten Wednesday Worship—
Soup and Sandwich @ 6pm, and Worship @ 7:00pm,
both in the Parish Hall.

Holy Week
Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm @ Saint Paul's
Good Friday – 7:00pm @ Saint Paul's and Noon at Bethel

Would you like to schedule a date to sponsor Altar flowers? There will be NO altar flowers during Lent, however you may plan ahead and reserve a date for Easter or after. Please contact Patty Rimel through the Parish Office if you would like to arrange a date to offer flowers.

SERVING TODAY

Minister……Pastor Douglas Jones
Lector……Trish Valcarcel
Organist……Jeff Gentry
Ushers……Marcia Gupta and Nancy Cochran
Acolyte……Camden Plog & Kay Wachter

Staff

Minister:……Pastor Peter Roy
Office Admin:301-845-4600 (officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)….Joann Valainis
Music Coordinator ……Jeff Gentry
Flower Coordinator……Patty Rimel
Administration/Purchasing ……Ed Chaney
Sexton ……Larry Beard
Stephen Ministry……Linda Yopp
Property Coordinator……
Financial Secretary……Troy Keeney