

Epistle *February*



Saint Paul's Lutheran Evangelical Church
14 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793
301-845-4600 | www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

A Time of Preparation & Reflection

Lent is a season of preparation that invites us to slow down and reflect as we journey toward the cross and the promise of resurrection. In the ELCA tradition, Lent is not about earning God's love, but about returning to the grace that God freely gives us through Jesus Christ.

During these forty days, we are called to honest self-reflection. Through prayer and worship, we acknowledge both our brokenness and our deep need for God's mercy. This reflection leads us to repentance—not as a burden, but as a gift—reminding us that forgiveness and new life are already ours because of Christ.



Ash Wednesday

Lenten practices such as prayer, fasting, and acts of service help us become more attentive to God's presence in our lives and in the world around us. These practices do not save us; rather, they shape us as people who live in response to God's grace, loving our neighbors and caring for God's creation.

As we prepare for Easter, may this Lenten season renew our faith, deepen our trust in God's promises, and draw us more fully into the hope, healing, and new life we share in Christ.

We hope you will join us for worship during your Lenten journey this year beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

February Birthdays

Pauline Flanagan	February 4th
Erica Wendt	February 5th
Mary Ann Ferguson	February 9th
Christianna Kutz	February 10th
Trish Lutz	February 13th
Sarah Carroll-Clveiekoglu	February 14th
Betsy Galliher	February 16th
Diedre Kopp	February 18th
Gabrielle Zeller	February 20th
Nancy Cochran	February 22nd
Debra Plowman	February 23rd
Johanna Waters	February 23rd
Kathleen Edwards	February 25th
Sam Purswell	February 26th
Cynthia Zeller	February 26th
Barbara Cartwright	February 27th
Cameron Chesnik	February 28th

Souper Bowl 2026

Souper Bowl Can Drive!
Now through
Sunday, February 8th!

Bring in soup cans for the
Glade Valley Food Bank.

How many cans can
Saint Paul's score?



Sunday, February 15th

2:00pm to 5:00pm, Parish Hall. Bring your family & friends for food and fun at our annual *Game Day!* Bring your favorite Snack, appetizer or dessert to share, your favorite games and your Mardi Gras garb to win a prize. Fun for all ages!

Community Dinner

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bring Family and Friends

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
5pm-7pm

Saturday, February 21, 2026
5pm-7pm

Woodsboro Evangelical
Lutheran Church,
101 S Main St., Woodsboro, MD
*Please see Roxanne Smith
with any questions.*



VICTORIA PARK
SOUPERBOWL EVENT
SOUP AND BINGO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

Saint Paul's will be hosting this fun social event for the residents. We are looking for several volunteers to help and to provide soup and desserts for the event. Please see the link below to sign up. Donated items can be brought to Victoria Park at 11:30am on the day of the event or call if other arrangements need to be made.

Click this link to sign up: [Victoria Park - Souper Bowl Event](#)

Lori King 301-693-2328
lb69king@yahoo.com
Amy Mildenstein 301-646-3304
mrussamy28@gmail.com

A Calling Home

With grateful hearts and deep appreciation, we share that our beloved pastor, Phil Beck, has accepted a new call and will soon be returning to the church where he grew up—a place deeply rooted in his faith journey and family history, and where his father faithfully served as pastor.

For six and half years, Pastor Phil has walked alongside the congregation of Saint Paul's with humility, wisdom, and a genuine love for God's people. Through thoughtful preaching, compassionate pastoral care, and steady leadership, he has helped shape our church and strengthened our faith in countless ways. Many of us have been encouraged, challenged, comforted, and inspired by his ministry—often at just the right moment.

This new call is especially meaningful. It represents not only a return to a familiar congregation, but a continuation of a faithful legacy—answering God's call in the same church that helped form his own faith and where his father once served with dedication. We recognize this opportunity as both a full-circle moment and a powerful testament to God's enduring work across generations.

While we will miss Pastor Phil deeply, we celebrate this next step with joy and trust. We believe God's hand is clearly guiding this transition, and we are thankful to have been part of his journey for this season. As Scripture reminds us, "*The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it*" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

In the weeks ahead, we will have opportunities to share our gratitude, reflect on memories, and offer our prayers and blessings as Pastor Phil prepares to begin this new chapter. We ask our church family to keep him and his family in prayer, along with our congregation, as we move forward with faith and hope in God's continued provision.

Though goodbyes are never easy, we do not say farewell without thanksgiving. We thank God for Pastor Phil, for his faithful ministry among us, and for the lasting impact he has made on our church family.

May God richly bless Pastor Phil as he returns home to serve, just as he has so faithfully blessed us.



Welcome Pastor Roy

Dear Members of the Congregation,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to share the good news that Pastor Peter Roy will be joining us as our Interim Pastor beginning February 8th. We give thanks to God for leading Pastor Roy to walk with us during this important season in the life of our congregation.

An interim time is a time of both reflection and hope—a time to honor where we have been, to be attentive to where the Holy Spirit is leading us now, and to prepare for what lies ahead. Pastor Roy brings gifts of pastoral care, thoughtful worship, and experience. We trust that these gifts will be a blessing to our community.

We invite you to join us in offering Pastor Roy a warm welcome, your prayers, and your partnership in ministry. May we approach this new chapter with open hearts, mutual trust, and a shared commitment to our mission, *Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.*

Please keep Pastor Roy and our congregation in your prayers as we begin this journey together.

Year Round Stocking Stuffer Project

Our Annual **Stocking Stuffer Project** at St. Paul's is beginning again this February!

This meaningful project supports our local Christmas Toy Shop by helping provide Christmas stockings for children in need within our community.

A cherished tradition at St. Paul's for many years, the Stocking Stuffer Project allows us to keep the spirit of Christmas alive all year long. Each month, we will share specific donation needs as we work together to fill the stockings by November.

We hope you'll consider answering the call and becoming, part of this long-standing St. Paul's tradition and being true to our mission statement, *Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.*

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FEBRUARY

3 in 1 body wash for kids and chapstick. Both are available at Dollar Tree.



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

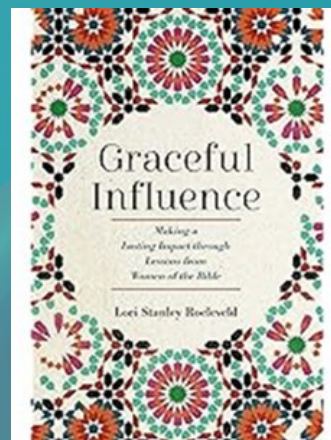
over people. It’s easy to feel like you’re not making a real impact on your loved ones, workplace, or community.

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.



LENTEN Schedule

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 7:00PM, at St. Paul's

Lenten Wednesday Worship—TBD

Holy Week

Wednesday - TBD

Maundy Thursday - TBD

Good Friday - TBD



Annual Congregational Meeting

February 8, 2026 Directly after Worship.

Due to inclement weather, the Annual Congregational Meeting originally scheduled for January 25, 2026, has been postponed. The meeting has now been rescheduled for **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, and will take place **immediately following worship**.

This meeting is an important opportunity for our congregation to come together, review the life and work of the church, and make decisions that help guide our future. Your participation is vital, as **your voice and your vote truly matter**.

- Please plan to attend and be part of this meaningful time of fellowship and decision-making. We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your continued commitment to our church community.

Upcoming Events

February 3, 2026	Community Dinner
February 8, 2026	Annual Congregational Meeting Final Day for Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive
February 14, 2026	Valentine's Day
February 15, 2026	Annual Game Day
February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday, Service @ 7:00PM
February 21, 2026	Community Dinner

