



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612
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From the Pastor...

WHAT A WINTER

Many of us will be happy to say good-bye to January after the freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall that we have experienced. Unfortunately, February is not known for warm temperatures either. At least we can say that we are closer to spring now than we were just a few days ago.

If you are looking for a silver lining in all those snow bearing clouds and Alberta Clippers, it may be this. Being forced to stay indoors, can allow one to engage in casual reading, more personal time for prayer, connecting with others online and of course; eating those comfort foods.

The additional snow also provides us the opportunity for some much-needed exercise. Shoveling snow can be quite invigorating and helpful for stimulating circulation. It must be done with moderation and a close monitoring of your own body's reaction to the stress that is created by shoveling snow.

Speaking of snow, it does also offer us the opportunity to help others. The football team from Wooster High Scholl volunteered and shoveled 100 driveways for local residents at no charge. What a wonderful example of service to the community.

All things considered, winter is a special time of the year when we are forced to slow down the pace of life. This is not a bad thing. There are always drivers who ignore the road conditions and speed, but they are thankfully the exception. Caution becomes the norm. When temperatures moderate, a walk in the snow can be quite salubrious and stimulating for the mind and body.

Looking forward to February, I want to remind everyone of the upcoming season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is a season of reflection on the passion and death of Jesus. Slowing down a bit gives us the chance to delve into the real meaning of Lent and discover anew the power of God's love for the world. I encourage you to participate in our community Lenten services each Wednesday beginning on February 25.

In closing, please stay warm and enjoy what winter offers; namely the time to spend with others and the Lord in prayer and worship.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

<u>2/1</u> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	<u>2/8</u> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	<u>2/15</u> Transfiguration of Our Lord	<u>2/18</u> Ash Wednesday	<u>2/22</u> First Sunday in Lent
<u>Micah 6:1-8</u>	<u>Isaiah 58:3-9</u>	<u>Exodus 24:8-18</u>	<u>Joel 2:12-19</u>	<u>Genesis 3:1-21</u>
<u>Psalm 15</u>	<u>Psalm 112:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm 2:6-12</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1-19</u>	<u>Psalm 32:1-7</u>
<u>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 2:1-16</u>	<u>2 Peter 1:16-21</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u>	<u>Romans 5:12-19</u>
<u>Matthew 5:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 5:13-20</u>	<u>Matthew 17:1-9</u>	<u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u>	<u>Matthew 4:1-11</u>

Birthday's & Anniversaries: (No anniversaries for February)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS				
<i>Sydney Ward</i>	<i>2/3</i>		<i>John Bolitho</i>	<i>2/17</i>
<i>Gary Spangler</i>	<i>2/5</i>		<i>Donna Dudash</i>	<i>2/22</i>
<i>Virginia Smerglia</i>	<i>2/6</i>		<i>Aaron Woods</i>	<i>2/26</i>
<i>Kevin Kienzle</i>	<i>2/10</i>			
<i>Tamra Huggins</i>	<i>2/12</i>			
<i>Rose Harris</i>	<i>2/13</i>			



The weekly Lenten service will start at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow the service.

Lenten Services Schedule:

February 25 Holy Trinity – March 4 Zoar UCC – March 11 – StJohn UCC - March 18 Bolivar Methodist - March 25 St. Paul Lutheran - April 1 Bolivar Community

30 Days of Praise: Beginning Monday, **January 19**, everyone is invited to pray a psalm for a week until Lent begins on Wednesday, **February 18**. A container with all the numbered psalms is available at the rear of the church for you to select your psalm. We will pick new psalms each Sunday for the next four weeks.

A new year has begun. Please fill out a communion record card at least one time this year. To be a voting St. Paul member, you need to have communion and give an offering of record in your name once per year.

Ministers for Worship

February 1, 2026

<i>Assistant</i>	8:00	Charlann Young	10:30	Marcia Howenstine
<i>Lector</i>	8:00	Wanda Baltzly	10:30	Gabriel Woods
<i>Ushers & Greeters</i>	8:00	Byron & Marianne Lautenschleger	10:30	Aaron & Meghan Woods
<i>Screen</i>	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Ted Howenstine

February 8, 2026

<i>Assistant</i>	8:00	Sandy Ritter	10:30	Kim Pohovey
<i>Lector</i>	8:00	Steve Maurer	10:30	Kim Pohovey
<i>Ushers & Greeters</i>	8:00	John & Sandy Bolitho	10:30	Randy & Cheryl Simers
<i>Screen</i>	8:00	Terri Howell	10:30	Dee Garrison

February 15, 2026

<i>Assistant</i>	9:30	Terry Tegtmeier		
<i>Lector</i>	9:30	Richard Dudash		
<i>Ushers & Greeters</i>	9:30	Dee Garrison		
<i>Screen</i>	9:30	Zac Pirillo		

February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday

<i>Assistant</i>	7:00 pm	Randy Simers		
<i>Lector</i>	7:00 pm	Cheryl Simers		
<i>Ushers & Greeters</i>	7:00 pm	Aaron & Meghan Woods		
<i>Screen</i>	7:00 pm	Doug Dix		

February 22 2026

<i>Assistant</i>	8:00	Steve Maurer	10:30	Marcia Howenstine
<i>Lector</i>	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Donna Menyes
<i>Ushers & Greeters</i>	8:00	John & Sandy Bolitho	10:30	Tom & Tammy Huggins
<i>Screen</i>	8:00	Terri Howell	10:30	Ted Howenstine





Shut-ins: Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card. –**Pam Ward** (Room 128) – Hennis Care Center 300 Yant St. Bolivar OH 44612) - - **Jerry Hoskinson**, 1970 North Orchard Rd. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 - - **Betty Menapace** (Room 19 A) – Park Village – 1511 Crater Ave., Dover OH 44622 and **Alyce Snyder** - (Room 608) at Assisted Living at Brewster Park 360 Wabash Avenue (Jefferson Lodge/Inn Bldg. Brewster OH 44613 **Carol Hoskinson** (Room 311) The Gables 3660 Greentree Ave. SW Canton, Ohio 44706



Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers – Julie Dean, Donna Ducash, Joseph Baltzly, Allyson Sanders, James Baltzly, Jim Tucker, Zach & Raeann Todd, Donna Robishaw, Dan Chenoweth, Jennifer Melegari, Mary Sanders, Netta Strand, Lissa Johns, Brock McNutt, David Shetler, Gary Smerglass, Lauren Seifert, Servicemen & Women- Seth Hershberger, Kyle Grieving, Cearra Taylor, Don Scholz, Rob Vitous, Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, **Note: After 6 months names will be removed if no new information is given.**



Council News: St. Paul will donate \$10,000 to purchase a new forklift for the NALC Disaster Relief Warehouse in Caldwell Ohio. Council also approved to send \$500 for the Polar Plunge, benefits the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, also serving Tuscarawas County. In addition, the council decided to approve a fellowship Sunday on the third Sunday of each month beginning in February. On the third Sunday there will be only one service at 9:30 am and no Sunday school. A light food selection will be provided. In addition, no church meetings will be held if the local school district closes for the day.

The list of Council Members for 2026 are as follows: President Randy Simers – Vice President & Youth Zac Pirillo – Secretary Rick Simmons -Treasurer & Fellowship Beth Pirillo – Jim Davis Property - Christian Ed Olivia Howell – Evangelism Mary Ann Miller – Stewardship Ted Howenstine – Finance Larry Smerglass


Yearly Offering: The year-end offering envelopes are in the Narthex for you to pick up.



Congratulations: The Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce awarded Eleet Cryogenics with the Large Business of the Year Award. Garry Sears is the owner of that company. The company is owned by Garry Sears.



Cooking Class: Cooking classes will be held on **February 9th** and **March 2nd** at **5:00 p.m.**

 **Thank You:** Thank you to all who helped with packing the blessing bags two weeks ago. We packed over 100 bags for those in need!

FEBRUARY 2026 PRAYER FOCUS

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

God is good and He LOVES YOU.

This pretty much sums up the message of the entire Bible and

We love because He first loved us.

As Pastor Mike would advise, "Take the time, slow down" and dwell on that awesome verse.

It is this love that is the source of our love:

Yes, Jesus loves me!

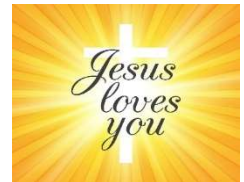
Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so!

Let us Pray!

Thank you, heavenly Father, for the wonderful emotion of love. May we live lives worthy of Your love by being obedient to you and loving others as You have taught us. In Jesus name we pray. **AMEN**



Thrivent Choice by March 31st

Be sure to direct 2025 Choice Dollars to your church or the organization(s) you care about by March 31, 2026. It only takes a few minutes to make a difference. Choice Dollars® are part of Thrivent Choice®, a generosity program that empowers eligible clients to help choose where Thrivent donates a portion of its charitable funding. Since the program began, clients like you have helped Thrivent distribute nearly \$660 million to nonprofit organizations and churches across the country.

(Please refer to the bulletin board for more information.)

Thank you for helping us give back.

David J Zastawny, CLTC®, FIC, RICP®
Financial Advisor



ONE PLUS GOD

Here are some of the highlights of 2025, by God's grace and to His glory, that you have been a part of:


- **Turkey Bible Tour:** Over 30 people joined a very blessed Paul & John (Revelation) tour in Turkey.
- **Tanzania:** Funded a 4X4 vehicle for the long rainy seasons so that ministry work can continue uninterrupted.
- **South Africa:** Shambusi for abandoned, abused, and orphaned children became operational.
- **Mali:** Funded a new radio tower to improve the reach even further amongst the Muslim population.
- **Thailand:** A new church was planted in the South, and a new church building started in the North.
- **Bangkok:** The sports center and parking lot was completed, and many young people have been reached since!
- **Global Missions:** We've had the largest amount of trips in a year since the ministry started.
- **Retreats & Teaching:** Hundreds attended the teachings, and we need a larger space for our couples retreats.
- **Website:** Upgraded to include a multimedia button for countries to give better and more detailed feedback





FEBRUARY 2026



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u> Y	<u>Saturday</u>
<u>2/1</u>	<u>2/2</u>	<u>2/3</u>	<u>2/4</u>	<u>2/5</u>	<u>2/6</u>	<u>2/7</u>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.		Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.		Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
<u>2/8</u>	<u>2/9</u>	<u>2/10</u>	<u>2/11</u>	<u>2/12</u>	<u>2/13</u>	<u>2/14</u>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Cooking Class 5:00 p.m. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.			Property 9:00 a.m. Happy Valentines Day 
<u>2/15</u>	<u>2/16</u>	<u>2/17</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>2/19</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>2/21</u>
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
<u>2/22</u>	<u>2/23</u>	<u>2/24</u>	<u>2/25</u>	<u>2/26</u>	<u>2/27</u>	<u>2/28</u>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Lenten Service 11:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.			

Month to Month Giving

Month to Date Giving Through January 2026– Amount \$ 6,714.00

Month to Date Giving Through January 2025– Amount \$14,190.00