



**St. Paul's**  
Missouri Synod Lutheran

*Ash Wednesday - February 18, 2026*

## **A Silent Prayer**

*Before worship*

On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessed Jesus, King of grace;  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may work erase:  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!      LSB 4:22

**Bold face type** - read by the congregation

## **Opening Hymn - 418**

**O Lord, throughout these Forty Days**

*Please stand*

## **Invocation**

### **Address for Imposition of Ashes**

Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray to our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, that he richly bless our journey to Good Friday and Easter Sunday, so that we may live our lives with glad hearts and celebrate Jesus' resurrection in sincerity and truth.

### *Brief silence for reflection*

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we know that we are dust and to dust we shall return. In your mercy you

pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **Old Testament Reading**    Joel 2:12-19

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

<sup>18</sup>Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup>The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*Ashes are imposed on the forehead or on the hand in the sign of the cross – a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism – with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

*Please stand*

### **Confession and Absolution**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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.**

The ashes of our sin remind us of the curse of death and our need for Your redemption.

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Mark us with Your cross and take our sins from us. Help us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy delivered His Son over to the death of the cross to bear the burden of our brokenness, becoming sin for us “so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The ashes of your sin have been taken away and you have been marked and redeemed by Christ, the Crucified. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Litany for Ash Wednesday**

O Lord, **have mercy.**  
O Christ, **have mercy.**  
O Lord, **have mercy**  
O Christ, **hear us.**

God the Father in heaven,  
**have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy.**

Be gracious to us.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us.

**Help us, good Lord.**

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;  
by Your holy nativity;  
by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by Your agony and bloody sweat;

by Your cross and passion;  
by Your precious death and burial;  
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the  
Comforter:

**Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgment:

**Help us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore You  
**to hear us, O Lord.**

To prosper the preaching of Your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength  
to our repentance:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To draw all to Yourself;  
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;  
to watch over and console the poor, the sick,  
the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken,  
the abandoned, and all who stand  
in need of our prayers;  
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;  
and to have mercy on us all:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To turn our hearts to You;  
to turn the hearts of our enemies,  
persecutors, and slanderers;  
and graciously to hear our prayers:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**We implore You to hear us.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin of the world,  
**have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world,  
**have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin of the world,  
**grant us Your peace.**

O Christ, **hear us.**  
O Lord, **have mercy.**  
O Christ, **have mercy.**  
O Lord, **have mercy. Amen**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, You despise  
nothing You have made and forgive the sins  
of all who come to You in repentance and  
faith. Cleanse us from the ashes of our sin  
that we may hold fast to the promise that we  
have been marked and redeemed by Christ,  
the Crucified, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **New Testament Reading**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be  
reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made  
him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him  
we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we  
appeal to you not to receive the grace of  
God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Verse** Joel 2:13b

**Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Holy Gospel** Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ...

<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## **Hymn - 610 - Lord Jesus, Think On Me**

### **Offering**

*Please stand*

### **Offertory Prayer**

### **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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.

*Please be seated*

## **Sermon Hymn - 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee**

### **Sermon**

*Please stand*

### **Closing Prayer**

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and,  
having set us free from the bonds of our sins,  
deliver us from every evil; through Jesus  
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen.

### **Closing Sentences**

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence,  
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

### **Benediction**

*We leave in silence, remembering we are dust,  
and to dust we shall return.*

## Prayer Concerns

**Ashley Forba** - Ongoing health issues

**Mary Ellen Mills** - Eye issues

**Janet Finn** - Continued rehab after knee replacement

**Elaine Decker** - Ongoing health issues

**Vladimir and Marie Dutko** - Healing and well-being - Marina Yarasavage's parents

**Keith Mitchell's father** - Kendall Health issues

**All those in the armed forces, including Kyle Stackhouse**

**All those suffering due to natural disasters**

## Church Events

**Meet with Pastor Josh** - Sign-up sheet in narthex

**Youth Activities** - Please contact Liz Stackhouse 570-833-5971

***Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***

***Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing, and perfect will.***

Romans 12:2

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## Officers for St. Paul's Church 2026

President	Becky Durland	570-836-4532
Secretary	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971
Treasurer	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Financial Secretary	Linda Wozniak	570-380-3880

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### Elders

Willy Forba	570-836-6173
Paul De Groat	570-290-9626
Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Gene Adams	570-833-4616
Pete Waldenberger	570-278-9211

### Endowment Committee

Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Bill Yarasavage	570-690-0879
Keith Mitchell	570-934-2314
Nancy Loch	570-965-2042

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### Board Council Members

Church Properties	Donna Waldenberger	570-278-9211
Christian Education	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Evangelism	Diane Turrell	570-665-1369
Fellowship	Marina Yarasavage	570-690-0871
Youth Services	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Bible Study 5 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bible Study 5 pm	12	13	14
15 Communion	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm	19	20	21
22 Communion	23	24	25	26	27	28

## Birthdays

Feb 1 Regina Forba  
Elizabeth Elliot  
Feb 2 Nancy Pease  
Feb 9 Karen Mitchell  
Feb 12 Deb Joyce  
Anya Tyler  
Feb 13 Sarah Makey  
Feb 14 Nancy Loch  
Love Tyler  
Feb 15 Kevin Durland  
Feb 17 Jack Waldenberger

Please join us for Sunday services at 10 am

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

570-836-2301 (call/text)

5672 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

**Pastor Josh** - pastorjosh@stpaulslutheranpa.org

Website - [stpaulslutheranpa.org](http://stpaulslutheranpa.org)

## Sermons are posted here:

[youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheranTunkhannock/streams](https://youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheranTunkhannock/streams)

**Offering** - Monthly offering needs are \$10,888.75

January offering total \$4137 (three weeks).

## Acknowledgments

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## Those Who Serve

Date	Reader	Ushers	Acolyte
Feb 22	Nancy P	Don S & Bill Y	Nate J
Mar 1	Donna W	Willy F & Kevin D	Kayla S
Mar 8	Bill Y	Kevin D & Don S	Kayla S
Mar 15	Kevin D	Bill Y & Keith M	Nate J