



St. Paul Lutheran Church of Kalkaska, MI  
2470 Beebe Rd  
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646  
[www.stpaulkalkaska.org](http://www.stpaulkalkaska.org)

# The Parish Word



Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
**Pastor Tom Phillips**  
(217) 371-2122  
[Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com)

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mancelona, MI  
211 E. Hinman St.  
Mancelona, Michigan 49659  
[www.stmatthewmancelona.com](http://www.stmatthewmancelona.com)

## January – February 2026

### 2026 Challenge: Read the whole Bible

Jesus spoke about the wisdom of those who receive the Word of the Lord and take it to heart. St. Paul commanded the Christians at Colossae to have the Word of Christ dwelling in them richly. St. Peter encouraged his readers to pay attention to the Scriptures as to a light shining in a dark place.

To this end, in the coming year, I encourage one and all to read/listen to the Scriptures daily. When reading the Scriptures becomes a habit, the Word also finds application in our daily life and conversation. In the front of your hymnal you will find a plan for reading through the Bible. You can easily find 1-, 2-, and 3-year plans. Be sure to look at the “Essential Tools” article in this newsletter!

### Every Member Visits 2026!

With medical issues, appointments and treatments, 2025 was a rough year for the Phillips family. I did get arounds to a few households, but not as many as I would have preferred. Thank you, so much to all who invited me into your homes!

Again in 2026, I encourage our members and quests to consider inviting Beverly and me for a visit. No pressure... in the last round of visits, I brought along my snowshoes (and used them!). A typical visit includes general conversation, a Scripture reading, and prayer. I usually ask, “What do you like most about your church?” I look forward to your invitations and getting to know the St. Matts/St. Paul flocks! The sign-up sheets will be out after the first of the year.

*Pastor Phillips*

### News from St. Matthew's

The Friendship Ministry continues! On December 22 we even had a Christmas party for the staff and residents. Pastor Phillips usually leads the singing and signs all the songs and prayers in American Sign Language. As we waited for everyone to gather for the Christmas story and celebration, we sang Silent Night a capella!

We also decorated the church in the afternoon of November 30. Everything looks so festive!

### News from St. Paul's

The Men's Ministry continues to meet on the Last Saturday of the month. In November we gathered non-perishable food donations for KAIR. We also helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. In December we provided boxes of food & Christmas gifts to KAIR families.

The Ladies held their annual cookie walk, with proceeds helping to replace important kitchen items. On December 13<sup>th</sup> we had a Christmas party for the ladies of the congregation.

Our Men's Ministry will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month. Each event begins with a meal and Devotion. January might be a winter camp fire...

### Wanted: your items for the Parish Word!

Help this newsletter be more than “pastor's thoughts”. Please submit news or reports from your church related organizations/activities.

For the time being, please send your items for the March 2026 “Parish Word”  
No later than February 15<sup>th</sup> to: **[Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com)**

## ***From Martin Luther's Small Catechism...***

A "catechism" is a book for teaching, usually in the form of questions and answers. We study the catechism (and the Scriptures!) all during our life.

### ***The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition***

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*What does this mean?* God's good and gracious will is certainly done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is God's will done?* God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

### ***Issues, Etc.***

Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show committed to *Educating a New Generation of Lutherans*. Issues, Etc. is produced by Lutheran Public Radio, Inc. in Collinsville IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. The ten-hour weekly program features expert guests in theology, Biblical interpretation, Christian apologetics, ethics, philosophy, law, and culture. Why not add Issues, Etc. to your list of rock-solid podcasts?

Issues, Etc. also sponsors the annual "Making the Case" conference (held in July 2025 at Concordia University – Chicago). Go to [www.IssuesEtc.org](http://www.IssuesEtc.org) and you can listen to "on demand" podcasts or whatever comes up in their "best of" set. You can also choose to listen to sacred music... all for "no charge!"

### ***Essentials Tools for Every Household***

- Primary Bible (ESV) study Bible preferred
- Notebook (record your thoughts on what you read)
- Bible Gateway app or website (can also use this to listen to an audio version of the text)
- Maybe a second Bible (different translation)
- Bible Atlas
- Bible Handbook

***Parish Bible Studies***  
**Sunday** 1015am children's Bible story (SML)  
1230pm Adult Bible Class (SPL)  
2pm Adult Instruction (SPL)  
(new classes forming in 2026)  
6pm Youth Catechism (grades 6-8+)  
**Monday** 4pm Adult Bible Class (SML)

## ***Law and Gospel***

One critical task of the Christian is the proper distinction between Law and Gospel. This is more than just reading Scripture. This especially involves applying the Word of God to faith and life. It is the difference between "salvation by grace through faith" and "self-justification."

The Law threatens, punishes, shows what God commands, and reveals our sin. The Gospel promises, forgives, heals our spirit, and points to Christ.

Here are some sample Bible passages. Let's see how you do in distinguishing between Law

and Gospel. The answers are posted elsewhere.

- ***You shall have no other gods before Me.***  
Law or Gospel?
- ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.***  
Law or Gospel?
- ***There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.***  
Law or Gospel?
- ***He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,***  
Law or Gospel?

### ***Recipe Corner: Sour Cream Coffee Cake***

*(Sheila Volz)*

- Cream: 1c. butter (2 sticks)  
2 c. sugar 2 eggs
- Fold in: 1c. sour cream  
½ tsp. vanilla
- Add: 2c. flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
¼ tsp salt
- Topping: 1c. nuts  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
4 T. br. sugar

Grease & flour tube pan. Pour in ½ of the batter. Sprinkle with ½ of the topping. Add remaining batter, and topping.

Bake @ 350. Bake a tube pan for 60 minutes or a 9"x13" pan for 30 minutes.

It's STILL all about  
**JESUS!**

***For Your Weekly Devotions...The readings for Sunday worship***  
***Try to read the lessons before the date listed (then you will be familiar with the weekly theme!)***

January 4 1 Kings 3:4-15 Psalm 119:97-104 Ephesians 1:3-14 Luke 2:40-52	January 25 Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-25	February 15 Exodus 24:8-18 Psalm 2:6-12 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
January 11 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 3:13-17	February 1 Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	February 22 Genesis 3:1-21 Psalm 32:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11
January 18 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42a	February 8 Isaiah 58:3-9a Psalm 112:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20	March 1 Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 John 3:1-17

*"Thy Word is lamp to my feet and light to my path." Psalm 119:105*

***St. Matthew's 2026 Officers***

Chairman – Dennis Schlak  
Vice Chairman – Joan Tewes  
Treasurer – Patty Atkinson  
Recording Secretary – Edith Plumb & Louise Hinds  
Financial Secretary – Ed Sell  
Elders – Don Hinds (Head Elder), Ed Sell, Chuck Smith  
Trustees – Chuck Smith, Roger Smelker

***St. Paul's 2026 Officers***

Chairman – Bud Burns  
Vice Chairman – Adam Kuuttila  
Treasurer – Patti Ritthaler  
Recording Secretary – Pam Burns  
Financial Secretary – Pam Burns  
Elders – Norm Volz (Head Elder), Bud Burns, Adam Kuuttila, Gary Ritthaler, Dennis Quast  
Trustees – Gary Ritthaler (Head Trustee), Bud Burns, Scott Risinger, Cinda Knight, Norma Thornberg

**The Parish Classifieds / Idea Corner**

**Just a reminder:** The best way to contact Pastor Phillips is to call or text his cell phone (217) 371-2122.

**Occasionally our hens lay more eggs than we use.** If you would like to be "on the list" to receive eggs, please contact Pastor. There is no cost. Also, if you have your own egg-layers, maybe we can combine our efforts and offer eggs to the congregations more often... contact Pastor.

**Did you know...** The Sunday 1230pm Bible Study (@St. Paul) and the Monday 4pm Bible study (@St. Matthews) are usually the same? If you have trouble making it to one, why not attend the other?

**Wanted @ St Paul's:** volunteers for our Sunday School Ministry. If you can serve as a member of the Board of Christian education or as a teacher, or teacher assistant or song leader... please speak with Pastor!

**Answers:** Law, Gospel, Gospel, Gospel.

**Everyone a Greeter:** How do you welcome those who come to worship? If it was your first time visiting our congregation, how would you like to be welcomed?

***St. Matthew's Bulletin notes:*** Send your item for the weekly bulletin, no later than Wednesday morning, to:  
emrhplumb1@gmail.com

***St. Paul's Bulletin notes:*** Send your item for the weekly bulletin, no later than Wednesday morning, to:  
stpaulkalkaska2470@gmail.com

## **Area LCMS Congregations within 50 miles... We are not alone!**

(This section is under construction... can you help provide information?)

### **Circuit 31 (our Petoskey Circuit)**

#### **Boyne City - Christ Lutheran Church**

8 & 1030am Divine Service  
1250 Boyne Ave., Boyne City, MI 49712  
(231) 582-9301 [christlutheranboyne@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheranboyne@gmail.com)  
[www.clcboyne.com](http://www.clcboyne.com)

**Pastor Chuck Hoffman**

#### **Gaylord - Trinity Lutheran Church**

9am Divine Service  
1354 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord MI 49735  
(989) 732-4916 [office@trinitygaylord.com](mailto:office@trinitygaylord.com)  
[www.trinitygaylord.com](http://www.trinitygaylord.com)

**Pastor Kurt Klingbeil**

#### **Grayling - Mount Hope Lutheran Church**

11am Divine Service (Bible Study after)  
905 N I75 Business Loop  
Grayling, MI 49738  
(989) 348-5921 [mthopelcms@gmail.com](mailto:mthopelcms@gmail.com)  
[www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org](http://www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org)

**Pastor Kurt Klingbeil**

#### **Kalkaska - St. Paul Lutheran Church**

11am Divine Service  
1230 Bible Study  
US 131 N 2470 Beebe Rd,  
Kalkaska MI 49646  
(231) 258-9258 [stpaulkalkaska@att.net](mailto:stpaulkalkaska@att.net)  
[www.stpaulkalkaska.org](http://www.stpaulkalkaska.org)

**Pastor Tom Phillips**

#### **Lewiston - Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

1030am Divine Service  
3805 County Road 612, Lewiston, MI 49756  
(989) 786-3713 [bethlehemlewiston@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemlewiston@gmail.com)  
<https://bethlehemlewiston.360unite.com/home>

**Rev. Brent Berg**

#### **Mancelona - St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

9am Divine Service  
Monday 4pm Bible Study  
211 E. Hinman, Mancelona, MI 49659  
Mailing Address: PO Box 469  
(231) 587-8442 [stmatthewmancelona@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewmancelona@gmail.com)  
[www.stmatthewmancelona.com](http://www.stmatthewmancelona.com)

**Pastor Tom Phillips**

#### **Petoskey - Zion Lutheran Church**

8 & 1030am Divine Service  
500 W. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770  
(231) 347-3438 [office@zionlutheranpetoskey.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranpetoskey.org)  
[www.zionlutheranpetoskey.org](http://www.zionlutheranpetoskey.org)

**Pastor Matt Peters - Circuit Visitor**

### **Retired / Other Pastors (home church)**

**Pastor Tim Azzam**

**Pastor Ken Bernthal (Gaylord)**

**Pastor Ricky Garrett**

**Pastor Daniel McVey (Kalkaska)**

**Pastor Don Nemec (Gaylord)**

### **Congregations in neighboring circuits**

#### **Bellaire - Hope Lutheran Church (English District)**

9am Divine Service  
[hopeinbellaire@gmail.com](mailto:hopeinbellaire@gmail.com)

**Pastor Seaver**

#### **Benzonia**

#### **Cadillac - Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

11198 E M 55, Cadillac, MI 49601-8474  
(231) 775-3261 <https://emmanuelcadillac.org/>

**Pastor Brennan Woell - Circuit Visitor**

#### **Cedar - St. Paul Lutheran Church**

#### **Elk Rapids - Grace Lutheran Church**

10am Worship  
16194 Wanigan Drive  
Elk Rapids, MI 49629  
(231) 264-5312

**Pastor Jim Redmann**

#### **Glen Arbor**

#### **Good Harbor**

#### **Houghton Lake - St. John Lutheran Church**

#### **Interlochen - Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Jason Bauer**

#### **Leland - Immanuel Lutheran Church**

#### **Mesick - Faith Lutheran Church**

#### **Traverse City**

St. Michael Lutheran Church

**Pastor Mike Latham**

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

**Pastor Mike Goers - Circuit Visitor**

# The Parish Word – Calendar

## January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>SPL Boy Scouts</b> Mondays @ 530p		<b>SPL</b> = St. Paul – Kalkaska <b>SML</b> = St. Matthew – Mancelona	<b>SPL Alcoholics Anonymous</b> Thursdays @ 8p		
4 <b>Installation of officers (SML &amp; SPL)</b> 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 2pm Adult Instruction (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	5 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	6 11a Ladies Guild (SML) 1p Ladies Guild (SPL)	7	8 Pastor's day off	9	10
11 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	12 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	13 930a Winkel @ Trinity – Gaylord 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	14	15 Pastor's day off	16	17
18 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	19 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	20	21	22 Pastor's day off	23	24
25 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Potluck & Voters (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	26 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship (SML)	27	28 11a Elders (SPL)	29 Pastor's day off	30	31 5pm Men's Ministry Event (SPL)

***Save this page!***

# The Parish Word - Calendar

## February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>SPL Boy Scouts</b> Mondays @ 530p	<b>SPL</b> = St. Paul – Kalkaska <b>SML</b> = St. Matthew – Mancelona		<b>SPL Alcoholics Anonymous</b> Thursdays @ 8p		
1 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	2 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	3 11a Ladies Guild (SML) 1p Ladies Guild (SPL)	4	5 Pastor's day off	6	7
8 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	9 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	10 930a Winkel @ St. Matthew – Mancelona 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	11	12 Pastor's day off	13	14
15 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	16 <b><u>Newsletter Deadline</u></b> 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	17	18 <b>7pm Ash Wednesday</b> (w/ Communion) @ St. Paul	19 Pastor's day off	20	21
22 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	23 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	24	25 11a Elders (SPL) 6pm Potluck Supper 7pm Lenten Vespers @ SPL	26 Pastor's day off	27	28 5pm Men's Ministry Event (SPL)

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