



The Parish Word



St. Paul Lutheran Church of Kalkaska, MI
2470 Beebe Rd
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646
www.stpaulkalkaska.org

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

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mancelona, MI
211 E. Hinman St.
Mancelona, Michigan 49659
www.stmatthewmancelona.com

March - April 2026

One day closer to Spring!

It is easy to get to feeling down in the winter months. One more snow fall. One more dark and blustery day. More frost on the outside and the inside of the windshield. One more note from the postman reminding me to clear the snow from around the mailbox. The mid-winter blues are real and affect most people at one time or another.

Lately, you may have heard me say, “One day closer to Spring.” Most folks answer “Yes. It is...” And their frown softens.

One day closer to Spring...

This saying is more than simple optimism. “Thinking happy thoughts” can be a form of denial of reality.

My optimism is not empty, and it is most certainly not born from denial. Take a moment and read the Bible verse in the middle of this page. The message of the cross **is the power of God**, to those who are being saved. It is the power God put forward through His Son, Jesus, to bring about our salvation.

The result of the cross and the empty tomb is that we know without a doubt that He is **FOR US**. With God on our side, through Jesus, we can look on sickness, world events, and even wintry weather, and say with confidence, “one day closer to Spring.” But let’s improve this even more... He has promised **never will I leave you; never will I forsake you...** We can say with confidence “One day closer to heaven.”

Pastor Phillips

News from St. Matthew’s Altar Guild

(Submitted by Louise Hinds, St. Matt’s LWML president)

The Altar Guild keeps busy caring for the chancel as well as other services. On February 10, we served

snacks and lunch for the Petoskey Circuit Winkel. It is always nice to meet the circuit pastors.

Our congregation helped with the luncheon for Pastor McVey's funeral (February 21st). Many from St. Matthew attended as Pastor McVey was our minister for many years.

We are looking forward to the 2026 Lenten services at St. Paul, and the Easter celebration, April 5. There

are sign-up sheets on a table in the Parish Hall for anyone wishing to bring a dish for the Lenten services at St. Paul.

April 11, we will be hosting the LWML Zone Rally, a Prayer

Service followed by a service event. Watch for more information. Save the Date!

News from St. Paul’s *(Submitted by Sheila Volz)*

St Paul Ladies Guild Activities: Midweek Meals - Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 6:00pm soup, sandwich potluck dinner before 7pm service. Signup sheet for soup and sandwiches will be posted at St. Paul.

St. Paul altar flowers for Easter will be donated by parishioners. You may buy any spring flower you would like to see on the altar and then later in your yard. If you would like them in honor, thanks of or in memory of a loved one, please get the names to Sheila Volz or Pastor Phillips by April 1.

On Easter Sunday at St. Paul, after the Divine Service, the children will meet in the Narthex for egg hunt instructions with Ms. Cheryl Gustafson and Ms. Cinda Knight. As the eggs are gathered, the children will gather in the back room for special gifts. Then everyone will gather in the fellowship hall for Easter Lunch. A sign-up sheet will be posted at St Paul.

For the time being, please send your items for the March 2026 “Parish Word”
No later than February 15th to: **Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com**

Words cannot express...

...***my extreme gratitude to everyone*** for all of your prayers, help, and support that you have given to Pastor Dan and me over the last several months and especially now with his passing.

I want to thank everyone for the food that was provided during this time and especially for preparing such a wonderful luncheon after the funeral. Also, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Pastor Phillips for all of his visits and support through all of this. It made Dan's passing easier to bear.

Yours in Christ, Marge McVey

Spring (?) Forward! Time Change March 7

The days are getting longer. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour when you head to bed on March 7! Don't forget to check your smoke/CO detectors as well. Press the test button and replace batteries right away.

Late to the "Read Your Bible" Challenge?

No worries. This isn't a race, although the tortoise had it right... "slow and steady wins the race." The whole point of the "challenge" is to make a change in your habits... to make daily time with the Word of God as natural as brushing your teeth.

When you sit down to read (or listen), first pray the Holy Spirit would prepare your spirit to receive what He would show you in the Scriptures. When reading the Scriptures becomes a habit, the Word also finds application in our daily life and conversation.

When you read the Scriptures, have a notebook handy and write down your thoughts or questions. Be sure to bring your questions to Bible class and ask Pastor Phillips. Everyone in class learns from the answers to your questions.

Learn by heart...

¹⁰Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(Pastor McVey's confirmation verse from Revelation 2:10 ESV)

Here are some reading plans

You can easily find 1-, 2-, and 3-year plans. Here are a few:

- My own plan: I read five chapters a day. I started with a chapter from Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah, Matthew, and Acts. Each day that I read I move one chapter ahead. When I reach the end of a section, I repeat it. This plan will take about a year
- My own plan Version 2.0: You could easily follow the same plan above with three chapters per day by eliminating the Isaiah and Acts starting points. It will take you longer to get through the Bible... about two years.
- There is a "strait through" 2-year plan in the front of the

Lutheran Study Bible. It begins at Genesis and concludes with Revelation.

- Or if you prefer something more structured, CPH.org has a subscription called "Today's Light" which will guide you through the whole Bible in two years.
- If you sent me an email (top of the newsletter), I will send you a link to a 3-year reading plan with check off calendars. Don't worry about the dates (it's from 2021). Just check 'em off as you progress. It's posted on the lcms.org website.

Essentials Bible Study Tools for Every Household

- Primary Bible (ESV) (study Bibles have notes for explanation and more maps and improved cross-references)
- Notebook (record your thoughts and questions from what you read)
- Bible Gateway app or website (also has an audio version so you can listen or read along)
- A second Bible (different translation)
- Bible Atlas (places matter!)
- Bible Handbook (explains things like currency, weights and measures. Also, has notes on ancient customs, etc)

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 Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Another FREE Resource!

Who doesn't like 'free'? With Scripture as the only foundation, the Book of Concord follows as one of the primary documents of our church: the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. You can now study The Lutheran Confessions for free in this searchable e-book edition: <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/>. If you want to have this edition independent of the internet, you will have to purchase it for around \$35.

Issues, Etc.

Issues, Etc. is a podcast 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 in theology, Biblical interpretation, Christian apologetics, ethics, philosophy, law, and culture.

Go to www.IssuesEtc.org and you can listen to "on demand" podcasts or their "best of" set. You can also choose to listen to sacred music... all for "no charge!" Issues, Etc. also sponsors the annual "Making the Case" conference (held in July).

Law and Gospel Quiz

One critical task of the Christian is the proper distinction between Law and Gospel. This involves applying the Word of God to faith and life. It is the difference between "salvation by grace through faith" and "self-righteousness."

The Law threatens & punishes us, shows God's commands, & shows our sin (SoS).

The Gospel promises, forgives, & shows our Savior (SoS).

Here is this month's quiz. Answers are in the "Idea Corner."

Extra Credit: find the book, chapter & verse reference for each of these verses (answers at Bible

study on March 1 & 2).

- ***Honor thy father and mother*** L or G?
- ***The Lord ordains our peace, indeed He has done all our deeds*** L or G?
- ***His divine mercy has given us everything we need for life and godliness*** L or G?
- ***I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*** L or G?

Recipe Corner: Alice Quast's

German Potato Salad

(Submitted by Brenda Bellinger)

Ingredients:

8 medium potatoes	1 lb. bacon
1 c. vinegar	1 c. water
1 c. sugar	flour

Boil potatoes until done then peel and cut into pieces for salad. Fry bacon. Remove drippings from pan leaving about 1 tsp. of the grease. Add to the fry pan with the bacon: vinegar, water & sugar. Thicken with flour and pour over the hot potatoes. Keep warm until ready to serve.

(Alice left us many years ago, but her Hot Potato Salad lives on...)

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!)

March 1
 Genesis 12:1-9
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 22
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:1-11
 John 11:1-45

April 12
 Acts 5:29-42
 Psalm 148
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

March 8
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-8
 John 4:5-26

March 29 ***Palm Sunday***
 Isaiah 50:4-9
 Psalm 118
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Matthew 26-27

April 19
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm 116
 1 Peter 1:17-25
 Luke 24:13-35

March 15
 Isaiah 42:14-21
 Psalm 142
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9

April 5 ***Day of Resurrection***
 Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Psalm 16
 Colossians 3:1-4
 Matthew 28:1-10

April 26
 Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

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

The Parish Classifieds / Idea Corner

Parade Float: If you can help with the float for the Trout Festival please contact Adam Kuuttilla. Watch for planning meetings!

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

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, as a teacher, or assistant or song leader... please speak with Pastor!

Answers: Law, Gospel, Gospel, Gospel (Law?).

Concordia Publishing House Spring Sale is going on. See the catalog in the narthex or go to cph.org

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?

If you have not “officially” joined our congregation please speak with Pastor Phillips, so the shepherd knows his sheep!

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
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
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
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
www.stpaulkalkaska.org

Pastor Tom Phillips

Lewiston - Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1030am Divine Service
3805 County Road 612, Lewiston, MI 49756
(989) 786-3713 bethlehemlewisston@gmail.com
<https://bethlehemlewisston.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
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
www.zionlutheranpetoskey.org

Pastor Matt Peters - Circuit Visitor

Retired / Other Pastors (home church)

Pastor Tim Azzam

Pastor Ken Bernthal (Gaylord)

Pastor Ricky Garrett

Pastor Don Nemece (Gaylord)

Congregations in neighboring circuits

Bellaire - Hope Lutheran Church (English District)

9am Divine Service
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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p	SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona		SPL Alcoholics Anonymous 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 6pm Potluck Supper 7pm Lenten Vespers @ SPL	5 Pastor's day off	6	7 Time change... Spring forward one hour!
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 @ Grayling 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	11 6pm Potluck Supper 7pm Lenten Vespers @ SPL	12 Pastor's day off	13	14
15 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	16 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	17	18 6pm Potluck Supper 7pm Lenten Vespers @ SPL	19 Pastor's day off	20	21
22 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p St. Paul Anniv. Potluck (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	23 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	24	25 6pm Potluck Supper 7pm Lenten Vespers @ SPL	26 Pastor's day off	27	28 430pm Men's Ministry Event (SPL)
29 Palm Sunday 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	30 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	31 11a Elders (SPL)				

Save this page!

The Parish Word – Calendar

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona</p>			1	2 7pm Maundy Thursday (SPL)	3 7pm Good Friday (SML)	4
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Day of Resurrection! 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230 Egg Hunt & Easter Lunch! @SPL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7 11a Ladies Guild (SML) 1p Ladies Guild (SPL)</p>	8	9 Pastor's day off	10	<p style="text-align: center;">11 9am Zone LWML @ SML</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12 9a Worship (SML) 1015 Voters (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14 930a Winkel @ Zion – Petoskey 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)</p>	15 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	16 Pastor's day off	17 Katie Conference Apr 17-19 -----	<p style="text-align: center;">18 ----for Michigan District Pastors wives-----</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)</p>	21	22	23 Pastor's day off 10am Council (SPL)	24	<p style="text-align: center;">25 Trout Festival Parade 430pm Men's Ministry Event (SPL)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Potluck & Voters (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship (SML)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28 11a Elders (SPL)</p>	29	30 Pastor's day off		
	<p>SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p</p>			<p>SPL Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays @ 8p</p>		

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