



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

Sowing **truth**. Building **faith**. Shining **love**.



Welcome to Worship

February 8, 2026
8:30 AM, Downtown Campus



St. Paul Lutheran
Church of Ann Arbor

At St. Paul Ann Arbor, we equip families and
individuals to know Christ, to discover truth,
and to create meaningful connections.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 8, 2026 (8:30 AM)

One church with two locations:

Downtown Campus
420 W. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Worship:
Saturdays @ 6:30 PM
Sundays @ 8:30 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM

Earhart Campus
495 Earhart Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Worship:
Sundays @ 10:45 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM



Welcome to our guests!

We're glad you're here! We ask that you fill out your name and an email or phone number in the black folder at the end of the row so we can connect with you. One of St. Paul's core values is unity so we'd like to help you get connected. On the back page of this worship folder, you'll find groups and events that are for you. May God bless you today!

The flowers in the chancel

The flowers in the chancel have been placed to the glory of God by Tim & Barbara Adler in loving memory of Owen M. Laughlin, and in honor of Kathleen Graham.

If you have children

We welcome and encourage all children (yes, babies too!) to worship the Lord at St. Paul. If your child becomes restless during the service, don't worry! We get it. If you'd like to use it, there is a cry room available at the rear of the church and a nursery located below the main worship entrance. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at each worship entrance. The hospitality team will be happy to assist you.

About Holy Communion

St. Paul is a confessional Lutheran congregation sharing the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Following the Word of Jesus, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a symbol. Jesus gives His people His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins through the bread and wine. In Holy Communion, Jesus not only gives these gifts, He unites us in a confession of faith. We confess that God has given His gift of salvation in baptism. We confess that we are sinners who need the forgiveness that Jesus offers by His death and resurrection. We confess that God speaks in His inspired Word, the Bible. We confess that God is one God, the Father who created all things, the Son Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in His people by faith. Alongside this confession of faith, the Holy Spirit is at work in those who receive the Supper to live according to God's Word and remain true to God, even to death, shining Jesus' love inside and outside of God's church. If you share this confession, we invite you to receive Christ's body and blood with us. If you do not share these beliefs, please talk to a pastor before communing though you are invited to come forward during Communion distribution with arms crossed to receive a blessing and the assurance of God's love in Jesus Christ. We're glad you're at St. Paul!

Discipleship Hour & Christ Connections

You're invited to gather after the service for coffee, donuts, fellowship and Bible study for adults and children! Sundays at 9:45 AM. Adults meet in Fellowship Hall (lower-level) and children ages 3 through grade 5 meet in the lower-level preschool classrooms.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

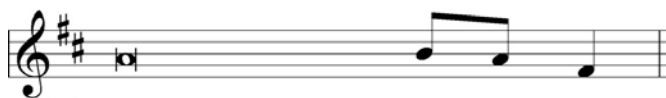
WORDS OF WELCOME

RESPONSIVE VERSES

Versicles
(LSB pg. 219)



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

Psalms 51:15



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Psalms 70:1



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Common: Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Invitatory Antiphon
(LSB pg. 220)



L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Death Was Arrested"

(Kersh/Coker/Balltzglier/Smith)

Verse 1 **Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began**

Verse 2 **Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began**

CHORUS ***Oh Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's Your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You***

Verse 3 **Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began**

[to CHORUS]

Verse 4 **Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began**

[to CHORUS]

Bridge

Oh we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began

Oh we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began (x3)

We Hear the Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT ✠ Isaiah 58:3–9a

³ “‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’” (ESV)

- L: This is the Word of the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE ✠ 1 Corinthians 2:1–12

¹ And when I [Paul] came to you, brothers, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, *“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”*— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL ✠ Matthew 5:13–20

¹³ [Jesus said,] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"
Stanzas 1, 3, 4

 LSB# 782

MESSAGE

"The New Life in Christ: A Righteousness That Exceeds"
Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins

Isaiah 58:3–9a
Matthew 5:13–20

RESPONSE

(Tune: LSB# 782)

**Salt and light, we shine and season
With the gifts from God's own Son.
Forming acts of kindness, mercy,
Showing forth all God has done.
Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name!**

Text: ©2025 Kirchenlied S. Schreiber, b. 1685

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.

We Worship the Lord with Our Offerings

During the Offering, we invite your participation in our Ritual of Friendship. Please fill in the requested information on the Friendship Pad (which is located at the end of the pew at the center aisle) **and pass it down the pew.** Also, as the pad is returned, please take note of who is worshiping with you in order that you might greet them following the service.

(For electronic and convenient giving options, see the end of this worship folder)

CHOIR ANTHEM

You Are the Salt and Light

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

*You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.
Go into the world and give it flavor. Go with the light and let it shine.
But what good is the salt if it loses its flavor? What good is the light until it shines.
One tiny bit, just a bit of salt can change all the flavor and take the bitterness away.
A tiny point of light can pierce through the darkness to shine with a guiding ray.
Go live as the salt of the earth. Go live as the light of the world.
You are the salt, so share all the flavor. You are the light, so let it shine.
You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world so let it shine.*

—Matthew 5:13–16

MILESTONE MINISTRY WORSHIP BLESSING

Infant Faith Chest

Milestone Ministry Steps

*August – Backpack Blessing
September – 2nd/3rd Grade Bible Presentation
October – Learning to Drive
November – 5th/6th Grade Technology
January – 4th Grade Money Management
February – Infant Faith Chest
March – First Communion
April – Preschoolers Learning to Pray
June – Graduation*

The Prayers We Bring to God



P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

1 Timothy 2:1–4
Salutation

P: God invites us to approach His heavenly throne with all our needs.
C: **We enter the throne room of God, the Ruler of All Things.**

P: We come without fear, at His invitation.
C: **But we come in humility, like the blind men who called out to Jesus: “Lord, have mercy.”**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie (LSB pg. 227)

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

Collects of Intercession & Thanksgiving

P: Almighty God, You called us out of darkness into light so that we will show forth Your praise in all the world; shine in our hearts that through our acts of love in Your name, those who live in darkness may see the light and give glory to Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS for THIS DAY

(As prompted) **P:** Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Collect for Grace

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, nor run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A Foretaste of the Great Feast in Heaven



WE TURN TO GOD, MINDFUL OF OUR SINFULNESS

Confession of Sins
Psalm 124:8, 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: *God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(We observe a moment of quiet reflection as we consider our own sinful condition)

GOD TURNS TO US, EAGER TO FORGIVE

Absolution
John 20:19–23

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you for all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

CHRIST'S WORDS ESTABLISH THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *Take, eat; this is ✠ My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.* In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: *Drink of it, all of you; this is ✠ My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen! The peace of Christ be with us all.**

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Distribution

Please note before receiving Holy Communion: *Please read the brief statement of our beliefs, "About Holy Communion", found at the beginning of our worship folder. Our pastors would be happy to meet with you to discuss our beliefs further, and help prepare you for Communion.*



Hymns: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"
"Arise and Shine in Splendor"

LSB# 411

LSB# 563

LSB# 396

WORDS OF PEACE AND JOY

Communicants' Dismissal

P: Now may this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ✠ peace!

C: **Amen.**

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:14,16 (ESV)

P: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

C: **In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."**

WE BLESS THE LORD

Benedicamus (LSB pg. 228)

Psalm 103:1

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

WE RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD

Trinitarian Benediction (LSB pg. 228)

2 Corinthians 13:14

P: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"



(LSB# 400)

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

POSTLUDE



Our Worship Servants

Liturgist: Rev. Aaron Roggow
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins
Lay Reader: Adam Cieply
Director of Music: Dr. John Boonenberg
Choir: Adult Choir
Family Worship Team: Tim & Barbara Adler
Hospitality: Julie Burgess
Elder: Brent O'Banion

Death Was Arrested: by Adam Kersh | Brandon Coker | Heath Balltzglier | Paul Taylor Smith
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St. Paul Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis? SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during challenging times. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.

Our Offerings and Gifts

Looking for different options to financially support the ministry of St. Paul through your regular offerings or one-time gifts?



Download the **Church Center** app from the Google Play or Apple App stores and navigate to "Give"



or Scan the **QR Code** to give immediately through Church Center

or Visit: <https://st-paul-lutheran-church-ann-arbor.churchcenter.com/giving>



or Mail checks to: **St. Paul Lutheran Church**
420 W Liberty St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



For more giving information, go to: <https://www.stpaulannarbor.org/give/>

2025-2026 SPAA Attendance and Offering						
Month	Attendance	Offering	Budget	Bud. Var.	Prior Year	PY Var.
July	278	\$ 85,561	\$ 103,200	\$ (17,639)	\$ 95,048	\$ (9,487)
August	292	\$ 92,582	\$ 129,100	\$ (36,518)	\$ 87,623	\$ 4,960
September	364	\$ 108,717	\$ 106,200	\$ 2,517	\$ 98,203	\$ 10,514
October	347	\$ 112,763	\$ 106,200	\$ 6,563	\$ 140,243	\$ (27,480)
November	311	\$ 135,822	\$ 132,800	\$ 3,022	\$ 106,819	\$ 29,004
December	291	\$ 163,097	\$ 123,200	\$ 39,897	\$ 157,855	\$ 5,242
January	-	\$ -	\$ 106,200	\$ -	\$ 107,378	\$ -
February	-	\$ -	\$ 107,400	\$ -	\$ 87,936	\$ -
March	-	\$ -	\$ 135,200	\$ -	\$ 118,139	\$ -
April	-	\$ -	\$ 114,900	\$ -	\$ 95,801	\$ -
May	-	\$ -	\$ 132,800	\$ -	\$ 112,259	\$ -
June	-	\$ -	\$ 104,800	\$ -	\$ 122,082	\$ -
YTD	314	\$ 698,543	\$ 1,402,000	\$ (2,157)	\$ 1,329,384	\$ 12,753



News & Upcoming Events

Don't miss out! Sign up for our e-News at: www.stpaulannarbor.org/news-and-events



Serving Opportunity - Love Ypsi Community Meals!

St. Paul is excited to partner with Love Ypsi and Faith Lutheran Church as they host a community meal for those living in a low-income area of Ypsilanti. **St. Paul has committed to providing a meal on the third Monday of February, March, and April (2/16, 3/16 and 4/20)**, with potential to continue serving moving forward. It is a lot for one group to do it all, and we would love for congregation members to plug in. There are three different opportunities to get involved! Shoppers, preppers and night-of servers. Even if you can only help with one of these things one month, we would greatly appreciate it! If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Jordyn Pair. Scan the QR code to sign up!



Lent 2026: Dying His Death, Living His Life

This Lent, we are going to dive into this mystery of dying with Christ in order to live with Him. Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and each Sunday in Lent, we'll be looking closer at another element of dying to our sinfulness in Christ Jesus in order to live the new life of faith through him. Wednesday worship services will take up the theme of "The Water of Life," as area pastors explore God at work in and through water in the Old Testament to bring His people life.

Wednesday Lenten services (Downtown Campus):
Ash Wednesday (Feb 18) - March 25th
Worship @ 12:10pm & 6:30pm
Dinners @ 5:30pm (Fellowship Hall)



Easter Festival – March 21st, 10am-12pm (School Campus)

Save the date! SPAA is excited to host our first Easter Festival—a wonderful opportunity to share the joy and blessing of Jesus with our community through a fun-filled family event! To make this celebration successful, we'll need plenty of donations and helping hands. Check out what is needed by scanning the QR code. Donations are needed by **Friday, February 20th**, and may be dropped off at the downtown church or at the school office.

Are you still getting the SPAA e-News?

Some of our members have alerted us that their SPAA e-News is going to their junk/spam folder. **If you are signed up for our e-News but have not been receiving it every Friday, please check your junk/spam folder!** You can avoid this happening by adding info@stpaulannarbor.org to your saved email contacts. In addition, PLEASE do NOT mark SPAA emails as junk or spam as this will flag it by the email provider (google, yahoo, icloud, etc) and can possibly send it to junk/spam for anyone with that provider address. If you no longer wish to receive our e-News, simply unsubscribe at the bottom of any e-News. Questions? Contact Natalie Nesbitt at nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org.