

**"BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD!"**



**JOHN  
1:36**

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!** May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation or the Pastor. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!** We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as: ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

**ABOUT OUR WORSHIP** As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

**PLEASE ASK AN USHER, GREETER, OR STAFF MEMBER FOR...**

- Assistance with wheelchair seating • Assisted listening devices •
- Large print bulletins • Directions to restrooms • Communion in the pew •

**AED Unit** an AED is found in the coat area when you enter the main entrance.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 18, 2026  
Holy Communion

+Indicates to rise as you are able. Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

**+WELCOME**

L: God is good! **C: All the time!**

L: All the time! **C: God is good! All are welcome here!**

**+CONFESSION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us approach God with confidence knowing as we offer our personal prayers of confession, forgiveness is already occurring.

*Silent Moment of Personal Prayers of Confession*

Holy God,

**forgive us for receiving so much from you and still turning away. Forgive us for times our thanks are absent. Forgive us for resisting transformation of our lives. Turn our hearts to you and to one another, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**+ FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to us the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**+ OPENING HYMN**

"Jesus Shall Reign" *ELW* #434

## **+PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*You may be seated*

## **FIRST READING**    Isaiah 49:1-7

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM** 40:1-11

*I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

**<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

**<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**<sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."**

<sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

**<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

## **SECOND READING    1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**      *“I Love You, Lord”*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice,  
To worship You, O my soul rejoice.  
Take joy my King, in what You hear;  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. (Sing 2 Times)

**+GOSPEL**      John 1:29-42

*John the Baptist’s witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)**

**GATHER   GROW   GO**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**      Children’s Bible page #246  
**MESSAGE**

## HYMN

“What Wondrous Love is This” *ELW* #666B

## +PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## +PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAYS

*“Happy Birthday dear friends, may Jesus bless you!”*

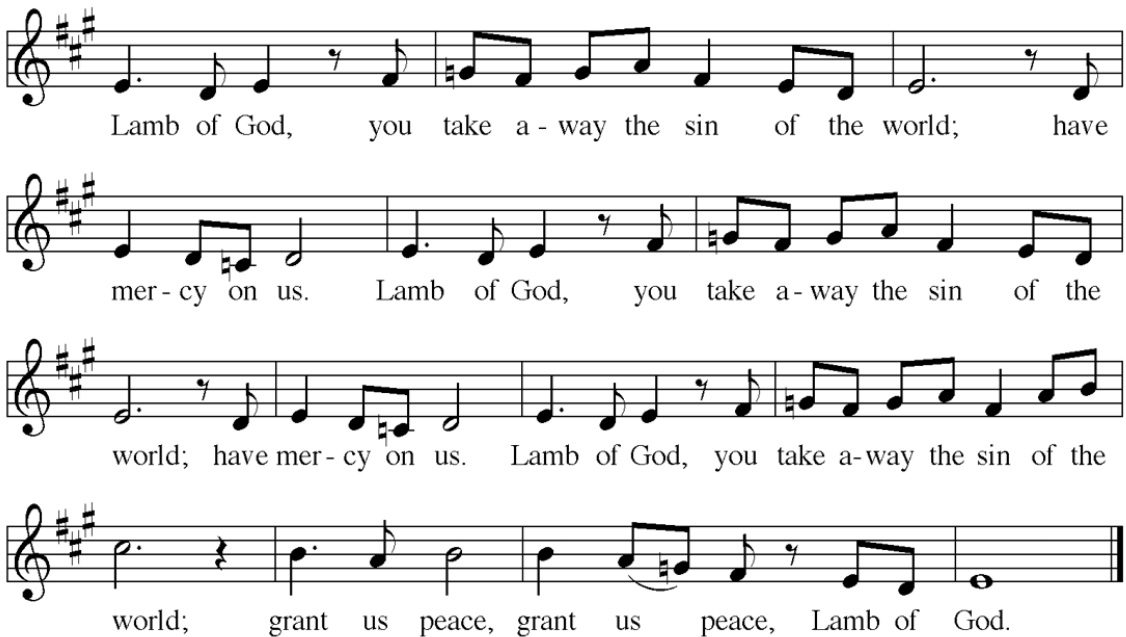
## OFFERING- CHILDREN’S OFFERING

*Thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of St. Paul. You may also visit [www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving) to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. We are now also accepting donations via Venmo and PayPal.*

*\*\*Members, for a record of your giving, please if you give cash put your name on an envelope.*

*Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!*

## + LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## **+ OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **+GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **+WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

## **+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.**

## **+OUR MISSION**

What is the mission we share together?

**Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service;  
and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.**

## **+BLESSING**

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

**+SENDING HYMN** “We are Marching in the Light” ELW #866

## **+DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. To Love and Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26818. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Songs reprinted under CCLI License #2416005. All rights reserved. Hymn words and music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-7187

This worship service is being broadcast via Live Stream on our website. It is also being recorded and will be available on our website via the archive button.

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today

- **Thank you, Mike, for helping to lead worship today.** Pastor Sloka is leaving at 9:40AM to go to First Congregational's worship at 10AM with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class.
- **Raffle Tickets:** the women are selling raffle tickets for a fundraiser at the church Spring Supper, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We have lots of great prizes. We would love for you to take tickets to sell/buy. There are tickets on a table in the fellowship hall, help yourself. Return tickets by the morning of March 1<sup>st</sup>. The women provide Camperships to youth going to camp; donate quilts to many organizations and people; give benevolences to organizations in our community; support Camp of the Cross and our church; and many other things. Please help us with this fundraiser.
- **Financial Giving Statements:** are ready. Loree will be in the Narthex handing them out, to save on mailing, today and next Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup>. Please come and pick yours up between now and Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, they will be mailed on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for helping us save postage.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- **Fellowship:** We need your help serving fellowship! Please check out the sign-up sheets at the volunteer desk in the greeting area/narthex. Simple is acceptable. Please visit with Loree or Marian if you have any questions.
- **Readers & Acolytes** are needed in January and February. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on the signup table in the entry.

### Upcoming

- **Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>!** The final report will be available by Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be emailed, put on our website, on social media and physical copies in the greeting (narthex) area.

- **The Spring Supper will be March 1<sup>st</sup>.** We need your help in selling Raffle tickets. Please see Linda Heer, Loree Jeffers or stop by the office.

## **Outreach**

- **Sonshine Friends could use your help with snacks.** We usually have 50 children each Wednesday. Please visit Holly if you have any questions.
- **Bridges of Hope:** St. Paul Social Action is collecting items/money for Heart River Lutheran Church on the Youth Correctional Facility's Campus. Bridges of Hope is a program that gives a backpack with startup essentials to each youth as they leave the facility. There is a table set up in the Narthex to collect items and/or money and some information on the program along with a list of items needed. They appreciate your help!
- **Little Lunches Backpack Program** is hosted by St. Paul. If you would like to get involved, please let Dawn Kolden or Pastor Sloka know.

## **General**

**\*The council for the purposes of safety and security have decided the following:**

**1.** The sanctuary (worship space) will be always locked when we do not have worship. **2.** During office hours only the main entrance door will be unlocked, and the fellowship hall door will remain locked. Unless an activity is taking place in the fellowship hall.

*You are invited to visit [www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving) to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.*



*We also now offer Venmo and PayPal  
Thank you for being a part of what God  
is doing at St. Paul!*

*\*\*Members, for a record of your giving,  
please if you give cash  
put your name on an envelope.*



**venmo**

## **In Our Prayers...**

Terri Torgerson, Glenn Renner, Shannon Staehr, Diane Madsen, John Kallberg, Scott Hodenfield, Clair Eslinger, Lisa Otteson, Duke Kastner, Linda Ravnaas, Rachel Everett, Becky Tebby, Laken Beyer, Pete Stanius, Terry Kolden, Jessica Johns, Chet Adam, Kayla Neilsen, Debbie Stratton, Jylann Hanson, Jan Clapper, Andy Zietz, Mary Thorson, Paul Hellebush, Jeff Wretling, Alton Krebsbach.

Family and Friends of those whom we have gone before us.

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS THIS WEEK

Brookstyn Iglehart     January 18  
Josh Pastir             January 18  
Tylor Brostowitz       January 19  
Mark Larson            January 22  
Anson Stroschein      January 23

Office Hours  
Mon.-Thurs. 9-3  
Fri. 9-12

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### *Today, Sunday, January 18th*

9:00 a.m.     Worship with Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m.     Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.     Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.     9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class  
6:00 p.m.     Youth Group

### *Monday Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday*

No school for Garrison and Max  
1:00 p.m.     Quilting

### *Tuesday*

10:00 a.m.     Men's Bible Study  
                    Women of Faith DVD's

### *Wednesday*

3:00 p.m.     Sonshine Friends A  
6:30 & 7:15     Confirmation Classes

### *Thursday*

10:00 a.m.     Community Bible Study

### *Next, Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>*

9:00 a.m.     Worship  
10:00 a.m.     Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.     Sunday School

### **Year to date financial report:**

#### **Checking Account**

#### **January 1-December 31, 2025**

Offering       \$236, 793.34

Expenses       \$229,528.18

*Difference*     \$7,265.16

*Contingency Account: \$21,056.66*

If you have any questions, please do not  
hesitate to visit a council member.

# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540

[www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com)

[stpaul@restel.com](mailto:stpaul@restel.com)

[pastorsloka@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsloka@gmail.com)

Church Office: 701-463-2019

Pastor Janis Sloka, III Cell: 701-861-9915

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Sept-May – 10:00 a.m.

## SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director/Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Synodically Authorized Ministers</i>	Lisa Haugen and Mike Youngs
<i>Partner in Ministry</i>	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Max
<i>Church Council President</i>	Clair Eslinger
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Musicians</i>	Sundi Lagge and Kim Gehring
<i>Reader</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Ushers</i>	Lisa and John Haugen
<i>Greeters</i>	Donna Blanchard and Kayla Macheledt
<i>Door Greeter</i>	
<i>Acolyte</i>	Eli Maki
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Stu Merry and Donna Blanchard
<i>Communion Set Up and Clean Up</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Fellowship</i>	Karen and Brad Rohde
<i>Technology</i>	Andrew Haugen
<i>Council Member</i>	Tamara Engel

## MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.