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St. Paul Lutheran Church and School • Royal Oak, MI

The Masthead

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
Monthly Newsletter



March 2026

Church Office: 248-541-0613 & School Office: 248-546-6555

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MR. GREGORY PAUL
MUSIC MINISTER/TEACHER

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 450

We are in the Church’s season of Lent as we prepare for our Savior’s suffering and death leading to His triumphant resurrection and victory over sin, death, and the devil. One of the hymns that always comes to my mind during lent is “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” There are two settings in our hymnal, the original rhythmic tune composed by Hans Leo Hassler (contemporary of Martin Luther) in the 1500s (LSB 450) and the later nonrhythmic tune setting by Johann Sebastian Bach from the 1600s (LSB 449). St. Paul has traditionally used the original rhythmic setting of LSB 450. In order to save space these are the four verses from LSB 449. LSB 450 has eight.

| | |
|---|---|
| O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown. O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine. | What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners’ gain. Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ‘Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace |
| What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee | Be Thou my consolation, My shield when, I must die; Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh. Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell, My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well. |

The hymn (the text) is attributed to an abbot of Cistercian Monks at Villers, Belgium. His name was Arnulf of Leuven and lived from about 1200 – 1251. He originally set five hymns that looked at Christ on the cross: his feet, knees, hands, side, and face. Later, two hymns were added for His breast and heart. Finally a last hymn was added bringing the total to eight. Famous German Lutheran hymn writer, Paul Gerhard (1607-1676) was familiar with this last hymn. He translated it into what is now our English hymn, “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The verses of this hymn, have us look to Christ in his suffering and death and draw strength from his love for us. We cling to his grace to help us in our time of need and especially at our death, knowing we have eternal life in heaven. The last phrases sums up that trust, “My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.” AMEN!



Vestry Update From our Vestry Member at Large ~ Jeff Szerdi

On February 10, we reached a major milestone in the sale of our 513 and 519 S. Troy Street properties: we officially signed a purchase agreement.

Last June, we signed a letter of intent with the buyer outlining the basic terms for the proposed sale. When their attorney later presented an initial purchase agreement draft, several key provisions raised concerns for us. This began a lengthy but important period of dialogue and negotiation with the buyer's team. With guidance from our real estate consultant and attorney, we finally reached an agreement on the contract language that protects our interests and avoids placing undue financial risk on St. Paul.

Now that we're under contract, the buyer has an eight-month window to complete all inspections, finalize site planning, and secure the required governmental approvals and permits for the proposed development. During this period, the seller has agreed to provide written monthly updates, including copies of completed inspections and all correspondence with the City of Royal Oak, so we can track progress. Once the inspection period concludes, closing is scheduled to occur within 30 days. Based on this timeline, we expect the closing to take place sometime between October and November 2026.

Although selling to a developer involves far more complexity than a standard single-family home sale, our property sale committee remains confident that this offer represents the best opportunity and justifies the additional time and diligence required.

The parsonage and vicarage have been valuable blessings to the ministry of St. Paul Royal Oak for many decades. The sale committee and Vestry remain committed to being faithful stewards in the sale of these properties, ensuring that these gifts continue to sustain and strengthen our mission well into the future.

If you have any questions regarding the property sale, please direct them to JeffSzerdi@gmail.com.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

St. Paul offers a convenient electronic giving option to help you keep up with your intended offerings. Please enroll on our website www.stpaulroyaloak.org—or QR code above. For questions, contact the church office.



Update: 2026 Vestry members—Have you noticed we have a new member? We were sad to say goodbye to Rachel Harris when she relocated but the Vestry has appointed Betsy Newton to fill her spot. As you may recall, Betsy ran in the last election and received the next highest number of votes. Welcome to the Vestry Betsy and thank you for serving!

Financials

Weekly contribution needed based on approved 2025/26 budget:
\$13,700

Weekly Contributions Received:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 2/1/26 | \$15,049 |
| 2/8/26 | \$12,884 |
| 2/15/26 | \$9,655 |
| 2/22/26 | \$9,313 |

Year-to-date as of 1/31/26:
Revenue = \$718,641
Expenses = \$729,713
Net loss/surplus = (loss)\$11,072

2026 Vestry Members:

Chris Schultz—President
Steven Carpenter—Vice President
Betsy Newton—Secretary
Marshall Mackinder—Financial Secretary
Jeff Szerdi
Lily Paul
Chay Smith
Chris Francik—School Principal

Please email sprovestry@gmail.com if you'd like to reach out to our vestry members.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the annual Arts, Beats & Eats event over Labor Day weekend 2025. We brought in over \$34,000 between parking, recycling and the beverage booth. Most importantly, we were engaging in our community & with our neighbors! We look forward to another wonderful event in 2026. Put it on your calendar!

Meet the Staff



Every month we will feature a different staff member! This month we are introducing our incredible 1st grade teacher — Tina Eising.

Tell us about you and your family?

My husband, Chip, and I have three children. All attended St. Paul Lutheran School and Royal Oak High School. Emma graduated from Concordia, Ann Arbor, and has been a Lutheran schoolteacher. She married one of our vicars, Adam Hiles, and now spends her days in southern Illinois with their little daughter, Annaleena. Henry graduated from Hillsdale College. He is married to Stacey, a journalist, and is in his last year at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Teddy graduated from Concordia, Ann Arbor. He attended the Detroit Police Academy, and went on to become a Detroit Police Officer. He has just moved to the Royal Oak Police Department.

When did you arrive at St. Paul or what is your background?

My father accepted a call to be the Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church when I was in kindergarten. I finished my kindergarten year here, and continued through eighth grade. I graduated from Royal Oak Kimball High School, Concordia College, Ann Arbor (B.A. in Elementary Education), and Wayne State University (M.A. in Learning Disabilities). My first call was to Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Detroit. There I was able to get in and see the workings of many of the Lutheran schools in the Detroit area, actually teaching at six different schools before accepting a call to St. Paul. I've taught at St. Paul, well... for a long time.

What do you love most about your job at SPRO?

There are so many things I love about teaching at St. Paul, but the favorite thing... To spend a minute with any child, or parent, or member, and then realize, again, that we will get to share these great minutes together forever, in heaven.

Tell us a fun fact about you.

Chip and I met in Sunday School the first Sunday my family was here, when I was in Kindergarten. I was terribly afraid, crying. I sat at a desk in the back row. Chip and another boy kept turning around and giggling. We've been friends ever since.

Thank you, Mrs. Eising, for all the love & care you share with our staff & students EVERYDAY!



Many, many thanks to all members who make our church AMAZING! Specifically, we'd like to acknowledge the individuals who have helped in the following areas recently:

- *Volunteers who run our livestream & worship screens each week!
- If there is an area that you'd love to help with at SPRO, please reach out!

Thank You!



Feb. 13th we hosted our local Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection event in the church lounge.

This event was a great opportunity to welcome our fellow chamber members for a hour of connecting and networking & a wonderful opportunity to introduce our church to local businesses and organizations and tell about the amazing church and community we have. Many thanks to Marshall Mackinder for organizing this event!

Luther's Lingo for March

So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!"

~Martin Luther

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

BIBLE CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Bible Class 8:30am (lounge)
 Sunday School 8:30am w/ Liz & Jerich Lopez (school)

Weekday/Saturday Bible Classes

Mondays 9:00am Women's Bible Class
 (Sept-May) Contact Lee Anne Millinger
 or Rita McClatchey

Wednesdays 10:00am **Volunteer needed** (lounge)
 (Sept-May)

Thursdays 8:00am Men's Breakfast at The Avenue
 Restaurant (Woodward, N of 13 mile)
 Contact Mike Rasmussen

3rd Saturday, 7:30am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study,
 (Sept-May) (lounge) Contact
 Chuck Brewer

Small Groups are HERE and have begun. It's not too late to join a group!
 Alternating Sunday evenings at Gowman house
 Leader—Jeff Gowman—gowmanjt@yahoo.com

Sundays @ 10:30am in the church nursery
 Leader—Elli Harris
 elizabethharris2128@gmail.com
 Focus—Moms of young children

1st & 3rd Sundays at church—6:30pm
 Leader—Heidi Bowdich
 hbowdich@icloud.com
 Focus—High School Youth

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at church—6:30pm
 Leader—Lisa Kokko
 kokkopuff@comcast.net

Day/Time—Weekday evenings at various homes
 Leader—Chris Francik
 cfrancik@stpaulroyaloak.org

Mondays at church—9am
 Leaders—Lee Anne Millinger & Rita McClatchey
 leeanne.millinger@att.net
 Focus—Women

Easter Flowers

Help us decorate our sanctuary this Easter with a tulip or lily!
Orders due March 16th
 \$20 per lily & \$15 per tulip ~ order forms are located in the Welcome Center. Payment due with order.



Wednesday Evening Lenten

Services ~ 7pm

Dinners served at 6:15pm

3/4—salad bar (Young Adult group)

3/11—Swedish Meatballs (Elders)

3/18—Pulled Pork (PTL)

3/25—Pancakes & Sausage (School Staff)

Holy Week & Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday 4/2/26—service at 7pm

Good Friday 4/3/26—Tre Ore Service 12-3pm

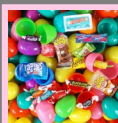
Tenebrae Service 7pm

Easter Sunday 4/5/26—services at 8:15am & 11am

Breakfast will be served in between services

Vote for 2026 Woman of the Year!

It is our privilege to honor a special woman from our congregation as the "2026 Woman of the Year". Our honoree must be a member of our congregation. She should be a volunteer who cheerfully & willingly serves her Lord through her church and community. To be eligible, she must NOT have previously received this honor. Look for nomination information coming soon! Contact Colleen Olsen with any questions.



Community Easter Egg Hunt is coming April 4th ~ 10am ~ Grant Park!

Please help us make this event extra special for our friends and neighbors in our community. We need LOTS & LOTS OF CANDY (drop off and more details in the bulletin & Welcome Center). Questions? See Blyth Mackinder or email her at bmackinder@stpaulroyaloak.org



Monthly Bible Readings

LCMS Three Years—Series A

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/1/26 | 2nd Sunday in Lent | Gen. 12:1-9 | Psalm 121 | Rom. 4:1-8, 13-17 | John 3:1-17 |
| 3/8/26 | 3rd Sunday in Lent | Ex. 17:1-7 | Psalm 95:1-9 | Rom. 5:1-8 | John 4:5-26/27-30/39-42 |
| 3/15/26 | 4th Sunday in Lent | Isaiah 42:14-21 | Psalm 142 | Eph. 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41 |
| 3/22/26 | 5th Sunday in Lent | Ezek. 37:1-14 | Psalm 130 | Rom. 8:1-11 | John 11:1-45 |
| 3/29/26 | Palm Sunday | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Psalm 118:19-29 | Phil. 2:5-11 | Matt. 26:1-27:66 |

SCHOOL MINISTRY



St. Paul Lutheran School

100+ Years of God's Grace

Our Mission

"Serve, Support & Share Where God Calls Us!"

Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.



Tina Eising ~ 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher National Lutheran Schools Week is here!

During the first week of March we celebrate National Lutheran Schools' Week at the school. Our theme for the entire year is, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 98:4). Our focus for the week is Creation- all the earth.

As we celebrate,

- We get to dress up in special ways.
- We begin each day together with special devotions.
- We pray together. We sing special songs and recall special passages from God's Word.
- We have special quiet times to think and learn, to practice skills, and accomplish tasks.
- We have special learning groups.
- We have special lessons and special times for fun.
- We have special lunches and snacks together.
- We share to celebrate special friends.
- We celebrate that, in all we do, we get to share Jesus.
- We celebrate each child and the gifts they have been given by God.
- We celebrate that we are forgiven.
- We celebrate that we are together at this place.
- We celebrate that there are Lutheran schools across the state and the nation, and, even if we are rather small, we are part of a larger ministry.

While we celebrate this week, we realize that all these special things we celebrate are not limited to one week of the year. We celebrate that every day and every child is special. We celebrate that we are together in Christ every day.

On Sunday, March 8, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., we are hosting a "Open House and Showcase." Come. Bring a friend. Invite a child. Pray that children and their families will come and be part of our St. Paul family. Not just because we have a great curriculum, lunches, or activities (we do), but because we want to share Jesus, and be together for eternity. What is more special than that?

Make a joyful noise



to the Lord! Psalm 98:4
St. Paul Lutheran School
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

Come celebrate with us!

2026-2027 Enrollment is now OPEN! Please SHARE, SHARE, SHARE with your family & friends & bring them to our open house on March 8th at noon!

Questions? Contact the school office (248)546-6555

jhansen@stpaulroyaloak.org

Lutheran Schools Music Festival

On March 10th the Jr. Chancel Choir, Band, and Bell Choir will travel to Lutheran High School Westland to participate in the Lutheran Schools Music Festival. This Festival has been serving the Lutheran Schools of SE Michigan & NW Ohio since the early 1980s. Mr. Paul has been involved with the committee that organizes and carries out the festivals for most of festival's history. The mission statement of the committee is as follows:

The purpose of the Lutheran Schools Music Committee is to encourage the musical development of the children in our Lutheran Elementary Schools in the SE Michigan and NW Ohio areas, by sponsoring festivals, workshops, and other educational activities.

There are two group festivals: East and West. There is also a Solo/Ensemble Festival held in the spring. At these events the groups and individuals present musical selections for judges who speak with the performers following their presentations to encourage them, offer tips, and rate them for a Superior, Excellent, or Good performance. In addition, groups have opportunity to watch other schools and be encouraged and learn from what they perform. Besides the festivals, the committee also organizes and presents workshops on a 3-year rotating cycle. This last fall over 150 students from various schools met for a band workshop at Lutheran High School Northwest led by Dr. Jeff Dobler from Valparaiso University. Last year there was a Handbell clinic led by Hope Music Publisher's handbell editor, Brenda Austin. That was held at St. Peter Lutheran School in Macomb. Two years ago Dr. Jonathon Busarow, Director of the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, led a choral workshop hosted by St. John Lutheran School in Fraser. Given all that the Lutheran Schools Music Committee does for our students, they fit in very well with this year's National Lutheran Schools theme: "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD"

Mr. Paul

School Calendar:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| March 2-6th | National Lutheran Schools Week |
| March 8th | School Open House & Showcase |
| March 9th | No School - Teacher In Service Day |
| March 10th | Lutheran Schools Music Festival |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| March 27th | 1/2 Day - End of 3rd Quarter |
| March 29th | Palm Sunday—All school choirs sing |
| Coming in April: | |
| April 3rd | Good Friday—1/2 Day |
| April 6-10 | Easter Break—No School |

Church Notes

Directory

Church Office

248-541-0613

office@stpaulroyaloak.org
Sue Francik—Office Manager
502-381-3597

Greg Paul—Director of Music
gpaul@stpaulroyaloak.org
248-765-0316

School Office

248-546-6555

school@stpaulroyaloak.org
Chris Francik
502-381-3643



Community Food Pantry Monthly:

1st Thursday (drive thru) 11am-1pm and
2nd & 4th Mondays (walk-in) 9am-12pm

Community Food Pantry is always
accepting food donations.

If you have any questions or would like
to assist, please reach out to:

Lee Ann Millinger (248)417-9526

Cathy Greener (248)953-1567

Barb Stefan (248)219-7469

Thank you for supporting our community!

Elder Listing

By Alphabet:

A, B, D—Tony Valdes

(248)505-0925

C, E, F, G—Chip Eising

(248)763-0314

L, M—Chuck Brewer

(586)822-8619

H, I, J, K—Kevin Calhoun

(348)343-8643

N, O, P, Q, R—Mike Rasmussen

(248)515-4605

S—Jim Schultz

(248)302-6435

T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z— Brian Hermann

(248)875-1979

Serving us in Worship in March:

Altar Guild—Amanda Brandt

Ushers— Mike Boyd, Brett Hansen, Jeff Gowman, Drew Haselton

3/1/26:

Counters

Julie Thomas + Julie Hansen + Amie Szerdi

Reader

Barb Costakes

3/8/26:

Counters

Libby Walker + Ben Schultz + Kathy Eifert

Reader

Kevin Calhoun

3/15/26:

Counters

Carol Zimnie + Meredith Sanislo + Dawn Heins

Reader

Lee Anne Millinger

3/22/26:

Counters

Emily Bashore + Chris Francik + Brett Hansen

Reader

Jeff Szerdi

3/29/26:

Counters

Libby Walker + Dawn Heins + Ben Schultz

Reader

John Aufdemberge

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class 8:30am

Traditional 9:30am

LENT MID-WEEK

WORSHIP TIMES

Wednesdays through Holy Week

Dinner 6:15pm

Worship 7pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm

Friday 9am-3pm

Church & School Offices will be

closed the week after Easter—

April 6th-10th

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

St. Paul Church

In memory of **Carol Semon** by:

Clara Lichtenberg

Bob & Denise Rutledge

Edna Lentner

Jim & Karen Charnawskas

GIFTS—Donate to the church by giving a memorial or honorarium by using the card located in the Welcome Center. This is a two part card, one to go with the gift to the church and the other to be mailed to the family. Contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.



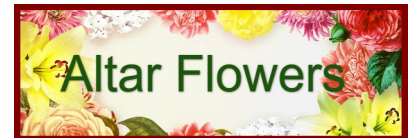
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulroyaloak

Web: www.stpaulroyaloak.org

Our livestream is available on our very own You Tube channel at www.stpaulroyaloak.org/live.



You can also access our bulletins on our website:



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are available to purchase in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. Sign-up details are located to the left of our new Welcome Center on the board. All bouquets may be ordered for \$30 each (**NOTE—price change**). Fill out an envelope and make a check out to St. Paul Lutheran.

March Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|---|
| March 1st | Denise Rutledge Rita McClatchey Chris Steiber Brynley Kiekbusch | March 12th | Nathan Morey |
| March 2nd | Clara Lichtenberg Lauren Osentoski Trevor Morey | March 15th | Katina Muse |
| March 3rd | Tina Eising | March 16th | Sante Valdez |
| March 4th | Rolaant McKenzie Marshall Mackinder, Sr. | March 17th | Isaak Sagan |
| March 5th | Teresa Fullerton-Hertz Dani McCall | March 18th | Louie Prukner |
| March 8th | Tianna Mills | March 22nd | Eleanor Workman |
| March 9th | Natasha Loretitsch Bridget Gilbert | March 23rd | Michael Canfield Peggie Lawrence Julie Hansen |
| March 10th | Richard Wright | March 24th | Owen Louwers Marshall Mackinder, Jr. |
| | | March 26th | Brett Keeble |
| | | March 29th | Dominic Fixler |
| | | March 30th | Hannah Snell |



If we've missed listing your birthday, please contact the church office ~ office@stpaulroyaloak.org/248-541-0613

March 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 8:30am Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30am Worship -C | 2 9am Women's Bible Study Trustees 7pm Elders Meeting LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK | 3 | 4 8:30am Chapel 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7pm Worship | 5 8am Men's Breakfast 11am Food Pantry 7pm Choir 8:30pm Bell Choir | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:30am Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30am Worship -C 12pm—School Open House & Showcase | 9 9am Women's Bible Study Trustees Walk-In Food Pantry No School | 10 School choir & band—Music Festival 7pm Vestry Meeting | 11 8:30am Chapel 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7pm Worship | 12 8am Men's Breakfast 7pm Choir 8:30pm Bell Choir | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:30am Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30am Worship -C | 16 9am Women's Bible Study Trustees | 17 | 18 8:30am Chapel 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7pm Worship | 19 8am Men's Breakfast 7pm Choir 8:30pm Bell Choir | 20 | 21 7:30am Men's Breakfast 10am Confirmation |
| 22 8:30am Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30am Worship -C | 23 9am Women's Bible Study Trustees Food Pantry | 24 | 25 8:30am Chapel 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7pm Worship | 26 8am Men's Breakfast 7pm Choir 8:30pm Bell Choir | 27 1/2 Day School | 28 |
| 29 Palm Sunday 8:30am Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30am Worship -C | 30 9am Women's Bible Study Trustees 7pm Elders Meeting | 31 | April 1 8:30am Chapel 10am Bible Study | 2 Maundy Thursday 8am Men's Breakfast 11am Food Pantry 7pm Maundy Thursday Service | 3 Good Friday 1/2 Day School 12pm-3pm Tre Ore Service 7pm Tenebrae Service | 4 10am Community Easter Egg Hunt—Grant Park |