



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

*Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Sunday, February 15, 2026

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
We believe all people are created in God's image.**

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

**Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.
If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.**

† GATHERING †

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDE

Exploration on “Deo Gracias”

arr, Jason W. Krug

Handbell Ensemble

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Joan Stott © 2011 *The Timeless Psalms*

www.wesleychurchgeelong.net/w_resources/transfigurationa

The Lord is King! The Lord is King
over all people and all creation.

**The foundations of God's throne are justice and equity,
and Holiness and Justice are names for the Lord our God.**

The Lord is King! The Lord is King
over the nations, and humanity's
cultures, traditions and relationships.

**The foundations of God's throne are love and mercy,
and Love and Mercy are names for the Lord our God.**

The Lord is King! The Lord is King
over all thought, imagination, intuition,
and the endless search for knowledge.

**The foundation of God's throne is wisdom,
and Wisdom is a name for the Lord our God.**

Come, let us worship this Holy and Wise God.

Based on Psalm 99

OPENING HYMN

O Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

ELW 316

Verse 2: Ambo (right) side

Verse 4: Organ (left) side



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Johnson

http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Gathered in the brilliance of God, we confess our sin...

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John
on the mountain of Transfiguration:

Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:

Yet we fail to witness to that love, and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.

Transform us by your Spirit and your Word

into that which pleases you, the image of Christ. Amen.

Jesus admonished Peter, James, and John not to tell

of what they witnessed on the mountain until he was resurrected.

But we can tell what we have seen and heard of God's glory!

Here is the good news: Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven!

Go, share the vision! Tell of God's love!

In this God is well pleased! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria (ELW Setting 7)



Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

May the Holy Cloud that comforts you,
the Divine Voice that encourages you, and
the power of the Spirit that transforms you
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

† WORD †

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai

A reading from Exodus:

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the

mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 2

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?

³ "Let us break their yoke," they say;
"let us cast off their bonds from us."

⁴ God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ "As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration

A reading from Second Peter:

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia!

ELW Setting 7

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.

Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.

Please stand, as you are able.



HYMN OF THE DAY

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

ELW 315

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Written by Moira Laidlaw

<https://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/liturgiesonline>

With praise and adoration, let us affirm our faith.

Awesome and majestic God,

your creative power, your glory and holiness

were experienced by your people of old

as clouds and fire guiding them to freedom.

They believed that no one could see your face and live.

**How blessed therefore are we,
for you have revealed your face to us in Jesus –
the human face of your love.**

**You also equip us for our journey through life and beyond,
by breathing new and everlasting life into our very beings,
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**These people of old believed that it was your presence with them
which made them a chosen and special people.**

**We praise and adore you, O God, for making our lives so special,
by choosing to share your life with us in and through Jesus.**

**May this time of worship and the service of our lives
reveal our thanksgiving and our wonder that you should so care for us.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish, especially John, Mary Anne and David, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. Comfort the dying and those who grieve **Tim** and **Arylene**. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, **especially...**, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges signs and words
of God's peace, saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

† MEAL †

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. There are also QR Codes at the end of this worship folder for attendance, prayer requests, and online giving.

OFFERTORY

“Dazzling Presence on the Mountain”

Sanctuary Choir & Congregation

arr. Black

Found on p. 12

*Verse 1: Choir Verse 2: Choir & Assembly Verse 3: Choir
Verse 4: Please stand, as you are able, and join the choir in singing.*



Text: Paul E. Hoffman, b. 1956
Music: WAVERLY, Karen E. Black, b. 1960
Text and music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy
ELW Setting 7



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,

God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

earth. . . . Blest is he who comes in the

name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . .

Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

You alone are holy, God who laughs at our foolish posturing,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, who came to tell everyone of your love.
 He could have remained seated in glory,
 but chose to walk with us down this path called life.

He could have remained on the mountaintop,
but came down to minister to all in despair's empty valley.
He could have simply told us
how we should live, but demonstrated genuine love
by dying on the cross, so death's power might be broken
by the grace of the resurrection.

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.

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 sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Overshadow us with your grace, we pray,
as the Holy Spirit is poured out on us and the gifts of this holy table.
As you give us the broken bread to strengthen our service to others,
may we offer hope to all surrounded by injustice.

As your cup of life nourishes us, may we see each person,
not as a stranger or outsider, but part of your beloved family.

And when the waiting is ended,
when the stars of mornings and evenings
shine the way to your holy feast,
we will join our siblings in forever singing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Take us down from the mountaintop, even as we pray as we have been taught,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will
be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our**

sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
We come to the table to taste and see.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

O Lamb of God (ELW Setting 7)

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

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

The Mountain,

Tune: LONDONDERRY AIR (WOV 778)

Brenton Prigge © 2006 New Hymn CCLI #4674104

How bitter-sweet to be here on this mountain,
high up above the troubles of this world;
to leave behind the clamor of the needy crowd;
to be at last alone with our dear Lord!
And God's true light expunges every shadow -
there is no doubt up here in this high place -
we see the glory of our God in Jesus;
see now that holy, holy light upon His face.

We long to stay up here upon this mountain;
How good it is to be here with our Lord.
To bask here in the light of God's great beauty,
kneel at His feet and soak up every word.
O, hear His call: "Come, gather all my faithful!"
Come, let His word shine in your hearts unveiled.
Oh! to go now to heaven like Elijah!
Oh that this holy, holy vision would not pale!

How bitter-sweet to be here on this mountain,
for well we know the valley waits below;
Our fellow trav'lers wait for news from mountain tops,
to share with us the joy that we now know.
They need to know that Jesus is the Saviour,
He is the light that shines for all the world.
and we will serve Him in the darkest valley
We will proclaim, proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Joyful Is the Dark

ACS 1096

1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,
 2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;
 4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,
 5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,

roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,

maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.

1-4 | 5

Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.
 swoop-ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: LINDNER, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Music © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

After all have communed and returned to their places, remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

☩ SENDING ☩

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BENEDICTION

May God shine the light of glory into your hearts.

May ☩ Christ be with you and never leave you.

And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318

Found on p. 20

DISMISSAL

Go into the world transformed and renewed!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata on
"Wie schön leuchtet"

arr. Burkhardt

Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth-er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans-gres-sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith-ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn-ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.



Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880



The flowers in the chancel are given to
the glory and praise of God.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Marjorie Chin
Lector: Heidi Burch
Bread Provider: Sherry Mench
Altar Guild: Linda Radwick
Flower Guild: Gale Paul

This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!

Luke 9:35

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103532.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts,
admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Eucharistic Prayer reprinted from www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.
© 2026 Thom M. Shuman. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained
from OneLicense.net with license #A-719656. All rights reserved.

Today's gospel reading is the inspiration for the festival of the Transfiguration, which concludes the Christmas cycle that began in Advent. On one level it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as God's beloved child and servant (an echo of Christmas, Epiphany, and baptism festivals). At the same time, the church's calendar is influenced by the gospel story: after his transfiguration, Jesus announces his impending death in Jerusalem. From the festival of the Transfiguration, the church turns this week to Ash Wednesday and its baptismal journey to the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15, 2026

ADULT FORUM

The Book of Romans and Us - The apostle Paul is the author of Roman's, a letter to first century believers in Christ living in the capital city of the Roman Empire. Who else was living in Rome at that time? How did they interact with each other and with Paul? What might we learn from their experiences in the Christian faith? What does Paul say about that faith? These are just a few of the questions up for debate as we continue our Adult Forums on the Book of Romans. Join us at **8:30 AM** on Sunday, in the Blue Room. Rev. Gregory R Johnson, PhD will lead the discussion.

Lenten Study - Pastor Cris will spend some time with our Lenten Psalmody as we journey toward Holy Week. The rich readings this year include some favorites...Psalm 121, 95, 23, and 130. These forums will run for the Sundays of March.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 18**, giving us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. We will offer services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at **12 Noon and 7 PM**. The 7 PM service will be livestreamed.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 11:15 AM**. Items on the agenda include approval of the budget, leader elections, and a property motion.

SCOUT SUNDAY

On **February 22**, come early between **8 - 10 AM** to enjoy a breakfast prepared by our Boy Scout Troop. We will then recognize them and their charter at the beginning of worship at **10 AM** as we celebrate Scout Sunday.

OWLS ATTEND "ART"

The Older Wiser Lutherans will attend a performance of "Art" by the University of Delaware Resident Players (REP) today, **Sunday, February 15, at 2 PM**. If you have purchased a ticket, plan to meet outside the Thompson Theatre, located in the Roselle Center for the Arts, 110 Orchard Road on the University of Delaware campus at **1:30 PM**. Dinner on your own will follow at Taverna Rustic Italian, located at 131 East Main Street in Newark.

FEBRUARY FISH FUN

February is the month of hearts and flowers. Can we ask you to share the love with our FISH clients?

You're invited to help with any or all of our FISH activities: the Food Bank pickup and setup on **Thursday, February 19, at 1 PM**, then the packing of the food boxes at 6:30 that same evening, with the actual distribution on **Friday, February 20, starting at 2:30 PM**.

Have questions about our program? Call or email Keith Bart (302-345-6107 / keith.m.bart@gmail.com).

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at **1 PM** in the Youth Room. Please join us for conversation and fellowship Wednesday, **February 25**, when we will discuss "The River We Remember" by William Kent Krueger. Our March selection is "The First Ladies" by Victoria Christopher Murray

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Our school is seeking assistance in replacing a teacher's broken laptop. We welcome donations of either a new or gently used device. If you are able to help, please contact Dr. Rae Watts at stpaulschool701@outlook.com or 302-368-0064 ext. 201.

WELCOMING WAYS

*Ask **questions** and **learn** about your guests. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to "sell" your church.*



Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



The Reverend Cris Frigm	302-368-0064 ext. 103
<i>Pastor</i>	pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org
Michael Bareham	302-368-0064 ext. 105
<i>Director for Music and Worship</i>	music@stpaulsnewarkde.org
Jerilynn Hinrichs	302-368-0064 ext. 101
<i>Office Administrator</i>	office@stpaulsnewarkde.org
Nalini Janaki	302-368-0064 ext. 102
<i>Business Administrator</i>	business@stpaulsnewarkde.org
Dr. Rae Watts	302-368-0064 ext. 201
<i>School Director</i>	stpaulsschool701@outlook.com

Church Council

Anne Sullivan (*President*), Greg Johnson (*Vice President*), Heidi Burch (*Secretary*), Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke, Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast - articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following week.



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving

