

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Plankinton, SD

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran
Church
White Lake, SD

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Contact

Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor
605-840-0554 (mobile)
prdomc5897@yahoo.com

* OFFICE HOURS *

St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368
www.stpaulplankinton.com
605-942-7364

Elders Curt Guindon
Mike Tuschen

President Rodney Weber
LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
304 S Johnston St., White Lake SD 57383
www.trinitywhitelake.com
facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
605-249-2333

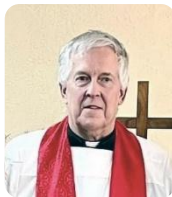
Elders Scott Meier
David Bogenhagen
Ben Bogenhagen

President Dan Guericke
LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer
Hope Circle
Brianna Bogenhagen
Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and
Trinity Lutheran Church are
members of the South Dakota
District of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod.

GOD LOVES US THAT MUCH



Dear Members of St. Paul's and Trinity,

This month we celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin the 40-day spiritual journey of Lent. Lent is a six-week season leading up to Easter Sunday that offers Christians an opportunity to focus on repentance and spiritual growth. Some Christians especially focus on prayer, Bible study, or meditation.

As a congregation, we will spend time in worship, studying the events just before and up to the crucifixion, when Jesus paid the price for our sins which sets us free from sin, death and the power of the devil. God's love for us is amazing as Jesus, who is God from eternity, left it all to become the lowest of Servants that we might become the children of God. Philippians 2:6–8 says, *Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a Servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* How does that make you feel to know that **God loves you that much?**

Ash Wednesday worship services will be February 18th, at 5 p.m. at Trinity, and at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's. Ash Wednesday is especially a time to repent and think of all Jesus did to save us from our sins. In the weeks to follow, the congregations will take turns hosting the Wednesday Lenten worship services each at 7 p.m.

I look forward to beginning the journey of Lent with you!

All of this leads up to the greatest event in the history of the world, the resurrection of Jesus which we will celebrate April 5th.

Pastor McKillop

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday Divine Worship Service Schedule 2026

Divine Services at Trinity 8:30 a.m.

Divine Services at St. Paul's 10:30 a.m.

Special Services

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026, Trinity, 5 p.m. | St. Paul's, 7 p.m.

Midweek Lent February 25, 2026, Trinity, 7 p.m.

Christian Education

St. Paul's Sunday School Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Catechism Classes Mondays, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Trinity.

Trinity Release-Time Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Trinity Wednesday School Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Joint Bible Study Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at Trinity.

Parish Meeting

St. Paul's Annual Voters..... Sunday, February 1, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Trinity Ruth Circle Sunday, February 8, 2026, following Divine Service; approx. 9:45 a.m.

Trinity Hope Circle Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 1 p.m.

St. Paul's Dorcas Circle Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 2 p.m.

Mitchell Circuit Winkel

Hosted by St. Paul's Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Serving the Lord February 2026

Trinity

Elder David Bogenhagen

Ushers Dan Guericke
Dean Suelflow

Acolyte Brant Bogenhagen

Altar Janice Thiry

St. Paul's

Elder Curt Guindon

Ushers Jett Kemp
Larry Gerlach

Acolyte Tayven Weber

Altar Sandy Tuschen

Greeters Feb. 1 Sharon Boyd
Feb. 8 Dan Gerlach
Feb. 15 Kieth & Cathy Albrecht
Feb. 22 Rodney & Kelli Weber

Scripture Readings for Sundays in February

Feb. 1 Third Sunday Epiphany..... Isaiah 9:1–4; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–25

Feb. 8 Fifth Sunday Epiphany..... Isaiah 58:3–9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1–12; Matthew 5:13–20

Feb. 15 Transfiguration Exodus 24:8–18; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9

Feb. 22 First Sunday in Lent..... Genesis 3:1–21; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11



MAIN STREET LIVING FEBRUARY 2026

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.
www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

February 1, 2026

10 a.m. "Visitation" Pastor Andrew Burdick (Dick Sargent) is having problems keeping his congregation together. Bishop Smith (Parley Baer) visits him to identify some troubling leadership spots and to renew faith.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Paul Winckler, with the LCMS SD District in Sioux Falls, SD, presents a message titled "Blessed Are You". The sermon is based on Matthew 5:1–12.

February 8, 2026 on Fox 46.1

10 a.m. "Happy Dirty Hands" School teacher Kent (Daniel Travanti) and his wife (Anne Whitfield) live in an impoverished area causing trouble in their marriage.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Matthew Nix, pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD, presents a message titled "Does your righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?". The sermon is based on Matthew 5:20.

February 15, 2026 on Fox 46.1

10 a.m. "Destination Unknown" Paul Werner (Leonard Nimoy) is a Nuclear Scientist who plans to defect to the Soviet Union. He reconsiders after a conversation on an airplane.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Joshua Mork, pastor at Our Savior and St John's Lutheran Churches in Madison and Howard, SD, presents a message titled "Seeing God". The sermon is based on Exodus 24:8–18.

February 22, 2026 on Fox 46.1

10 a.m. "Cell of Hope" Flag Washington (Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs), who came to Christ while in prison gets a new cellmate Jimmy Stricklin (Richard Dinitri) who is obnoxious.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe, pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Tea, SD, presents a message titled "The Word in Wilderness". The sermon is based on Matthew 4:1–11.



FEBRUARY 2026

Brant Bogenhagen, TR	Feb. 6
Ashley Geyer, TR	Feb. 7
Bernice Kolman, SP	Feb. 9
Lane Wesseling, SP	Feb. 10
John Geyer, TR	Feb. 13
<i>Brent & Andrea Morenz, SP</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>
Dale Pope, TR	Feb. 15

TRINITY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Adults from Trinity and St. Paul's are invited to a soup/sandwich meal, beginning at 5 p.m., Wednesday February 11, 2026. Following the meal, the movie *Unplanned* will be shown. This is the most important movie you'll ever see on the most controversial issue of our time. No matter which side of the fence you're on, no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby's journey, which led her to become one of the most outspoken for-life speakers of our time. This free event is being hosted by Trinity LFL.

LENT and HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026.

5 p.m. at Trinity | 7 p.m. at St. Paul's

Joint Midweek Services

At Trinity, 7 p.m. — Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25.

At St. Paul's, 7 p.m. — Mar. 4, Mar. 18.

Joint Maundy Thursday

At Trinity, April 2, 7 p.m., with communion

Joint Good Friday

At St. Paul's, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 5 — Regular service times.

8:30 a.m. at Trinity

10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's



The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Today’s verse drops us right into the opening scene of Jesus’ public ministry. Before Jesus stepped onto the stage, God sent John the Baptist ahead of Him — a forerunner — to wake up hearts, clear away confusion, and prepare people to receive the Messiah. From the very beginning, John wasn’t shy. He didn’t leave room for guesswork. When Jesus walked toward him, John declared loud and clear: “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

There it is. No spiritual fog. No vague platitude. No “be your best self” slogan.

Just Jesus — God’s answer to humanity’s deepest need.

So why, then, do people insist that Christianity is like every other religion? So many people reduce the Bible’s message to slogans like, “Be good.” “Try harder.” “Love people.” However, the heartbeat of Scripture is not what we do at all, but what God has done for us in Jesus Christ!

Maybe it’s pride.

Maybe it’s discomfort with needing forgiveness.

Maybe it’s the belief that ancient rules can’t possibly apply to modern lives.

Or maybe it’s the age-old lie that this time our generation will finally fix the world through our own brilliance, technology, or progress. But every culture before us tried that too. And every one discovered the same truth: without God, human strength collapses.

John’s call still thunders across the centuries: “Look!”

Look to Jesus.

Look to the Lamb.

Look to the One who takes away the sin of the world.

Look anywhere else and you will end up disappointed, exhausted, and empty.

But look to Him and you will receive **hope, forgiveness, and life.**

Let me get personal for a moment. One of my favorite TV shows is Blue Bloods. It’s got heart, grit, family loyalty, and moral conviction — everything you’d want in a good law-and-order drama. And I love how the show treats faith with respect. Those Sunday dinner prayers? Beautiful.

But here’s the thing: after all the episodes, all the seasons, and all the family prayers, I’ve never once heard the core of the Christian message spoken plainly. They never get to “Trust in Jesus Christ, who takes away the sin of the world.”

And don’t tell me tough cops don’t need to hear that. I’ve sat with officers. I’ve listened to them. I’ve prayed with them. Their work can place them in impossible situations. Sometimes they carry guilt even when they did the right thing. Sometimes they carry wounds they can’t talk about. Sometimes they carry memories that won’t go away.

There is only One who can lift that burden, cleanse that conscience, and bring peace to a weary heart:

- The Lamb of God.
- Real sins. Real Savior. Real cross. Real resurrection. Real hope.

And you can count on Him because He is faithful, trustworthy, and true.

So as you step into today — your meetings, your errands, your work, your worries — keep it simple: Jesus came into this world to save sinners.

That means us.

That means now.

And that means there is grace, purpose, and power available to live boldly today.

Look to Him.

Lean on Him.

Trust Him.

Then walk forward with confidence because the Lamb of God goes with you.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, help me to keep it simple and never forget who You are in my life. I need a savior and in You, I have one. Give me strength to live in that truth in all I do. AMEN

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

2026 Elders, Ushers, Acolytes, and Altar Committees

JANUARY 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Scott Meier	Elder: Curt G/Mike T
Ushers: Dan Meier	Ushers: Kieth Albrecht
Dean Suelflow	Josh Kemp
Acolyte: Blake Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Jett Kemp
Altar: Jane Guericke	Altar: Sandy Tuschen

JULY 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Scott Meier	Elder: Mike Tuschen
Ushers: Dan Guericke	Ushers: Kieth Albrecht
Dan Meier	Josh Kemp
Acolyte: Britton Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Addisyn Everson
Altar: Jane Guericke	Altar: Deb Haak

FEBRUARY 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: David Bogenhagen	Elder: Curt Guindon
Ushers: Dan Guericke	Ushers: Jett Kemp
Dean Suelflow	Larry Gerlach
Acolyte: Brant Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Tayven Weber
Altar: Janice Thiry	Altar: Sandy Tuschen

AUGUST 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: David Bogenhagen	Elder: Curt Guindon
Ushers: Dean Suelflow	Ushers: Jett Kemp
John Geyer	Larry Gerlach
Acolyte: Orion Steichen	Acolyte: Tayven Weber
Altar: Janice Thiry	Altar: Cathy Albrecht

MARCH 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Ben Bogenhagen	Elder: Mike Tuschen
Ushers: Dan Guericke	Ushers: Curt Guindon
John Geyer	Merlyn Haak
Acolyte: Blake Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Jenna Haak
Altar: Barb Gilbertz	Altar: Marlene Johnson

SEPTEMBER 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Ben Bogenhagen	Elder: Mike Tuschen
Ushers: Ron Steffen	Ushers: Curt Guindon
Dan Guericke	Merlyn Haak
Acolyte: Dayton Simpson	Acolyte: Mason DeGeest
Altar: Barb Gilbertz	Altar: Cathy Albrecht

APRIL 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Scott Meier	Elder: Curt Guindon
Ushers: Ron Steffen	Ushers: Dan Gerlach
Dan Guericke	Mike Tuschen
Acolyte: Dayton Simpson	Acolyte: Addisyn Everson
Altar: Jane Guericke	Altar: Marlene Johnson

OCTOBER 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Scott Meier	Elder: Curt Guindon
Ushers: Dan Meier	Ushers: Dan Gerlach
Dean Suelflow	Mike Tuschen
Acolyte: Britton Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Addisyn Everson
Altar: Jane Guericke	Altar: Marlene Johnson

MAY 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: David Bogenhagen	Elder: Mike Tuschen
Ushers: Dan Meier	Ushers: Nathan DeGeest
Dean Suelflow	Rodney Weber
Acolyte: Brant Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Mason DeGeest
Altar: Janice Thiry	Altar: Sharon Boyd

NOVEMBER 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: David Bogenhagen	Elder: Mike Tuschen
Ushers: John Geyer	Ushers: Nathan DeGeest
Ron Steffen	Rodney Weber
Acolyte: Blake Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Karter Weber
Altar: Janice Thiry	Altar: Deb Haak

JUNE 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Ben Bogenhagen	Elder: Curt Guindon
Ushers: John Geyer	Ushers: Lennis Titze
Ron Steffen	Howard Weischedel
Acolyte: Blake Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Blake Everson
Altar: Barb Gilbertz	Altar: Sharon Boyd

DECEMBER 2026	
Trinity	St. Paul's
Elder: Ben Bogenhagen	Elder:
Ushers: Dan Guericke	Ushers: Lennis Titze
Dan Meier	Howard Weischedel
Acolyte: Brant Bogenhagen	Acolyte: Blake Everson
Altar: Barb Gilbertz	Altar: Deb Haak

CONTACT

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Email: trinitywlsd@gmail.com

Social media: facebook.com/trinitywhitelake

YouTube: Trinity White Lake (recordings of Divine Services)

What An Opportunity!

Devotion for Lent

Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2a)

Have you had a unique opportunity in your life? Perhaps you have been blessed to attend college, to advance in your job, to travel to a special part of the world on a mission trip, or to use your skills and passion to help people in your community. Opportunity is defined as “a favorable juncture of circumstances,” “an occasion or situation which makes it possible to do something, or the possibility of doing something” (*Cambridge English Dictionary* and *Miriam-Webster.com Dictionary* 2018).

Whatever opportunities you have enjoyed, today there is an opportunity for each of us. That opportunity or “possibility of doing something” is Lent! Lent is an opportunity. Lent is a favorable juncture of time where we are given the gift of 40 days to prepare for Easter. This opportunity begins on Ash Wednesday. For 40 weekdays, we pause, remember, and contemplate what God has done and continues to do for us. So, what might be your “opportunity” this Lenten season?

Lent may mean attending Lenten services where we focus on repentance. When we fully repent, God graciously forgives our sins and releases us from the guilt and sorrow our sins cause us. Knowing God forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake, we are filled with joy and thanksgiving that leads us to abundant praise and worship for our great God.

Lent may also mean giving up something. Fasting is one such way to do this. In Matthew 6:16–18, Jesus talks about the proper way to fast. For some, giving up a type of food or other item for the Lenten season is a daily and constant reminder for them of Jesus’ total sacrifice for us when He gave up His life on the cross to rescue us from sin and eternal death.

But instead of giving up something for Lent, this season can also be an opportunity for each of us to also consider what we can **add** to our lives that is good. A good addition might be to write notes (40 of them for each day in the Lenten season) to thank people in your life or tell them you are thinking of them and praying for them that day. Another good addition might mean reading a different psalm each day of Lent as your daily prayer. The Lenten season can be an opportunity to rise and shine 15 minutes early and spend the time in God’s presence or even give up a 30-minute television show to add more time in His Word. Or motivated by Christ’s own acts of kindness and love, you might wish to do an act of kindness for others.

Another something we can add during Lent might be to find items in your home, maybe even 40 of them, to give to a service organization in your community that can give them to help those in need. Or perhaps you could encourage members of your family to share some “out of the normal” nice things with one another. For example, instead of just saying “Thank you” or “Good job,” take the opportunity to tell your spouse, “I love how you help with the kids.” Or tell your kids, “I love how you work hard on your homework,” or “I love how you make others feel they are special.”

The Lenten season can be a new opportunity for you, “an occasion to do something” memorable and meaningful. Whether you choose to give up something or choose to add something good, spend time in prayer and thanksgiving as the joyous celebration of Jesus’ resurrection approaches. Ask the Holy Spirit to use your Lenten “opportunity” to prepare your heart for Easter in a way that is meaningful and that deepens your relationship with God. Enjoy your opportunity this Lenten season!

Prayer: Dear God, may we always, and in every opportunity, be Your willing servants. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Written by Past LWML President Linda Reiser, Grand Island, Nebraska
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February 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Fourth Sunday Epiphany Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	2 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	3 TR Hope Circle 1 p.m.	4 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class at TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Catechism 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Fifth Sunday Epiphany Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's TR Ruth Circle 9:45 a.m.	9 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	10 SP Dorcas Circle 2 p.m.	11 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. LFL Supper and a Movie Night at TR 5 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Transfiguration Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	16 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	17 Mitchell Circuit Winkel at SP's 11 a.m.–4 p.m.	18 Ash Wednesday TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Ash Wed Services 5 p.m., TR; 7 p.m. SP Lenten Supper at TR 5:45–6:45 p.m.	19	20	21
22 First Sunday Lent Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	23 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	24	25 2nd Wednesday in Lent TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Lent Service at TR 5 p.m.	26	27	28