



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, SD Feb/March 2026

Greetings St Paul's Family,

I have recently had the pleasure of talking to a few individuals who were considering joining our church. They had questions about St Paul's, and the LCMS were different from other churches and other Lutheran church bodies. I made it my plan when I arrived here that we would try as a congregation to review Luther's Small Catechism. Conveniently, this year we are planning to review the Apostles Creed during Lenten Services. Our theme will be **Created to be Redeemed and Sanctified**. I can't think of a better thing then to review what we believe and then to confess these truths to the world. Even in these trying times we believe and confess.

I think it is more than just the few people who have come to the church looking for information about St Paul's, a lot of people are confused about many of the difficult things that are going on in the world and here at home. What are we to make of the possible overturning of despots in Iran as Islam tightens its grip on Europe? What are we to make of the growing unrest in our own country? We as a people can't seem to see events and policies from any shared perspective. Sometimes it seems like we are bound for a civil war in our country.

In the face of this uncertainty, we confess what we believe, what we know to be true, we confess facts of history, and we confess our greatest hopes. Credo-I believe. We believe that the Father created the Heavens and the Earth. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and is our Savior. We believe that Jesus lived, died on the cross and rose again to eternal life for him and us. We believe that the Holy Spirit has come now and will remain until that last day to give us faith and strengthen us through even these times of death, persecution and uncertainty. We Believe!

Do you know someone who is searching for truth? Do you know someone who is struggling and depressed? Do you know someone who is in a church where they won't confess the truth about Jesus according to the bible? If you do, this would be a great time to invite them to join us for Lenten Midweek Services. We can offer people in these difficult times real truth, peace and joy.

We hope to see you,

Pastor Drevlow

Why do we have Lent?

Lent is an interesting time for Christendom. You have some who take it seriously such as the Catholics who don't eat meat on Fridays during Lent. On the other side of the pendulum, there are some churches where there is no discernable difference during the time of Lent compared to any other time of the year. We on the other hand are more in the middle but tend to be closer to the Catholics than other Christian denominations.

It's because we along with the Catholics and other denominations see Lent as a time of self-reflection. A time to reflect on our sinful nature. To remember the punishment for our sin is death. That's why Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes where we say Genesis 3:19, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Lent then is a time of reflection on our mortality because of sin and to help us grow in our faith.

It's one reason why we have midweek services. We live in a busy world. I am sure many of you are like me where your slow weeks still end up being busy and before you know it it's not the end of just the week but the end of the month. We are busy with so many things to distract us that we forget to pray. We forget to slow down and read God's Word. We don't often mean to neglect to, but it happens because we are so busy focusing on different things happening in life. So, we incorporate midweek services during this time to help us slow down and focus back on Christ. To just be back in His Word and in His house. To remember all that He has done for us. To remember that as overwhelming as everything may seem sometimes that He still is in charge. That even as we remember our sin we also remember that we have a Savior who took that sin to the cross for you. That reality then changes how we view our life and the world around us and we are not dependent on our own strength to make it through the day but simply reliant on Christ and His mercy and grace.

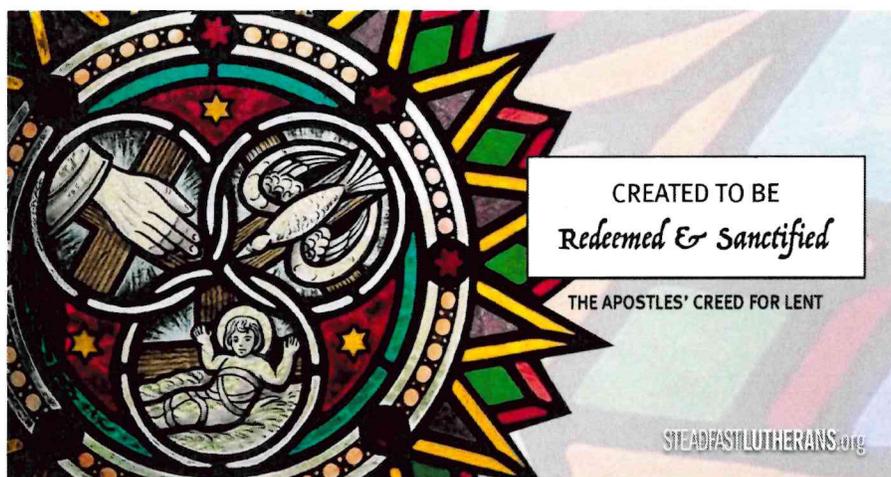
So, we have extra midweek services during Lent to help us reflect on what Lent is about. Our sin, our need for a savior, and the wonderful news that we have a savior! It's also why some people give things up for Lent. As mentioned already the Catholics give up meat on Fridays. This is done to help reflect on our own mortality but also as a reminder that we trust in God for all things. That whenever they may crave meat on a Friday it is a helpful reminder that they live by the grace of God and to go to Him in prayer.

It's also why some of you may give something up for Lent. I know people who have given up alcohol, soft drinks, social media, tv, and many other things. There is nothing wrong with giving something up for Lent if it is done with the right understanding of helping you grow in your faith and to reflect on your need for Christ in all things and to go to God in prayer when you crave the thing you gave up. In other words, giving something up for Lent should be done for the growing of your faith. That said, if you are not in the practice of giving something up for Lent then do not feel the need to. This falls under Christian freedom. You can do so or not do so and your conscious can be clean either way.

This may seem odd, but Lent is one of my favorite times of the year. Yes, it is busier, especially for pastors, but we get to sing some of my favorite hymns and it is simply a time to reflect on all that God has done for us and simply who He is. It's a time not just for me but for all of you to slow down a little bit in the middle of the week and just reflect on the grace and mercy of God who sent down His Son for broken people like us who are dust to dust we shall return. That being said. I also cannot wait for Easter. What a glorious and wonderful day Easter is when everything is white, and we finally get to Alleluia again. One of the best days of the year.

So, my prayer for all of you is that this Lenten season will help you grow in your faith and the anticipation of Easter as you remember all that Jesus has done for you.

In Christ,
Pastor Smith



Lent/Holy Week Worship Schedule 2026

Theme: Created to be Redeemed and Sanctified

Ash Wednesday: February 18th - Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm.

Lent Services: Wednesday Services at 12:15 and 6:15pm

February 25th—God the Father (Creation)

March 4th—God the Son (Humiliation)

March 11th—God the Son (Exaltation)

March 18th—God the Holy Spirt (Person)

March 25th—God the Holy Spirt (Church)

Palm Sunday: March 29th - Services at 8:00am and 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday: April 2nd - Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm

Good Friday: April 3rd - Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm

Easter Sunday: April 5th - Services at 8:00am and 10:45 am

Soup and Sandwiches will be served at the Lent services; after the 12:15pm service and prior to the 6:15pm service. This is a good time to be in fellowship with other members.



DC March for Life Trip

I was contacted by Jacks for Life and LFL at SDSU to lead a trip to the March for Life in DC. Over a few months we planned and it was just this last weekend. We left on Wednesday night to stay in Sioux Falls to depart early Thursday morning. We hit the ground about noon in DC and proceeded to catch some lunch and see the sights in DC. We attended the Y4Life conference, which is a RSO of the LCMS, that night. Friday morning, we had breakfast and jumped on the subway to head to the March. We marched and sang hymns, cheered one another on and prayed for an end to abortion. We went to the National Gallery and the Smithsonian on Saturday and then we flew home just ahead of the storm. Thank you for supporting us in this and I think we learned much.—Pastor Drevlow



Lighthouse Preschool

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

Fall/Winter 2026

Upcoming Dates:

February 16th- No School

February 26th- Pizza w/the Pastors

March 12-13th- Spring Break

March 20th- Conferences; No School

March 26th- Pizza w/the Pastors

Field trip fun at the fire station, Domino's Pizza and NGPC!



Classroom visitors! Trusty the Turtle and Pastor Smith!



Creative Play and Crafts!



REMINDERS:

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2026-2027 School year! Our Jr. Kindergarten program is limited to the first 12 students who enroll! Please call the preschool for more information or pick up a registration packet from the church office!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

& Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Ryan Drevlow

Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



Every Sunday
Divine Service @ 8am

Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Soup/Chili Cookoff 12:00pm	2	3 7:00pm Elders Mtg	4 10:00am Bible Study 5:15pm W. Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	5 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Choir/7:30pm Bell Choir	6	7
8 12:30 Prayer Service	9	10 2:30pm-6:00pm Blood Drive 6:00pm Men's Club Bible Study	11 10:00am Bible Study 5:15pm W. Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	12 9:00am LWMML Mtg 6:30pm Choir/7:30pm Bell Choir	13 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	14
15 LWMML Friendship Breakfast 9am-10:30am 1:00pm Gathering God's Flock 5:00pm Youth Group	16 Church Office Closed No Preschool	17	18 Ash Wednesday 11:00am Bible Study 5:15pm W. Bible Study 12:15pm/6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	19 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm RGI Meeting 6:30pm Choir/7:30pm Bell Choir	20 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	21
22 5:00pm Youth Group	23	24	25 11:00am Bible Study 5:15pm W. Bible Study 12:15pm/6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	26 9:00am Quilting 11:30am Preschool Pizza w/ Pastors 6:30pm Choir/7:30pm Bell Choir	27	28