

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)
"The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany"
Sunday, February 16, 2025
Divine Service
9:30 AM

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus
16355 Laguna Canyon Rd
Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

To foster the freedom and love we share in Christ to the community by nurturing faith in Him through tangible expressions of God's grace.

Vision

To share the Truth and Love of Christ to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café at 10:30 am and Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am
 - Wednesday Bible Studies at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices.
- You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

Welcome to Saint Paul's

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacraments. We follow the ancient liturgy which draws from the Word of God to order and guide our worship. Its biblical structure has been used in the Christian Church before any denominations within Christianity existed. Our worship emphasizes order, beauty, and reverence. We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of sins. We are excited about what the Lord is doing at St. Paul's, and it is our great joy to serve you!

This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News:

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to take your sin upon Himself and Jesus gave to you His perfect righteousness and holiness. In Christ, it is a fact, and it is reality that your sins are forgiven, covered by His blood. And because Christ defeated death, you too – as you trust in Him alone – have eternal life. This is the Good News. It is so powerful because the Holy Spirit works through it to create and sustain faith in our hearts to hold to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel costs Jesus everything but costs us nothing. It is yours. It is God's GIFT to you. Hold to it and know that you ARE (present tense) saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil; that you are saved TO (present tense) the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! That's the Christian, a forgiven sinner who lives for God and loves their neighbor. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The Lord's Supper

The Holy Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed**, are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, **are asked first to speak to one of the pastors.**

Prayer Before Divine Service

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

+ In the Name of Jesus +

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in Bb -- JS Bach

Greeting

- P** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
C **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.**

- Psalm 1:1-2

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

982 Blest Are They



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they, full of
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who suf - fer in
 cause of Me. Re - joice and be glad, yours is the



sor - row; They shall be con - soled.
 thirst; They shall have their fill.
 heart; They shall see God!
 faith; The glo - ry of God is theirs.
 king - dom; Shine for all to see.



Refrain
 Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you,



ho - ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the



king - dom of God.

Text and tune: David Haas, 1957

Text and tune: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000405

Kyrie

LSB 186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵Thus says the LORD:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 1; antiphon: v. 2



(congregation chants in unison)

C His delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

Blessèd is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,*
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;
but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not | wither.*
In all that he does, he | prospers.
The wicked | are not so,*
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,*
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning;
is now, and will be forever. | Amen

His delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

**He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
(all stanzas)

Sermon

"From Enemies to Friends"
(Luke 6:27-38)
Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: Saved to be able to live, and not just to be prepared to die.

Part 1: To be baptized into Christ is to share His life.

E.G.:

*He serves, you serve

*He is holy, you are holy

*He prays, you pray

*He loves, you love

*He bore a cross, you bear a cross

*He held to Scripture, you hold to Scripture

*He forgave and forgives, you forgive

*** The big objection: "I'm not Jesus, I can't." You're right, but...

Phil. 3:14: "I can do _____ through Christ who strengthens me "

Corrie ten Boom

Not a qualified forgiveness: not the dinner party wife, but the adoptive father. Two stories.

The Way of Jesus:

A. Romans 5:10:

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

B. John 15:13-15:

¹³ "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

C. We have moved from enemy of Christ to friend of Christ.

D. We are to relish the vocation of friend.

Jesus teaches us: Luke 6:

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, spray for those who abuse you." This is a friend to enemies as Christ was and is toward us. Such a love can turn an enemy into a friend, such as you are now toward Christ.

Part 1: Love enemies.

What is this love? _____

Part 2: Good to those who hate you.

An account while at war.

Part 3: Bless those who curse you.

Romans 12:

¹⁹ "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ "To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Part 4: Pray for those who abuse you.

Luke 23:34: "And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments."

Conclusion:

Luke 6:

36 "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;"

We don't forgive others so that we would be forgiven, but we forgive others precisely because we already are.

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

G Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

G Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Soul, Adorn Thyself -- Johannes Brahms

Stand

Reception of New Members

(Please follow along in the hymnal on page. 272)

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the spread of God's kingdom, made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ, that a great multitude from every Gentile nation and from Judea's remnant may be gathered to know true Wisdom come in our flesh, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all people among whom the Gospel is preached, that they would hold fast to God's Word and not believe it in vain, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For parents and those who teach children the Word of God, that generations to come may love God's promises, walk in His truth and dwell in His house, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who bear office in our land, that they would be a blessing to those they serve; for the callings God has given us, that we would render service to Him in our works of love toward our neighbor; and for those in need of honest labor and daily bread, that they would receive gainful employment according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those troubled by any unclean spirit, memory or thought; for the sick; and for all who need healing, [*especially* _____,] that they would receive the power of Christ in the hearing of His Word and be cured, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who come to eat the holy body and precious blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins in the blessed Sacrament, that trusting in Him they may be filled with God's blessing, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For hope that reaches beyond this life, confident in the risen Christ who is the firstfruits from among those who sleep; for all who mourn, [*especially* _____,] that they may have comfort in His life; and that we may live confidently in our expectation of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, plant us as trees by the stream of Christ, our Savior. Root us securely in His Word and wisdom. Do not let us turn from You, nor put our trust in man and this flesh, which fail. Preserve us from all anxiety, and take our fears away through right fear of You. Cause us, by Your Holy Spirit, to bear much fruit and, when affliction and persecution come, to stand firm and rejoice at the great reward that is laid up for those

who trust in You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



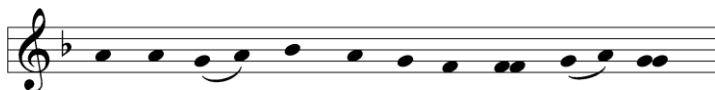
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and

archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and

said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary

(all stanzas)

821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

(all stanzas)

973 Thy Word Is a Lamp



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My



Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.



noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And



Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

Text: Amy Grant, 1960

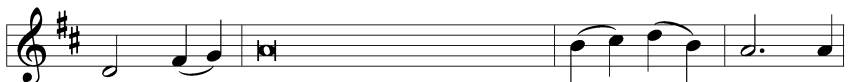
Tune: Michael W. Smith, 1957

Text and tune: © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000405

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



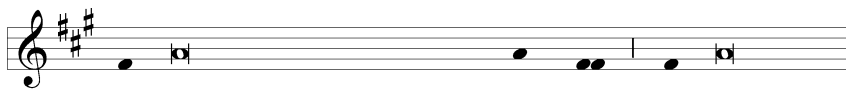
A Bless we the Lord.



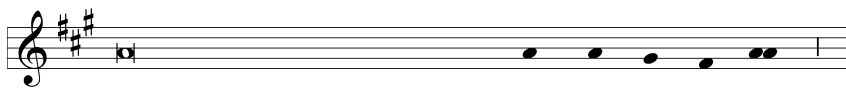
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

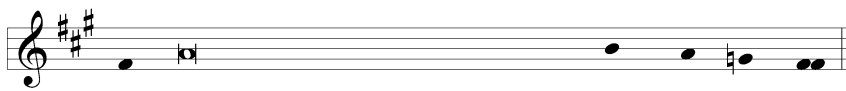
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Postlude

Pasticcio -- Jean Langlais

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

"Journey Through the Parables" will NOT meet today.

Today Pastor Espinosa meets with the young confirmands and their parents.

Please join us next week after Divine Service to continue this Bible Study.

This week:

Wednesday Bible Studies

Join us on **Wednesday, February 19**, as we continue our Bible study with the second part of **Hebrews Chapter 10**.

- **Time:** 10:00 AM & 7:15 PM
- **Location:** Church offices (In-person)
Online Option: Join us via TEAMS (fully interactive)
(Email office@saintpaulsirvine.com for virtual options.)

Chosen Bible Study

Group #2 will be meeting at the church on **Tuesday, February 18th** at the church office. St. Paul's now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.



Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalm 95:1

Choir Schedule for February-March 2025

- ♪ **Sunday, Feb. 23:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Mar. 2:** Rehearsal before church at 8:30 am
- ♪ **Sunday, Mar. 2:** Sing for Divine Service at 9:30 am

Rehearsal on 2/23 will be in the cafeteria area by the piano.
Rehearsal on 3/2 will be in the Sanctuary. ***Please be prompt!***

Sheet music PDFs and recordings of the music, including the individual parts, are now on the "Choir" page of the church website. Questions? Contact Mark Howard (714) 423-6460 or markahoward@sbcglobal.net.

Coming Up:

Mercy: Love Throughout Life Conference

Join the LCMS National Mission for this special conference on **March 14–15, 2025!** Attend in person at one of three locations or watch online. A **Spanish track** will also be available online.

Registration Details:

- **Standard (Feb. 15–March 7):** \$74
- **Online Registration:** \$29 (individuals, couples, families, or groups)
- **Students at Concordia universities/seminaries:** Free with valid email

Space is limited! Register at bit.ly/MercyLovePSD. For more info, email lifeministry@lcms.org.

Spiritual Renewal According to the 12 Minor Prophets Wednesdays at 7:00 PM | March 5 – April 9

Join us for a six-week sermon series exploring the timeless messages of the 12 Minor Prophets. Each week, we will uncover how these prophetic voices call us to deeper faith and spiritual renewal.

Series Schedule:

Date	Prophets & Theme	Date	Prophets & Theme
March 5	Hosea & Joel: A Call to Return	March 26	Nahum & Habakkuk: Trusting God's Plan
March 12	Amos & Obadiah: Justice & Humility	April 2	Zephaniah & Haggai: Renewing Our Devotion
March 19	Jonah & Micah: Mercy & Obedience	April 9	Zechariah & Malachi: Hope & Restoration

Come and be refreshed through the Word as we seek renewal in our walk with God.

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the church on **Friday, March 28th** at the Geisler's home. St. Paul's now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.

"Iron Sharpens Iron" Men's Bible Study

Iron Sharpens Iron is a men's bible study group that meets virtually on a monthly basis. For more information on meeting times and to join the group please contact Jacob Thornblad at Jacobiot1998@gmail.com

Confirmation Class

Pastor Al is meeting with the young confirmands and their families TODAY after service. We try to meet monthly, depending on the needs of our students' families. If there is a youth in your family who is interested in talking

to Pastor more about confirmation, or if you are interested in adult confirmation, please contact office@saintpaulsirvine.com.

“Lamplight” Young Adults Group

Lamplight is a group of young adults between the ages of 18-23 that aims to study God’s Word in an engaging yet traditional format of Vespers! Come join us as we read, sing, and meditate upon His Word. The fun doesn’t stop there – join us for fellowship after every meeting and our occasional bonding outings! Lamplight meets every second and fourth Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Irvine.

For any questions or information, please contact:

Shane Perry at (949) 400-6426 or

shaneperryca@gmail.com or

Instagram: @lamplight_youngadults



General Announcements

Words of Evangelism

Ch. 4 – Two Religions

From the Evangelism Committee. There are three points you should remember when sharing the Gospel. First, death and guilt are universal problems. Second, there are two religions in the world; Christianity and all others. Third, remember the Gospel. Christ has died for you and your sins and gives you eternal life.

Let’s talk about this second point. There are only two religions in the world. One religion is the world’s religion, the religion of the law. In these religions, the works of men are pursued to please a false deity or deities. One has to achieve, attain, or do something in order to be saved. The other religion is Christianity. In Christianity, the Holy Spirit works faith in Christ who makes us right with God without a single work of our own. A distinguished Professor described this distinction as follows:

“In the discharge of my duties for forty years as professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford, I have devoted as much time as any man living to the study of the Sacred Books of the East, and I have found the one key-note ... of all these so-called sacred books ... – the one refrain through all – salvation by works. They all say that salvation must be purchased, must be bought with a price, and that the sole price, the sole purchase-money, must be our own works and deservings. Our own Holy Bible ... is from the beginning to end a protest against this doctrine. Good works ... are only a thank-offering, the fruits of our faith. They are never the ransom-money of the true Disciples of Christ. ...Let us teach [others]

that there is only one sacred book ... that can be their mainstay in that awful hour when they pass all alone into the unseen world. It is the sacred Book which contains that faithful saying, worthy to be received of all ... -- that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (Franz Pieper quoting Max Muller, Christian Dogmatics)

The Christian religion is the one true religion. All other religions are man-made. King David, in prayer, worshiped our Lord and proclaimed, “You alone are God.” (Ps 86:10) Besides our God, there is no other. Our God saves. No other God does that. Remember, Christian, this distinction because it shows you just how unique your faith is and how important it is to share it.

O Lord, you alone are our God and you alone provide for our salvation. We thank you, o God, that our salvation comes through your grace and mercy and not through our own works. For by our own works, we would be lost. Always keep us mindful, o Lord, of this truth. Give us courage, o Lord, so that we may teach and pass along the message that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Amen.

Worship Attendance for Members & Guests

Scan the QR code or use the iPads at the Welcome Table to sign in. **Guests**, please sign the guestbook at the entrance.

Offerings: Collected during the worship service. All contributions are voluntary.



Requesting Announcements



To request an announcement for the congregation or community, submit your request via the QR code or this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hsgrm6zAup>. Choose where you want it published: bulletin, email, website, livestream, etc.

Daily Bible Devotionals – 2025

Join Pastor Espinosa in reading through the Holy Bible in 2025!
Follow along daily on:

- ✦ **Facebook:** @AlfonsoEspinosa
- ✦ **TikTok:** @alfonsoespinosa356
- ✦ **Instagram:** @alfonsoespinosa88

Let's rejoice as God strengthens our faith through His Word!
Want devotionals sent to your inbox? Please email
office@saintpaulsirvine.com to be added to the list.

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for **Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table, Transportation Services, and Visiting Shut-Ins**. If interested, please contact **Mark Kuntz**. We also need help with **Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team**. Please reach out to **office@saintpaulsirvine.com** if you can assist.

Thank you for serving our congregation!

Lux et Veritas: Classical Lutheran Academy Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The LORD is leading us regarding the possibility of *Lux et Veritas* K-8 Lutheran Classical Academy. Recently articles in the public arena on a national level have been appearing praising classical education. This is God's timing. There is another mission and vision meeting this coming Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 pm. Please keep this process in prayer. We have a great team working on our preparations before we have LCEF join us with their expertise. In the meantime, we are still raising money for the feasibility study. There are many needs set before us. Would you like to support our future ministry to families with young children and for those children to be equipped with a top-notch education for the whole person, especially as they come to know Jesus and become equipped also to defend the saving faith in the 21st century? If so, please give a special offering marked "Classical Academy." This past week one of our young families told me that they hope their children might be a part of this venture here in Irvine. God does great things for His Church. Let us call on Him and expect great blessings, especially when our motivation is the Great Commission of Jesus!

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,
Pastor Espinosa

Women's Retreat Interest Check!

We're excited to explore the possibility of hosting a St. Paul's Women's Retreat, and we want to hear from you! This retreat will be a time for spiritual renewal, personal growth, and connecting with fellow women of faith. Before we move forward with planning, we'd love to gauge interest and see how many women would like to participate. If you're excited about the idea of taking time away to recharge, grow spiritually, and build meaningful connections, please talk to Laura Miller or email the church office at office@saintpaulsirvine.com

Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

Missionaries Supported by St. Paul's

(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)

Missionary	Location
Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park	Taiwan

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

Local Evangelism Support

- **Rev. Mark Jasa** – St. Paul's supports our local evangelist.

St. Paul's Parish Council Members

Debbie Dannemeyer – President ~ **Matt Bures** – Recording Secretary ~ **Ken Mott** – Treasurer

Laura Miller – Financial Secretary ~ **Jon Rutherford** – Trustee Director ~ **Ali Frank** – Stewardship Director

Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

Jacob Thornblad – Education Director ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

St. Paul's Elders

Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~ **John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke**

Michael Padilla ~ **Steve Fischer** ~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla**

Light of the World Podcast

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www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine



LIGHT OF THE WORLD
PODCAST

- APPLE PODCASTS
- SPOTIFY
- AMAZON MUSIC
- AUDIBLE

ALSO ON YouTube
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@SAINTPAULSIRVINE](https://www.youtube.com/@SAINTPAULSIRVINE)

The graphic features a central illustration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. To the right of the illustration are logos for Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and Audible. Below these logos is a QR code. At the bottom, it says 'ALSO ON YouTube' with the YouTube logo and a link to the channel.

Circle of Friends



For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home. Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor?

Use this QR code to let us know. More comfortable with pen and paper?

Paper forms are available on the entrance table.



SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/ Greeters	Elders on Duty	Entrance Area	Livestream
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
3 rd Sunday 2/16/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jon Steele
4 th Sunday 2/23/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, A. Wright	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1 st Sunday 3/2/2025	Nina Mueller, Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Miles Johnson	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2 nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Mei Kuntz, Elizabeth Brothwell	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Myra Taylor	Shane Perry

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3 rd Sunday 2/16/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th Sunday 2/23/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1 st Sunday 3/2/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 3/9/2025	Espinosa's

