

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)

The Confession of St. Peter

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Divine Service: 9:30 am & 2:00 pm (*Acapella*)

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.*

***Scan the QR Code for Website,
Contact Info, Church Events &
more:***

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 Saint 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.

Saint Paul's Staff:

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

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

Vicar: Miles Johnson

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

✦ A Full Week at Saint Paul's! ✦

New offerings, returning favorites, and something for everyone—join us!

Today, Sunday, January 18

- **9:30 am:** Divine Service — Pastor Mueller preaching
- **10:45 am:** Happy Birthday to Amaya (Café / Fellowship Hall)
- **11:00 am:** Bible Study — *“Contending for the Life Everlasting”* (final chapter from Pastor Espinosa’s latest book, *Contending for Christ Through the Creed*)
- **2:00 pm:** Divine Service — Pastor Espinosa preaching
 - Sermon Title: *“The Confession with a Cross”* (Mark 8:27–35)

Wednesday, January 21

- **9:00 am:** Divine Service — *“Faith in Christ Justifies”* & *“We Obtain Forgiveness of Sins through Faith Alone in Christ”* (Paragraphs 61–85 of *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*)
- **10:00 am:** Galatians Bible Study

Thursday, January 22

- **6:30 pm:** Men’s Bible Study on *The Sermon on the Mount* (Mission Viejo) Please contact Pastor at **949-379-0883** for location information

Ongoing Offerings at Saint Paul’s:

- Pastor Espinosa is available for pastoral counsel, adult instruction, individual confession & absolution, and visitation to the sick, immunocompromised, distressed, or hospitalized. Pastor also offers house blessings.
- We have two fellowship and Bible Study groups that meet once per month. Both groups watch highlight clips of *The Chosen* TV series and then engage in Scripture study. Please contact Pastor at **949-379-0883** if interested.

+ In the Name of Jesus +

Prelude

We Praise You and Acknowledge You -- Jeffrey Blersch

Greeting

P Oh give thanks to the LORD for he is good;

C For his steadfast love endures forever!

– Psalm 118:29

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

Entrance Hymn

909 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

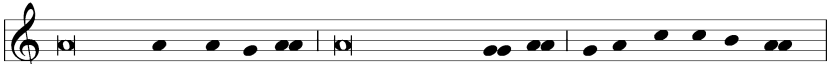
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



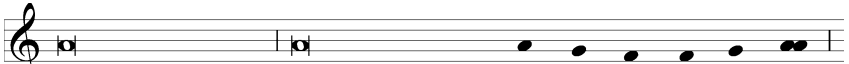
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



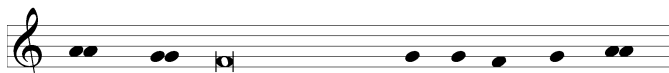
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



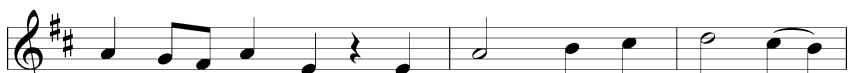
C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - mighty God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 4:8–13

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29; antiphon: v. 26



P Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*

that I may enter through them

and give thanks | to the LORD.

C **This is the gate | of the LORD;***

the righteous shall enter | through it.

P I thank you that you have | answered me*

and have become my sal- | vation.

C **The stone that the builders re- | jected***

has become the | cornerstone.

P This is the LORD's | doing;*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

C **This is the day that the | LORD has made;***

let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

P Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

C **Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!***

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

P The LORD is God,

and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

up to the horns of the | altar!

C **You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;***
you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*

for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

C **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.

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

Epistle

2 Peter 1:1–15

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the

knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹²Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 8:27-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Hymn of the Day

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

(all stanzas)

Sermon

9:30 am

2:00 pm

"The Faithful Confession"

"The Confession with a Cross"

(Mark 8:27-35)

(Mark 8:27-35)

Pastor Mueller

Pastor Espinosa

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,

**very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from
 heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
 and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For boldness of faith, that liker St. Peter, we may confess that Jesus is the Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church of God, guarded by the Lord who bore the cross, that her ministers and people may be certain that the gates of hell cannot prevail against us; and for the strengthening of our faith, that we may trample every power of the enemy underfoot, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For families, that our Father who gathers us into His household would bless the households of this congregation; and that He would bless all within them so that their love may abound with knowledge, discernment and the righteousness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our president, our governor, and all elected and appointed leaders, that the light of the Lord may shine upon our nation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who are sick or in any need, [*especially _____*] that the Great Physician of body and soul would give them rest, healing and relief; for all expectant mothers and their children; and for us all, that casting every anxiety on Him, we would live in the certainty of His steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For grace to take up the cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads; for courage in the face of challenge and adversity; and for compassion and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

Come, Join in Cana's Feast

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

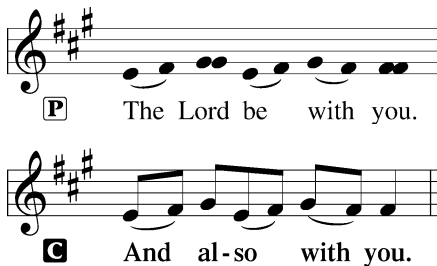
+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

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 177



P The Lord be with you.
G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Peter, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- 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

- 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."

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

837 Lift High the Cross

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

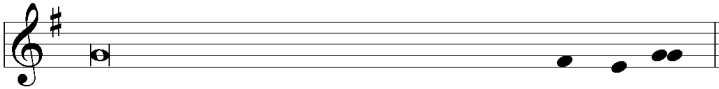
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Postlude

Toccata in Seven -- John Rutter

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

Birthday Celebration

Please join us after the service to celebrate our fellowship in the café and sing *Happy Birthday* to **Amaya Johnson**, who turns **3 years old today!**

Thank you again to everyone for your love and support of the Johnson family. Amaya happily asked to celebrate her birthday with her church family, and that means so much to us all.

— *The Johnson Family*

General Announcements

Lenten & Holy Week Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments

Join us for our Lenten and Holy Week sermon series centered on the Ten Commandments. Each service will focus on Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. **All services are held at 7:00 p.m.**

Service Schedule:

- **February 18 (Ash Wednesday) - 1st Commandment: *Fortitude***
(Imposition of Ashes will be offered at the 9:00 a.m. Divine Service and the 7:00 p.m. Service of the Word.)
- **February 25 – 2nd Commandment: *Discipline***
- **March 4 – 3rd Commandment: *Allegiance***

- **March 11** – 4th Commandment: *Justice*
- **March 18** – 5th Commandment: *Sanctity*
- **March 25** – 6th Commandment: *Temperance*
- **April 2 (Maundy Thursday)** – 7th & 8th Commandments: *Concord*
- **April 3 (Good Friday)** – 9th & 10th Commandments: *Prudence*

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: January 18 “Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16).” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: John 1:29 – “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God’s gift? That God would be the true Giver of the true Lamb? Truly, we can never out-give God, for all that we have is His.

Bulletin Announcement Update



In an effort to make our bulletins easier to print and more cost-effective, some announcements that do not require special highlighting or that are repeated weekly will now be available via QR code. Printed copies of these announcements will also be available at the Welcome Table for anyone who needs one. Thank you for your understanding as we make this adjustment!

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Welcom e Table</u>	<u>Live- stream</u>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Shared Role</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
3rd 1/18/2026	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th 1/25/2026	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul & Samuel Hines	John Church	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st 2/1/2026	Nina Mueller	Al Ibrahim, Barney Wright	Alex Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd 2/8/2026	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don & Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

3 rd - 1/18/2026	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4 th - 1/25/2026	Daisy Minter, Anne Marie Hines
1 st - 2/1/2026	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd - 2/8/2026	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon