



*Then shall your light
and your righteousness
go before you*

Isaiah 58:8

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Prelude

Gathering Hymn "Christ Whose Glory.." **G Hymn #265**

Announcement

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Anthem Choir

First Lesson Isaiah 58:3-39

The Psalm Psalm 112:1-9

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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*The Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:13-20

Children's Sermon Pastor Brodie Taphorn

Sermon Hymn "Lord Speak to Us" vs. 1-2 **G Hymn #403**

Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn

Sermon Hymn "Lord Speak to Us" vs. 3-4 **G Hymn #403**

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Offering

Offertory Psalm

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*Benediction

Closing Hymn "God Whose Almighty ..." **G Hymn #400**

Postlude

*Stand as you are able

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Sophie Beck, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by The Ackerman Family in memory of Loved Ones.

New Church Council members will be installed today are Grant Geiger and Jim Shade. Thank you to Tom Bush and Jim Luidhardt for your all work these past few years.

Church Council will meet after worship today.

Women of the Church will meet at 6 PM on February 9 at the church.

Ash Wednesday worship will be held at 7 PM on February 18.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for supporting LifeWise Academy through our Giving Tree project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you again, *Linda Schulze-BC LifeWise site coordinator*

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be doing taxes free for anyone with an income of \$80,000 or less. They will be located at St. John's United Church of Christ at 120 South Lane St. Bucyrus. The number to schedule is 419-617-6657. They have an elevator to take you to the 2nd floor.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry February 1, 2026

Bell Choir	50.00
Benevolence	360.00
Current	5,757.00
Feed Crawford County	175.00
Filling Home	115.00
God Squad	90.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	95.00
Missionary	35.00
NALC Seminary	110.00
NALC Disaster Relief	85.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	50.00
Special Projects	125.00
Total	\$7,047.00
Attendance 112	Communion 101

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

Women of the Church meeting will be February 9 at 6 PM.

If anyone has old suitcases, school supplies or hygiene items please donate by March 8. Janelle Grube and Carlie Geiger are going on a mission trip to Dominican republic.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Church Council after worship
Monday	Dartball <i>bye</i> 7:30 PM
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
David Halsey, Lay Assistant
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
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You Are the Light of the World

Our grandchildren enjoy going downtown to Comerica Park. There, we cheer on our beloved Detroit Tigers. Around the fourth inning, the younger ones start to get bored. They beg us to take them to the pavilion in the stadium, where they love to ride the merry-go-round. The merry-go-round does exactly that. It travels round and round, but it goes nowhere.

Does your life seem like an endless merry-go-round going round and round in circles but getting nowhere? You race around, taking the kids to soccer games or dance lessons. You run to doctor appointments, the bank, the grocery store.

Yet our lives do have a purpose. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). You and I light up the world as we serve others in our family, our church, and our world. Our words, actions, and attitudes light up our world whenever the Gospel shines through us. The love of Jesus, who is the light of the world, shines like a bright beacon. He lightens our darkness with His forgiveness and love. The guarantee of His love—His blood shed on Calvary's cross—never expires. You and I have been saved to serve in faith and love.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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Epiphany

About the Cover: Like rays of light stretching out over the horizon, the Lord promises that repentance and sincerity will be met with a new dawn filled with righteousness, healing, and the Lord's protection. Jesus has entered into the darkness of our sin through His death on the cross, but the break of a new day came on the first Easter morning to show us that He lives to bring us His righteousness, healing, and protection.

The Word of God



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:3-9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

Psalm 112:1-9

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD*
and have great delight in | his commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;***
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,*
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;***
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending*
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶**For they will nev- | er be shaken;***
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;*
their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and | will not shrink;***
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely | to the poor,*
and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up
their | head with honor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

¹I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those

who love him" — ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³{Jesus said,} "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

For Encountering Christ

Eternal and almighty God, may your church hear your word in Jesus, behold the mystery of his presence in the Holy Supper, and live as faithful witnesses to your redeeming grace. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Safe Travel

God of the journey, too often hazardous winter weather can make even the simplest travel difficult or dangerous. Bless and protect all who must commute daily to work, those traveling long distance for business, and all who must be on the roads for whatever reason. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Leaders of the Nations

God of righteousness, empower the leaders of nations to govern and serve with a vision of your righteousness and a world at peace so that no one need live in fear of terror, violence, or oppression. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Who Suffer

Mighty Healer, help all who suffer any type of ailment, injury or distress to find comfort in your healing presence and the ministrations of medical personnel and compassionate caregivers. Transform their suffering into wholeness and joy. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-