



# St. Paul Epistle February 2026

## *The Reminder We Bear*

In case you don't have it on your calendars, Ash Wednesday is February 18th! Each year, on Ash Wednesday, we gather together for a service to mark the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. It is an ancient and somber service, one in which we see the physical marker of our mortality and sinfulness. Lent is a season of waiting, of repentance for the ways that we fall short in the face of God, and of reflection on the brokenness of humanity. Ash Wednesday reflects that, by smearing that reminder onto each of our foreheads.

But something that I think is often missed or left out is that Ash Wednesday is also a remarkably hopeful service. In the dust - in the reminder of our brokenness and mortality, is the cross. Even from something as hopeless as death and ash, God in Christ through the Spirit shows up.

I have always found this service beautiful for that exact reason: that even when all seems lost, God is not finished yet. This news comes to us, a broken, despairing, and often discouraged people, as very Good News. Good News that no matter the state of the world, the state of our country, the state of the church, the state of the city, the state of our lives, God is still showing up. And God shows up bringing new life and love.

Think of the dry bones in Ezekiel - the Spirit moves over the pits of death and declares that these bones will no longer be dead, but alive and filled with the breath of God. (*Ezekiel 37*)

Think of Lazarus - the fear of those gathered and grieving that Jesus would open the tomb and be faced with the stench of death. But Christ tells Lazarus to come out, and from the tomb, Lazarus emerges, *impossibly alive*. (*John 11*)

Think of Jesus' own tomb - all of creation cried out with sorrow and anguish as he was killed on the cross. But in the silence of the tomb, in the silence of the despair, the Spirit brings Jesus from the dead and raises him to new life. New life not only for Jesus Christ, but new life for all of humanity. (*Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20*)

See, that's what God in Christ through the Spirit does. God is in the business of bringing about new life, and a bit of dust isn't going to stop the work of the Spirit.

So, this year, as we gather to remember our mortality, remember that the sign of our mortality, the outward sign of our sinfulness and death, is shaped like a cross for a reason. God isn't done with us yet. God isn't done with the world yet. And a bit of dust isn't going to get in the way of God bringing about new life. Think of all that God has done and will do with even the dust.

My favorite poet, Jan Richardson, has a well-known blessing for Ash Wednesday about all that God can do with dust. I offer it to you as a closing thought.

Blessing the Dust  
*For Ash Wednesday*

All those days  
you felt like dust,  
like dirt,  
as if all you had to do was turn your face  
toward the wind  
and be scattered  
to the four corners

or swept away  
by the smallest breath  
as insubstantial –

did you not know  
what the Holy One  
can do with dust?

This is the day  
we freely say  
we are scorched.

This is the hour  
we are marked  
by what has made it  
through the burning.

This is the moment  
we ask for the blessing  
that lives within  
the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home  
inside the soil of  
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked  
not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked  
not for shame.  
Let us be marked  
not for false humility  
or for thinking  
we are less  
than we are

but for claiming  
what God can do  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff  
of which the world  
is made  
and the stars that blaze  
in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge  
we bear.

Thanks be to God for the reminder of what all of us are: broken and blazing, smudged and set free.

-Pr. Riley

Worship Assistants Serving in February

Sunday February 1 ~ Lester Hallquist

Saturday February 7 ~ at Immanuel

Sunday February 8 ~ Joyce Craney

Saturday February 14 ~ Robin Colglazier

Sunday February 15 ~ Sherry McCarter

Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Marian Myers

Saturday February 21 ~at Immanuel

Sunday February 22 ~ Glen Hughes

Saturday February 28 ~ Linda Patterson

# Pizza and Bingo

## Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### after Worship



### WELCA Coffee

**Wednesday, February 11th 9:00 am**

in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Enjoy wonderful conversation, great coffee, and a tasty breakfast



New Member Sunday!

Please make plans to attend worship on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> as we welcome new and returning members at our church.

If you are a visitor and would like to join, please let Pr. Anthony know asap.  
We will have cake to celebrate!!



**The Church Office will closed Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**

## We celebrate with those who have February birthdays.



- 3 Austin Day
- 4 Samuel Zimmerman
- 6 Mary Stanek
- 10 Patty Hallquist, Gregory Hicks
- 15 Kayla Gaffey
- 16 Mason Bell
- 20 Brenda Nailor
- 21 Carol Moats
- 23 Robin Colglazier
- 24 Sandra Schulte
- 26 Mary Nelson
- 28 Charlene Huff

## Ash Wednesday and Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday—February 18<sup>th</sup>

Noon @ Immanuel  
5:30 pm @ St. Paul

### Midweek Lent Services

This year, the Episcopalians asked if we would be interested in rotating Midweek services—we thought, the more the merrier!

Regardless of what church we are at, we will start at 5:30 pm, use the same liturgy and gather for soup/sandwiches afterwards.

February 25, 5:30 pm @ St. Luke's Episcopal Church

March 4, 5:30 pm @ St. Paul

March 11, 5:30 pm @ Immanuel

March 18, 5:30 pm @ St. Luke's

March 25, 5:30 pm @ St. Paul

### DACMA (Dixon Area Christian Ministers) Lent Services

Refreshments to follow

February 22, 6:00 pm @ 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian

March 1, 6:00 pm @ Grace UMC

March 8, 6:00 pm @ TBD

March 15, 6:00 pm @ TBD

March 22, 6:00 pm @ TBD

March 29, 6:00 pm @ Church of the Brethren (Special hymn sing!)

## New Partner Using Our Space!

We are happy to share that the Salvation Army will begin using the old Sunday School Superintendent's office.

The SA gives away 90% of the money raised through bell-ringing (which Kiwanis organizes)!

Jason, the SA coordinator, is available by phone call.

If you had something stored in that office, don't worry, nothing has been thrown away. It has been moved into the cabinets. Any questions, please ask Pr. Anthony.

## EXCITING NEWS

### Accessibility Changes Coming to a Church Near You!

Yes, we've announced this before, but we want to remind folks that some changes are on the horizon.

The sanctuary TV (fully funded by an anonymous donor) will be installed soon, increasing visibility and functionality.

The ADA door system will be installed in the Canopy Entrance, making our building *fully* accessible.

And there is conversation about shifting pews to make seating more comfortable. Please ask the pastors if you have any questions or comments.

St Paul

## Spaghetti

Dinner

February 24,  
4:00 - 7:00pm

Mark  
your  
Calendar

Reserve your tickets  
online HERE! 

SCAN ME!

Tickets available in advance  
or at the dinner. Call or pick  
up at St Paul. Ask Gerard  
about tickets for you to sell  
to your friends and families.



Adults: \$10  
Kids 6 - 12: \$5  
Kids 5 & under: FREE!  
(Carryout available!)

HALF THE PROCEEDS  
SUPPORT REDUCING  
STUDENT LUNCH DEBT IN  
DIXON SCHOOLS, AND HALF  
THE PROCEEDS SUPPORTS  
ST PAUL YOUTH MINISTRIES.

See volunteer  
& donations  
sign-up in the  
gathering  
area!

## SCOUT SUNDAY

All scouts and leaders are invited to wear their uniforms and help to lead worship on Sunday, February 8, as we honor and celebrate youth scouts on Scout Sunday. Scouts and leaders, please let us know if you plan to attend.



Girl Scout Sunday  
Sunday March 8th



## Blood Drive Friday March 6

noon to 5 pm

schedule your appointment at  
[https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-  
results?zipSponsor=DixonStPaul](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=DixonStPaul)



CRE SVCC Saturday March 7  
register online at [www.nisynod.org/cre](http://www.nisynod.org/cre)



**Pulaski Day Breakfast**  
Back for its second year is the  
Pulaski/Paczki Breakfast.

Presented (for free!) by Pr. Anthony  
and his brother, Henry.  
It will be Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
from 6 am to 10 am in St. Paul's  
Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and  
enjoy this fellowship opportunity.

## First Communion Class First Communion Sunday!

This year's first communion class will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul for both churches. If you feel your child is old enough and would like them to participate, please let the pastors know.

Parents are strongly encouraged to participate with their kids!

Class: Saturday, March 28th from 10 am to 12:30 pm @ St. Paul (Lunch included!)  
1st Communion will be Sunday, March 29th @ both churches.

Presented by: Pr. Anthony  
and Henry Windau



### Pulaski/Paczki Breakfast

421 S Peoria  
Dixon, IL 61021  
6 am to 10 am  
Fellowship Hall

**SPLC**

# February

# Youth Newsletter ILC

Two Churches, One Mission



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb, 13-15<sup>th</sup>: Quake Event

Feb 24<sup>th</sup>: Serve @ SPLC  
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser  
4-7pm.

March 20<sup>th</sup>: Trivia Night -  
Youth Fundraiser @ ILC

June 22-25: Called to Serve  
VBS (at Immanuel)

July 9-12: Lifest Trip!! Tent  
Camping Included!

## YOUTH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Twenty-seven youth and adults participated in the faith snow tube outing at Snowstar last month!



## In this issue:

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### Mark your calendars:

Family Game Night  
returns March 13<sup>th</sup> at ILC!  
Second Friday of the  
Month: 5-7pm



## February CHILDREN'S CHANGE/OFFERING

### ST PAUL:



Dixon Public  
Schools student  
lunch debt

### IMMANUEL:



Meals on Wheels  
FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
COMMUNITY & NUTRITION SERVICES FOR SENIORS

# SPLC February Youth Newsletter ILC

Two Churches, One Mission

**Sunday school notes**

**SPLC Faith Lab - February 8th:** Service project making care kits and valentine's day cards for the homebound

**IMLC - February 8<sup>th</sup>:** **Being the Light of the World** - Making Valentine's Day cards for our homebound and those in the nursing homes.

**February 15<sup>th</sup> - No Sunday School**

HAPPY  
*Valentine's Day*

## God's Valentine

For God so lo **V** ed the world  
that He g **A** ve  
His on **L** y  
begott **E** n  
So **N**  
tha **T** whoever  
believes **I** n Him  
should **N** ot perish  
but have **E** ternal life

**John 3:16**

## Confirmation Class

February classes 1st and 3rd Sundays, 1-3pm:

- February 1 at ILC
- February 13-15 WISCONSIN DELLS QUAKE(no class)

**Sermon Notes:** Students and parents/guardians, please remember to take Sermon Notes when you are at worship. Turn your notes in to Somar, Gerard or one of the pastors.

**Class review:** If you miss class or want to revisit what we learned in class, class review forms/make-up assignments are emailed after every class.

**End-of-year Digital Media projects:** If you haven't already, it's time to start working on these projects due May 3<sup>rd</sup>! Need help, let Gerard and Somar know!

**Service:** We need you help serving at the SPLC Spaghetti Dinner, Tuesday, February 24. Sign up for the 4-5:30, 5:30-7 shifts or both shifts.

**\*\*Confirmation Requirement\*\***

**Jesus loves you!**

## Get Involved!

**Youth can:**

Read  
Acolyte  
Greet People  
and so much more...



# SPLC February Youth Newsletter ILC

Two Churches, One Mission

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MORE INFO TO COME**

IMMANUEL'S

**TRIVIA**

**MARCH 20, 2026**

**NIGHT**

6PM START @  
1013 FRANKLIN GROVE RD, DIXON

**FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH!**

HELP OUR YOUTH RAISE MONEY FOR UPCOMING TRIPS!

**Called**

**to SERVE**  
*Come be the hands and feet of Jesus*

**VBS**

June 22-25, 2026

at Immanuel Lutheran Church

**WORSHIP TEAM**  
  
THE JUNKER GEORGES

**SPEAKER**  
  
DAVE GUNNLAUGSSON

## DELLS QUAKE

YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL



**Participants:** We leave from St Paul at 3:45pm on February 13. We return to St Paul (Dixon) between 2:30-3:30pm on February 15. Questions? Email Gerard at [youth@stpauldixon.org](mailto:youth@stpauldixon.org) or Somar at [yfdirector@ilcdixon.org](mailto:yfdirector@ilcdixon.org)

We have 20 youth and adult leaders from Immanuel and St Paul attending this year!!!

*Mark Your Calendars*

St Paul

**Spaghetti**

**Dinner**

**NEW DATE** **February 24,**  
**4:00 - 7:00pm**

HALF THE PROCEEDS SUPPORT REDUCING STUDENT LUNCH DEBT IN DIXON SCHOOLS, AND HALF THE PROCEEDS SUPPORTS ST PAUL YOUTH MINISTRIES.

**JULY 9-12**

**Lifest**

Sharing **LIFE** Together

**2026 • OSHKOSH**

**Current Pricing:**  
Adults \$87/full event  
Youth \$47.50/Full event  
See Somar for more information or...  
Sign-up on Youth Board at ILC

**CONTACT US**

**SPLC: Gerard Von Holten**  
Email: [youth@stpauldixon.org](mailto:youth@stpauldixon.org)

**ILC: Somar Bryson**  
Email: [yfdirector@ilcdixon.org](mailto:yfdirector@ilcdixon.org)

# February Youth Ministries ILC SPLC Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>Sunday School</b> ILC - 9am SPLC - 9:30am  <b>Confirmation @</b> ILC 1-3pm	2 <b>Free to Be You</b> 3:30-5:30pm  	3	4	5	6	7
8 <b>Sunday School</b> "FAITH LAB" SPLC - 9:30am ILC - 9am Boy Scout Sunday (SPLC) 10:45am worship	9 <b>Free to Be You</b> 3:30-5:30pm	10	11	12	13 <b>Youth Quake</b> WI DELLS FEBRUARY 13-15 SPEAKER: DAVE GUNNLAUSSON WORSHIP TEAM: THE JUNKER GEORGES 3:45pm (SPLC)	14 <b>Youth Quake</b> WI DELLS FEBRUARY 13-15 SPEAKER: DAVE GUNNLAUSSON WORSHIP TEAM: THE JUNKER GEORGES
15 <b>Sunday School</b> ILC - No S.S. SPLC - 9:30am  <b>Youth Quake</b> WI DELLS FEBRUARY 13-15 SPEAKER: DAVE GUNNLAUSSON WORSHIP TEAM: THE JUNKER GEORGES	16 <b>Church Closed</b> 	17	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Worship ILC - noon SPLC - 5:30pm	19	20	21
22 <b>Sunday School</b> ILC - 9am SPLC - 9:30am Youth Committee - 9:15am	23 <b>Free to Be You</b> 3:30-5:30pm	24 <b>Spaghetti Dinner (SPLC)</b> 4-7pm 	25 <b>Midweek Lent Worship</b> At St Luke's Episcopal 5:30pm with meal following	26	27	28
1 <b>March</b> <b>Sunday School</b> ILC - 9am SPLC - 9:30am  <b>Confirmation @</b> ILC 1-3pm	2 <b>Free to Be You</b> 3:30-5:30pm 	3	4 <b>Midweek Lent Worship</b> At St Paul 5:30pm with meal following	 <p>Presented by: Pr. Anthony and Henry Windau</p> <p><b>Pulaski/Paczki Breakfast</b></p> <p>St. Paul Lutheran Church</p> <p>March 2nd</p> <p>Pulaski/Paczki Breakfast</p> <p>421 S Peoria Dixon, IL 61021</p> <p>6 am to 10 am Fellowship Hall</p>		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30-10:30am Sunday School / Youth Group 10:45am Worship 1:00 - 3:00 pm Joint Confirmation Class at ILC	2 10:00am Prayer Team 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	3 9:00 am Joint Staff Meeting at ILC 9:00 Line Dancing	4 1:00 pm Music & Worship Committee Meeting 3:00 pm Christian Ed/Faith Formation Meeting 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal	5 11:00 am Chair Yoga	6	7 5:30 pm Worship at ILC
8 9:30-10:30am Faith Lab 10:45am Worship Praise Band Executive Council Scout Sunday	9 10:00am Prayer Team	10 9:00 am Joint Staff Meeting at ILC 9:00 Line Dancing 10:00 am Social Ministry Committee Meeting	11 9:00 am WELCA Coffee 2:30 pm Finance Committee	12 11:00 am Chair Yoga	13 1:30 pm Liberty Court Worship 3:45 pm Youth Leave for The Quake	14 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
15 9:30-10:30am Sunday School PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> grade 10:45am Worship Welcome New Members Youth return from The Quake	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Presidents Day	17 9:00 am Joint Staff Meeting at ILC 9:00 Line Dancing	18 10:30 am Heritage Square Worship Noon Worship at ILC 4:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul Ash Wednesday	19 11:00 am Chair Yoga	20	21 5:30 pm Worship at ILC
22 9:15 Youth Committee 9:30-10:30am Sunday School / Youth Group 10:45am Worship Praise Band 6:00 pm DACMA service First Presbyterian	23 10:00am Prayer Team 2:00 pm Church Council Meeting Epistle items due	24 9:00 am Joint Staff Meeting at ILC 9:00 Line Dancing 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner	25 10:00 am Care Ministry Meeting 5:30 pm Worship at St. Luke's Episcopal soup following	26 11:00 am Chair Yoga	27	28 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul following worship Pizza & Bingo

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
421 S. Peoria Avenue  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Email: [office@stpauldixon.org](mailto:office@stpauldixon.org)  
Website: [www.stpauldixon.org](http://www.stpauldixon.org)  
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Phone: 815-288-2757  
Email: [pastoragwindau@gmail.com](mailto:pastoragwindau@gmail.com)  
[pastorreedwindau@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreedwindau@gmail.com)

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### Staff

Rev. Riley Reed-Windau & Rev. Anthony Windau  
Co-Pastors

Gerad Von Holten - Director of Youth and  
Family Ministries

Rhonda Thomas - Secretary

Brenda Nailor & Sharon Colglazier - General Funds  
Treasurers

Lorraine Hussung - Special Funds Treasurer

### Church Council

Robin Colglazier – President  
Linda Patterson – Vice President

Patty Hallquist – Secretary

Jeanette McWethy

Julie Pitchford

Cyndi Starr

Char Huff

Tim Garnhart