

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

LENT – EASTER NEWSLETTER, 2026

PUZZLE RACE!

March 27, 7pm

We had so much fun at the last one we decided to do one more this season! This fun filled fundraiser challenges teams of 4 to put together 500-piece puzzles. Snacks and beverages are included.

The first team to complete the puzzle wins the prizes. Every team to complete their puzzle gets bragging rights! It's fun for everyone!

Spread the word!

\$10/person; \$35/team of 4



LENT 2026 – WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE FOR US?

Google “Lent” and you might notice that people also ask: “What are the rules of Lent?”, “What do Christians do for Lent?”, “What is the meaning of Lent?”, “What is the most common thing given up for Lent?”, and, apparently, “Can you still kiss during Lent?” While there are some variations in what Lent looks like in the different Christian traditions, fundamentally, Lent is a time in which we are called to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Easter. So, what does that look like for us this year?

Christians begin the journey into Lent with Ash Wednesday. To honour this day, four short reflection and prayer videos will be shared to our social media and website prior to Ash Wednesday and be combined into a single worship video available on Ash Wednesday for those looking for a service. We hope that those who engage find these resources meaningful. There will also be a variety of reflection and prayer videos offered throughout the season through social media and our website to support the needs of those who engage online. All are encouraged to share this information widely recognising that this may be meaningful for diverse individuals.

I invite you to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. (BAS p282)

Lenten worship will honour diverse traditions. We begin with Morning Prayer as the first Sunday of Lent coincides with our Vestry meeting (note, the service time will be 9:30am followed by breakfast and the meeting). The second Sunday of Lent will feature the Traditional Book of Common Prayer like service to honour those who continue to find this form of worship meaningful. The remainder of Lent will be our regular Holy Communion worship. Throughout, we will continue to encourage questions and conversations during sermon time recognising the gifts and wisdom in our community.

Holy Week offers an intentional opportunity to journey from the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we wave our palms and shout Hosanna and then turn our hearts to the triumph of the cross. Volunteers will be needed to participate in our collective reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and to help strip the chancel at the end of worship acknowledging the emptiness of this journey.

The Triduum, or Great Three Days includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Once again, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday with a potluck in the upper room, also known as the choir loft. During the meal we will explore the meaning of the stories and the washing of the feet. Then, we will do as the early church once did, taking bread and wine set aside from our meal and using these to celebrate Holy Communion.

Good Friday will feature two opportunities to gather and remember. Our family service, which offers a creative way to engage with the story that is appropriate for all ages, and a traditional service. Once again, this year the traditional service will use material from the Book of Common Prayer honouring our traditions and history as we remember the story.

Easter Sunday is our celebration! Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Be prepared for high energy, lots of rejoicing, and celebration. This is the Good News, Jesus has triumphed over death. Following our worship there will be an egg hunt, our playful way of treating everyone on this festive day.

The hope is that these diverse offerings will provide meaningful ways for a plethora of people to hear and engage with the story. All are encouraged to share and invite, trusting that God working in and through us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. May we all have a holy Lent.

Annual Vestry Meeting – Feb. 22

Come and be part of the annual gathering of the family as we review 2025 and set our goals for 2026. We begin with Morning Prayer worship at 9:30am followed by breakfast and the meeting in the Hall. Thank you to all who enable St. Paul's to be the small congregation with a big heart!

THE EARLY CHURCH: A SERMON SERIES

The Baptismal Covenant asks: “Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?” The question invites us to remember that there were practices and traditions from the very beginning of what we now understand as the Christian Church that have relevance and meaning for who and what we are today. Trusting in this truth, this Easter season let us explore what we can still learn from the teaching and fellowship of the apostles.

Some of the strongest sources of information about the teaching and fellowship of the apostles that we have comes from the book of the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. The former is featured in our readings throughout the season of Easter. The latter is part of our readings on a regular basis, however, this year, we are blessed to read specifically from the first letter of Peter, the rock on which the Church was built. During the Easter season, we are also blessed with readings about the encounters between Jesus and the apostles with some post resurrection stories. This gives us insights into the how the apostles were impacted by the Easter story thus creating space for us to reflect on what the Easter story can mean for us today.

Building from these important resources, this Easter in our sermon conversations we will explore what we can still learn from the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and how this can inform the choices we make about how we embody our faith as we face the challenges and changes of 2026. May these conversations create spaces for us to confidently embrace our response to the Baptismal Covenant question each time we say: “I will, with God’s help”.



ENGAGING THE MARKS OF MISSION IN LENT

Looking for a Lenten discipline for this year? Why not engage in practices consistent with the Marks of Mission? The five Marks of Mission are reflected in the Baptismal Covenant and provide important challenges to us about how we choose to embody our faith.

On this page, actions are offered for each Mark of Mission, however, you might have your own ideas. Consider doing something different each day throughout Lent. You could focus on one Mark each week, a different Mark each day, or set goals based on what makes sense for whatever you are doing.

Ultimately Lenten disciplines are about being intentional about how we embody our faith throughout this season and how this might teach us and inspire us beyond Easter. May we all observe a holy Lent.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- Talk about your faith with someone
- Acknowledge something for which you are grateful
- Show someone they are loved
- Invite someone to church
- Pray with and/or for someone

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

- Include the Baptismal Covenant (BAS p158-159) in your prayers
- Read from the Bible, consider reading Sunday's scripture using the bulletin/weekly announcements and further reflecting on the sermon conversation
- Engage in conversation about faith, consider responding to social media posts on St. Paul's pages as prompts
- Reflect on and talk to family and friends about what baptism means to you
- Read a spiritual book as part of your Lenten discipline – talk with Rev. Chris if you would like some suggestions

3. To respond to human need by loving service

- Support the clothing cupboard – volunteer or donate as you are able
 - Support another local charity as you are able by volunteering or donating
 - Do a random act of kindness and make a difference for someone
 - Call someone you know who has been experiencing a difficult time and offer a listening ear
 - Provide support for someone who needs a break, find out what will help and do it.
- ### 4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- Educate, educate, educate. Take the time to consult reliable sources and confirm the information before you share or post anything controversial
 - Participate in the period promise by donating period products on or before the March 6 pasta dinner
 - Support local businesses, shop close to home, and pay attention to where what you purchase is made
 - Go beyond the Land Acknowledgement and support the Caldwell First Nation by visiting Caldwell Gas & Variety in Leamington: <https://caldwellgasandvariety.com/>
 - Explore possibilities for justice through the Basic Income Canada Network <https://basicincomecanada.org/>
- ### 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth
- Go vegetarian for a day, or one day a week during Lent
 - How long can you go without driving? Can you carpool or use another means of transportation?
 - How much packaging do you use? What can you reduce or eliminate?
 - Consider how much water you use? What can you do to reduce your water consumption?
 - Reduce electricity consumption by turning off lights, unplugging unnecessary items that draw phantom electricity, and reducing the temperature in your home

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb. 18 – **Ash Wednesday worship** will feature online videos accessible through our social media and website. There will be individual reflection and prayer videos and one video that combines the individual videos that serves as the full worship video.

Feb. 22 – **Vestry Sunday** with Morning Prayer worship at 9:30am followed by breakfast and the meeting.

Mar. 1 – **Traditional Style worship**, 11am. We worship in the style of the Book of Common prayer using older hymns in support of those who find this style meaningful.

Mar. 6 – **Pasta Dinner**, 5-6:30pm. Come and enjoy good food and good fellowship with meat and vegetarian pasta dishes, salad, rolls, and cake. Dine in and take out available. Bring period products to contribute for the United Way Period Promise!

Mar. 21 – **World Down Syndrome Day**, wear creative socks in memory of our Beloved John Rossiter. Send a photo to Rev. Chris for inclusion on our social media and for a chance at a prize.

Mar. 27 – **Puzzle Race**, 7pm. Teams of 4 assemble a 500-piece puzzle. Snacks and beverages provided. Prize for the first team to finish, bragging rights for the rest.

Mar. 29 – **Palm Sunday of the Passion**, 11am, with dramatic reading of the Gospel and stripping of the chancel.

Apr. 2 – **Maundy Thursday upper room worship**, 6pm with potluck

Apr. 3 – **Good Friday family**, 11am; **Good Friday Traditional**, 3pm

Apr. 5 – **Easter Sunday**, 11am with an Easter egg hunt following worship.

Apr. 12 – **Easter 2**, 11am, the sermon series “The Early Church” begins.

Apr. 18 – **Yard sale**

May 1 - **Pasta Dinner**, 5-6:30pm

THANK YOU!

To all who helped at and supported our Books, Bowls, and Storytime! What a wonderful fundraiser that warmed so many hearts on a cold January day!



THANK YOU!

To all who supported and came out to the January puzzle race. It was a full house! We are going to need more puzzles and, hopefully, more tables for the next one!



What a great way to put fun in fundraiser!

THANK YOU!

To the pasta dinner crew! You provide great food and great fellowship! Thank you to all who support this ongoing fundraiser and help showcase the sense of community that comes together each time we gather to enjoy the wonderful food.



THANK YOU!

To all who participated in the deanery bowling event. What a wonderful show of St. Paul's community and a prelude to the joyful baptism of Kennley and Kyleigh the following week!

