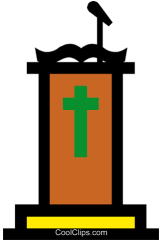




February 2025



God in Flesh Made Manifest



The season of Epiphany gives us a chance to focus on how God became flesh in the person of Jesus. The Gospel readings in particular give us the opportunity to look at the miracles, signs, and wonders Jesus did while on Earth. He makes it pretty clear that He is who He said He was. The 2nd person of the Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

It is made known to the world that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is shown by His words and works, what He said and what He did. Words and actions rightly belong together, for Jesus became flesh and dwelled among us. He is the Word on the flesh, the walking, talking enactment of the Word

It's no different for. We're called not just to believe in God in our hearts, but also to trust him in words & actions. James wrote *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* [James 1:22], and again, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead"* [James 2:14, 17–18, 26].

Our faith is lived out in words & actions for our neighbor, the next person you meet, every person not yourself. The revealing, the Epiphany of Jesus creates in us a revealing, an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is shown to the world. Faith is a divine work. It changes us and makes us new creations. Faith is a living & active thing. It is impossible for it not to constantly

do things. Faith doesn't ask you if there are any good things to do. It answers "Yes" even before the question arises. Faith is a living, daring, confidence in God's grace, something so sure & certain that one would stake their life it a thousand times over. This confidence in God's grace makes one joyful & bold in dealing with God and the people He has made. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. The Spirit makes the believer ready & glad to do good to all, to serve all, and to give all praise and glory to God

So, it's truly impossible to separate works from faith. May our prayer be that our faith would remain active by God's power in the Word through the working of the Holy Spirit. May our faith be shown to the world by what we do in faith. Serve our neighbor—in church, in the family, and society—with the works of faith of faith in time, talents, and treasures

Serving you in Christ

Pastor Sundborn

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Reading the Old Testament with the Early Church fathers

By Geoff Boyle

In his introduction [to Athanasius' *On the Incarnation*](#), C.S. Lewis begins by saying, “There is a strange idea abroad that in every subject the ancient books should be read only by the professionals, and that the amateur should content himself with the modern books.” What Lewis wrote 75 years ago holds just as true today, if not more. We’re much more likely to read *about* someone or something than we are to read his writings. Lewis argues that it springs from humility. We’re afraid to meet the ancients head on, thinking that they’re so far superior to us that there’s no way we’d ever understand them. But these great men of old are great because they’re more accessible than the modern books *about* them.

Old books help us see things differently. It’s not to say that old books are inherently better, but they are different. They assume different things, say things differently and come to conclusions that we might never come to. And while they might be terribly wrong, how they got there is often interesting. They see things we don’t, and that’s a good thing. It may even help us to avoid a few mistakes of our own.

For the last 15 years, I’ve been enamored by the early Christian reading of Scripture. There’s a vibrancy, an excitement — it was like they saw everything differently, and oftentimes more brilliantly. Yes, I have, at times, rolled my eyes at some of the things the Early Church fathers said. But more often than not, I’m impressed by their devotion and find myself drawn into a deeply scriptural imaginary.

Who Are the ‘Fathers’ and Why Read the Old Testament with Them?

READING THE OLD TESTAMENT WITH THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS *continued*

The Early Church fathers can help us read the Old Testament. We're used to seeing the Old Testament as a witness to Christ in two ways. Either we find various prophecies that directly foretell who He is and what He will do, or we read the Old Testament not on its own terms, but projecting the New Testament's way of words onto a much older account, keeping from the Old Testament from having its own voice. The first way of reading limits where we find Christ to select passages. The second seems to make the Old Testament of little value on its own terms. Reading the fathers helps us to break free from this either/or scenario and allows us to see Christ as not only the object of all the Scriptures, but also as the voice that speaks them into existence. For many of the fathers, the Bible ceases to be a left-to-right sort of book — where you move *from* the Old to the New; *from* Abraham and Moses and David, to Jesus and the apostles who followed. Instead, it's more like a deeply soaked sponge, saturated with the grace of Christ crucified. And that's not just the New Testament; for some of the earliest Christians, there *wasn't* a "New Testament" *per se*. The Old Testament's pages were so porous that Christ appeared everywhere.

And perhaps He was ... and is

The church fathers come from a world that's not bound by our overly linear assumptions. They're not forced to think that history has to move one foot in front of the next. Many of them see the world as charged with the grandeur of God. Not only do they assume a different metaphysical framework when it comes to time and history, but they also take seriously the claims of Jesus to be the eternal Word of the Father. Through the fathers, I gained a deep appreciation for the real presence of Christ in the Old Testament.

Now, it's true that most Early Church discussions focus on the theological formulations that have shaped the church through the centuries. If we're familiar with the church fathers at all, it's because of the brilliant Trinitarian defense of the Cappadocians, or the way St. Athanasius put Arius in his place, defending the divinity of the Son. We'll dabble in Irenaeus to understand some of the Early Church polity, and everyone loves Augustine's opening lines in his *Confessions*, "For Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee." St. Cyril of Alexandria set Nestorius straight and prompted our own Lutheran Confessions to insist on calling the Virgin Mary "the mother of God" (FC SD VIII 24), not to say so much of Mary, but of Jesus who was born from her.

Interestingly, noticing all the references to Cyril in our Confessions — particularly the Catalog of Testimonies — shuffled me along his way. He wrote a definitive response to Nestorius through a series of *anathemas*, as well as beautiful testimony *On the Unity of Christ*. But as I dug deeper into St. Cyril, I discovered that of the 10 volumes of his writings still preserved in the original Greek, seven of them are devoted to purely scriptural commentary and preaching. And from Cyril, I quickly realized how expansive the early Christian commentary on Scripture is. And the majority isn't commentary on the New Testament, but on the *Old*.

So, if you're willing to dive into the Old Testament with these *old books*, reading familiar stories from a different vantage point, then you're in for a treat. Our goal here isn't merely to introduce you to some old friends that you never knew you had. Nor is it to simply broaden your academic pursuit or expand your

READING THE OLD TESTAMENT WITH THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS *continued*

biblical commentaries. Ultimately, what I love most about the fathers I said above: They believe that Christ is in Scripture, throughout Scripture and the very voice of Scripture itself. With this sort of *real presence* of Christ in the Old Testament, you'll find these texts far richer than a series of morals or even a mere historical prelude to something bigger and better. You'll find that Christ Jesus who spoke to the prophets of old, *through* the prophets of old, will also speak to you. And the Old Testament will seem to come alive; but of course, it already is (Heb. 4:12).

If you really insist on reading some books *about* the Early Church fathers, then I'll offer a few of my favorites.^[4] But, like [C.S. Lewis says](#), "first-hand knowledge is not only more worth acquiring than second-hand knowledge, but is usually much easier and more delightful to acquire." And a bit later on he says, "It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between" — that's a rule I try to follow.

[4] Hans Boersma, *Scripture as Real Presence: Sacramental Exegesis in the Early Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017); Jean Daniélou, *From Shadows to Reality: Studies in the Biblical Typology of the Fathers*, trans. Dom Wulstan Hibberd (London: Continuum, 1960); Henri De Lubac, *Medieval Exegesis*, 4 vols., trans. Mark Sebanc (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998); Robert M. Grant and David Tracy, *A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1984); Ronald E. Heine, *Reading the Old Testament with the Ancient Church: Exploring the Formation of Early Christian Thought* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007); John J. O'Keefe and R.R. Reno, *Sanctified Vision: An Introduction to Early Christian Interpretation of the Bible* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005); Robert L. Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003); and Frances Young, *Biblical Exegesis and the Formation of Christian Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

About The Author

[Geoff Boyle](#)

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle has served Grace and Trinity Lutheran Churches since 2010. He is undeservingly blessed by his wife, Nicole, and his five children.

Boyle, Geoff., (2020, November 30). Reading the Old Testament with the Early Church fathers . *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*.
<https://witness.lcms.org/2020/reading-the-old-testament-with-the-early-church-fathers/>





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Life Quotes for February

February 2 “All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: ‘I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well’ (Psalm 139:14).” Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

February 9 “We may not be trained healers, but we have been trained through our own experiences and God’s Word to bring comfort. Be brave, reach out, and know the Lord is by your side. Pray for His guidance in what you say and do so you will bring needed comfort. We have a message of hope!” Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

February 16 “I love reminding them that the first diagnosis is, ‘It’s a baby,’ and no other diagnosis ever negates diagnosis number one. The baby is inherently valuable and worthy of our love.” Dr. Robin Pierucci – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

February 23 “Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all of eternity.” Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Announcements

LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service



All women of the congregation are invited to attend the LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service. Blessed are They based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) on February 15, 2025. This faith strengthening event will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Chesterland, OH. Coffee Fellowship begins at 9:30. The service starts at 10:00. The cost is \$6.00 (payable at door). Please sign up for this event on the sheet provided on the Friendship Circle board by Feb. 9. Please note on the sign up sheet if you will need a ride. Billie Lelle will submit all registrations to Ruth Mowery.

Prayer Sister Ministry

Hi Prayer Sisters!!! It is now time to reveal yourselves to your current prayer sister (by February 14th). If you would like to have a prayer sister for 2025, please stop by the Friendship Circle table and pick up a form from the envelope marked "2025 Prayer Sister Ministry" and fill it out and return it to Diane Wayner's mailbox. You will receive your new prayer sister by the end of February/beginning of March. All ladies of the church are welcome to join in this wonderful opportunity! "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thes. 5:16-18



St. Paul's February Bowling Party!



It has been a while since our last Bowling Party and we are excited to be able to have this wonderful fellowship opportunity once again. The event will take place on February 23 from 3 - 5 pm at Rich Lanes, 637 High Street in Fairport. Cost is \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children. The price includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza, pop and cookies. Please sign up by February 9th so we can let them know how many to expect. We are hoping to have 32-40 people come...so sign up now! It will be fun!!! Sign up sheet has been posted on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary.

Are You Feeding Your Mite Box?

Please remember to feed your mite box or use the donate button at <http://lwmlohio.org> to continue to support the mission work of the LWML. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.



Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.



Prayer Quilts

Do you have a friend, neighbor or family member that is in need of encouragement and prayers? Let JoEllen Graziadei or Kristi McConnell know they will send a prayer quilt to them with a card and an invitation to church. In these troubled times, it's more important than ever to tell people God loves them and we are here for them.



From the Preschool

PRESCHOOL



Registration

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2025-2026 school year will be opening soon. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Registration for current preschool families will begin on February 10th with open registration beginning February 24th. Once open registration begins classes will be filled as registration

forms are received. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them.



January Meeting Notes

Opening Prayer and Meeting Called to order: Pastor opened with prayer @ 6:35 pm.

Reading and Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

Motion to approve minutes by: Craig

Motion 2nd by: Terry

Result: passed unanimously

Reports

Pastor's Report. (Pastor)

1. 2 shut in visits; 13 contacts
2. Christmas Eve attendance: 3:30 = 66, 7:30 = 33
3. Circuit Forum will take place on 1/12/2025 at Zion
4. District Convention: credentialing for lay delegate needs to be submitted by February 2.
5. Lent services will be covered by a rotation of area pastors, as in recent years.

President's Report. (Dennis Concoby)

1. Visited Shore Haven and Trinity to observe their streaming equipment and capabilities; plans to visit Zion, as well.
2. Visual Armor Security is reviewing our overall fire and safety system for replacement of current vendor; proposal is pending.
3. Ed Kujala's house is on the market; no current offer.
4. Continuing to monitor electric usage.

Vice President's Report. (Eric Drake)

1. Encouraged to think about members to fill the council positions that will open in July 2025.

Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)

1. Provided financial statements through November 2024. Compared to last year, the cash balance is lower, as is the accounts payable balance. The organ service bill was charged to the Organ Fund. Offerings are a little lower but there were 22 weeks last year and 21 this year. Expenses are up slightly but nothing major.

Education Report. (Jenn Drake)

1. Sunday class attendance remained average compared to recent months.

Preschool Report. (Starshine Graziadei)

1. Amy was onsite and able to give the following updates.
2. The next preschool board meeting is Monday 1/13/2025.
3. Registration opens in February, first for returning families then to general public.
4. The preschool board will discuss extending the length of classes due to additional learning opportunities in the outdoor space, which will affect tuition rate.

JANUARY MEETING NOTES continued

5. 5 new families have inquired about enrolling for next year.
6. Morley Library invited preschool to have a family event there.
7. Asked to host director's conference in June 2025.

Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)

1. Pastor will be working with elders on becoming familiar with the Prayer and Preaching Order of Worship in the event Pastor is unavailable for services due to emergency.

Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner – reported via email)

1. Giving Tree donations will be listed in the bulletin.

Financial Secretary's Report. (Terry Wakelee)

1. 2025 counter's sign-up list is posted and has been announced in the bulletin the last couple weeks.

Outreach Report. (Ken Chaffe)

1. Planning to resume Outreach committee meetings in March. Will plan for the 2025 open house and trunk-or-treat events.

Building & Grounds Report. (Craig McConnell)

1. Will resume working on light fixture replacement.
2. Dennis noted a short with the parking lot lights that will need to be addressed when feasible.

Contribution Secretary's Report. (Billie Lelle)

1. Transitioned to the new envelop numbers and created 2025 file.
2. Offerings were down from 2023 to 2024, but there was an additional weekend in 2023.

Motion to accept reports by: Eric

Motion 2nd by: Erin

Result: passed unanimously

Old Business

1. Alarm system phone line – no reported issues this month
2. Parsonage fence repairs – on hold
3. Sale of Ed Kujala's house

New Business

We need to find a representative for the district convention on June 22-24. Dennis sent notice to church office to announce this in the bulletin for the next few weeks.

SGO program. Eric is looking into this opportunity to designate where state tax dollars go. Topic will be added to next meeting agenda.

Eric made a motion to permit Matt Chaffe to do piano lessons at the church that do not interfere with other church functions. 2nd by Craig; passed with 1 abstention.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by: Eric

Motion 2nd by: Jenn

Result: passed

Closing Prayer: Pastor closed with prayer at 7:37pm.

February Birthdays

Allie Szoradi	Feb 01	Jonah Shaw	Feb 18
Pippa West	Feb 03	Roxanne Walton	Feb 19
Michelle Lindrose	Feb 04	Ken Chaffe	Feb 24
Danielle Kiel	Feb 07	Billie Lelle	Feb 26
Charlotte Hines	Feb 14	Carl Graziadei	Feb 28
Jeffrey Kiel	Feb 15	Jared Sundbom	Feb 28
Zackary Wilhelm	Feb 16	JoEllen Graziadei	Feb 29
Sidney Atwell	Feb 17		



February Anniversaries

Eric and Pam West	44 years on Feb 07
Bob and Peggy McDonnell	36 years on Feb 25



Those Who Serve: February 2025

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell

COUNTERS:

Jennifer Drake, Billie Lelle,
Leigh Wojkowski

LECTORS:

02-01-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-02-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
20-08-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
02-09-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
02-15-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
02-16-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Walelee
02-22-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-23-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake



Scripture Readings for February

Feb 1/2

Jeremiah 1:4-10
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Luke 4:31-44

Feb 15/16

Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-20
Luke 6:17-26

Feb 8/9

Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 14:12-20
Luke 5:1-11

Feb 22/23

Genesis 45:3-15
1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42
Luke 6:27-38





February Word Search

D	A	S	T	A	R	F	R	U	I	T	P	I	G
M	B	P	A	K	Z	T	N	O	P	O	R	V	R
G	R	U	K	M	P	L	C	D	L	R	E	A	O
S	A	N	O	K	E	D	L	V	H	A	S	L	U
U	H	I	K	V	N	T	Q	P	E	N	I	E	N
P	A	X	Y	I	N	V	H	V	Q	G	D	N	D
E	M	S	A	O	S	M	O	Y	U	E	E	T	H
R	L	U	Q	L	Y	S	C	R	S	S	N	I	O
B	I	T	U	E	L	P	J	S	A	T	T	N	G
O	N	W	A	T	V	I	G	E	R	N	S	E	D
W	C	N	R	R	A	S	E	C	I	X	D	S	A
L	O	E	I	H	N	C	C	O	U	W	A	D	Y
I	L	Y	U	U	I	E	N	N	C	T	Y	A	F
C	N	D	S	E	A	S	Z	D	K	C	A	Y	R

GROUNDHOGDAY
VALENTINESDAY
AMETHYST
PUNIXSUTWNEY
PENNSYLVANIA
PRESIDENTSDAY
ABRAHAMLINCOLN
AQUARIUS
PISCES
SECOND
SUPERBOWL
VIOLET
ORANGES
STARFRUIT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7973926/>

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool

250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077

440-354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor
Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45 am
Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool



A Great Place To Grow

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>  <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p> </div> <div> <p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p> </div> </div> <div> <p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>February Birthstone Amethyst</p> </div> <div> <p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>February Flower Violet</p> </div>						
2 Groundhog Day	3	4 World Cancer Day	5 6:30 pm Council Meeting	6	7 National Wear Red	8 
9  Super Bowl	10	11 9:30 am Circuit Meeting	12 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 	15
16	17 	18	19 6:30 pm Safety Committee Meeting	20 National Love Your Pet Day	21 <div>March Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due</div>	22  Washington's Birthday
23  3:00—5:00 pm Bowling Outing	24	25	26 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27	28	