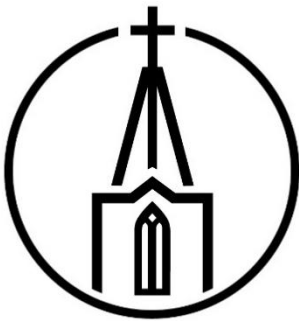


Saturday & Sunday, November 16 & 17, 2024
The 2nd Last Sunday of the Church Year – Stewardship 3



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE!!

This weekend we continue a worship-service series that reminds us of the Biblical truths that direct the use of stuff and things as we live our Christian lives. We use the term "STEWARDSHIP" to remind us of the fact that everything we are and have as Christians is on loan to us from God. We are but "stewards" or managers of all those blessings. Once a month through Thanksgiving we'll be examining a different truth and perspective on this Christian Stewardship.

This weekend focusing on...
**A Christian's JOYFUL GENEROSITY
has an eternal goal.**

=====

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: All that we are is a gift from God.

Congregation: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

P: All that we have is a gift from God.

C: The world, and everything in it;

P: There are no words to describe the wonders of God's creation.

C: For God's wisdom and power is infinite!

P: Let us rejoice and give thanks as we join together in praise for God's great gifts.

C: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

OPENING HYMN

#224 "God Himself Is Present"

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: We know our God is holy, and we know that we are not. Join with me as we confess our sins to our God.

C: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You in so many of the thoughts that we think, with so many of the words that we speak, and by so much of our behavior against Your holy will.

P: God of grace, you have called us to completely give ourselves to You in everything we are and have. Yet, too often we selfishly hold back part of Your blessings.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

P: You have given us the gift of time. You give us time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to share, but too often we spend our time serving self.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

P: You provide us with opportunities to serve You and others in numerous ways using the talents and abilities we have been given. Too often we fail to use them and selfishly hide those gifts.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

P: No matter what each of our material-blessing circumstance is, You have provided all of us with more material resources than most of the world. Too often we hesitate and resist sharing with You and others because of fear for the future.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

P: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us, through the perfect obedience and willing suffering and death of our Savior, Jesus.

ALL: We praise the Lord for His grace and mercy!

ALL SING "Glory to God!"

1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Spoken together*

Heavenly Father I pray that Your Word will continue to remind me that my gifts and abilities are given to me so that they are used to serve You and those around me. Motivate me so that I may serve selflessly, and strengthen me to be a good steward of Your gifts of grace and wealth. Let the service that I do be a reflection of the love You have shown me, and I pray that I use my gifts according to Your will and purpose. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

God promises to bless our generous giving!

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

A NEW HYMN! “His Robes for Mine” HOTW

Music is printed on p. 12, and/or watch the screen!

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 12:22-34
Don't worry!

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

WE RESPOND TO HEARING HIS WORD

ALL SING!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #421 "All Depends on Our Possessing"

SERMON MEDITATION 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

JOYFUL GENEROSITY

¹ Then **King David** said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and

inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. ² With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. ³ Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴ three thousand talents (110 tons) of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents (260 tons) of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵ for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”

⁶ Then the **leaders of families**, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. ⁷ They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents (190 tons) and ten thousand darics (185 lbs) of gold, ten thousand talents (380 tons) of silver, eighteen thousand talents (675 tons) of bronze and a hundred thousand talents (3,800 tons) of iron. ⁸ **Anyone** who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹ The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

14 “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15 We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18 LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 19 And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

20 Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.” So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king.

MEDITATION RESPONSE

#272 “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men."

OUR THANK-OFFERING

Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us! As members of St. Paul's, we now gather our thank-offerings which are used to fund the operations of this congregation, our Christian high school – Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, and the work of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We don't expect or ask our visitors and guests to give toward this offering since it is our pleasure just to have you with us! But if you would like to, please feel free! It is our joy and privilege as Christians to generously give to the work of our Lord!



Proverbs 3:9,10 ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

OUR PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OUR LORD'S HOLY SUPPER

Visitors: *St. Paul's practices close communion. Without judging anyone's heart, we humbly ask that only members of our congregation or of the Wisconsin Synod partake of the sacrament. The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper not only gives peace and grace, but also connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. If you would like to join us in the future, please speak to Pastor Hirsch after the service.*

P: *What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?*

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and drink. We trust that in a miraculous**

way, this is one of the Means of Grace God gives so that our sins are forgiven and faith is strengthened.

P: The Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and Paul tell us: “Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

C: Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: “Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

C: Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

May the peace of the Lord’s grace and mercy always be with us! Amen!

THE DISTRIBUTION

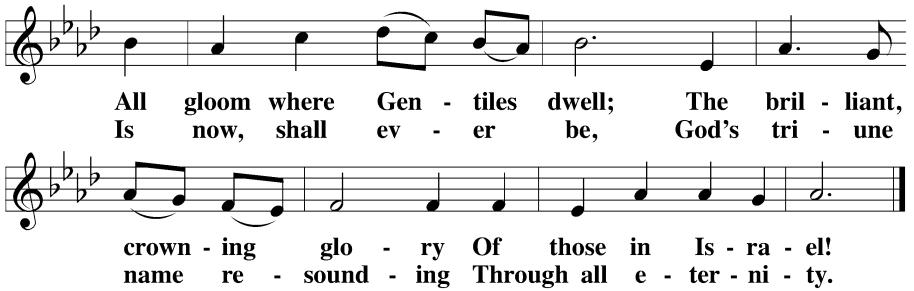
Sunday School kids are excused to head over to school with Mrs. Nelson after the distribution has started.

COMMUNION BLESSING *Please stand!*

THE SONG OF SIMEON

(melody = CW #614)

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to
as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -
car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en - light - en
ev - er three in one; For as in the be - gin - ning,



All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une
crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious Father, I know that I will experience many temptations to worship the things, or perhaps the people, of this world. Through the Means of Grace in Word and sacrament I have used today, strengthen my faith and appreciation of Your love and forgiveness. Be with all Your believing children throughout this new week. I commit myself to Your care, confident that You will use this week to Your glory and my good. I ask for these things in Your name, confident that You hear and answer my prayers according to Your infinite wisdom. Amen.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN #484 "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

ACCEPT
LORD
the work
of our hands

DEUT. 33:11

568 "His Robes for Mine"



1 His robes for mine: O won - der - ful ex - change!
 2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
 3 His robes for mine: God's jus - tice is ap - peased.
 4 His robes for mine: such an - guish none can know.



Clothed in my sin, Christ suf - fered 'neath God's rage.
 God's daunt - ing law Christ mas - tered in my stead.
 Je - sus is crushed, and thus the Fa - ther's pleased.
 Christ, God's be - loved, con - demned as though his foe.



Draped in his right - eous - ness, I'm jus - ti - fied.
 Fault - less I stand with right - eous works not mine,
 Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!"
 He, as though I, ac - cursed and left a - lone;



In Christ I live, for in my place he died.
 saved by my Lord's vi - car - ious death and life.
 Sin's wage is paid, pro - pi - ti - a - tion won.
 I, as though he, em - braced and wel - comed home!



Refrain
 I cling to Christ, and mar - vel at the cost:



Je - sus for - sak - en, God es - tranged from God.



Bought by such love, my life is not my own.



My praise— my all— shall be for Christ a - lone.

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance:

Saturday – 41 Sunday – 139 **Total: 180**

Sunday Bible Class – 26 Wednesday Bible Class – 18
Sisters in Faith – NA Donnerstag –

St. Paul's General Fund – Nov. 9th & 10th, 2024

Yearly Needed: \$479,710.00

YTD Need: \$153,599.33

YTD Offerings: \$153,889.67

YTD Need vs Offerings: \$290.34

Last Week Received: \$5,545.01

Weekly Need: \$9,412.43

Difference: -\$3,867.42

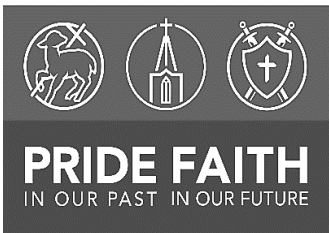
SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) **FOOD DRIVE!!** Through November, and in connection with upcoming Thanksgiving, might we gather some non-perishable food items here at church to donate to the local food pantry?! Bring and leave the donated items on the table by the north church door.
- 2) **CHRISTMAS MEAL @ NELHS** As members of the NELHS Association, we (St. Paul's) are asked to contribute toward a meal to be served in connection with the Christmas concert to be held there at NELHS on **Sunday, December 8, 4:00 PM.** Instead of preparing and transporting a meal down there, we're simply asked to help support a catered meal along with seven other congregations in the association. A free-will offering container will be available for this effort for the next few weeks.
- 3) **WORSHIP TRANSPORTATION** Might we be able to get a group of folks willing and able to transport some of our shut-ins that are still able and want to join us live, in-person for weekend services?? I'm not sure how that works whether it's a Saturday eve or Sunday morn, but it'd be great to start by getting a list of folks who'd be willing to transport.

- 4) For the **Bible Class Sundays in November (11/24) and December (12/1,8,22)** we'll be looking at a series that encourages and trains us as individuals in our personal evangelism called "One By One."
- 5) **LADIES ADVENT FELLOWSHIP** Ladies - Please put Saturday, December 7th from 1:00-3:00 on your calendar. An Advent devotion, Christmas carols and a cookie exchange will held that afternoon in the church basement. This will replace Advent by Candlelight this year because Thanksgiving is so late. Please plan to bring 2 dozen cookies, a take home container, and your recipe. Feel free to bring friends, daughters, grand-daughters. A sign-up sheet will be coming soon.
- 6) **Mr. Markgraf received a divine call** to serve as the principal of CrossLife Christian Academy in Pflugerville, TX. Please keep the Markgraf family in your prayers over the next weeks as they deliberate this new call and evaluate the call that the Markgrafs currently hold here at St. Paul's. Honest comments are welcome and appreciated!
- 7) **SCRIP Cards for Christmas Gifts!!** We have a wide variety of cards available to order - Cabelas, Scheels, Old Navy, Maurice's, Chipotle, Olive Garden, Omaha Steaks, prepaid Visa cards, hotels, and many other clothing and restaurant options. We will try to keep the on hand cards well stocked - Lou's, HyVee, Walmart, Target, Amazon, Bath and Body, Starbucks and many other local locations. Stop by the scrip table to get more information. You can pay by check or cash. The money generated helps with tuition assistance or will go to the school. Thanks.
- 8) A big "**Thank you**" goes out to everyone who purchased Ron Johnson's awesome jelly! And a special thank you to Ron for all the work and time of preparing the tasty jelly! \$855 was raised so far that will all go directly towards the Building Project! Thanks!
- 9) There will be **NO** Donnerstag Group held in December.

- 10) If it's helpful for your travelling schedule, Shepherd of Peace is having their **Thanksgiving service** on Tuesday, November 26, 6:30 PM. Our service here at SP's will be Wednesday, November 27, 6:30 PM.
- 11) Pastor Lindke will be **starting a new topic for the Wednesday morning Bible Class. It's called "13 Lies From Satan."** Information about this class is posted on the bulletin board at the Communication Center.

Building Project Update 11/14/2024



Project Cost: \$4.2 million
Pledged Amount: \$ 1,889,775
Pledges Received: \$1,584,803.36

CEF Loan Amount: \$3.9 million
Total Paid to CEF: \$1,185,658
Debt Incurred: \$705,934

4.32% interest-only payments on debt incurred until February, 2026.

Serving this Week

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Shannon Spreeman
Elder: Ron Kraemer **Usher:** Curt Dinkel
Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman
Video Tech: Chad Moyer
Power Point: Abi Bretschneider - 11/16 Carter Sperry - 11/17

Serving Next Week November 23rd/24th

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Shannon Spreeman
Elder: Jeff Sperry **Usher:** Zach Kruse
Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman
Video Tech: Chad Moyer
Power Point: Weinrichs - 11/23 Nelle Prang - 11/24

Upcoming Events This Week:

Sunday, 11/17	<u>Worship Service w/ HC, 9:00 AM</u> <u>Sunday School, 10:00 AM</u> <u>Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts, 10:15 AM</u>
Monday, 11/18	<u>Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM</u>
Tuesday, 11/19	<u>Executive Council, 6:00 PM</u>
Wednesday, 11/20	<u>Chapel, 8:15 AM</u> <u>Bible Class, 10:00 AM</u> <u>P.S. Confirmation, 2:15 PM</u>
Thursday, 11/21	<u>Donnerstag, 6:30 PM</u>
Saturday, 11/23	<u>Worship Service & WELS Conn., 6:30 PM</u>
Sunday, 11/24	<u>Worship Service & WELS Conn., 9:00 AM</u> <u>PRAISE Choir Sings, 9:00 AM</u> <u>Bible Study w/ coffee & donuts, 10:15 AM</u> <u>EPIC Open Gym, 2-4 PM</u>

Church Cleaning Teams

Week of November 17th - Team #2

Mike & Linda Mullen, Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

Weeks of November 24th & December 1st - Team #3

Loren & Marianne Bloomquist, Jim & Diane Herbolsheimer,
John & Sarah Kouba

St. Paul's Contact Information

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Kathy Wiedeman, Secretary
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School Office: 402-371-1233

Website: www.stpls.com
WELS: www.wels.net

All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
 4 Well he knows what best to grant me; All the long - ing
 5 If on earth my days he length - en, He my wea - ry



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
 hopes that haunt me, Joy and sor - row, have their day.
 soul will strength - en; All my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en In their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
 I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er— As God wills, so
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, Like a stream a -



not for - sak - en And e'er keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, Will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.
 be it ev - er— I to him com - mit my way.
 way is glid - ing; Safe I an - chor in his grace.

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly



1 Broth-ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly Give to
 2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, By the
 3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice For the



God our all, our best— Ser - vice heart - y, thor-ough,
 gift of Christ, his Son, What great good - ness he has
 sake of Christ, your Son; Lo, our hope a - bides now



hon - est, With a liv - ing love im - pressed.
 shown us, What high mar - vels he has done!
 on - ly In the right - eous - ness he won.



All our du - ty, all our striv - ing, All our
 Let us to him prompt-ly, free - ly, Yield our
 Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to



time to him be - long; Praise him, then, with true de -
 bod - ies and our souls, Thank - ful that his love pro -
 com - fort and re - store Till in heav'n we rest re -



vo - tion; Come be - fore him with a song.
 tects us, That his wis - dom all con - trols.
 joic - ing, Prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.