

Saturday & Sunday, January 18 & 19, 2025
The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**1100 Georgia Ave.
Norfolk, Nebraska**

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

IT'S GREAT TO JOIN WITH YOU AS WE WORSHIP OUR LORD!

In our service we'll be doing three things: praising God for all His blessings through our words and songs, confessing our sins and being reminded of His forgiveness and grace, and then also using His Gospel to grow and be strengthened in faith.

We have a two-fold purpose here at St. Paul's, to strengthen faith of Christians who already belong to this congregation through Word and sacraments, and also to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to those around us who may not know what He has accomplished for all mankind - forgiveness of their sins through faith!

PRIVATE PRAYER: Father, You know the multitude of sins I have committed in my life and even this past week. Help me hate my sin more and grow in grace as I contemplate what Christ has done to forgive me and free me from sin's death grip. Open the eyes of my heart to see the glorious hope we have in Christ, Your love for all of the saints, and Your power at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-21). Cause my heart to burn within me as we worship You in word and song, and as we grow in and apply the Gospel.

Our Holy Communion Practice

The Bible tells us that those who take Communion together are to: 1) Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29); 2) Examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28); and 3) Be united in faith and doctrine with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons we humbly ask that our visitors who are not members of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (WELS) please wait to join us for Communion. This request isn't because we think WELS members are better than anyone else, but because we have a spiritual concern for anyone who may come ignorantly and sin against the body and blood of the Lord (1 Cor. 11:29).

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Dialogue *Please stand!*

P: We ask our God to be with us this evening/morning . . .

C: . . . our God who has blessed us with forgiveness through His Word and sacraments.

P: This same God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: This same God is our Triune God whom we thank for accomplishing everything for our salvation.

P: Dear gracious Lord, bless us as we worship Your holy name.

C: I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

C: make known among the nations what he has done.

P: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C: his love endures forever.

P: And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

C: giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Congregational Hymn

#623, vss 1&4 “God the Father, Son, and Spirit”

I God the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er -
bless - ed Trin - i - ty, Hum - bly now our
thanks we of - fer, All un - wor - thy though we

be. Freely you have showed blessings Count-less
as the ocean's sands, Blessings rich and overflowing
On the labors of our hands.

God of grace and love and blessing,
Yours alone shall be the praise.
Give us hearts to trust you truly,
Hands to serve you all our days.
Lord, bestow your future blessing
Till we join the heav'nly host,
There to praise and serve you ever,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Confession of Our Sins

P: We are in the presence of the true and living God, who is always willing to forgive our sins. Let us confidently come to our gracious God in humble repentance and faith, and ask that He receive the confessions of our sins.

ALL: Heavenly Father, we confess our careless neglect of Your holy Word. We confess all of the times that we have been inattentive to Your Word and failed to apply it to our lives. We have not obeyed what Your Word commands. We have not always appreciated Your holy supper, and we have neglected to pray as You have commanded. For these and all our sins, we ask You to forgive us.

P: We pray for forgiveness for the sake of the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb who was given into death for us.

ALL: We confess that we have been lazy with the Christian unity that exists among us through faith. We ask You to forgive all our jealousy and bitterness, lovelessness and indifference, our lies and hurtful words to all people, and especially to our family members at home and church. For these and all our sins we ask Your forgiveness.

P: We pray for forgiveness for the sake of the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb who was given into death for us.

ALL: We confess that we have often been careless of the mission of Your church. Forgive us for all the times we have failed to support the work of Your kingdom, for the times we have been selfish with our time, and when we have withheld our abilities and treasures in order to gratify our own desires.

The Announcement of Forgiveness

P: Our heavenly Father does hear and accept our humble confessions, and has been merciful to us. He has sent His Son to die for our sins. He is faithful to His promises and forgives all those who repent. Therefore I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Through God's gift of faith, let us now strive to stop those sins which we just confessed!

Congregational Response #379, vss 1&2 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

The Prayer For The Day *Spoken by all.*

Heavenly Father, through faith and out of thanks for all You have done for us, we want to serve You with all that we are and all that we have. We pray that You continue to give us all that we need – energy, skills, health, courage, conviction, and dedication – so that our lives of service to You may result in works of love toward those around us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Lesson Isaiah 62:1-5

Through Isaiah, the Lord speaks of the glory of His Church, of which we are part through His gift of faith.

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.
- ² The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
- ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married.
- ⁵ As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thank You Lord for Your words of Truth.

The Second Lesson Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul prays that the Christians in Ephesus, and us, understand the true greatness of God and what He has accomplished for us.

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within

us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thank You Lord for Your words of Truth.

Hymn

The Meditation

Jehovah Shammah: The LORD Is There (Here)

Ezekiel 48:35b

“And the name of the city from that time on will be:
THE LORD IS THERE.”

Matthew 28:20b

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

The Nicene Creed (Spoken together)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the

Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 support Gospel ministry locally, nationally and internationally. Scanning this QR code works too! Thanks for your generous gifts! God blesses a cheerful giver!



Malachi 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

Our Prayers

P: O Lord, blessed is Your name and worthy of praise, for Your glory is above the heavens, and in Your mercy, the poor and needy rejoice.

Father, give Your Church strength to leave behind the old ways of life and follow Jesus, to announce that Your kingdom is at hand, and to lift up the cross of Christ everywhere so that those who sit in darkness may see the great light of Your salvation.

C: Guide this congregation in Your ways. Give us faithfulness in teaching Your Word at home and here in Your house. Bless all of us who worship our Lord Jesus Christ in this place, that in all we do they may reflect His name and His light.

P: Ruler of all, guide the nations and give wisdom to their leaders. Where there is hatred and dissension, bring peace and harmony. We especially pray for those in our land who hold office.

C: Make them faithful leaders and rulers, seeking to do Your will for the people whom they serve.

P: Almighty God and Father, you have abundantly blessed us with our daily bread.

C: Lead us to realize this, to give thanks to you for your undeserved kindness, and to rightly use the skills, time, resources, and riches you provide.
Special prayers and petitions

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private prayers as we thank You for blessings given, and as we ask for even more!

Silent personal prayer

P: Finally, O Lord, as You have given us Your grace and now promise to guard and guide our lives, use us as Your faithful servants in all that we do, in whose name we bring these and all our prayers, including this one...

ALL: 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 children are excused to join Mrs. Nelson when distribution starts.

COMMUNION BLESSING *Please stand!*

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN

#491 "O Master of the Loving Heart" HOTW



1 O Mas - ter of the lov - ing heart, The
2 Your days were full of kind - ly acts; Your
3 Your face was warm with sym - pa - thy; Your
4 Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord, So

friend of all in need, We pray that we may
 speech was true and plain; Of those who ev - er
 hand God's strength re - vealed; Who saw your face or
 joy - ous, free, and true, That all your chil - dren,

be like you In thought and word and deed.
 sought you, Lord, None came to you in vain.
 felt your touch Were com - fort - ed and healed.
 ev - 'ry - where, Be drawn by us to you.

Times to Formally Gather around the Gospel:

Saturday:	6:30 PM	Worship Service
Sunday:	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Bible Class
Monday:	6:30 PM	Sisters-In-Faith
Wednesday:	10:00 AM	Bible Class
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Donnerstag Group

The Sunday service is broadcast live every week on KNEN, 94.7 FM, and livestreamed via our website – stpls.com. These Sunday service video recordings are also archived on Youtube.

Building Project Update 1/16/25



Project Cost: \$4.2 million

Pledges Made & Gifts Received:
 \$1,946,576 (\$1,000 in last week)

Please be aware that if a donation was made toward the Building Fund, the process may take a week or two before it shows up in these numbers.

Amount borrowed from CEF loan so far...\$957,998

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

Upcoming Events This Week:

Sunday, 1/19	<u>Worship Service w/ HC, 9:00 AM</u> <u>Sunday School w/ Mrs. Nelson, 10:00AM</u> <u>Pastor Steve Schmeling Info, 10:15 AM</u>
Monday, 1/20	<u>Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM</u>
Tuesday, 1/21	<u>Executive Council, 6:00 PM</u>
Wednesday, 1/22	<u>Chapel, 8:15 AM</u> <u>Bible Class Lindke, 10:00 AM</u> <u>P.S. Catechism, 2:15 PM</u> <u>Adult Choir, 7:00 PM</u>
Thursday, 1/23	<u>Donnerstag, 6:30 PM</u>
Saturday, 1/25	<u>Worship Service & WELS Conn., 6:30 PM</u>
Sunday, 1/26	<u>Worship Service & WELS Conn., 9:00 AM</u> <i>PRAISE Choir Sings!</i> <u>Bible Class "Sermon on the Mount" 10:15 AM</u>

Church Cleaning Teams

Weeks of January 19th & 26th Team #1

Pam Handke, Chad & Alicia Moyer, Bill & Sue Ulrich

Weeks of February 2nd & 9th Team #2

Mike & Linda Mullen, Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

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