

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ JANUARY 26, 2025



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 250 \* 205 West Jefferson Street  
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

**"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."**

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*If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.*



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*please stand in body or spirit*

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,  
our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us  
confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways  
we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our  
neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and  
fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore  
our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed  
you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew  
as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"Hark the Glad Sound"

#239

## Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise      “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”      #886 vs. 1 & 2

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10

<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> **One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,  
<sup>4</sup> **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup> **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 31a

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a

part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Gospel Acclamation "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886 vs 3 & 4

Gospel

Luke 4:14 - 21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place

where it was written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*please be seated*  
Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*  
Hymn of the Day

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #843

Apostle’s Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*please be seated*

Offering

*please stand in body or spirit*

Offertory "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886 vs. 5 & 6

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

*please be seated*

## HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine  
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.  
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

### Communion Hymns

“O Zion, Haste”

#668

“One Bread, One Body”

#496

*please stand in body or spirit*

### Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in his grace. **Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with  
holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to  
embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

### Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

#551

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**



# “THE HOPE OF CHRIST”



**Welcome:** Welcome to worship — each and every one of you, a chosen and beloved child of God. May we follow Jesus into the work of ministry.

*We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!*

**In Our Prayers:** “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Dewey Jobe, Judy Smith, Renee Weller and Kyle Luetjen.



Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), Fred Beeman, Kylee Scheel (family of Teresa Viebrock), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Stacy Morrison (friend of Teresa Viebrock), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kaleb Mundy, Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Donna Allen (mother of Adrienn Dieckman), Jamie Simon, Joe Campbell, Don Brooks, Vernitta Brooks, Dustin Woods, Liz Smart, Art Heimsoth, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



**Nursing Home:** Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

**Military:** Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.





**Prayers:** If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.

**Newlyweds:** Best wishes to Jason Harms and Angela Mitchem! They were united in marriage on Saturday, January 18th at St. Paul's. God's blessings on your life together as one.



**Little Blessings:** Our Day Care is in need of three items for possible donation by our members: 1 or 2 Diaper Genies, a high-chair with straps, and a single or double stroller. If you have such items for donation, please contact Barbara Metscher at 660-668-3537 (Ext. 2). Thank you!

**Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **January 30th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



**Adult Sunday School:** The Adult Sunday School class will not meet on **February 2nd**, but in mid-February, we will wrap up our study of Psalms. We then begin a study of Bible Prophecy, talking about what is happening in the world today in conjunction with God's plan and purpose based on what the Bible tells us about the future or the last days/end times.

The Bible contains prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. Jesus and the Prophets said to look for specific signs that will signal the end of the age and the Second Coming of Christ. By learning what Bible Scripture says, we can gain better understanding of what we can expect so we can tell others. We can learn why the future offers great hope for us and everyone else on earth.

Come join us as we try to make sense of what the future may hold!

**Thank You:** Thank you to all who donated items from the Day Care Angel Tree! Barbara and the staff so appreciated the gift cards for Brothers Market, the variety of cereals and snacks, canned fruit and vegetables, wipes, catsup, Ranch Dressings (the children's favorite) and more. **You are indeed a blessing!!**



*THANK YOU*

**Thank You:** Thank you to the ladies of St. Paul's for their generous Thank Offerings in the amount of \$741.55. This amount was donated to the Women of the ELCA Churchwide for their many ministries.

**Thank You:** Annual Meeting Lunch thank yous to many. Debbie, Glenalee, and Sharel for preparing the chili; Adrienn for preparing the chicken noodle soup; and Ruth Ann for preparing the vegetable soup and the coney sauce. To all the ladies for brought those delicious desserts. Thank you to all who helped with the cleanup and putting up the tables and chairs. We served well over 100 members, and no one left hungry!



**Envelopes:** The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the link. If there isn't a box for you and you would like 2025 offering envelopes, please contact Russell Oelrichs, or the church office to request a box.

The 2024 giving statements are also available in the link.

**Souper Bowl:** The "Souper Bowl" challenge is on! This year every congregation is invited to bring any kind of food staples: soup and crackers, instant potatoes, canned meat, mac 'n cheese, canned vegetables or fruit, peanut butter, jelly, breakfast items, baking items, etc. Just about any and everything will be useful. Items can be brought to the church through **February 9th**. Let's see if we can return the trophy to St. Paul's!





**Staffing Update:** After serving as church secretary for many, many years here at St. Paul's, Shirley recently announced her intention to retire from the position. First, let us all offer our thanks to Shirley for all that she has done for St. Paul's. We are truly grateful and are working on plans to celebrate her time. Secondly, we are now beginning the search for someone to fill that position. The office is currently staffed for 18 hours each week across four days. If you or anyone you know might be interested in applying for the secretary position please speak with Pastor Stephen or Jake Jackson.



## ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Secretary.....Susan Goosen  
Council.....Melinda Strathman  
.....Kelly Viebrock  
Cemetery.....Bill Viebrock  
Synod Assembly.....Greg Bredehoeft  
.....Janice Gerken  
Nominating.....Tara Anderson  
.....Greg Bredehoeft  
.....Lindsey Tinney  
.....Larry Viebrock



A special thank you to those who served our church in 2024! You may have been on the council, you may have been on a committee, you may have been a volunteer or you may have shared a prayer. But each and every one of you is very important to each and every one of us. Thank you!

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

<b>Sunday, January 26:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
<b>Thursday, January 30:</b>	8:00am	BCHD
<b>Saturday, February 1:</b>	5:30pm	Casual Worship
<b>Sunday, February 2:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar



**~ \* ~ Coming Events ~ \* ~**

February 9 ..... SOUPer Bowl Challenge Ends  
March 5 ..... Ash Wednesday

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Ministers** ..... The Whole Congregation  
**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Organist** ..... Lois Viebrock  
**Pianist** ..... Jeannette VonHolten  
**AV Technicians** ..... Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk  
**Altar Guild** ..... Janice Gerken & Rhonda Schlesselman  
**Ushers** ..... Melinda Strathman, Head Usher  
..... Nicholas Dieckman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman & Steve Triplett



## Third Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 26, 2025

**Assisting Minister** ..... Darin Oelrichs  
**Communion Assistants** ..... Debbie Eckhoff & Braden Poe  
**Reader** ..... Luke Goosen  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Acolytes** ..... Lena Smith & Kelsey Viebrock  
**Flowers** ..... Diann Holsten



## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 2, 2025

**Assisting Minister** ..... Janice Gerken  
**Communion Assistants** ..... At the Altar  
**Reader** ..... Glenalee Dillon  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Acolytes** ..... Gannon Elliott & Mason Randall  
**Flowers** ..... Lynn Schear

