

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ FEBRUARY 23, 2025



**Love
your
enemies**
LUKE 6:27

**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

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"

#835 vs. 1-4

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

“Glory to God”

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Genesis 45:3 - 11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 37: 1 - 11, 39 - 40

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35 - 38, 42 - 50

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Joyce Schlesselmann

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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Gospel

Luke 6:27 - 38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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 "Lord of All Nations, Grant me Grace"

#716

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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

#186

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

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

#605

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

#707

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

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#656

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.



Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

“THE HOPE OF CHRIST”



Welcome: We are very happy to have everyone present at this service of worship. It is here that we can find light for any darkness. It is here that we may find the blessings and comfort which God alone can offer. Welcome!

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, Laura Ruth Oelrichs, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Dewey Jobe, Renee Weller and Kyle Luetjen.



Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Don Brooks, Bernitta Brooks, Mike Hinkel, Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), Fred Beaman, 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), Jamie Simon, Joe Campbell, 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) 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 (son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and grandson of Judie VonHolten), 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.



With Sympathy: We also pray for those families who have lost loved ones; family and friends of Joe Korb (father of Pam Eckhoff) and Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling).



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

Thank you: The family of Marlin Lackas, brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling, wishes to thank members of St. Paul's for their prayers for Marlin, who passed away at the age of 90 years. Prayers for the family are appreciated. Thank you.



Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **February 26th** at 3:00pm.

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **February 27th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



Shrove Sunday Pancake Lunch: On Sunday, **March 2nd**, the Luther League is hosting a congregational Shrove Sunday pancake lunch to celebrate the last Sunday before Lent begins. It will be right after worship in the Fellowship Hall, and include pancakes, sausages, hash browns, and more. It's our own little Mardi Gras celebration and all are invited! A free-will offering to support the youth will be available.

Ash Wednesday: We begin the season of Lent with the remembrance of who we are: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that begins our 40 day season of Lent, where we will be invited into the discipline of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. Join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on **March 5th**, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. (There is no Simple Supper this evening.)





Don't Forget: On Sunday, **March 9th** daylight saving time begins. Be sure and set your clocks forward on Saturday evening.

Mid-MO Bible Camp: Save the date for this year's Mid-MO Bible Camp, Sunday, **July 20 - Thursday, July 24**, at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Bible Camp is for youth who have completed 4th grade but not yet entered 10th grade. Adult volunteers are also needed, whether for a couple hours or a couple days! More information is coming soon.



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.

~ * ~ **IN OUR COMMUNITY** ~ * ~

Junior Lutherans Volunteer Night at the Community Cafe

Monday, **March 10th** at 4:30 pm
417 West Pettis Street, Sedalia, MO 65301



If you're able to share a few hours serving at the Community Cafe in Sedalia, we'd love to see you. We'll be joining a few members of Immanuel UCC church as they prepare and serve at the Community Cafe. The Community Cafe is a soup kitchen founded and managed by local high school students. Contact Pr. Kim if you're able to join or have any questions.



Fish Fry: The Sophomore Class will host a fish dinner on Sunday, **March 16th** from 11:00am until 1:00pm. Adults: \$15.00, Kids: \$12.00 and Kids 1-4 are free. The menu will include fish, cornbread, salads and desserts.

MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

Ash Wednesday March 5th
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

1st week of Lent March 12th

2nd week of Lent March 19th

3rd week of Lent March 26th

4th week of Lent April 2nd

5th week of Lent April 9th

Services at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall



Palm Sunday April 13th at 10:00am Procession of Palms

Maundy Thursday April 17th at 7:00pm Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday April 18th at 7:00pm Service of Darkness

Easter Saturday April 19th 5:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunrise April 20th at 7:00am Breakfast to follow

Easter Sunday April 20th at 10:00am Holy Communion



LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance will host a Lenten breakfast here at St. Paul's Church each Wednesday morning beginning at 7:30am. *(Please note: If Cole Camp schools are closed due to weather, the breakfast will also be cancelled that day.)* Everyone is invited to attend each week. The following churches will host each week:

March 12th Hoy Cross and St. John's Lutheran

March 19th First Baptist and Ionia United Methodist

March 26th Mt. Hulda and Trinity Lutheran

April 2nd Faith Chapel and Grace Fellowship

April 9th St. Paul's Lutheran and Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic

LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPER

Each Wednesday prior to the weekly Lenten service, a “simple supper” will be served in the fellowship hall. These suppers will consist of soup, sandwiches or hot dogs, coffee, water, and, of course, fellowship. Serving will begin at 6:00 pm and ending at approximately 6:45, to allow the volunteers time for clean-up. The “Simple Suppers” will begin on Wednesday, **March 12th** in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to prepare the soups, prepare the sandwich spread, and to assist with the serving and clean-up. Please mark your offering card if you can help. Contact Janice for any questions. Come and enjoy a “simple supper” with your church family!



AFTER LENTEN SERVICE

There will be the traditional fellowship time (cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate) following each Lenten service beginning on **March 12th**. To insure that there are enough cookies each week, each family is asked to provide cookies according to the following schedule (based on the first letter of your last name). Additionally, please note the organizations asked serve for each of the five Lenten services.

March 12thA - E WELCA Executive Board Serving
March 19thF - H St. Paul’s Youth Serving
March 26thI - P Evangelism Committee Serving
April 2nd.....R - T Congregational Council Serving
April 9thV - Z Esther Circle

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, February 23:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Wednesday, February 26:	3:00pm	Sunbeam
Thursday, February 27:	8:00am	BCHD
Saturday, March 1:	5:30pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, March 2:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

March 2.....	Shrove Pancake Lunch
March 5.....	Ash Wednesday
March 9.....	First Sunday in Lent
March 9.....	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 20.....	First Day of Spring

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 Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
..... Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 23, 2025

Assisting Minister Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Erin Oelrichs & Rhonda Schlesselman
Reader Adrienn Dieckman
Children's Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes Grady Elliott & Miranda Gerken
Flowers Sara Jackson



Transfiguration of our Lord ~ March 2, 2025

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistants At the Altar
Reader
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes Tristin Fox & Jace Tinney
Flowers Tammie Heimsoth