

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ~ MARCH 23, 2025**



**3rd**  
**Sunday**  
*in* **Lent** +

**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

Invitation to Lent with 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, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday with this invitation.....

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. **But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.**

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we continue through this Lenten season, let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

*stand in body or spirit*

Opening Hymn

## As the Winter Days Grow Longer



- 1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
- 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
- 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## Reading

Isaiah 55:1 - 9

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call

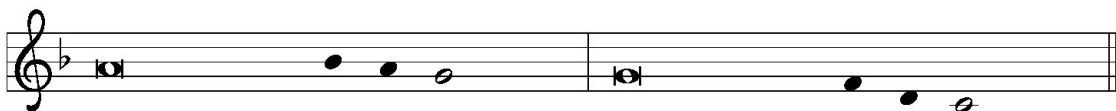
nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response

Psalm 63:1 - 8



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there | is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> **My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

Gospel

Luke 13: 1 - 9

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

*please be seated*  
Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

VERSE

C      F/C      C                      Em/G      F<sup>2</sup>                      G/B      C

1. Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.  
2. Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.  
3. Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us.

Hymn of the Day

“Shine on Us”

5 F/C C Em/G F<sup>2</sup> G/B C C/E

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us. That  
 Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us. That  
 Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us. That

9 F G/B C C/E F G/B C<sup>sus</sup> C C/E

we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our  
 we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our  
 we may be saved, that we may have life; To find out

13 F E/G# Am F C/G G<sup>7</sup>

way in the dark - est night, let Your light shine on  
 way in the dark - est night, let Your grace fall on  
 way in the dark - est night, let Your love come o - ver

16 C Am Am/G F C/G G<sup>7</sup> C

us. us, let Your light shine on us.

### 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*

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

You call us to rend our hearts and learn the humbleness of Jesus. We are witnesses of Jesus' journey to the cross this Lenten season.

**But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.**

Even in our Lenten fasting we are strengthened by holy food, remembering that in the night in which he was betrayed... Do this for the remembrance of me.

### The Lord's Prayer

O Lord, join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, as together we 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

“Lord, Be Glorified”

#744

“Here Is Bread”

#483

*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 Canticle

“Lord, now you let your servant go in peace”



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,  
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing

God our tender parent,  
 God the crucified one,  
 God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

### Sending Hymn

## The Wonderful Cross

Words by  
 Isaac Watts, J. D. Walt  
 and Chris Tomlin

Music by  
 Lowell Mason, Chris Tomlin  
 and Jesse Reeves

♩ = 88


VERSE  
 D

1. When I sur - vey the \_\_\_\_\_ won - drous cross  
 2. See from His head, His \_\_\_\_\_ hands, His \_\_\_\_\_ feet,  
 3. Were the whole realm of \_\_\_\_\_ na - ture \_\_\_\_\_ mine,




on which the Prince of \_\_\_\_\_ Glo - ry \_\_\_\_\_ died, my rich - est  
sor - row and love flow \_\_\_\_\_ min - gled \_\_\_\_\_ down; Did e'er such  
that were an of - f'ring \_\_\_\_\_ far too \_\_\_\_\_ small. Love so a -

10



gain I \_\_\_\_\_ count but \_\_\_\_\_ loss, and pour con - tempt on  
love and \_\_\_\_\_ sor - row \_\_\_\_\_ meet, or thorns com - pose so  
-maz - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my

15



1. 2. 3. **CHORUS**  
G D/F#

all my \_\_\_\_\_ pride. crown? O the won - der - ful cross, \_\_\_\_\_ O the  
rich a \_\_\_\_\_ all.  
life, my \_\_\_\_\_


20



G D/F# G

won - der - ful cross \_\_\_\_\_ bids \_\_\_\_\_ me come \_\_\_\_\_ and die \_\_\_\_\_ and find \_\_\_\_\_

23



D/F# A G

\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ may tru - ly live. \_\_\_\_\_ O the won - der - ful cross, \_\_\_\_\_


27



D/F# G D/F# G

\_\_\_\_\_ O the won - der - ful cross; \_\_\_\_\_ All \_\_\_\_\_ who gath - er here \_\_\_\_\_ by grace \_\_\_\_\_

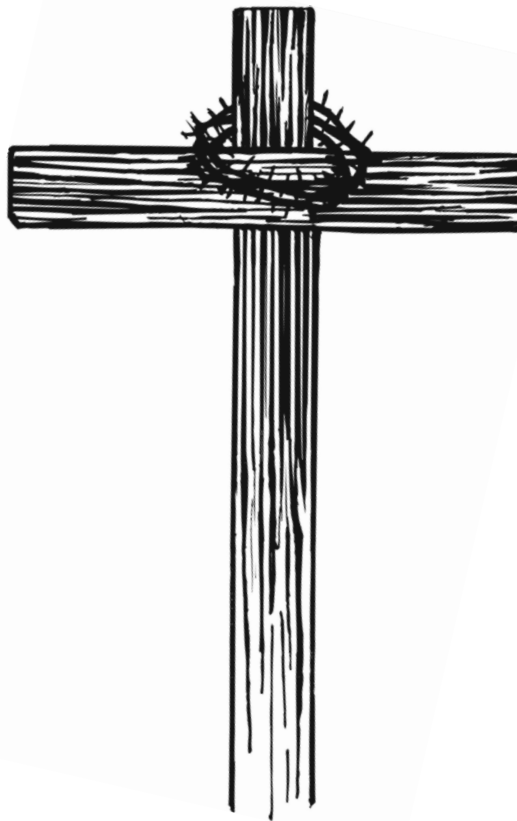
31



D/F# A D

\_\_\_\_\_ draw \_\_\_\_\_ near \_\_\_\_\_ and bless \_\_\_\_\_ Your name. \_\_\_\_\_

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**



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# “AN INVITATION TO FOLLOW”



**Welcome:** Welcome to worship as we continue in the season of Lent. May we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others.

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

**In Our Prayers:** “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Clyde Alcorn, Marcy Cash, Geraldine Pabst, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Renee Weller and Kyle Luetjen.



Les Bruns, Janelle Howard (daughter of Penny Merriott), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Don Brooks, Vernitta Brooks, Mike Hinkel, Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), 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, Liz Smart, Art Heimsoth, Cliff Eickhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eickhoff), 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.





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

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



**Simple Supper**

**Simple Supper:** "Simple" Supper will be held prior to each Lenten Service. Serving will begin at 6:00 p.m. The menu for the **March 26th** "simple" supper is vegetable soup and chicken noodle soup with chicken salad sandwiches. Come join your church family for supper in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir:** Anyone interested in singing in the choir on Easter morning there will be practice on Wednesday, **March 26th** after worship service. Come and join your voices.



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

**New Member:** Anyone interested in learning more about St. Paul's or joining the membership here is invited to a New Member Lunch on Sunday, **March 30th**, after worship in the Gathering Space. This will be a time for conversation, answering questions, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Pastor Stephen.



**Mowing:** Bids are being accepted for mowing at St. Paul's Cemetery. Anyone interested in submitting a bid may contact John Oelrichs, Chester Schlesselman or Bill Viebrock by Sunday, **March 30th**.

**Cole Camp Fair Float:** There will be a planning meeting immediately after worship service on Sunday **April 6th**. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please join us with some ideas to share.





**Sisterhood Scribbles:** A Card Making and Letter Writing event for girls and women of all ages on Sunday, **April 13th** after church in the Fellowship Hall. You're invited for an afternoon with a light lunch and time in community making cards and letter writing. We'll bring the supplies, you just need to bring yourself and a friend! Questions?

Reach out to Anne Goosen, Stephanie Randall, or Kim Knowle-Zeller.

**Memory Garden:** Easter Lilies will be ordered for our sanctuary for the Easter Services. These plants may be given in memory or honor of a loved one or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$10.00 each. If you would like to donate one or more, please fill out a insert you will find on the ushers stands. The deadline for ordering is **April 13th**.



**Lynn Starr Education Scholarship:** This scholarship is a part of the ministry of the Central States Women of the ELCA. The scholarship is available to a female member of any ELCA congregation who are seeking post high school education. (There is a limit of one award recipient per congregation.) it is a one-year non-renewable scholarship. Applications can be found at each usher stand, and are to be **postmarked no later than April 15, 2025**. Recipients of the scholarship will be notified in May 2025. Any questions, please contact Janice Gerken (660-281-7380).

**Ladies of St. Paul's:** The Central States Women of the ELCA will be holding their **Bi-Annual Synodical Convention in Independence, MO at the Hilton Garden Inn on June 20-22, 2025**.



The theme of the convention is Vessels of Grace. The convention will open with an evening meal at 5:00 on Friday, June 20 and conclude with closing worship on Sunday, June 22.

The board has been hard at work to make this an inspiring convention with keynote speaker, worship led by Bishop Candea, informative breakout sessions, Sing-a-longs, Bingo and our Saturday night musical highlight with the "Potter's Wheel". Our own praise band will be part of our worship on Friday evening.

Registration forms can be found at each usher's stand. See Janice for questions. **ALL women are invited to make relax, shop, be inspired/informed, and worship with other Lutheran women from Kansas and Missouri!**

**Summer Events:** Attention youth and families, please mark your calendar for our summer events! Vacation Bible School: **July 7-11** & Mid-MO Bible Camp: **July 20 - 24**.



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



**German Meal:** Trinity Men's Club German style dinner will be held on **today**, from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. There will be a Free Will Offering - Proceeds go to for scholarships for students studying to become full-time church workers. Come, enjoy a delicious German meal and support future church workers!

**Breakfast:** The Cole Camp Museum will host an Old Time Breakfast on Saturday, **March 29th** from 6:30am until 9:00am at the Senior Center. This is a free will offering.



**Dinner:** The Seniors of North Benton County will host a dinner on Sunday, **March 30th** from 11:00am until 1:00pm at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall. The menu will include meatloaf, hash brown casserole, green beans, roll and dessert. This is a free will donation.

**Run:** Hope5one is hosting their 4th annual "Run for Hope" on Saturday, **April 12th**, at 9:00am at Drake Harbor in Warsaw. All funds raised will go towards their goal of building a Hope House to provide refuge to survivors of human trafficking. Register for the walk on their website: [www.hope5one.org](http://www.hope5one.org). Register by March 21 to guarantee a race shirt.





**MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**“A Journey to Easter”**

3rd week in Lent .....March 26th  
 4th week in Lent .....April 2nd  
 5th week in 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 26th ..... Mt. Hulda and Trinity Lutheran  
 April 2nd ..... Brauersville, 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. Volunteers are needed to prepare the soups, prepare the sandwich spread, and to assist with the serving and clean-up. 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 midweek service. 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 to serve for each of the Lenten services.

March 26th .....I - P ..... Evangelism Committee Serving  
April 2nd .....R - T ..... Congregational Council Serving  
April 9th .....V - Z ..... Esther Circle

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

<b>Sunday, March 23:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
<b>Wednesday, March 26:</b>	7:30am	Lenten Breakfast
	3:00pm	Sunbeam
	6:00pm	Simple Supper
	7:00pm	Lent Worship Service
	AW	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, March 27:</b>	8:00am	BCHD
<b>Saturday, March 29:</b>	5:30pm	Casual Worship
<b>Sunday, March 30:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations



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

March 26 .....	Breakfast, Simple Supper & Lenten Worship
March 30 .....	New Member Lunch
April 2 .....	Breakfast, Simple Supper & Lenten Worship
April 13 .....	Sisterhood Scribbles

# 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** ..... Glenalee Dillon & Suzanne Lutjen  
**Ushers** ..... Melinda Strathman, Head Usher  
..... Nicholas Dieckman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman & Steve Triplett



## Third Sunday in Lent ~ March 23, 2025

**Assisting Minister** ..... Tom Oelrichs  
**Communion Assistants** ..... Jake Jackson & Hannah Schweitzer  
**Reader** ..... Sara Jackson  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Paul Fuelling  
**Acolytes** ..... Logan Jackson & Mason Randall  
**Flowers** ..... Susan Rusk



## Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ March 30, 2025

**Assisting Minister** ..... Darin Oelrichs  
**Communion Assistants** ..... Ruth Ann Kreisel & Sharel Wienberg  
**Reader** ..... Dennis Moellmann  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller  
**Acolytes** ..... Gannon Elliott & Freddie Goosen  
**Flowers** ..... Janice Gerken