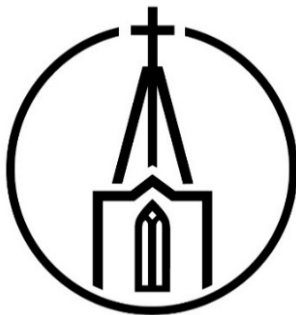


Saturday & Sunday, March 18 & 19, 2023  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

L Turn away  
E  
N  
T from sin



**St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church**

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:  
(402)371-1233 [www.stpls.com](http://www.stpls.com)

## **We welcome all worshiping God in this service!**

We're so happy that you're joining us for worship today! If you need any help, please don't hesitate asking one of the ushers. Restrooms and a cry-room are located across from the west drive-up entrance.

It's a joy to serve and worship with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Pastor Hirsch.

### ***Before the Lord's Supper...***

*Scripture tells us that we are to examine and prepare ourselves before we receive this sacrament so that we don't take it in an "unworthy manner" (I Corinthians 11:27-29). This means that we understand what is happening in communion, repent of all our sins, and then work on eliminating all those sins from our lives.*

*The word "communion" comes from the two words... "common – union." This word points out a united confession of faith for those receiving the supper and the important command Jesus gives us to share this special meal only with those who share a complete Christian faith. We prepare our hearts by confessing our sins and trusting that this sacrament is indeed one of the Means of Grace which forgives sins and creates and strengthens saving faith. The Bible also very clearly teaches that in a completely miraculous way we also eat and drink Jesus' very same body and blood as we eat and drink the bread and wine.*

*Because we do not want anyone to receive this sacrament in an "unworthy manner" and without judging anyone's heart, we humbly ask that all those who are not members of our congregation, or of the WELS, to please wait to receive the Lord's Supper until after you speak with Pastor Hirsch and share your understanding of the Lord's Supper with him. Thanks for your patience and understanding!!*

---

### **A Personal Prayer Before Worship:**

*Gracious Lord, may the thoughts of my heart be pure and focused on Your salvation as I am a guest here in Your house. May the words of my mouth be sincere as I sing Your praises. May the actions of my life follow Your will and commands, flowing from a heart filled with repentance and love for You and all those around me. Bless our worship service, and guard and direct me all this week as I live my life for You. Amen.*

---

**Opening Hymn** #454 "I Gave My Life for Thee"

**The Order of Worship** "Service of Word & Sacrament" (CW p. 26)

*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.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

*P: God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us.*

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER AND PRAISE -- LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie**

*P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all Your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.*



**C: Lord, have mer - cy.**

*P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from Your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.*



**C: Christ, have mer - cy.**

*P: For the well-being of Your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.*



*P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by Your power and keep us in Your tender care:*



### **The Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our sins. But we ask you graciously to comfort us with your salvation, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### **The Old Testament Lesson**      Hosea 5:15-6:3

- <sup>5:15</sup> Then I will return to my lair until they have borne their guilt and seek my face—in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”
- <sup>6:1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.
- <sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.
- <sup>3</sup> Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

**The Psalm**      Psalm 42-43

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they    who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



As the deer pants for streams of water,\*  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.\*  
Where can I go and meet with God?

Why are you downcast, O my soul?\*  
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,\*  
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

**REFRAIN**

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;\*  
let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.\*  
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**REFRAIN**

## **The Epistle Lesson**

Romans 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

## **The Verse of the Day**

Psalms 125:1

*P: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.*

## **The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 20:17-28

<sup>17</sup> Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, <sup>18</sup> "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

<sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



**Hymn** #465 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

**The Sermon Meditation** Matthew 20:17-28

### THE ROAD TO THE CROSS IS A LOW ROAD

1) Many miss this road 2) Christ took it for us

### **The Nicene Creed**

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.

## Thank-Offering

*If you haven't already, please place your thank-offering in the plate located in the back of church. Scanning this QR code works too!*



### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

*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.*

**Offering Hymn** #470 "Praise to You and Adoration"

## 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.

## The Sacrament

*P: The Lord be with you.*



**C: And al - so with you.**



*P: Lift up your hearts.*



**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*



**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**



*P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.  
 You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.  
 I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -  
 va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

**Words of Institution**

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

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "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."*

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C: A - men.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in common time (C). The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata.

## The Distribution

### Communion Blessing

### Communion Response *All sing! (CW #318)*

I Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -

The musical score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves of music. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "I Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -". The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata.



tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -  
 lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -  
 tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
 God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His  
 love shall u - nite us To work for God's  
 king - dom and an - swer his call.

*P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



C: A - - men.



## The Blessing

*P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.*

*The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.*



## Closing Hymn #466 “Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose”



## Serving In the Lord’s House Today

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Allen Lindke

**Organist:** Alicia Moyer

**Radio Broadcasters:** Glynn Grebe & Walt Tinius

**Video Tech:** Chad Moyer

**Elder:** Jeff Sperry

**Ushers:** Curt Dinkel & Randy Anderson

**Power Point:** Athena Bretschneider (3/18) - Flor Koinzan (3/19)

### SERVING NEXT WEEK

**Elder:** Curt Dinkel - Wed., March 22 & March 25/26

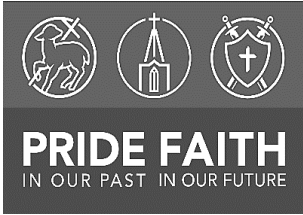
**Ushers:** Leon Sweigard & Zach Kruse

**Video Tech:** Chad Moyer

**Power Point:** Carter Goeden (3/22); Weinrichs (Sat. 3/25) – K. Moyer (Sun. 3/26)

## St Paul's General Fund, March 11 & 12, 2023

Yearly Need	YTD Need	YTD Offerings	YTD Need vs Offerings	Last Week Received	Weekly Need	Difference
\$422,052.00	\$290,628.81	\$270,840.29	-\$19,788.52	\$7,205.00	\$7,448.91	-\$243.91



### Campaign Update

Total pledges = \$1,710,993  
 Total given = \$820,451

### Gathering Around the Gospel

Saturday, 3/11 = 67     Sunday, 3/12 = 66  
**Weekend Total = 133**

Sunday Bible Class = 18     Wednesday Bible Class = 11     Donnerstag = NA

## SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP for hosting the Luther Prep Choir!!***  
*From the vittles planners and servers...to the button-pushers...to the hosts and hostesses...to the school-kid singers!! Nice work!!*

- 1) The **Mid-Week Lent Service Rotation** plays out as follows...March 22 – Ziche (Hadar); March 29 – Rixe (Hoskins).
- 2) The **NELHS Easter Concert** will be held on Sunday, March 26 @ 4:00 PM.
- 4) **It's that time for softball!** The men's summer church league starts the middle of May. If interested, contact Dustin Kraemer (402.750.7187).

- 5) This hasn't been done for a while, but might there be interest in a **co-ed team from church to play in a Fall league?** I'm not sure of details of start date or night of the week to play, but just gauging interest. Would be fun to give it a try!! Talk to Dustin K. again, or Pastor Hirsch.
- 6) Want to stay current with school information? Weekly **School Newsletters** are available for you to take from the "school bulletin board" which is next to the Communication Center.
- 7) Can you help delivering **Meals on Wheels** (April 24-May 12)? A sign-up sheet for this is at the Communication Center.
- 8) We're trying out a new event this year called the **Holy Week Experience**. It's on the calendar for Saturday, April 1 from 10am-12pm (not an April Fools' joke!). This event will be geared toward families and will include Easter egg hunts, crafts, and treats, but the "main event" will be a Holy Week walkthrough that will highlight the details, applications, and Biblical and cultural context of the events of Holy Week. Some help may be asked for later on, but for now - mark your calendars and spread the word!
- 9) **St. Paul's School Art Show:** During the month of March many of our students will have their art work on display at the Norfolk Arts Center. Stop by and admire some creativity. It's free!
- 11) The March edition of the **FORWARD magazine** is available at the Communication Center.

## From the very beginning

How do WELS churches get started? How do we decide where they should go? This is not a secret nor is it a simple process. Through Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's 2023 Winterim course, 14 seminary students were able to experience firsthand the earlier steps in exploring potential churches in three communities outside of Austin, Texas. The students began the week by meeting with WELS Mission Counselor, Matt Vogt and the core group of WELS members in each of the three cities. The 14 students were divided into three teams, one for each city, and asked to research thoroughly and report how much potential each community had for growth in the coming years.



The communities of Leander, Jarrell, and Kyle/Buda, seem to display potential for a new WELS church. Mission Counselor Vogt and Professor Allen Sorum worked alongside the South-Central district mission board, local area pastors and home missionaries, and their district president to prepare for the week. The students were trained and tasked with conducting community and church leader interviews, doing some door-to-door canvassing, and interviewing other potential core group members. When asked about their favorite part of the experience, students shared many examples of how the Holy Spirit opened hearts to conversations about the gospel.

Once their research was complete, the 14 students were able to present the information they gathered with their team (pictured). Students, local pastors, and Home Mission representatives listened, reacted, and asked questions about each location. With these insights from the seminary students, the South Central District Mission Board will prioritize which location(s) to pursue first.

As for the 14 seminary students, they were able to gain real experience exploring a potential mission field and sharing their faith before they receive their divine calls. Many students expressed greater interest in serving as a church planter after the trip was over. One student noted, "It was eye opening to see the grand scope of what WELS Home Missions does and the support we give to our home missionaries. It makes mission work less scary." These men are going to be a part of the first few Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduating classes to potentially receive assignments to new home mission churches approved as part of the 100 Missions in 10 Years initiative. WELS Home Missions is thankful for partners at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary that are training the next generation of church planters.



## **Some Functions This Week**

<b>Sunday, 3/19</b>	<u>Worship Service w/ Communion</u> , 9:00 AM <u>Fellowship &amp; Coffee</u> , 10:15 AM
<b>Monday, 3/20</b>	<u>Sisters In Faith Group</u> , 6:30 PM
<b>Tuesday, 3/21</b>	<u>Executive Council meeting</u> , 6:00 PM <u>Re-scheduled School Band Concert</u> ,
<b>Wednesday, 3/22</b>	<u>Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12</u> , 9:00 AM <u>Bible Class</u> , 10:00 AM <u>Public School Confirmation Class</u> , 2:15 PM <u>Mid-Week Lent Meal</u> , 5:00-6:15 PM <u>Mid-Week Lent Service</u> , 6:30 PM <u>Adult Choir</u> , after service
<b>Thursday, 3/23</b>	<u>Donnerstag Group</u> , 6:30 PM
<b>Saturday, 3/25</b>	<u>Worship Service</u> , 6:30 PM
<b>Sunday, 3/26</b>	<u>Worship Service</u> , 9:00 AM <u>Goodies &amp; Bible Class</u> , 10:15 AM

## **Church Cleaning Teams**

<b>March 19 &amp; 26 -</b>	Team 1: L&P Handke, C&A Moyer, K Janovec, B&S Ulrich
<b>April 2 &amp; 9 -</b>	Team 2: D Dusseau, M&L Mullen, J&K Wiedeman

## **St. Paul's Contact Information**

Pastor Paul Hirsch  
(402) 649-9268  
[pahirschki@gmail.com](mailto:pahirschki@gmail.com)

Principal Aaron Markgraf  
(920) 248-2223  
[amarkgraf@stpls.com](mailto:amarkgraf@stpls.com)

Kathy Wiedeman, Secretary  
School Office: (402) 371-1233  
[office@stpls.com](mailto:office@stpls.com)

St. Paul's Website: [www.stpls.com](http://www.stpls.com)  
WELS Website: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)