

## CONFIRMATION



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website: (402)371-1233 <u>www.stpls.com</u>

## Welcome to all guests and visitors with us this morning!

Many of you may be here attending this confirmation service as a grandparent or maybe an uncle or aunt, or maybe as a friend! While this Lutheran rite is taking place this morning, we also are gathered for the expressed purpose of worshiping our God who showed His love for all people by sending His Son to die for our sins on the cross of Calvary. We're also gathered to strengthen our faith through hearing His Word.

If you have any questions about the teachings of St. Paul's, which is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please contact Pastor Hirsch, whose number is on the last page. We invite our guests to come again and worship with us again. You are always welcome here in God's house!

This morning the sacrament of Holy Communion will be served to those confirmed members of our congregation here at St. Paul's and to those who are members of sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The religious world around us encourages any and all people to come before the Lord's altar and receive holy communion, but as we study Scripture we see that there are limitations on who should receive this sacrament. This truth is not meant to portray a "better than thou" attitude on the part of any Christian, but simply holds to the instruction found in Scripture! A person needs to be able to "examine" and "prepare" himself by confessing his sins, trusting in the forgiveness won by Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 11:27-29), and then also realize that the very body and blood of Jesus are present in the sacrament!

We also read in Romans 16:17 to "keep away" from those who teach and believe contrary to what Scripture teaches. We are in fact confessing that whoever receives the Lord's Supper together, believes exactly the same thing about all Bible doctrines (I Corinthians 10:17). The fact is, that whoever receives the Lord's body and blood in an "unworthy manner," in unbelief or doubt, receives the Lord's judgment (I Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, in a humble yet loving and concerned way, we offer it to those who have been instructed and believe that they receive forgiveness as they receive the bread and wine, along with Jesus' body and blood.

"This is my body...this is my blood."

In this service today, five young Christians will be confirming their saving faith in and their life-long faithfulness to their Lord and Savior. Please keep the following in your prayers!!

Alex Cerny – Carter Goeden - Katrina Moyer Ayden Papstein – Benjamin Sperry

#### **PASTOR'S WELCOME**

- P: On behalf of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, I welcome you all to God's house. But why have you come?
- C: We share the attitude of the Psalm writer when he said "I rejoice with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' We have come with joy, to rejoice that Jesus is our Savior.
- P: How good it is to rejoice in the name of our Lord! Let's begin our confirmation worship service by lifting up our hearts and our voices in praise to our triune God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### **HYMN** #599 "Our Lord and God, O Bless This Day"

- 1 Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day And hear us, we implore you; None of your children turn away Who now appear before you. We come before your face And pray: let your rich grace Descend from heav'n above In all your wondrous love, And keep us by your Spirit.
  - 2 Oh, bless your Word to all the young; Let them, your truth possessing, Bear witness true with heart and tongue, Their faith and ours confessing. From mother's arms your grace With love did them embrace. Baptized into your name, As yours you did them claim; O Lord, as yours now own them!
- 3 And when they leave their childhood home, When Satan comes alluring, May their baptismal grace become A refuge reassuring. God's covenant is sure; His promises endure. They ne'er shall be undone Who trust in God alone—God is their mighty Father!

#### **WE CONFESS OUR SINS**

- P: In Psalm 24, we clearly see that the only person who may ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in His presence for eternity in heaven is the one who has clean hands and a pure heart. This means we are to be completely holy in our actions and our thoughts in order to reach heaven.
- ALL: But each one of us has received a sinful nature from our sinful parents, and we do have unclean lips and impure hearts. We do break God's law everyday by our thoughts, words and actions.
- P: Therefore, why else have we come to God's house?
- ALL: God says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We have come this morning to confess our sins, and to ask for His forgiveness.
- P: It is good that we do not try to hide or make excuses for our sins, because God sees and knows everything, including ALL our thoughts and actions. Rather, let us confess all our sins and lay them all before the cross of Christ so that through His mercy we might hear His clear and certain words of forgiveness.
- ALL: Dear God of all mercy, I come before Your holy throne this morning, seeking Your forgiveness for my rebellion against Your commands. Through the gift of faith, I have strength to follow Your commands, but often times I put myself and my concerns first in my life instead of making You my first priority. I have not loved those around me as much as I love myself. I have been mean, lustful, arrogant, greedy and selfish. Forgive me for my worldliness and my lack of godliness. Forgive me for all the times I was lazy and refused to listen to Your Word, trust in Your power, and obey Your commands. In Your mercy, please forgive all my sins.
- P: The Lord has assured us "As surely as I live, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." In fact, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, on behalf and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you of all your sins, and declare you to be clean of your guilt, in the name of the almighty God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



#### WE THANK AND PRAISE GOD FOR THIS FORGIVENESS

#250 "From All that Dwell below the Skies"



#### **GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD**

- P: Now that we have experienced the Lord's goodness to us as we have received God's forgiveness and His merciful love, why else have we come to God's house this morning?
- ALL: Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." We have come to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His Word, because it is a lamp for our feet and a light for our paths. It is the only proper guide for our earthly lives!

#### A SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 71:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup> Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.
- <sup>5</sup> For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.
- <sup>6</sup> From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.
- <sup>7</sup> I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.

#### THE ADULT CHOIR "Grace"

#### **WE PUBLICLY CONFESS OUR FAITH**

P: God has written, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord' and believe in your hearts that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Therefore, why else have we come this morning?

ALL: We have also come to join with these confirmands to confess the Christian faith in the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### WE CONFESS THIS CHRISTIAN FAITH!

I believe the Bible teaches us that there is one God, yet that one God is also three distinct persons who all work together for the salvation of my soul.

I believe in God the Father almighty, who made the universe and all it contains, and sustains it with His mighty power. He gave me my life so that I may learn about my Savior Jesus and be saved for eternity.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His one and only Son, who reconciled lost mankind to the Father through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who gathers and strengthens sinners into God's forgiven family which we call the Church. He creates saving faith in a person's heart through the faithful use of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

Even though I do not understand how three persons are still one God, through faith I believe this gracious truth, and I thank and praise this gracious triune God!

#### **A HYMN** #449 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in his bosom gather; Nestling bird or star in heaven Such a refuge ne'er was given.
  - 2 God his own doth tend and nourish; In his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them; In his mighty arms he bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord his children sever; Unto them his grace he showeth, And their sorrows all he knoweth.
  - 4 Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

#### **CONFIRMATION MEDITATIONS**

Psalm 23:4 Alex Cerny's verse

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**HYMN** #452, vs 1 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure, Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure. Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above, Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Joshua 1:9 Carter Goeden's verse

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

**HYMN** #452, vs 2 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform; Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy, And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow. Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

#### Romans 12:12 Katrina Moyer's verse

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

#### **HYMN** #452, vs 3 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death, From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath. Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin, And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.

#### Matthew 6:33 Ayden Papstein's verse

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

#### **HYMN** #452, vs 4 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead, Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head. We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we. Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren. Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

#### Philippians 4:13 Benjamin Sperry's verse

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

#### HYMN #470 "Praise to You and Adoration"

Praise to you and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God, Who, to serve your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I never may From your fold or pastures stray, But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife. In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life. Give me greater love for you, And my faith and hope renew In your birth, your life, and passion, In your death and resurrection.

#### **WE PRAISE GOD WITH OUR OFFERING**

- P: Why else have we come to God's house this morning? What have we brought with us?
- ALL: God's Word says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops." Therefore we come bringing gifts of love to praise our loving God.
- P: It is good and right that we praise God with our thank-offerings, since He is the one who made us who we are and gave us what we have. Let us join together in an offering prayer that God may find our humble offering pleasing in His sight.
- ALL: Our Savior, give us grace to lovingly and unselfishly dedicate ourselves and our possessions for use in Your kingdom. We realize our sins, yet we bring this offering to Your altar in humility and repentance. Forgive us for all the times we have been greedy and selfish. Open our hearts now, and in the future, as we joyfully give back to You in love. Hear us to the glory of Your name. 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. Thanks for your generous gifts! God blesses a cheerful giver!

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



#### **OFFERING HYMN** #488, vss 1&4 "Savior, Thy Dying Love"

Savior, thy dying love Thou gavest me; Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from thee. In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfill its vow, Some off'ring bring thee now, Something for thee.

> All that I am and have, Thy gifts so free, In joy, in grief, through life, Dear Lord, for thee! And when thy face I see, My ransomed soul shall be Through all eternity Something for thee.

#### **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

#### **COMMITMENTS OF CONFIRMANDS' FAMILIES**

Pastor, to the confirmands' families, their parents. Would you please stand!

When you brought your children to be baptized, you realized that you were following the will of the Lord Jesus who said - "Let the little children come to me." At that time you understood that your spiritual responsibilities had not ended at their baptisms. You knew that the Scriptures also commanded you to "bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord." You have done this in your home, and by using the assistance that has been offered by your fellow Christians in this congregation.

However, the Lord Jesus wants you to remember that your Christian parental duties to your children are not completed at their confirmations either. Your responsibilities as parents and family continue until they are ended by death!

Therefore, I ask you: will you not only continue, but also improve your efforts to lead your children to appreciate the Word of God, to encourage them to attend the Lord's Supper often, as well as encouraging them to make daily use of God's Word at home? Will you carry out these duties faithfully and firmly, remembering their importance, but also with love and understanding, realizing that these young men and women are passing from childhood into maturity? Will you, by your words and examples, impress upon them the necessity of hearing the Word of the Lord, which is the one thing needful for salvation? Will you in every way, continue to point your children to their Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised them, and you, a crown of righteousness in heaven? If so, answer - "We will, and we ask God to help us."

#### "We will, and we ask God to help us."

(Spoken by the confirmands' parents.)

Pastor, to the confirmands' spiritual family, St. Paul's congregation.

Would you please stand!

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord commands that we teach His precious truths to all people, which of course includes these confirmands. Christian love therefore urges all of us, including congregation members, to assist in whatever manner possible so that they may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility through your prayers, offerings, and encouragement, then answer: "We will, and we ask God to help us."

"We will, and we ask God to help us."

#### **OUR 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 OF COMMUNION**

P: What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?

ALL: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ together with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P: What blessings do we receive through this eating and drinking?

ALL: That is shown us by these words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P: How can eating and drinking do such great things?

ALL: It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

P: Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?

ALL: Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

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,

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."

ALL: May the peace of the Lord's grace and mercy always be with us!

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

This morning, the five members of the Confirmation class will receive the Lord's Supper as a class, then for the remaining distribution, please follow the direction of the usher to file forward single file. If you're sitting together as a family unit or couple in the pew, come forward in that single file, but feel free to join together as that same family unit or couple to receive the bread and then the wine together.

Again, as is stated before on p. 2 of this folder, for Scriptural reasons, we humbly ask that confirmed members of the Wisconsin Synod come forward for the sacrament.

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**HYMN** #469, vss 1-3 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King. Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

#### THE CLOSING PRAYER Spoken together with the pastor.

I thank You my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **OUR LORD'S BLESSING**

#### THE CLOSING HYMN #469, vss 4-6 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart—it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

## Serving In the Lord's House Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch

Organist: Mrs. Alicia Moyer

Radio Broadcasters: Ron Kraemer

Video Tech: Darol Dusseau

Elder: Dave Nelson

Ushers: Gary Johnson & Don Lau

Power Point: Athena Bretschneider (Sat.)

Katy Nichols (Sun.)

#### **SERVING NEXT WEEK**

Elder: John Kouba

**Ushers:** Eric Nunnenkamp & Joe Myers

Power Point: Jett Leuthold (Sat.), Hallie Spreeman (Sun.)

## Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 66; Sun. 9:00 AM – 68; **Total = 134** Sunday Bible Class – 31; Wednesday Bible Class – 13

## **Announcements**

#### 1) TWO THINGS CONCERNING OUR CAMPAIGN...

- A) To help celebrate the kickoff of our campaign "Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future", we will be having a potluck on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> in the basement after the service. Please come and bring a brunch or dessert item to share while you hear about our campaign. We would appreciate anyone willing to help set up, serve, and clean up. There's a sign-up sheet at the Communication Center. You can contact Amy Anderson (402)992-3267 or Yajaira Myers (402)841-8922 with any questions.
- B) Thanks to all those who've already signed up, but there's still room for more volunteers to help with some food and refreshments for our Capital Campaign meetings. These meetings typically occur every two weeks with some other events scattered in between. Part of our responsibility as the Hospitality Team is to make sure that people feel welcome at these meetings and events and have some snacks or things to eat. This is where we need your help!

We created a sign-up genius page for you to sign up if you can help! There's a hard-copy sign-up sheet at the Communication center, or use the link below:

#### https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48a8ae2da2fec25-stpauls

There is some more information in the description of the sign-up form. If you have any questions, please contact us:

Amy Anderson (402)992-3267 or Yajaira Myers (402)841-8922.

Thank you!

- 2) Please keep in mind that next weekend, May 7/8, we'll be holding our **Pride in Our Past Faith In Our Future** kick-off service. A pot-luck meal will be served after the Sunday service to which all are invited and encouraged to attend.
- 3) Preschool enrollment numbers are already looking up for next school year! Mrs. Mullen is in need of a helper or teacher's aide in her classroom. Please speak to Mrs. Mullen or Mr. Markgraf if you are interested or if you know of someone else who might be!
- 4) The latest **Forward In Christ** synod newsletter is available at the Commuication Center.
- 5) **Arbor Day** is coming up on Friday, May 6th for our school kids! If you live near the school and would like some work done in the yard, please let Mr. Markgraf know! The kids are eager to help out!

## **Update from Ukraine: April 20, 2022**

Rev. Roger Neumann serves as the WELS liaison to Ukraine. He has been able to maintain regular contact with the leadership from the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) and is providing regular updates about how our brothers and sisters in the ULC are doing. WELS has decided to share Neumann's updates. Please keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers.

#### April 17:

Bishop Horpynchuk traveled back to Kiev to lead Palm Sunday worship service today. He assured me that he was safe and where they spent the night was in a safe location. Bishop said that the congregation was very happy to see him, and to be with one another. And they were happy to see each other alive. He also told me that the congregation expressed great thanks to the WELS and many others who are supporting them with their prayers and gifts.

Pastor Serhiy Somin traveled back to Mykolayiv to lead Easter worship with the German congregation he serves. Pastor Somin led the service today in the basement. I suspect they worshiped in the basement, being cautious because of the constant threat of bombings. After their service they had a good German pot luck meal.

#### April 18:

Today I asked Bishop to tell me about his trip back to Kiev to lead the Palm Sunday worship at his congregation, this past weekend. He said that the trip took twice as long to drive due to the many checkpoints, and detours that were necessary because of road and bridge damage. One bridge he had to use was damaged, but usable, though it was at a fairly steep angle. He made the comment, "I almost slipped into the river." Most of the major bridges in Kiev are damaged or completely destroyed. He did arrive safely in Kiev and has returned safely. God be praised. Depending upon the intensity of the bombing, he will determine later this week whether or not he will return for Easter worship next Sunday.

#### April 19:

From Bishop Horpynchuk this morning: "Today I participated in the Ukrainian Church Council with the UN General Secretary Deputy, Mr. Martin Griffith and UN representative in Ukraine, Mr. Esteban Sacco on the request of the UN General Secretary. They asked to support an idea about Easter truce in Ukraine. We certainly supported the idea. Whether Russians agree is a question."

#### April 20:

Please keep Pastor Serhiy Somin in your prayers. He went back to have Easter service with his congregation in Mykolayiv. Bombing has intensified there in the days since and some of his people have asked if he would drive them to a safer location in the west. He will be going back into a dangerous area, picking them up and driving them out, We pray that all goes well and that the Lord keeps them safe.

#### **FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:**

Sunday, 5/1 = Confirmation with Holy Communion, 9:00 AM

Redeption for Confirmands, 10:15 AM

Sunday School, 10:15 AM

Monday, 5/2 = Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, 5/3** = Boards Meetings, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, 5/4 = Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM

Bible Class (Schliewe), 10:00 AM

NOON School Dismissal

**Thursday, 5/5** = <u>Ladies Aid</u>, 1:30 PM

**Saturday, 5/7** = NELHS Track Meet

Worship Service, 6:30 PM

Organist: Mrs. Diane Herbolsheimer

**Sunday, 5/8** = Mother's Day!

Campaign Kick-Off Service, 9:00 AM Campaign Kick-Off Potluck, 10:15 AM

### Church Cleaning Teams:

May 1 & May 8 - Team 2 (Darol Dusseau, Mike & Linda Mullen, Sarah Nelson, Joel & Kathy Wiedeman)

> May 15 & May 22 - Team 3 (Loren & Marianne Bloomguist, Jim & Diane Herbolsheimer, John & Sarah Kouba)

#### St. Paul's Contact Information

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Jeanette Leuthold, Secretary School Office: (402) 371-1233

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