

Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, 2024

The 5th Sunday after Easter



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk,
Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

Times to Formally Gather around the Gospel:

Saturday:	6:30 PM	Worship Service
Sunday:	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Bible Class
Monday:	6:30 PM	Sisters-In-Faith
Wednesday:	10:00 AM	Bible Class
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Donnerstag Group

The Sunday service is broadcast live every week on KNEN, 94.7 FM, and livestreamed via our website – stpls.com. These Sunday service video recordings are also archived on Youtube. Sunday service is also broadcast weekly on Wednesday mornings (9:00 AM) on Sparklight Cable public access channel #12.

IT'S GREAT TO JOIN WITH YOU AS WE WORSHIP OUR LORD!

In our service we'll be doing three things: praising God for all His blessings through our words and songs, confessing our sins and being reminded of His forgiveness and grace, and then also using His Gospel to grow and be strengthened in faith.

We have a two-fold purpose here at St. Paul's, to strengthen faith of Christians who already belong to this congregation through Word and sacraments, and also to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us who may not know what Jesus has accomplished for all mankind - forgiveness of their sins through faith!

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY... Produce Fruit!

Through faith, we are connected to Christ as a branch is connected to a grape vine. The result of being connected to Jesus is that we will now bear fruit, a Christian's life of loving service.

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: Let us begin our worship in the name of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: We worship our Triune God because He has accomplished everything for our salvation!

P: O Lord, use my heart, my mind, and my mouth;

C: so that I may give You the praise and glory You deserve.

P: Be with us this evening/morning as we've gathered in Your holy name.

C: O Lord, come to us and bless us through Your Word.

P: Dear friends in Christ, may the Lord, and all His blessings, be with you!

C: Pastor, may He also be with you!

P: Through faith in Christ, we are all children of God through faith.

C: For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ. Galatians chapter three, verses twenty-six and twenty-seven.

HYMN (Sunday) #299 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

BAPTISM AFFIRMATION (Sunday) *Please refer to the insert!*

Charles Victor Bretschneider

ADULT CHOIR "He Is Exalted"

P: Jesus teaches us in the Gospel of Matthew - "You are the salt of the earth;

C: You are the light of the world."

P: Again, Jesus says, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds

C: And praise your Father in heaven." Matthew chapter five, verses thirteen through sixteen.

P: The Apostle Peter writes - "In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

C: But do this with gentleness and respect." First Peter chapter 3, verse 15.

P: The Apostle Paul writes - "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,

C: Especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians chapter six, verse ten.

P: Again, Paul commands us - "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

C: Giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians chapter three, verse seventeen. Let us worship the Lord our God!

HYMN #236 "All Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

1 All praise to God who reigns a - bove, The
God of all cre - a - tion, The God of
won - ders, pow'r, and love, The God of
our sal - va - tion! With heal - ing balm my
soul he fills, The God who ev - 'ry sor - row
stills— To God all praise and glo - ry!

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: Let us now unburden our hearts troubled by sin, and go before God's throne of grace and confess our sins together.

ALL: Merciful Father, we confess that not only are we born with a sinful nature, but we have neglected to do what You command and have persisted in doing what is evil in Your sight. We know that the acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. We know that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us, and by the power of the Gospel Your Holy Spirit uses in our hearts, help us live godly and holy lives to the glory of Your name.

P: Dear friends, the peace of God's grace soothes our troubled hearts, for God has laid all of our sins on Jesus. John 14:1

He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We rest in the peace and comfort of His grace! Amen.

ADULT CHOIR "Come to Jesus"

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 3:11-24

God wants us to believe in Jesus and to love one another.

Through faith, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to do both!

¹¹ This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were

righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

ADULT CHOIR

“Whom Shall I Fear?”

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-12

John speaks of faith in Christ and the evidence of that faith which is shown through our actions done out of love for God and our neighbor. These acts of love are called “Fruits of Faith.”

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do

nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

WE RESPOND TO HEARING HIS WORD

#293 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

*While we're singing this verse, please have your child(ren)
come to the front of church!*

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Sunday)

Please use your good judgment as far as age of child goes. And if your child is more comfortable with Mom or Dad along...come on up!!

HYMN #497 "This Is My Will" HOTW

THE SERMON MEDITATION Acts 8:26-40

GOD'S GRACE AT GAZA

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to

Gaza.”²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: *“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

CONFESSION of OUR 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 and strengthens 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!

The Thank-Offering

Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us!

As members of St. Paul's, we now gather our thank-offerings which are used to fund the operations of this congregation, our Christian high school – Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, and the work of our Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We don't expect or ask our visitors and guests to give toward this offering since it is our pleasure just to have you with us! But if you would like to, please feel free! It is our joy and privilege as Christians to generously give to the work of our Lord!



Proverbs 3:9,10 ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

OFFERING HYMN #612 "Praise to God, Immortal Praise"



1 Praise to God, im - mor - tal praise, For the love that
4 As your pros-p'ring hand has blest, May we give you

crowns our days. Boun - teous Source of ev - 'ry joy,
of our best And by deeds of kind - ly love

Let your praise our tongues em - ploy. All to you, our
For your mer - cies grate - ful prove, Sing - ing thus through

God, we owe, Source whence all our bless - ings flow.
all our days: "Praise to God, im - mor - tal praise."

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

P: Almighty God, You displayed the power of Your Word on the first day as You began the work of Creation. Use the same power of that same Word to work in my heart today as I've heard Your Word.

C: Continue to send Your Holy Spirit who strengthens me as I grow in faith through the powerful Gospel I receive in Word and sacrament.

P: Faithful Lord, I feel the pressure to conform to the attitudes and behavior of the sinful world around me. Give me the wisdom to recognize the difference between Your Truth and sinful error.

C: Strengthen my commitment to be Your faithful servant in all that I say and do as I let the light of my faith shine for all to see. Strengthen me to speak Your Truth in patience and love, and keep my faith strong as I live to glorify You.

P: Almighty God, I praise You for Your preservation of the world You created. Continue to open Your hand to supply me and my loved ones with the necessities of life. Protect us from all harm to body and soul.

C: Deliver and spare us from evil, and use the evils that do come for our good. Above, all, preserve us in the one true faith so that we remain faithful to You even to the point of death.

P: Heavenly Father, Your holy name is constantly being slandered by those who despise Your Word. Silence those who present lies as truths. Strengthen my connection to Your Word as I faithfully hear and learn it.

C: Use me as Your witness who faithfully shares the truth of Your Word to others. Lead all who proclaim Your Word to teach it correctly.

P: God of love, all across the globe there are Christian teachers who share wisdom and knowledge with students, who spend many hours preparing, instructing, and correcting.

C: Bless their work everywhere as they explain the countless wonders of Your creation. Cause students to benefit from this instruction and to marvel at all Your works of creation and salvation.

P: Dearest Savior, very often I think of the eternal home in heaven where so many Christian friends and family members are already at perfect rest with You!

ALL: Thank You for the perfect happiness they are enjoying, and cheer my spirit as I remember Your promises that I will see them again when You call me home! We ask for these things in Jesus' name who has also 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.*

Blessing

Closing Choir Anthem “What a Beautiful Name”

*Children heading to Sunday School are dismissed
as we sing our closing hymn.*

WELS Connection

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance:

Saturday – 132 // Sunday – 182 // **Total: 314**

Sunday Bible Class – N/A Wednesday Bible Class – 17
Sisters in Faith – 14 Donnerstag - NA

Serving In the Lord's House

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Karen Pufahl

Elder: Daniel Pufahl **Ushers:** Zach Kruse

Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

Video Tech: Chad Moyer

Power Point: Weinrichs - 4/27; Reece Kruse - 4/28

Serving Next Week May 4th & 5th

Worship Leader: Pastor Phil Hirsch **Organist:** Karen Pufahl

Elder: John Uecker **Ushers:** Gary Johnson/Don Lau

Radio Broadcasters: Ron Kraemer/Katy Nichols

Video Tech: Darol Duseau

Power Point: Jett Leuthold - 5/4; Cameron Brudigan - 5/5

St. Paul's General Fund – April 20th & 21st, 2024

Yearly Needed: \$479,536.00

YTD Need: \$394,818.44

YTD Offerings: \$ 350,813.13

YTD Need vs Offerings: \$-44,005.31

Last Week Received: \$7,196.00

Weekly Need: \$10,243.56

Difference: \$3,047.56-



Campaign Finance Update

Current Projected Cost: \$3.9 million
Total pledges & gifts as of 4/17: \$1,800,369
Amount to CEF Loan Down-Payment: \$781,278
Expenses to-date: \$110,XXX

ALL THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD!!

Some Announcements

- 1) A **Congregational/Voters' Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, right after church in the basement.
- 2) **New Meditation devotion booklets** are at the Communication Center.
- 3) **Sunday, June 2 is gonna be a fun day!** In coordination with our Event Planners, a group (15 or so) from St. Paul's, Ixonia, WI (who are celebrating their congregation's 175th anniversary) will be here to join us for worship and fellowship while also using that day as our next event...the 158th birthday of our congregation! To celebrate we're planning an outdoor service west of church in the grove area, along with a birthday cook-out and other activities. More details will be coming, but please put it on your calendars!!!
- 4) **Simply Giving automatic withdrawal for offerings:** There is a way for members to have regular offerings given to the church. This can be especially helpful during busy summer months when schedules get busy with events and travelling.

Sign-up forms are available at the Communication Center. Withdrawals can come from either a credit card or a bank account. There is a 3% fee for each transaction which is covered either by the giver or the church. On the form, the giver can pay a bit extra to cover this fee, otherwise it comes out of the donation to church.

- 5) **“Sticky Church” is the name of the book** that both the Monday evening group, Sister In Faith, and the Thursday evening group, Donnerstag, is reading through simultaneously. The goal is to strengthen and expand our church family’s connections with God’s Word and with one another. Please feel free to sit-in either one of these groups and participate. Both these groups meet at 6:30 PM at the comfy chairs in the narthex. Here’s a quote from the back cover of the book.

There are plenty of ways to get people to come to church. Keeping them there is another matter. Many of our churches seem more like Teflon than Velcro. So what will it take to make your church sticky?

- 6) **Camp Messiah dates** are set for July 28-31 (Sunday - Wednesday). This is our local WELS (held near Fremont, NE) summer Christian camp led by local pastors, teachers, and parents for students entering grades 5-college years. We will be in A/C cabins with meals provided in a cafeteria! More details will be coming in the future.

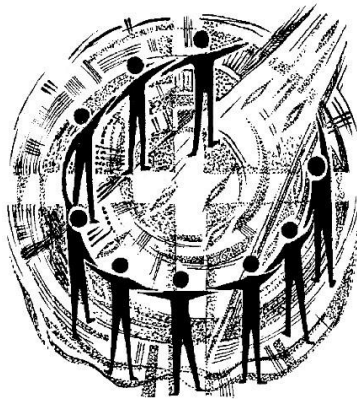
- 7) **Can you help mow this growing season??** Look for a sign-up sheet at the Communication Center.

8) From Bev Kortje

Bev Kortje is downsizing and is in need of your help! There are 2 tables in the church fellowship/basement on the west wall with a large collection of snowmen just waiting for your arms, sacks, suitcases, etc. for you to take for FREE!

Don't take just one, please help yourself to whatever you would like and have some FUN!

*Your Friend,
Bev K.*



Upcoming Events This Week:

- Sunday, 4/28** Worship Service w/ WELS Conn., 9:00 AM
Sunday School with Mrs. Nelson, 10:00 AM
Congregational/Voters' Meeting, 10:15 AM
Piano Recital [!!!!], 1:00 PM
- Monday, 4/29** Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, 5/1** Noon Dismissal Today
No Wednesday Bible Class until June 5
- Thursday, 5/2** Ladies in Faith, 1:30 PM
Donnerstag, 6:30 PM
- Saturday, 5/4** Worship Service w/ Holy Comm., 6:30 PM
- Sunday, 5/5** Worship Service w/ Holy Comm., 9:00 AM
Bible Study with goodies, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams

Weeks of April 28th & May 5th Team #6 Kelly Kenny,
Ron Johnson, Kelly Meysenburg, Dan & Karen Pufahl, Barb
Reeves, Veryle Winter

Weeks of May 11th & 18th Team #1 Pam Handke, Chad & Alicia
Moyer, Kathy Janovec, Bill & Sue Ulrich

St. Paul's Contact Information

Pastor Paul Hirsch
pahirschki@gmail.com
402-649-9268

Principal Aaron Markgraf
amarkgraf@stpls.com
920-248-2223

Kathy Wiedeman, Secretary
office@stpls.com
School Office 402-371-1233

Website: www.stpls.com
WELS: www.wels.net