

Sunday, March 26, 2023
The 5th Sunday in Lent



I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU LIVE
AND BREATHE AGAIN.

E Z E K I E L 3 7 : 5



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 Cl
Monday:	6:30 PM Sisters-In-Faith...women's group, at church narthex
Wednesday:	10:00 AM Bible Class (in church basement)
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.

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!

PRIVATE PRAYER: Father, You know the multitude of sins I have committed in my life and even this past week. Help me hate my sin more and grow in grace as I contemplate what Christ has done to forgive me and free me from sin's death grip. Open the eyes of my heart to see the glorious hope we have in Christ, Your love for all of the saints, and Your power at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-21). Cause my heart to burn within me as we worship You in word and song, and as we grow in and apply the Gospel.

Through Faith We're Raised from Death to Life

Just one week before Holy Week begins, we hear about our progression from death to life. Through faith in Jesus, we are raised from our spiritual death to a new life in Christ, and we are nurtured in this new life through the Word and Sacraments.

The Order of Worship: Based on CW p. 38, "Service of the Word"

This morning Ella Marie Ehrisman will have her baptism affirmed. Ella is the daughter of Alec Ehrisman & Emily Lindell and was born January 14 and baptized on January 15 at Faith Regional. Alec & Emily are interested in joining our congregation and will start a Bible Information Class before too long. God bless and keep you!

Opening Dialogue

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.

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when He said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism He clothes us with the robe of His righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

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.

#294, vss 1&2 "Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

1 Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O
 2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a
 be - hence - forth your child and heir. My faith - ful

place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your saints, your
 Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of all your

cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
 sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort

sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
 me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

P: Alec and Emily, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and trusting in His promise, you have already had Ella baptized. It is in baptism that God gives a new life of forgiveness, joy and peace, even to babies! By the power and promise of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Ella Marie, receive the sign of the cross on the head and the heart, to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

Ella Marie Ehrisman, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - has forgiven all your sins! By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your heavenly Father. May God give you strength to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. May the peace of forgiveness be with you!

Members of St. Paul's: Our Lord commands that His precious truths be taught to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, parents, family, and fellow Christians, to assist in whatever manner possible, so that Ella may remain a child of God until she dies. If we all are willing to work together to carry out this responsibility, than answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

P: Let us pray: Merciful Father, we thank You for the blessing of baptism by which You offer and give the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help each of us to regard our own baptisms as the robes of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our lives. Look with special grace and favor on Ella Ehrisman, and give her a rich measure of Your Spirit so that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make each of us willing to carry out our responsibilities to all who have been baptized, by leading and encouraging each other with Your Word, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of eternal life in heaven - through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn #294, vss 3&4 "Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

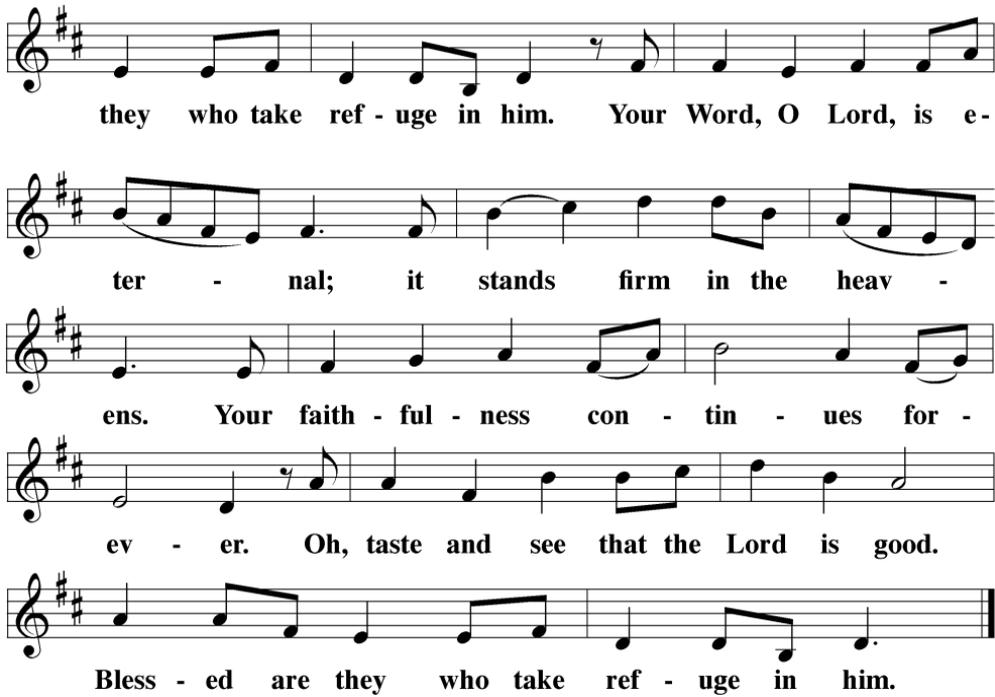
My faithful God, you fail me never; Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled; Forgive, lift up, restore your child.

All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but yours alone.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
 ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, Jesus obeyed Your commands perfectly and endured the cross for our salvation, that through His suffering and death we inherit eternal life. During these busy days of our lives, please remind us of our Savior; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Fifth Sunday In Lent



suf - fer, Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly,
 Your - self to scorn did of - fer. All sins you carr - ied
 for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus!

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!!

The Second Scripture Lesson John 11:17-27, 38-46

Just before His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus raises His close friend Lazarus to life. To the alarm of the Pharisees, the people see the miracle and put their hope in Jesus.

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

Hymn #386 “Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation”

The Sermon Meditation Ezekiel 37:1-14

THE PERFECT ORTHOPEDIC CARE

¹ The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

Confession of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The 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!



***Malachi 3:10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

Thank-Offering Prayer & Hymn

God of all grace, we can never fully repay You for all Your blessings given to us. As we give You our financial gifts, help us to faithfully use all the gifts You have given us. You have given each of us different gifts to serve You and Your church. May we faithfully serve You with this thank-offering, and through our selfless service. Amen.

Our thank-offerings are brought to the Lord as we sing!

#480, vss 1&5 “Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth”

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Almighty Father, heav'n and earth
With lavish wealth before you bow;
Those treasures owe to you their birth,
So richly furnished for us now. | 5 O Father, whence all blessings come,
O Son, Dispenser of God's store,
O Spirit, bear our off'rings home—
Lord, make them yours forevermore! |
|---|--|

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.

Benediction

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Closing Hymn #203 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

WELS Connection

Holy Week (April 2-9) Worship Times...

Palm Sunday: Saturday (6:30 PM) / Sunday (9:00 AM), April 1/2
Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 6 (6:30 PM), w/ Communion
Good Friday: Friday, April 7 (6:30 PM)
Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 9 Sunrise Service (6:30 AM),
 Breakfast (7:30-8:45 AM ish)
 2nd Service (9:00 AM)

*There is **NO** Saturday evening worship Saturday evening, April 8, Easter eve.*

Serving In the Lord's House Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch
Organist: Karen Pufahl
Radio Broadcasters: Glynn Grebe & Walt Tinius
Video Tech: Chad Moyer
Elder: Curt Dinkel
Ushers: Leon Sweigard & Zach Kruse
Power Point: Weinrichs (Sat. 3/25) – K. Moyer (Sun. 3/26)

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Elder: Dave Nelson - Wed. March 29 & Sunday, April 1/2
Ushers: Gary Johnson & Don Lau
Video Tech: Darol Dusseau
Power Point: Caleb Brown – Wed., 3/29
 Sat. 4/1 – Jett Leuthold; Sun. 4/2 – Hazel Spreeman
Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

St Paul's General Fund, March 18 & 19, 2023

Yearly Need	YTD Need	YTD Offerings	YTD Need vs Offerings	Last Week Received	Weekly Need	Difference
\$422,052.00	\$298,077.71	\$277,082.80	-\$20,994.91	\$6,242.51	\$7,448.91	-\$1,206.40



Campaign Update

Total pledges = \$1,711,093
Total given = \$821,193

Gathering Around the Gospel

Saturday, 3/18 = 65 Sunday, 3/19 = 153 **Weekend Total = 218**
Wednesday Lenten Service, 3/23 = 124

Sun. School = 20 Women's Bible Study=12 Wed. Bible Class = 13 Donnerstag = 11

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 last **Mid-Week Lent Service** is this week, March 29 – Pastor Rixe (Hoskins).
- 2) The **NELHS Easter Concert** will be today, 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) The April edition of the **FORWARD magazine** is available at the Communication Center.
- 10) The **Fellowship Group** will be meeting this evening (Sunday) at 6:00 PM in the church basement.

New Academia Cristo Church Plant in Bolivia



In February, representatives from WELS and partners throughout Latin America gathered in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to welcome a new church plant into fellowship. The new church in Cochabamba is the first one planted through *Academia Cristo* outreach efforts, a milestone for mission work in Latin America.

“The goal of *Academia Cristo* has always been the planting of new churches, not just offering free online Bible studies,” says Rev. Matthew Behmer, Latin America

missionary. “It was a blessing to celebrate the gospel changing hearts of those in Cochabamba, and we’re excited to see who else might learn about grace and what Jesus has done for them through other future church plants in Latin America.”

This new church is led by Dr. Eduardo Milanesi, a surgeon and *Academia Cristo* student who began studying in the program in April 2020. In less than a year he finished the first part of the program, confessed doctrinal agreement, and started gathering a group in his medical office to study God’s Word using study and worship resources provided by *Academia Cristo*. This “*grupos sembrador*,” or church plant group, was also guided by a Latin America missionary. [You can read more about the path of Academia Cristo in this article](#) from the January 2022 edition of *Forward in Christ* magazine.

The church in Cochabamba declared fellowship with *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional*, a new synod that was formed in 2021 through the partnership of WELS sister churches across five countries throughout Latin America. This new synod allows these churches to do mission work together, train pastors together, and support each other with prayers and fellowship. It also provides a place to go for new churches formed out of *Academia Cristo* training efforts, just like the one in Cochabamba. WELS will be affirming fellowship with *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* at the synod convention this summer.

Currently 51 other church planters and 21 church planter groups are on the same path Eduardo and his church took to fellowship. “This seed-sowing path took years to bear its first fruit, and today we see it happen!” says Rev. Larry Schlomer, WELS World Missions administrator. “God has answered our prayers: More member churches are on the way. Church planting groups gathering in hotels, garages, living rooms, and patios are all following this same path. Each of these sites is a lightning rod for the power of Jesus’ gospel as it is preached to many more. God’s Spirit is at work.”

Learn more about *Academia Cristo* at wels.net/latinamerica.

Some Functions This Week

Sunday, 3/26

Worship Service w/ Communion, 9:00 AM
Fellowship & Coffee, 10:15 AM
EPIC Open Gym, 3:00-5:00 PM

Monday, 3/27

Sisters In Faith Group, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, 3/29

Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class, 10:00 AM
Public School Confirmation Class, 2:15 PM
Mid-Week Lent Meal, 5:00-6:15 PM (EPIC Youth Group)
Mid-Week Lent Service, 6:30 PM
Adult Choir, after service

Thursday, 3/30

Donnerstag Group, 6:30 PM

Saturday, 4/1

Holy Week Experience, 10:00-12:00 Noon
Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Communion, 6:30 PM

Sunday, 4/2

Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Communion, 9:00 AM
Goodies & Bible Class, 10:15 AM
EPIC Bible Study 3:00-4:00 PM

Church Cleaning Teams

April 2 & 9 -

Team 2: D Dusseau, M&L Mullen, J&K Wiedeman

April 16 & 23 -

Team 3: L&M Bloomquist, J&D Herbolsheimer, J&S Kouba

St. Paul's Contact Information

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

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

Kathy Wiedeman, Secretary
Church & School Office:
(402) 371-1233
office@stpls.com

St. Paul's Website: www.stpls.com

WELS Website: www.wels.net