

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Confirmation Sunday



**St. Paul's
Lutheran
Church**

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

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

*The word “confirmation” means “strengthening.” Confirmation classes comprise a two-year period of instruction in the Christian faith for our seventh and eighth grade students. Jesus commanded his Church to “**teach them to obey everything I have commanded you**” (Matthew 28:20). The purpose of confirmation class is to strengthen the students’ faith through instruction in the Word of God, and to prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

INVOCATION

P(astor): In the name of God the Father, who raised his Son from the dead.

C(ongregation): Alleluia! We praise His holy name!

P: In the name of God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose triumphant from the grave and has conquered sin and death for us.

C: Alleluia! We praise His holy name!

P: In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to believe and to share in Christ’s victory.

C: Alleluia! We praise His holy name!

OPENING HYMN #221 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

CONFESSION OF SINS

P(astor): As we come into the house of God to hear His Word, to be strengthened in our faith and to receive His help to live a Godly life, we come admitting our unworthiness and wickedness and asking for the Lord’s pardon. Before we begin our worship, let us approach the throne of God, seeking His forgiveness and love.

C(ongregation): Merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words and actions, by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved others as much as I love myself. I am sorry and I humbly repent of my many sins. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus

Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me, that I may joyfully live and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Because of Jesus' life and death for us, we have forgiveness in His name. The almighty and merciful Lord gives us pardon and forgiveness for all of our sins! Following repentance, let us now live our lives according to His will and commands.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for His sake, forgive all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us the true knowledge of You and of Your will, so that we may one day reach everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Thank the Lord for His grace and mercy! Let us praise the Lord by the words we speak, the songs we sing and the Christian lives we live! For our God is great in all that He says and does!

HYMN #375, vss 1-3 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
 3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But

good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.

The Security of Being Sheep

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

HYMN #375, vss 4-6 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,
A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight;
My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever!

WE CONFESS 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 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!

OUR THANK-OFFERING

The members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. We give our offerings to show our love and thanks to our God for doing so much for us, as well as to support our ministries here so that others can hear the Gospel and share in our salvation. We don't ask or expect our guests to join in this effort, but if you would like to, feel free to contribute as a plate is passed or by using the QR code.



THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

P: Dear friends, our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew chapter 28 shortly before He ascended into heaven - "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The Apostle Paul also refers to the instruction of Christians before receiving Jesus' Holy Supper in I Corinthians 11- "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks

without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

Since these young Christians, have completed a basic study of the doctrines contained in holy Scripture, and have a proper understanding of the miracle of the sacrament of Holy Communion, I now invite this congregation of believers to hear and witness the confessions and promises about to be made.

Confirmands Stand

Micah Brown, Ellaina Finch, Henry Goeden, Skyler Hollum, Kayli Kuhl, Tristan Onate, and Atley Paul...do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your baptism?

Confirmand(s) - “I do.”

P: Do you reject the devil, and all his evil works and all his evil ways?

C: “I do.”

P: Do you believe in the triune God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

C: “I do.”

P: Do you intend to remain persistent in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? if so, answer...I do so intend with the help of God.

C: “I do so intend with the help of God.”

P: Do you believe and hold all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which contain the Law and the Gospel, to be the inerrant and inspired Word of God which teaches the only way to heaven?

C: “I do.”

P: Do you now intend to faithfully pattern all your life to follow God’s holy Word? Do you promise to be faithful in the use of His Word and sacraments, which are His Means of Grace, and do you intend and promise to remain faithful to God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - even to death? If so, answer - “I do so intend with the help of God.”

C: “I do so intend with the help of God.”

P: Upon this/these your confession(s) and promise(s), I invite and welcome you as (a) member(s) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and as a communicant of this congregation – St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. Please share in all the blessings and all the responsibilities of our Lord’s church, and constantly live your life in the worship and praise and fear of the Lord!

Give then you hand as a sign of your promise, and receive the Lord’s blessing. May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of a holy life and the fear of God.

BLESSINGS AND CERTIFICATES

PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, as a family of believers, we thank You for Your great mercy and goodness in bringing these young Christians to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless them with both the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess Jesus’ saving name. Grant that they may faithfully and victoriously continue in their faith until the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PARENTS OF CONFIRMANDS

P: Having heard this public profession of faith by these your children, do you promise to continue, with the help of God, to encourage them to faithfully conform all their lives to the teachings of God’s Word? Do you intend to encourage them to faithfully study the Word and receive the Sacrament, to be in worship and Bible study regularly and often (as is our Lord’s command and desire), and in faith and action to remain forever true to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help us.

ST. PAUL'S CONGREGATION

P: Having heard this profession of faith by our confirmands, do you receive them as fellow communicant members of this church? Likewise, will you carry out your Christian responsibility of caring for the souls of these young members of our fellowship? Will you, in Christian love, continue to assist them in whatever manner possible so that they may remain children of God until death?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM

“Grace”

COMMUNION

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 therefore humbly ask that our guests who are not confirmed members of St. Paul’s, or of the Wisconsin Synod, to wait on receiving the sacrament until speaking with Pastor Hirsch. 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.

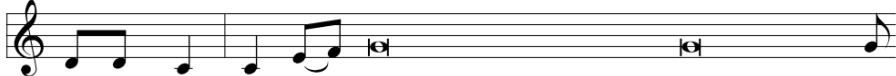
+ Jesus Institutes His Holy Supper.

+ This Holy Supper is distributed. The seven confirmands will commune first as a class, then please follow the direction of the usher.

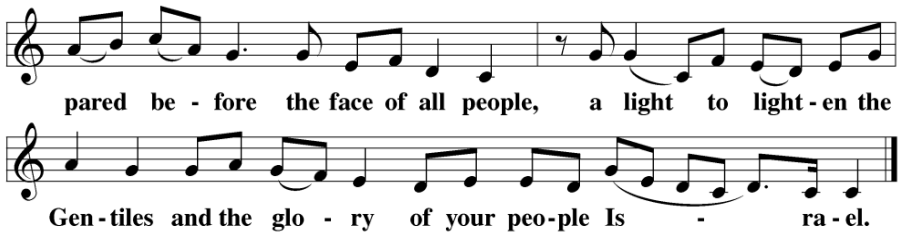
DEPART IN PEACE CW p. 24



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE CLOSING PRAYER *(Spoken together with the pastor.)*

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

OUR LORD’S BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN CWS #771 *Found on p. 12 of this folder.*

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”





Micah Charles Brown

Ephesians 6:13

Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ellaina Louise Finch

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



Henry Allen Goeden

Proverbs 3:5,6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



Skyler Nicole Hollum

Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Kayli Lynn Kuhl

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.



Tristan Lee Onate

John 8:31b,32

^{31b} Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Atley Rose Paul

Joshua 1:9

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



“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”



1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God;
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ;



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world;
 Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness, shine on my path
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all; The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Serving In the Lord's House

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Shannon Spreeman
Elder: Gary Tiedgen **Ushers:** Curt Dinkel
Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman
Video Tech: Chad Moyer
Power Point: Abi Bretschneider - 4/20; Hallie Spreeman - 4/21

Serving Next Week April 27/28

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

Worshipping the Lord

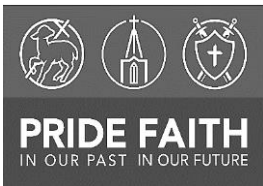
Last Week's Attendance:

Saturday 57 Sunday 148 **Total: 205**

Sunday Bible Class – NA Wednesday Bible Class – 11
Sisters in Faith – 11 Donnerstag – 11

St. Paul's General Fund – April 13th & 14th, 2024

Yearly Needed: \$479,536.00	YTD Need: \$383,111.50
YTD Offerings: \$ 343,617.13	YTD Need vs Offerings: \$-39,494.37
Last Week Received: \$9468.00	Weekly Need: \$11,706.94
Difference: \$-2,238.94	



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

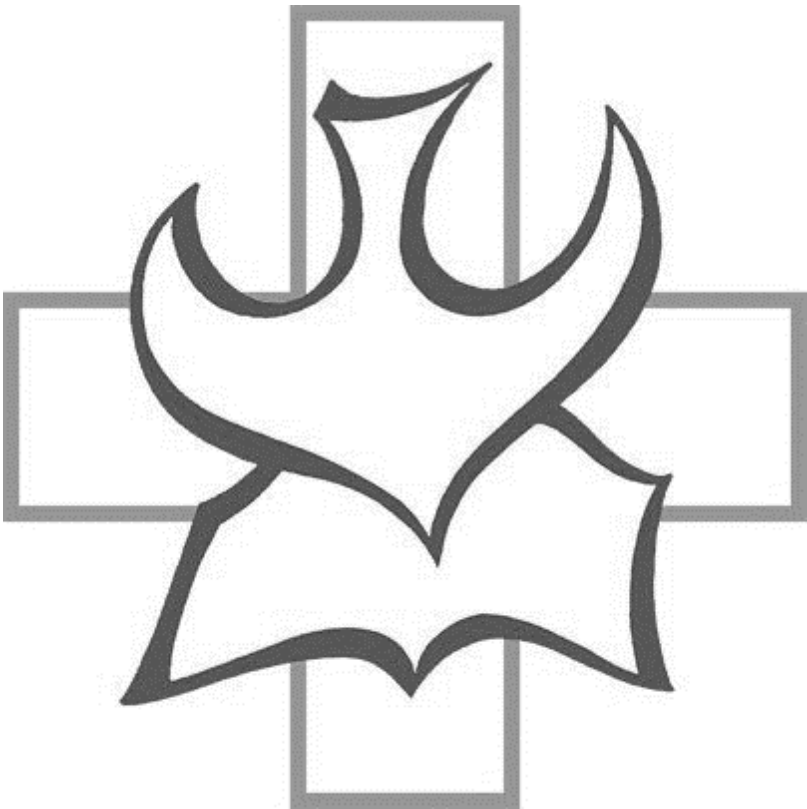
ALL THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD!!

Some Announcements

- 1) A **Congregational/Voters' Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, right after church in the basement.
- 2) **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!!!
- 3) **New Meditation devotion booklets** are at the Communication Center.
- 4) **"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?
- 5) **It's been 45 years that the Gospel has been broadcast over NE Nebraska airwaves!** April 1971 was the start-up of that blessing to so many people, and so many of those so many that we'll never know. FYI...it costs \$200 for each broadcast, with the goal being that the cost is covered by private donations and memorials.
- 5) **Can you help mow this growing season??** Look for a sign-up sheet at the Communication Center.

- 6) The next **Red Cross blood drive** will be here at church from Noon-6:00 PM, TOMORROW!, Monday, April 22.
- 7) Saturday, April 27 is the **Husker football Red and White game** starting at 11:00 am.

St. Paul's Fellowship Group is having a viewing starting at 10:30 am. We will be in the church fellowship area so come and join us. We will have a few snacks to share and if you want you can share a treat of your choice.



Upcoming Events This Week:

- Sunday, 4/21** Confirmation Service, 9:00 AM
Adult Choir Sings, 9:00 AM
Fellowship w/ Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 AM
- Monday, 4/22** Blood Drive @ Church, Noon-6:00 PM
Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, 4/24** Bible Class Lindke, 10:00 AM
Adult Choir, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, 4/25** **NO Donnerstag tonight**
- Saturday, 4/27** EPIC Games in the Gym, 3-5:00 PM
Worship Service w/ WELS Conn., 6:30 PM
- Sunday, 4/28** Worship Service w/ WELS Conn., 9:00 AM
Sunday School, 10:00 AM
Bible Class w/ Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams

Week of April 21st Team #5: Gary & Sue Bretschneider, Joan Ellenberger, Rick & Diane Ellenberger, Shannon Spreeman

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

St. Paul's Contact Information

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