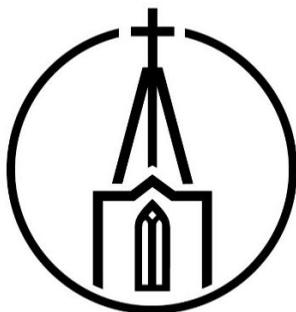

*The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Saturday, October 29, 2022*



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave.
Norfolk, Nebraska

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

+ 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: May that same grace and love of our triune God also be with you!

P: Every time we come into God's presence to worship him, we marvel at his love for us.

C: We marvel at his love because we were once dead in our sins—before we knew Jesus Christ.

P: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ—

C: God has brought us into a new life, a new relationship with God.

P: He did it by bringing us to faith in Jesus, a gift of God's grace beyond imagination.

C: So we live godly lives not to gain heaven, but because heaven is already ours through faith in Jesus.

ALL: So let us praise our God for his gift of life.

+ **A HYMN** + #419, vss 1,3,6,7

Played by Caleb Brown tonight!

- 1 If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from his love?
- 3 I build on this foundation: That Jesus and his blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.
Without him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.
- 6 No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, You are my Savior true;
No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever me from you.
- 7 My heart for joy is springing And can no more be sad,
'Tis full of joy and singing, Sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.

+ **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** +

P: We have truly been blessed in countless ways in our lives by our loving God. God has given us family and friends to help us in good and bad times throughout our lives.

C: Our lives overflow with material blessings as our heavenly Father gives us what we need to live, and the Holy Spirit strengthens us in our faith through his Word and Sacraments.

P: Yet we show every day that we are at the same time both saints of God, bought with Jesus' blood, and sinners, who deserve nothing from God for our daily sins but eternal death. Therefore, let us confess our sins to our almighty and all-loving Triune God using the words of Psalm 32, and plead for His mercy.

C: "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long."

P: "For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

C: "My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer."

P: "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity."

C: I have sinned against you, O Lord, in countless ways, and "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

P: The Lord has heard your confession coming from a repentant heart. Based on the perfect life and innocent death of His Son as your substitute, He has forgiven the guilt of your sins. Now leave your life of sin and praise the Lord in all you do.

C: "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."

P: "Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

C: "Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!"

P: Upon these your confessions, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

+ WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD +

The Old Testament Lesson: Ruth 1:1-22

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

¹¹ But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

DISCUSSION:

1) 1:1,2 Names of the main Jewish players in this story?

1:6 Names and connections of the two Gentile players in this story?

2) After all three women’s husbands died, What was the three widows’ original plan (1:6,7)? What was Naomi’s “Plan B” (1:8-10)?

3) Orpah goes back, but as we know, Ruth remains. Maybe it’s been just my lack of insight having the hindsight that we do, that Ruth eventually would get re-married, but did she know that?? Give extra ummph to 1:16,17?!?!

- 4) 1:20,21 What's the timeless application from these two verses? *Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
- 5) Significance of Ruth in God's plan of salvation (Matthew 1:1-17...vs 5!)?

We Respond to Hearing the OT Lesson (spoken together)

Dear Lord in heaven, we thank You for the truths You have given us through Your Old Testament prophets. May Your Holy Spirit use these truths to remind me of Your grace, strengthen my faith, and teach me to live my life according to Your holy will. Amen.

+ **A PSALM** + Psalm 46

P: ¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

C: ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

P: ³ though its waters roar and foam

C: and the mountains quake with their surging.

P: ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

P: ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

C: ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

ALL: ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P: ⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

C: ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

P: ¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

C: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

ALL: ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. 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.

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) 2:4,5 What's the point of Paul comparing Gospel ministry to a serving soldier? To a competing athlete?
- 2) 2:10 Who are "the elect"?
- 3) A / D All persecution of the church is harmful.

Acts 8:4 (*After Stephen was martyred.*) Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

We Respond to Hearing the Epistle Lesson (*spoken together*)

Dear Lord in heaven, we thank You for the truths You have given us through Your New Testament apostles. May Your Holy Spirit use these truths to remind me of Your grace, strengthen my faith, and teach me to live my life according to Your holy will. Amen.

+ **A HYMN** + #283, vss 1&2 “Speak O Savior; I Am Listening”

Played by Micah Brown tonight!

1 Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning,
As a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor
To your holy, precious Word,
That each day, my whole life through,
I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure
And my heart's most precious treasure.

2 Oh, what blessing to be near you
And to listen to your voice!
Let me ever love and fear you;
Let your Word still be my choice.
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at your Word,
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give peace and words of pardon.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

DISCUSSION:

- 1) What are some life-lessons in both difficult and prosperous times can we learn from both the 9 lepers who didn't return, and from the one who did?
- 2) Significance in 17:16 that the one healed leper who returned was a Samaritan?

We Respond to Hearing the Gospel Lesson (spoken together)

Dear Jesus, we thank You for the truths You have given us through Your life and ministry lessons of the New Testament Gospels. We ask that the Holy Spirit use these truths to remind us of Your grace, to strengthen our faith in You, and to teach us to live our lives according to Your holy will. Keep us faithful to You and Your Word. Amen.

+ **A HYMN** + #283, vss 3&4 “Speak O Savior; I Am Listening”

3 Lord, your words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;
On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light
Through death’s cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing.

4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e’er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

+ **LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER** +

I thank You my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

+ **THE BLESSING** +



+ **CLOSING HYMN** + #103 “Glory Be to Jesus”

Played by Carter Sperry tonight!

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies,
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Lifts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Serving In the Lord's House Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch

Organist: Mrs. Karen Pufahl

Radio Broadcasters: Ron Kraemer & Walt Tinius

Video Tech: Lisa Lindemann

Elder: John Uecker

Ushers:

Power Point: Athena Bretschneider (Sat.)

Katy Nichols (Sun.)

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Elder: Gary Bretschneider

Ushers: Gary Johnson & Don Lau

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

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 56; Sun. 9:00 AM – 135; **Total = 191**
Sunday Bible Class – NA (Congregational Meeting)
Wednesday Bible Class – NA

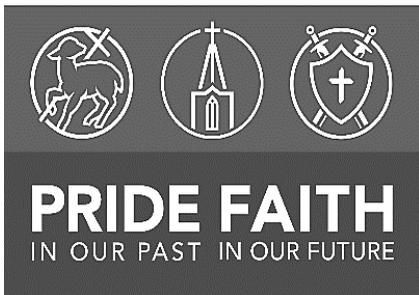
Announcements

- 1) Since Pastor Hirsch will be out of town on Tuesday, 11/1, the Elders will not be meeting on the normal "Boards' Meeting Night" which is scheduled for then. **JUST the Elders are postponing a week, to Tuesday, 11/8, 6:00 PM.** The Trustees and Board of Ed are still scheduled for 11/1.
- 2) **Pastor Evan Chartrand**, connected with **Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI**, will be here next weekend (11/5&6) to preach and share information about our synod's worker training program. The WELS operates four schools, two high-schools, Luther preparatory School and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, MI; one college, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN; and one seminary, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI.
- 3) After MANY years of faithful service to our school and congregation, **Jeanette Leuthold** is stepping down from serving us as the church/school secretary. Her plan is to be done at the end of the this school year's first semester – December 22. Thanks Jeanette! Thanks for so many years of faithful service!

This means we need someone new to man the many jobs that are done out of that southwest corner office at the school. A list of duties/jobs has been created to give to anyone who might be interested in taking up that position. We'd like to have someone there in the office with Jeanette learning the ropes at least a couple of weeks before 12/22, to have a serious replacement learning that week of 12/4?!?! If interested or have questions, talk to Mr. Markgraf or Pastor Hirsch.

- 4) **ST. PAUL'S FOOD DRIVE** Starting this weekend, October 29/30, might we start gathering some non-perishables for the local food bank? You're more than welcome to drop off donations during the week or when coming to worship. The gathering spot will be by the north door of church.
- 5) **Ladies - please save the afternoon of Sunday December 11th on your calendar.** An area Advent by Candlelight will be held at 3:00 at the Courtyard of the Midtown Event Center. Start thinking of a friend or family member you can invite to join you for a time of reflecting on the real meaning of Christmas. Sign-up sheets for attending, table decorating, and dessert making will be coming in November.

- 6) The St. Paul's **Ladies Aid** will meet this Thursday, Nov. 3, at 1:30 PM. Roll Call will be answered with "Grandma's Thanksgiving Meal". School children will entertain, & they will set a council meeting date. Hostess & Entertainment will be Betty Pufahl. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.
- 7) **FELLOWSHIP GROUP** The next meeting time for this group has changed from Sunday, November 27 to a week earlier to Sunday, November 20.



Campaign Pledge Update

Total pledges as of 9/15 = \$1,476,076

Total "cash" given = \$560,931

The "**Moving Forward Committee**" is made up of Jim Herbolzheimer, Rick Meysenberg, John Uecker, Scott Uecker, Kristen Paul (who is continuing as our campaign assistant), Principal Aaron Markgraf and Pastor Paul Hirsch. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 2, 6:00 PM, reacting to the discussion/information that was shared at the Congregational Meeting held last Sunday.

FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 10/30 = Worship Service, 9:00 AM (NELHS Knights of the Round Table)
Brunch for KRT & NELHS Info Sharing, 10:15 AM *No Bible Class per se!*

Tuesday, 11/1 = Trustees, & Board of Christian Education Meetings, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, 11/2 = Worship Broadcast onl Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class (Schliewe), 10:00 AM
NOON School Dismissal

Thursday, 11/3 = Ladies Aid, 1:30 PM

Friday, 11/4 = NO School (Parent / Teacher Conference)

Saturday, 11/5 = Worship Service with Communion, 6:30 PM
Organist: Mrs. Shannon Spreeman

Sunday, 11/6 = **Daylight Saving Time Ends!**
Worship Service with Communion, 9:00 AM
Coffee / Synod Worker-Training Presentation, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams:

Oct. 30 & Nov. 6 – Team 3 (Loren & Marianne Bloomquist,
Jim & Diane Herbolsheimer, John & Sarah Kouba)

Nov. 13 & Nov. 20 – Team 4 (Pat Jamison, Leonard Janovec,
John & Jan Schlomer, Debbie Webb, JoAnn Winter)

St. Paul's Contact Information

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WELS Website: www.wels.net