

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ FEBRUARY 1, 2026



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

#520

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God”

page 139

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Micah 6: 1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**


please be seated
Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit
Hymn of the Day

“We are Called”

#720



“BLESSED *are the*
PEACEMAKERS,
for they will be called
CHILDREN OF GOD.” *Matthew 5:9*

Apostle's Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated
Offering



please stand in body or spirit
Offertory

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

#184

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you 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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

At the Altar

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Our first table for Holy Communion this morning will be for those who do not wish to climb the stairs. Please watch for direction from the ushers.
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Communion Hymns

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

#754

"Let Justice Flow like streams"

#717

"Rise Up, O Saints of God,"

#669

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

#551

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.



"GOD, IN FLESH, WITH US"



Welcome: Welcome to worship — each and every one of you, a chosen and beloved child of God. May we follow Jesus into the work of ministry.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Dennis & Claudia Moellman, Gene Beckman, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Mary Ann Oelrichs (grandmother of Nicholas Dieckman), Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eickhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eickhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).

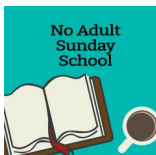


Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash and Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten & Arlene Schlesselman: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *EW Thompson*

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman..



Adult Sunday School: There will be no adult Sunday School today. Classes will resume next Sunday, **February 8**.

Worship and Music Committee: The Worship and Music Committee will meet on **February 11** at 3:30 pm in the Meeting Room.



Council Meeting: The Church Council will meet on **February 11** at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room.

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **February 5th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



THANK YOU



Thank You: Thank you to all who donated items from the Day Care Angel Tree! **You are indeed a blessing!!**

Souper Bowl: We're in full swing for our SOUPer Bowl Collection! We invite you to bring in non-perishable food items from now through February 8th, which will all be donated to the Cole Camp Food Pantry. All non-perishable food items are accepted (and there's a list hanging on the goalpost in the Gathering Space with ideas) but please know that the pantry receives A LOT of Mac & Cheese and Ramen Noodles, so focusing on other items is appreciated. And, don't forget, the church who collects the most items wins bragging rights for the next year and their name on the traveling trophy. Thank you for your support to help fight hunger in our community!

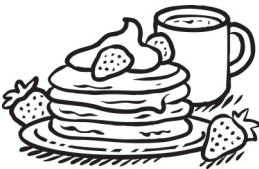


Esther Circle: The next Esther Circle will be held on **February 16** at 7:00 pm at Sharel Wienberg’s home.



Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **February 25** at 3:00pm.

Shrove Sunday Pancake Lunch: On Sunday, **February 15**, the Luther League is hosting a congregational Shrove Sunday pancake lunch to celebrate the last Sunday before Lent begins. It will be right after worship in the Fellowship Hall, and include pancakes, sausages, hash browns, and more. It's our own little Mardi Gras celebration and all are invited!



ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

- TreasurerErin Oelrichs
- Council..... Greg Bredehoeft
.....Lynn Schear
- Cemetery.....Cory Rice
- Synod Assembly.....Glen Webb
..... Rhonda Schlesselman
- Nominating Angela Alcorn
..... Bob Farrington
.....Allen Oelrichs
..... Lesa Warden

A special thank you to those who served our church in 2025! You may have been on the council, you may have been on a committee, you may have been a volunteer or you may have shared a prayer. But each and every one of you is very important to each and every one of us. Thank you!



SCHEDULE FOR LENT

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

Ash Wednesday.....	February 18
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	
1st week of Lent.....	February 25
2nd week of Lent.....	March 4
3rd week of Lent.....	March 11
4th week of Lent.....	March 18
5th week of Lent.....	March 25

All services will begin at 7:00pm.



Palm Sunday.....	March 29 at 10:00am.....	Procession of Palms
Maundy Thursday.....	April 2 at 7:00pm.....	Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday.....	April 3 at 7:00pm.....	Service of Darkness
Easter Saturday.....	April 4 at 5:30pm.....	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunrise.....	April 5 at 7:00am.....	Breakfast to follow
Easter Sunday.....	April 5 at 10:00am.....	Holy Communion



LENTEN BREAKFAST

There will be a Community Lenten Breakfast held at St. Paul's Church each Wednesday morning beginning on February 25 at 8:30am held in the Fellowship Hall. This is sponsored by the local Church Alliance and there will be a different host each week. We encourage everyone to attend!



LENTEN FELLOWSHIP

A soup supper will be served before each Midweek Lenten worship service. The supper will begin at 6:00pm. After worship cookies, coffee and hot cocoa will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Please check the schedule for a list of volunteers who will be helping to ensure our Lenten worship is a success.

AFTER LENTEN SERVICE

There will be the traditional fellowship time (cookies, coffee and hot chocolate) following each Lenten Service beginning on February 25th. To insure that there are enough cookies each week, each family is asked to provide cookies according to the following schedule (based on the first letter of your last name). Additionally, please note the organizations asked to serve for each of the five Lenten Services.

February 25.....	A-E.....	WELCA Executive Board Serving
March 4.....	F-H.....	Evangelism Committee Serving
March 11.....	I-P.....	Congregational Council Serving
March 18.....	R-T.....	Esther Circle Serving
March 25.....	V-Z.....	St. Paul's Youth Serving

LENTEN "SIMPLE SUPPER"

Lenten "simple supper", as in past years, will be served prior to each Lenten service beginning on Wednesday, February 25 through Wednesday, March 25. Serving will begin at 6:00 p.m. Two choices of soups/chili will be served each along with sandwiches or hot dogs for your "simple supper". You will find on the offering insert an **opportunity for helpers** to set up/serve each week, along with **volunteers** to prepare soups/chili. The power of **YES!**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, February 1:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar
Monday, February 2:	6:30pm	Yoga
Thursday, February 5:	8:00am	BCHD
Saturday, February 7:	5:30pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, February 8:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

February 8	SOUPer Bowl Challenge Ends
February 11	Council Meeting
February 11	Worship and Music Committee
February 15	Luther League Pancake Breakfast
February 16	Esther Circle
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 25	Sunbeam Committee

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers..... The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister..... Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist..... Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist..... Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians..... Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild..... Janice Gerken & Rhonda Schlesselman
Ushers..... Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
..... Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



Third Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 1, 2026

Assisting Minister..... Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants..... At the Altar
Reader..... Lesa Warden
Children's Sermon..... Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes..... Logan Jackson & Mason Randall
Flowers..... Lynn Schear



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 8, 2026

Assisting Minister..... Melinda Strathman
Communion Assistants..... Trisha Goosen & Stephanie Randall
Reader..... Hudson Kullman
Children's Sermon..... Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
Acolytes..... Evan Randall & Lena Smith
Flowers..... Joyce Wineinger