

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ FEBRUARY 8, 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.”

Office..... (660) 668 - 3537
Pastor’s Home..... (660) 668 - 0881
Email.....office@stpauls.me
Website.....www.stpauls.me
Facebook.....www.facebook.com/stpaulscolecamp
YouTube.....www.youtube.com/stpaulscolecamp



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

"Gather Us In"

#532

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”

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 112:1-10

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

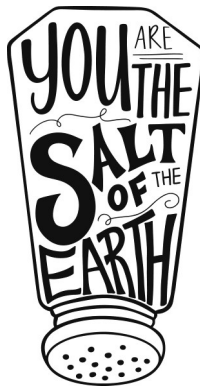
⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

“Lord of Light”

#688

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

by Stations

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.

Communion Hymns

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

#815

"This Little Light of Mine"

#677

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

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

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

#673

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

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





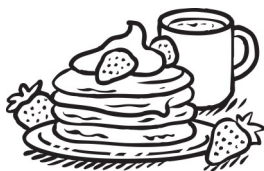
Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major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

Souper Bowl: We're at the end of our SOUPer Bowl Collection! **Today** was the last day to bring in food items to be donated to the Cole Camp Food Pantry. 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!



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

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



Shrove Sunday Pancake Dinner: On Sunday, **February 15**, the Luther League is hosting a congregational Shrove Sunday pancake dinner 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!

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

Esther Circle



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

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

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

Ash Wednesday: We begin the season of Lent with the remembrance of who we are: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that begins our 40 day season of Lent, where we will be invited into the discipline of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. Join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on **February 18th**, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. (There is no Simple Supper this evening.)



Midweek Worship Services: Beginning on **February 25th**, we will gather on the five Wednesdays of Lent for midweek worship, weekly at 7:00 pm. This is a casual worship service that is held in the Fellowship Hall. Grounded by songs, scripture, and prayer we will be invited more deeply into the Lenten season. We hope that you'll take some time during this special season to join us.



LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance will host a Lenten breakfast here at St. Paul's Church each Wednesday morning beginning at **8:30am**. ***Please note the time change for this year!*** Everyone is invited to attend each week. The following churches will host each week, offering food and a leader for devotions:

February 25th.....	Holy Cross and St. John's Lutheran
March 4th	First Baptist and Ionia United Methodist
March 11th.....	Mt. Hulda and Trinity Lutheran
March 18th.....	Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic and Grace Fellowship
March 25th.....	St. Paul's Lutheran and Brauersville Lutheran

If Cole Camp schools are closed due to weather, the breakfast will also be cancelled that day.



LENTEN "SIMPLE SUPPER"

Each Wednesday, beginning **February 25**, a dinner will be served in the fellowship hall before the Lenten Service. Serving will begin at **6:00 pm** and end at approximately **6:45 pm**, to allow the volunteers time for clean-up. Volunteers are needed to prepare food and assist with clean up. Please mark your offering card if you can help. Contact Janice for any questions. Come and enjoy a "Soup Supper" with your church family.



AFTER LENTEN SERVICE

There will be the traditional fellowship time (cookies, coffee and hot chocolate) following each Lenten Service beginning on **February 25th**. To ensure 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 after 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Saturday	March 28 at 5:30 pm	Procession of Palms
Palm Sunday	March 29 at 10:00 am	Procession of Palms
Maundy Thursday	April 2 at 7:00 pm	Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday	April 3 at 7:00 pm	Service of Darkness
Easter Saturday	April 4 at 5:30 pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunrise	April 5 at 7:00 am	Breakfast to follow
Easter Sunday	April 5 at 10:00 am	Holy Communion



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, February 8:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, February 9:	6:30 pm	Yoga
Wednesday, February 11:	3:30 pm	Worship and Music Committee
	6:00 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, February 12:	8:00 am	BCHD
Saturday, February 14:	5:30 pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, February 15:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Luther League Pancake Lunch



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

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

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers..... The Whole Congregation
Presiding MinisterPastor 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



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 8, 2026

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



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 15, 2026

Assisting Minister Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Luther League
Reader Susan Goosen
Children's Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes Jace Tinney & Kelsey Viebrock
Flowers Rhonda Schlesselman