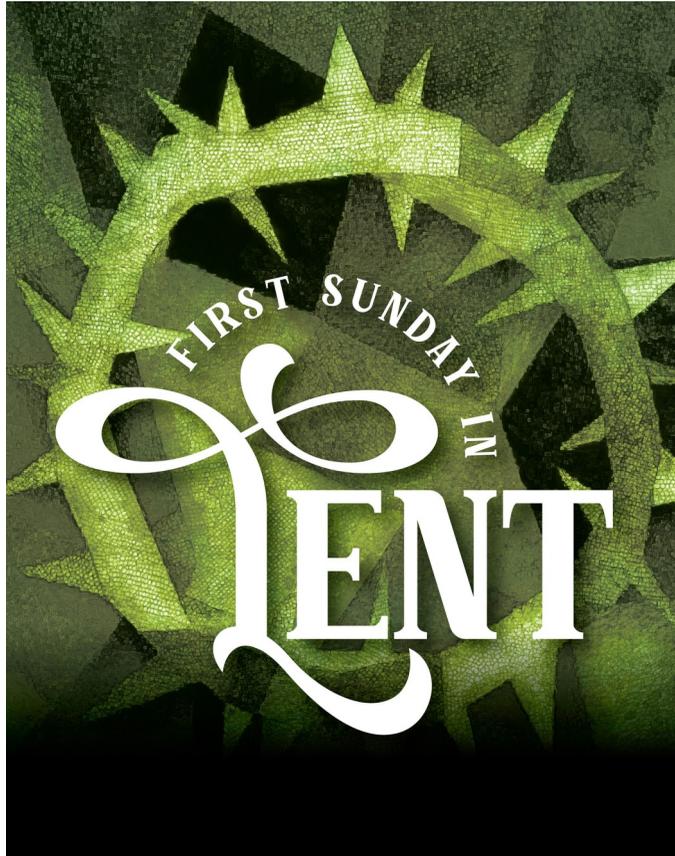


**1ST SUNDAY IN LENT ~ FEBRUARY 22, 2026**



**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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

#326

Greeting

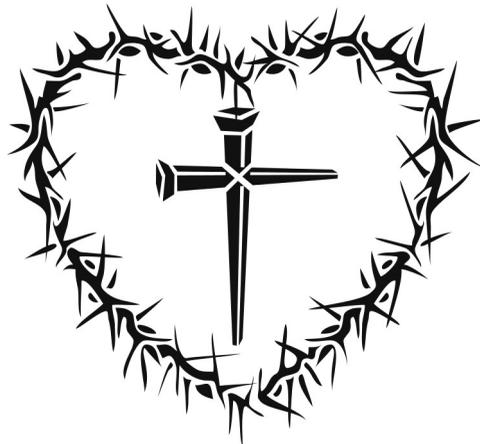
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Page 203

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



*please be seated*

## First Reading

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

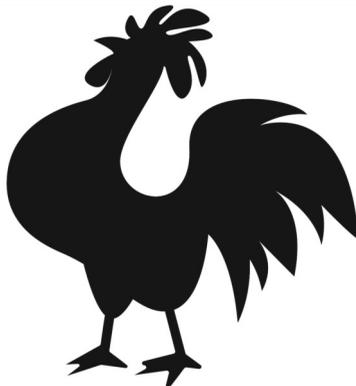
<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.



## Second Reading

Romans 5: 12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Children's Sermon

Jennifer Rehmer

*please stand in body or spirit*

Gospel Acclamation

"We are Turning"

Page 205



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel

Matthew 4: 1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

#320

## Service Of Holy Baptism

Cade Elliott Jackson

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors: Tiffinay Nash, Jake Jackson and Justin Jackson  
We present Cade Elliott Jackson for baptism.*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Cade baptized into Christ? *I do.*

As you bring Cade to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten  
Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Cade grow in the Christian faith and life? *I do.*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Cade in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *I do.*

People of God, do you promise to support Cade and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the powers of this world that defy God? *I renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Cade Elliott Jackson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.....We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Cade with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Cade Elliott, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. 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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

#188

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **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

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

#319

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

#618

*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.....God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal  
that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the  
journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's  
body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into  
existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose  
breath sustains creation, ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

#624

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**



# "DRAW NEAR TO GOD"



**Welcome:** Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! Today is the first Sunday of Lent, and we are happy to have you with us as we prepare our minds and spirits for the events of the Lenten season.

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

**In Our Prayers:** "Unspoken prayer concerns", Kevin Tatum, 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.



Roger Donnell, Heidi Hopp (grandmother of Nicole Rice), 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 Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), 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: *Windsor Nursing Home*. 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.

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



**Thank You:** A huge word of thanks for all of the donations that were contributed towards this year's Souper Bowl collection. Nearly 9,500 food items or dollars were collected to benefit the Cole Camp Food Pantry. This will help them greatly in their fight against hunger in our community. Congrats to Holy Cross for winning the trophy this year, but we can still be proud of the 1,961 items we contributed for a strong 3rd place finish. Thank you, St. Paul's!!

**Elevette:** At the annual meeting we heard an update about the elevette in the Sanctuary. It has aged beyond its useful life and needs to be replaced if we want to continue to use it. We've received a significant pledge towards the replacement cost (which also includes some construction work so that a new unit can fit) but would like to see if anyone else would be willing and able to pledge towards this project. Please speak with Pastor Stephen or Jake Jackson if you are interested. Thank you!



**Lenten Supper** "Simple Soup Supper" for Wednesday, **February 25th** at **6:00 p.m.** On the menu is chili, hot dogs/chili dogs, and chicken noodle soup!! See you there...

~ \* ~ Community Events ~ \* ~

**St. Paul's Lutheran School Spaghetti Dinner & Auction:** Join us for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction on **Friday, April 24 at 6:00 PM** (*note the new day and time this year!*) Enjoy a delicious meal, bid on a variety of auction items, and support St. Paul's Lutheran School. A portion of proceeds will benefit the school's Hot Lunch Program. The address is St. Paul's Lutheran School, 701 S. Massachusetts Ave, Sedalia, MO All are welcome for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and giving!



**Join Us For  
Breakfast**

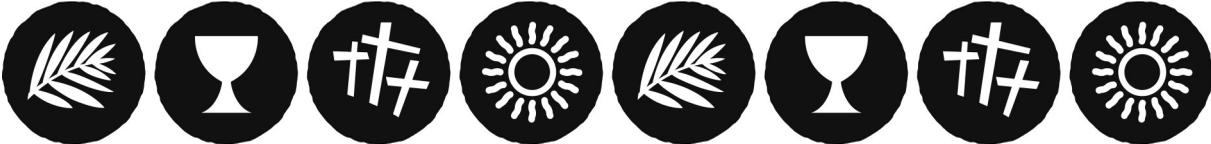
**Community Breakfast:** The Cole Camp Museum is sponsoring an ~ Old Time ~ Breakfast on **February 21st from 6:30 - 9:00 am**. There will be Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy, Head Cheese, Fried Potatoes, Scrambled Eggs, Corn Bread, Coffee, Milk and Orange Juice. The breakfast will be held at the Old Lion's Club Building, 206 E. Junge St, in Cole Camp. Free Will donations are appreciated.

# SCHEDULE FOR LENT

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

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



**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.

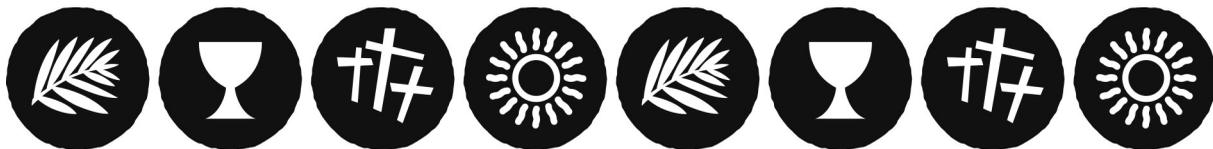
This year's Lent midweek worship services will explore Jesus' Seven Last Words. These are the collections of phrases Jesus spoke in his final hours on the cross before his death. While these words are filled with the pain of Jesus' suffering, they can also bring great hope to our ears today.

## 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 25 .....Holy Cross and St. John's Lutheran  
March 4.....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.*



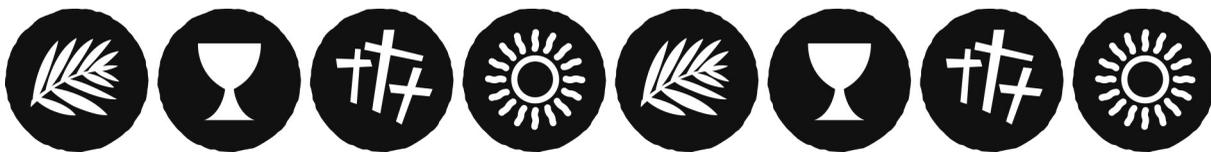
## LENTEN "SIMPLE SUPPER"

**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!**

## **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

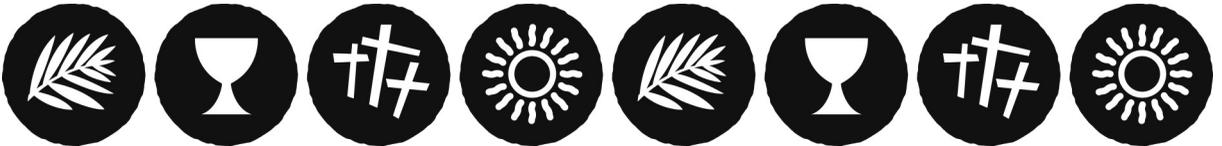


## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

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**

<b>Sunday, February 22:</b>	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
<b>Monday, February 23:</b>	6:30 pm	Yoga
<b>Wednesday, February 25:</b>	8:30 am	Lenten Breakfast
	3:00 pm	Sunbeam Committee
	6:00 pm	Simple Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
<b>Thursday, February 26:</b>	8:00 am	BCHD
<b>Saturday, February 28:</b>	5:30 pm	Casual Worship
<b>Sunday, March 1:</b>	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at Altar



~ \* ~ **Coming Events** ~ \* ~

February 25.....	Sunbeam Committee
February 25.....	Lenten Breakfasts and Services Begin
March 11.....	Council Meeting
March 18.....	Worship and Music Committee
March 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



**1st Sunday in Lent ~ February 22, 2026**

**Assisting Minister** ..... Anne Goosen  
**Communion Assistants**..... Jake and Sara Jackson  
**Reader** .....Luke Goosen  
**Children's Sermon**..... Jennifer Rehmer  
**Acolytes** .....Charlotte Zeller and Gannon Elliott  
**Flowers**.....Sara Jackson



**2nd Sunday in Lent ~ March 1, 2026**

**Assisting Minister** .....Darin Oelrichs  
**Communion Assistants**..... At The Altar  
**Reader** ..... Norma Schlesselman  
**Children's Sermon**..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Acolytes** .....Tristan Fox and Miranda Gerken  
**Flowers**.....Tammie Heimsoth