25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - NOVEMBER 15, 2026



The Parable of the Talents

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/Announcements

please rise 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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" #679

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 "This is the Feast" p. 149

Prayer of the Day

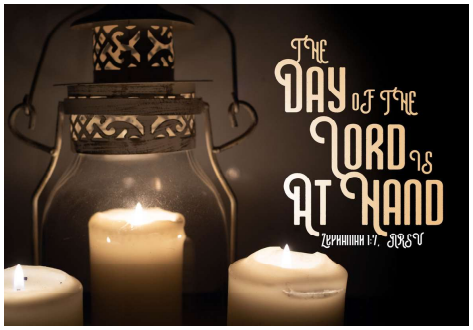
Let us pray…..**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

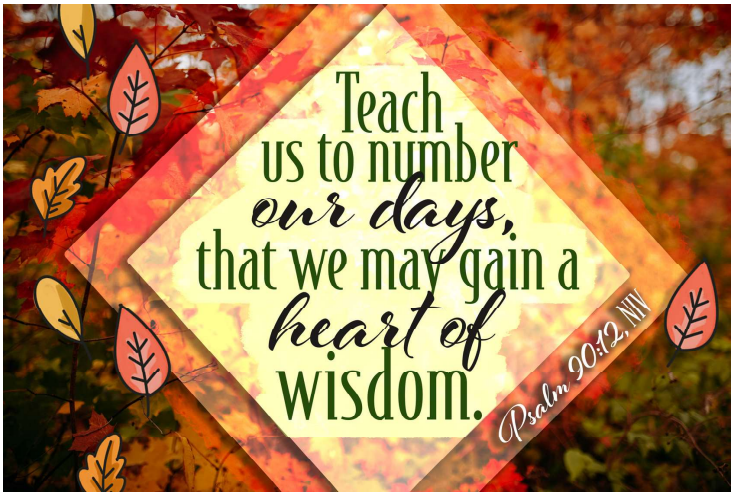
7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord
has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will
search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like
dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do good, nor
will he do harm.” 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid
waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them though they
plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of the
Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is
bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of
distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and
gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle
cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring
such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they
have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and
their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save
them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth
shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants
of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Responsive Reading Psalm 90: 1-12

[1] Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
[2] Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”
[4] For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
[5] you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6] in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8] Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10] The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
[11] Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
[12] So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.



Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

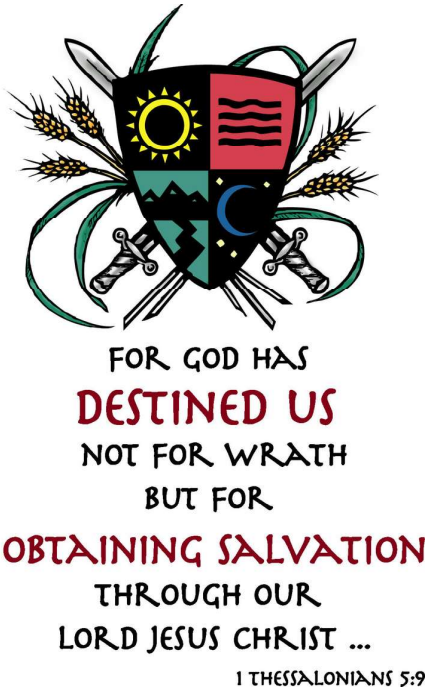
[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not
need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, “There
is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor
pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you,
brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a
thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the
night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who
are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober
and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are
awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann

please rise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” p. 151



Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave
five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.
Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents
went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same
way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one
who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came
and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His
master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have
made two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then the one
who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew
that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering
where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in
the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied, ‘You
wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was
my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they
will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they
have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the
outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

please be seated

Sermon — Pastor Stephen Zeller

please rise in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day — “Lord of Light” — #688

Apostles’ 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

Give Online

please rise in body or spirit

Offertory "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" #184

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray… Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hears. **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

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #674
"Christ, Be Our Light" #715

please rise 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….Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen**.

Sending Hymn "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand" #441

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.



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“THE GIFT OF GOD’S KINGDOM”

Welcome: We are glad you are here to worship with us on this Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. As we near the end of the church year, God’s Word reminds us that while everything in this world is temporary, Christ’s promises are eternal and our hope is secure in Him. We are grateful you have gathered with us around Word and Sacrament.

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

In Our Prayers: “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Vickie Fox, Todd Rusk, Suzanne Lutjen, Mary Haluptzok, Kevin Tatum, Nathan Vanderlinden, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman and Kyle Luetjen.



Donna Newell (friend of Connie Gerken), Karen Knox (mother of Alexis Smith), Carla George, Richard Lee, Colin Kabler (brother of Alexis Smith), Tom Ferguson, Tanner Huffman, Dan Sabala, Pam Bruns (Cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel), Pat Higgins, Kathy Harms, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, 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, 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: Anew. Shirley Cash, Judie VonHolten, Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten, Arlene Schlesselman & Larry & Judy Schlesselman: GSCC. Earl Bauer: Windsor Nursing Home.

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), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.



One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group meets every **Monday** at 9:00 am in the Luther League Room. All are welcome to join!

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **November 19th**, from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



Yoga: Dr. Stephanie Shirding is offering a free Community Yoga Class! This class is held from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall every **Monday**. Search for "Monday Meditations" on Facebook for more information about the class.

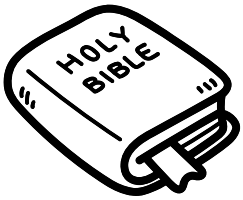
Little Blessings Fundraiser: Little Blessings Daycare and Preschool will host a Fundraiser dinner **Today** from 11:30 to 1:00. Little Blessings is in need of a washer and dryer. Please join us for a dinner of meatloaf, potatoes, veggies and dessert. Free Will offering.



Out of Office: Pastor Stephen will be out of the office from **November 22-27**. Pastor Sandy will be leading worship on **November 22nd**.



First Communion: With such a large first communion class this year, we continue this morning with a few more of our youth receiving their First Communion in worship. Those receiving their first communion this year are: Finnley Decker, Gracynn Elliott, Noah Gerken, Tucker Nash, Cooper Rice, Ruby Sangster, Brayden Schlesselman, Clayton Schlesselman, Kyler Tinney, Macoy Tinney, and Isaac Zeller. Congratulations!



First Bibles: St. Paul's has a long-standing tradition of giving a Bible to our children who are in the second grade. This is a way that we can support parents in fulfilling the baptismal promise to "place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures." First Bibles will be given to those youth in worship on Sunday, **November 29th**. Please let Pastor Stephen if you will be participating that day.

Advent Calendar: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Link for this year's Advent Calendar/Collection. This is a fun way to celebrate together, enjoying a homemade countdown calendar of items and reading a devotional booklet created by members of our church. Four different calendars are available this year: kid's candy, wine, craft beer, and hot tea bags. More information and instructions are on the bulletin board or email Pastor Stephen. Items are due back to church by **November 22**.





Christmas Program: Kids in Pre-K through 6th grade are invited to take part in the Christmas Program which will be performed at the Christmas Eve service. Practice begins on Sunday, **November 29th,** from 9:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall (during the Sunday School hour) for kids in grades 1-6, and will run each Sunday until Christmas. Pre-K and Kindergarten kids will join in practices starting **December 13**. Questions or to sign up, contact Emily Kullman.

Angel Tree: The Angel Tree is here! These gifts support the Benton County Christmas for Kids program. Each angel on the tree will list an age range and gender along with some suggested items to purchase, but feel free to use your imagination or ask a child you know for suggestions! Gifts should be in the $15-25 range, are NOT to be wrapped, and need to be returned to church by **November 29th**. There will be boxes on the usher's stands if you would like to make a financial contribution towards gifts that will fill in the gaps of the Christmas for Kids program. Angels for our local care facilities will arrive on the tree by December. Thanks for your support!





Thanksgiving Worship: Thanksgiving Worship: Due to low attendance in recent years, we will not be having a worship service on Thanksgiving Eve. You are invited to bring in donations for the Cole Camp Food Pantry throughout the month of **November**. Also, since Thanksgiving offering has traditionally been designated as mission support to our synod, you are encouraged to designate a benevolence offering to the ELCA before the end of the year.



Advent Dinner: Mark your calendars for our annual Advent Dinner which will be held on Sunday, **December 6th**, right after worship. It's a potluck meal with the meat and potatoes provided, so attendees are invited to bring a side or a dessert to share. This is a great way to celebrate the Advent season together and the time will include a brief holiday program.



Offering: Thank you, St. Paul's, for your ongoing generosity in sharing your time, talents, and treasures. At the end of October our budgeted expenses are on track, however our budgeted offering income is behind approximately $14,000. Also, our benevolence to the synod is behind approximately $4,000. As we near the end of the year we invite you to consider helping to close the gap in these shortfalls. Thank you, again, for your ongoing support!



Food Pantry: The Cole Camp Food Pantry is continually grateful for our community and the support you provide. In addition to the regular donations, the pantry could use cereal and oatmeal this month. Additionally, the pantry is looking for volunteers! Volunteers can serve on a regular or occasional basis. You must be 18 years old and not a current client of the pantry. The food pantry is open weekly on Wednesdays from 10 am - 12 noon, Thursdays from 3 - 5 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am - 12 noon. Please contact the Food Pantry Manager, Sheila Sabala, at 816-559-1111 if you are interested or have questions.



Parish Education: Calling all those willing to share their faith with the future of our church! The Parish Education committee is looking for Sunday school teachers. There is a current need for both teachers and substitute Sunday School teachers. The curriculum is easy to follow and the materials are on hand and ready. We just need people willing to be there and share in the faith development of our youth. Please contact Lynn Schear or another member of Parish Education to help answer the call!



Save the Date: Mark your calendar for this year's Winterfest event on the evening of Sunday, **December 20th**!

WELCA: Ladies, the Women of the ELCA Thank Offering envelopes were distributed recently. As we have received countless blessings throughout the year, these Thank Offering envelopes are an opportunity for you to be a blessing to others. Your Thank Offering (100%) will be donated to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for our ministries and publications. (If you have not received a Thank Offering envelope, you can find them at each usher stand.) Simply place your envelope in the offering plate at any service throughout **November** and **December**. Thank you, for you are indeed blessed to be a blessing!

~*~ In The Community ~*~



Fundraiser: You are invited to a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, **November 22**, to benefit Tanner Huffman. Tanner has been diagnosed with transverse myelitis, a rare neurological condition that has left him paralyzed. This event is being organized to help ease the financial burden associated with medical care, rehabilitation, transportation, home modification and other ongoing expenses. It will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 205 W Jefferson St, Cole Camp. Dinner will be served from 11 am - 1 pm for a free-will donation. There will also be a silent auction from 11am - 1:30 pm, and a live auction at 1:00 pm. Find the event on Facebook to view auction and raffle items.

This Week At St. Paul's

Sunday, November 15:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	11:30 am	Little Blessings Benefit Dinner
Monday, November 16:	9:00 am	Sewing Group
	6:30 pm	Yoga
	7:00 pm	Esther Circle
Thursday, November 19	8:00 am	BCHD
Saturday, November 21:		NO Casual Worship Service
Sunday, November 22:	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations



Coming Events

November 15.....Little Blessings Dinner
November 16.....Esther Circle
November 25.....Sunbeam Committee
November 22-27.....Pastor out of office
November 26.....Thanksgiving Day

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers.....The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister.....Pastor Steven Zeller
Organist.....Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist.....Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians.....Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild.....Susan Goosen & Debbie Vaughan
Ushers.....Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
Chad Schlesselman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman, Steve Triplett

25th Sunday after Pentecost ~ November 15, 2026

Assisting Minister.....Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants.....Luther League
Reader.....Braden Poe
Children's Sermon.....Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes.....Lexi Goyette
Tristan Fox
Flowers.....Emily Kullman

Christ the King Sunday ~ November 22, 2026

Assisting Minister.....Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants.....Virgil & Diann Holsten
Reader.....Adrienn Dieckman
Children's Sermon.....Jennifer Rehmer
Acolytes.....Gannon Elliott
Kale Kruep
Flowers.....Janice Gerken