

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church & School



**4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 27th & 28th, 2024**

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TUNE IN TO “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” TODAY

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola ~ “Forgiveness is a Gift from Far Away”

Forgiveness is a gift Christ won for us on a cross,
thousands of miles away and two thousand years ago.

(Psalm 103:11-12)

Sundays on: KSUM - 11 am • WCCO - 6 am • KBEW - 8:30 am

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS with today’s order of service and LSB Large Print Hymnals are available on the ushers’ cabinets (or ask an usher for assistance). Please return the LSB Hymnals to the ushers’ cabinets or an usher after the service.

THIS MONTH’S BIBLE REFERENCES are sponsored by Deb Swanson and family in loving memory of Roger Swanson, whose birthday was January 17th. **Now accepting 2024 sponsors.** Months available: Mar., Aug., and Oct. Cost is \$40, payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Contact the church office at splcoffice@splfairmont.org or 238-9491, ext. 101.

OUR SUNDAY BROADCAST at 10:00 a.m. over KSUM is in memory of Janice Goebel, whose birthday was February 3rd, sponsored by Marv Goebel. **Sponsors needed!** Contact the church office to reserve a broadcast date at splcoffice@splfairmont.org or 238-9491, ext. 101. **2024 dates are:** Feb. 11, 18; Apr. 7; May 12, 19, 26; June 2, 9, 23; July 14, 28; Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25; Sept. 1, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 24; Dec. 1, 8, 15. The cost is \$40, payable to LWML.

THE LORD’S SUPPER is being celebrated in our service today. In love, we ask anyone who is not a communicant member in good standing of an LCMS congregation to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. Attendance/communion registration forms are available in the pews. Complete the Member or Visitor side of the form and put it in the collection plate when it is passed by you. Check the box next to your name if you are communing.

IN OUR PRAYERS: ill—Linda Bicknase, Marianne Hagen, Bev Brinkman, Richard Wolner, Beth Malo, Steph Johnson (daughter-in-law of Richard & Shirley Johnson), Esther Lund, Nicholas Moeller, Roger & Helen Lueck, Larissa Hagen & Angela Leiding (Dennis & Marianne Hagen’s daughters), Gerald Meyer; **recovering**—John Huttemeier, Kenneth Matthews, Gregg Lemke, Roger Fritz, Ty Leiding (Dennis & Marianne Hagen’s grandson); **having/recovering from surgery**—Dan Yahnke, Robert Anderson (Mary Westcott’s brother-in-law), Lois Thiesse, Calvin Bremer, LaVon Rippentrop, Dolores Baarts; **in hospice**—Richard Johnson; **ongoing needs**—Kenneth Tenney (Eric Tenney’s father), Ramona Cody, Scott Thomas (Lorraine’s son); Al Wohlrabe, Shirley Johnson, Abbiegail White, Jodi Hackett, Hank Roehler (Chuck Northwick’s uncle), Bob Huemoeller, Terry Rippentrop (LaVon’s son); expecting mothers/parents; for Jonathan Orr, who is considering a call to serve as Principal of Martin Luther High School, Northrop.

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

211 Budd Street, Fairmont, MN • 507-238-9491

www.splfairmont.org

Confession and Absolution — Page 184

Hymn of Invocation: To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

LSB 613

Stand

Invocation, Confession and Absolution: Page 184

Service of the Word — Page 186

Introit: Psalm 128; antiphon: Ps. 26:3



- P** For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.
Blessed is everyone who | fears the LORD,*
who walks | in his ways!
- C** You shall eat the fruit of the labor | of your hands;*
you shall be blessed, and it shall be | well with you.
- P** Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- | in your house;*
your children will be like olive shoots around your | table.
- C** Behold, thus shall the | man be blessed*
who | fears the LORD.
- P** The LORD bless you from | Zion!*
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days | of your life!
- C** May you see your children's | children!*
Peace be upon | Israel!
- All:** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.

Kyrie: Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis: Page 187

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 2:10-16

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. "For the LORD, the God of Israel, says that he hates divorce, and him who covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:1-11

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia: Page 190

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:2-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord. (*sung*)

And Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ. (*sung*)

Nicene Creed: Page 191

Sit

Hymn of the Day: Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842

Sermon: “What Therefore God Has Joined Together, Let Not Man Separate”

Stand

Offertory: Page 192

Sit

Offering

Reception of New Members

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament — Page 194

Preface: Page 194

Sanctus: Page 195

Lord's Prayer: Page 196

The Words of Our Lord: Page 197

Pax Domini: Page 197

Agnus Dei: Page 198

Sit

Distribution Hymns:

Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

LSB 559

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

LSB 585

Stand

Nunc Dimittis: Page 199

Thanksgiving: Page 200

Post-Communion Collect: Page 201

Salutation and Benedicamus: Page 201

Benediction: Page 202

Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing *LSB 922, st. 1, wedding, 4*

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
 In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
 Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.
- 2 In this union I have joined you Husband and wife,
 Now, My children, live together As heirs of life:
 Each the other's gladness sharing,
 Each the other's burdens bearing,
 Now, My children, live together As heirs of life.
- 3 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
 I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
 Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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Preacher: Rev. Anthony T. Bertram

Liturgist: Rev. Michael Holmen

Organist: Isaiah Johnson

THIS WEEK at our Saturday and Sunday services we continue a three-week series on marriage, sexuality, and various questions and issues that go along with these topics. Pr. Bertram and Pr. Holmen are hopeful that these three weeks' readings and sermons will be helpful for you to know what is right and true in this area of life, and that all of us sinners will find refuge in the forgiveness that Jesus gives.

BEING RECEIVED AS MEMBERS by Profession of Faith in our Saturday evening service are Tim & Tammie Hested. Welcome!

THE GALA COMMITTEE IS GOING TO MEET Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

MEMBERS OF LWML: Reservations have been made for those who would like to gather together for refreshments after our February Prayer Service at The Ranch Restaurant. If you would like to join us, please call Pat Hall, 236-4921, so we can get an estimate on how many tables will need to be reserved. Please join us!

PHILIPPIANS is the current study in the Adult Bible Class on Sundays. You are invited to attend.

CLARA CIRCLE WILL BE MEETING FOR LUNCH at The Ranch Restaurant on Wednesday, February 7th at 11:30 a.m. in the back room. Lunch will be followed by Bible Study, "Where is Your Treasure?" from the Lutheran Women's Winter Quarterly, page 20, and a short meeting.

NEXT SUNDAY, the LWML Mite Box will be in the Welcome Center. Please empty your mite box into the large mite box and continue saving your coins for the mission of our district and international projects.

THE FIRST SATURDAY of the month, the LLL meets at The Ranch Restaurant at 9:00 a.m. Our next meeting is February 3rd.

CALENDARS/NEWSLETTERS are available at the Welcome Center. Volunteers—please check to see if you are scheduled during the month. The newsletter is also available online at www.splfairmont.org.

MINUTES FROM THE quarterly Congregational Assembly meeting are available today at the Welcome Center.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PROCEEDS of the late Lois Johnson's IRA that was designated to the Church Endowment Fund. Her wonderful generosity added \$88,886.60 to the fund. As you know, this fund has been used to do projects for the congregation and this gift will enable that to continue in the future. Lois was such a dedicated person and blessing to our church which benefited from her in so many ways and for so many years. *The Church Endowment Committee*

"AND THEY WERE ASTONISHED at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes." (Mark 1:22) Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don't like to hear. But that's just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus' authority is something we need. We need Him to show us what to believe and how to live, for Jesus' authority is always connected to his love.

IN CELEBRATION OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK, St. James Lutheran Church & School, 108 S. James St., Northrop, will be having a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 28th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The SJL Board of Christian Education will be serving pancakes (gluten-free available), sausage, applesauce, and beverages for a freewill donation to support our bus replacement fund. Please join us in celebrating all the blessings of Christian Education.

JONATHAN ORR OF FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL in Las Vegas, Nevada, has received the call to serve as Principal at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop, starting the 2024-2025 school year.

CREST IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS to help provide non-professional services to those in need in Martin County. Volunteers help with friendly visiting, taking someone to a doctor's appointment, helping with light housekeeping, and other tasks. Even just a few hours a month can make a world of difference. Find out how good it feels to volunteer by calling the CREST office for more information at 235-3833.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER YOUTH VARIETY SHOW: January 31st, 7:00 p.m. at the Fairmont High School PAC (freewill offering will be taken). Pack Day: Sat., February 10th, 8:30-3:00 at the Fairmont Armory. Donations to KAH, c/o Sue Homan, 921 Hengen St., Fairmont, MN 56031. For questions or to sign up, call Karen Sandhurst, 507-848-1200.

MLHS NEWS: Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; Phone: 507-436-5249.

Early bird enrollment discounts are in effect until March 1st for new students enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year at MLHS. New families are invited to a "Getting to Know U Knight" hosted by the Class of 2027 on Thursday, February 29th at 6 p.m. Students will give tours, a light supper will be served, and new families will have a signing opportunity with the MLHS Team. All students are welcome to enroll at MLHS. Interested families may call 436-5249 to set up a visit.

All 5th & 6th grade students are invited to MLHS for a fun day of brain busting, pizza lunch, and a talent show on Friday, February 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To RSVP, call 436-5249.

The Class of 2026 will be holding a Waffle Feed at MLHS on Sunday, February 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is a freewill donation to help with their senior class trip.

A Soup & Sandwich Lunch will be held at MLHS on Sunday, March 17th from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts will be available. Cost is a freewill donation to benefit the Student Tuition Aid Fund.

Mark your calendar! The Oh! What a Knight! Dinner Auction will be held at MLHS on Saturday, April 20th. Donations of new or handmade items and collectibles are welcome. Early notification and pictures are appreciated for advance publicity. More details are coming.

The Spring Rummage & Bake Sale will be held at MLHS on April 11 to 13. Setup begins on April 6th. Volunteers are much appreciated.

This is Most Certainly Brew Gourmet Coffee is available at MLHS or in the SPL church office. For more information, call MLHS.

Easter Flowers



Again this year members have the opportunity to purchase plants for our Easter celebration in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving of an event or person.

If you wish to have a plant(s) placed for you, return this form with payment to the church office **before noon on Friday, March 15th.** (Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.) **Please take note of the pricing for each plant. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church.** You may take your plant home after services on Easter.

Qty.	Description	Price Ea.	Total
	Lily	\$18	
	Cyclamen	\$18	
	Calendiva	\$18	
	Hydrangea	\$40	
		Total	
		Enclosed	

Your name(s) _____

in memory of _____

in recognition of _____



Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
~1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2

LWML St. Paul Lutheran invites you to attend the 2024 LWML Prayer Service

**either in-person or watch via video streaming
on the church's website**

Thursday, February 1st ~ 1:30 p.m.

*The Service will be led by Pastor Anthony Bertram
and assisted by one of our LWML Representatives*

At some point you have probably heard a pastor begin his sermon by saying something similar to this verse from 1 Timothy. The 2024 Prayer Service is designed around those first three words — those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — ***Grace, Mercy, and Peace***. Rev. Michael Mattil, author of the 2024 LWML Prayer Service, served as a national LWML Pastoral Counselor from 2007-2011. He has also served as a Texas District LWML Pastoral Counselor, a Circuit Counselor, and as a District Area Vice-President. Rev. Mattil has served churches in Watonga, Oklahoma, and Denison, Texas. Rev. Mattil and his wife Cheryl (LWML Strategic Plan Facilitator) have been married for over 40 years. Their marriage has been blessed with three beautiful daughters, three great sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren. In retirement, he continues to preach and serve on boards for several ministries. He also works with Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and Lutheran Disaster Response. As time permits, Rev. Mattil and Cheryl enjoy fishing and traveling in their RV.

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for This Week

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the catechism and Hymn of the Week.

INVOCATION: "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Let all say, "AMEN!"

CONFESS the Apostles' Creed

RECITE the Verse of the Week: Jeremiah 31:34b—"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

PRAY the Psalm of the Week: Psalm 51:1-9

READ from Small Catechism—Confession and Office of the Keys: (K+) *What is Confession?*

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

(2nd+) *What sins should we confess?* Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

READ from God's Word:

Mon Luke 15:1-10

Tues Luke 15:11-32

Wed 2 Sam. 11:1-27

Thurs 2 Sam. 12:1-25

Fri Mark 1:21-28

Sat Malachi 2:10-16

Sun Mark 10:2-12

THE COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

Pray for...

S: the joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.

M: faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.

T: deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.

W: marriage and family, living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially St. Paul Lutheran and Martin Luther.

Th: the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.

F: the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.

S: faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.

OUR PRAYERS at St. Paul's (see bulletin).

PRAY the Lord's Prayer.

PRAY Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism.

SPEAK OR SING the Hymn of the Week:

LSB 566

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

No! Then this word must true remain:

By grace you too will life obtain.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:	Amount Needed Monthly for Budget... \$105,857.92
Last Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Svc: 65	Amount Needed Weekly for Budget..... \$24,428.75
Last Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Svc: 290	December 31, 2023 Deficit \$43,909.81
	Children's Noisy Offering (Last weekend).... \$13.68

MEMORIALS: Lois Johnson—\$20.00, Undesignated (General Fund).

THIS WEEK IN OUR PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM
(Subject to change)

Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service broadcast on KSUM
	10:15 a.m.	SS, ABC, YBC, YFBS
	3:00 p.m. or TBA	High School Youth
Monday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel Pastors' Day Off
Tuesday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Gala Committee Meeting, FR
Wednesday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	3:30 p.m.	Weekday Catechism
	6:00 p.m.	Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Thursday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Messenger Deadline
	1:30 p.m.	LWML Prayer Service
Friday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	3:30 p.m.	Goldfinch Communion <i>SPLS B Team BB Tourney</i>
Saturday:		<i>SPLS B Team BB Tourney</i>
	9:00 a.m.	LLL, The Ranch
	12:00 p.m.	Worship Service on Local Cable Access Channel 12
	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Next Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service broadcast on KSUM
	10:15 a.m.	SS, ABC, YBC, YFBS