



***For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light.***

Ephesians 5:8

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The season of Lent, as the name reminds, is the season of lengthening days, when light overrides darkness. The obvious evidence, which nature provides, foretells the final triumph when the darkness of Good Friday will yield to the glorious sun of Easter morning. Already this Fourth Sunday in Lent, though, exhorts us to “walk as children of light” by seeking what is “good and right and true” (*Epistle*, Eph 5:8–9). We welcome all our brothers and sisters to the Lord’s House.

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US. Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”
We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Bell Choir "Near the Cross"

Opening Hymn 571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

Adult Choir "See Now the Lamb of God"

See now, see now, see the Lamb of God,
see the Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world,
bearing the sin of the world!

See now, see now, see the Lamb of God
bearing the sin of the world,
Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world.

See now, see now, see the Lamb of God,
see the Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world!
Behold the Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world,
bearing the sin of the world.
See now, see now, see now, see the Lamb of God
bearing the sin of the world.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**
P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**
P For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
C **He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.**
P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all round me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

Kyrie ~ *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)*

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held My peace;
I have kept still and restrained Myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;

I will gasp and pant.
15I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
16And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
17They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."
18Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
19Who is blind but My servant,
or deaf as My messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
20He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
21The LORD was pleased, for His righteousness' sake,
to magnify His law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,

C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all

that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹As Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The Man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes,

and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this Man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether He is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this Man, we do not know where He comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near Him heard

these things, and said to Him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 697 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

Sermon Text

Ephesian 5:8-14

Sermon "Discovering What Is Good and Right and True"

1. We should walk in a way consistent with

_____ .

2. We should walk in a way consistent with

_____ .

3. We should walk in a way consistent with

_____ .

Hymn 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

☐ 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.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 166

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



Closing hymn 683 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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GOD's Word & All Women ~ Join us on Saturdays at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem room. We will pray and then read God's Word out loud in community. Don't worry, you don't have to read out loud if you only want to listen. There is no Bible study booklet, just bring your favorite Bible. If you don't have one, we have extras available. If you need a Bible we will get you one. God's Word is powerful and able to change our lives, thoughts, words, and actions. For more information contact Kelly Sienicki.

The Board of Evangelism will be packing and then delivering

Welcome Bags in Bremen tomorrow, Monday, March 20, starting at 5 pm in the Bethany Room. We need your help! Please join us!

Altar Guild is taking donations in any amount for Easter lilies.
 Please place your donation in the offering plate or give to an attendant.

Calendar of Events

TODAY:..... March 19, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service..... 9:30 am
 Special Voter’ Meeting After Church
 7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church
 Adult Basketball..... 2:00-4:00 pm
 Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Rehearsal..... 6:00 pm

MON:

Board Meetings..... 7:00 pm
 Pack Evangelism Welcome Bags..... 5:00 pm

TUES:

Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up..... 5:00-7:00 pm
 Board of Lay Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm

WED:

Men’s Bible Study Breakfast 6:30 am
 Day School Chapel 8:05 am
 Lenten Meal Mystery Reveal: Sloppy Joes, Chips, & Veggies 6:00 pm
 Lenten Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am
 Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

SAT:

Easter Egg Hunt in Gym 9:00-11:00 am
 Women Reading GOD’S Word in Community 11:00 am-12:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: March 26, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am
 7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church
 Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Rehearsal..... 6:00 pm

On March 27, at 7:00 p.m., in the Bethany Room, the LWML program will be presented by Marilyn Gumz, Kelly Sienicki, Angie Hughes, & Joanna Fox, as they share some “highlights” of their trip to the Holy Land. **Open to the congregation.** Light refreshments will be served afterward.

Special Voters' Meeting immediately following the service today, for the sole purpose of formally placing a call for Jamie Rogers and adjusting her pay to meet the guidelines for a called teacher. Jamie has been a member of St. Paul's and a contract teacher for our 4th and 5th grade classroom since 2020. She has recently completed her Colloquy. After the call has been completed, a date will be set to have her formal installation as a Called Lutheran School Teacher during a regular church service. Participation by all voting members of St. Paul's is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

That we are reminded of the objective nature of our faith and our Christian calling.

For Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For our country and her leaders.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. May the Lord comfort them with His grace and healing.

That Jesus would shine in the hearts of all Christians throughout the world who face the struggles of war and persecution as they stand up for their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 A.M.. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, 5/31, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

The 2023 Plymouth Legacy of Life Banquet will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at the Christos Banquet Center in Plymouth. Keynote speaker will be Mike Fichter, CEO of Indiana Right to Life. Mike is an outstanding speaker and strong proponent of the pro-life cause. Jim and Linda Tinkey will host a table for St. Paul's members and would love to have you join them. Tickets are \$ 25 payable to RTL of NCI. Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. See Jim or Linda to reserve a spot at their table or for any further details.

SCHOOL CORNER

St. Paul's Lutheran is now a Choice School, starting with the 2023-24 school year! This means that we can provide our students with Choice Scholarships, and help make the Christian education they receive here more affordable. We are hard at work preparing for the changes this brings, but we are excited and hope this helps promote growth in the school.

Speaking of growth, the Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up is on March 21st, 5:00-7:00pm. If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education for Preschool through 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us and attend the Round-Up. **YOU are our best advertisements! Online enrollment is available through the church website (school side).**

Thank you for your support of the SGO program! It has helped all of our students, who are eligible, to qualify for Choice scholarships next school year. That is 76% of our current enrollment. **New students may not be able to qualify for Choice, so keep those donations to SGO going!**

We are planning the spring musical already! If you can help with props, scenery, or especially recording, please let me know. Rehearsals for the students have started.

Please remember giving to the SGO!

We have provided SGO scholarships for 33 students this school year, thanks to your generous donations. **This has not only helped with their tuition this year, but also gives them the ability to qualify for a Choice scholarship for 2023-24.** As Kindergarteners cannot apply for Choice, we will be using SGO scholarships to assist with tuition and qualify them for Choice for the following years. **Please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

YOUTH NEWS

MOVIE UPCOMING: The recently released movie, "Jesus Revolution," is coming to the Bremen Theatre at the end of March (March 30th through April 2nd). We have been advised that a local church has committed to covering the cost of admission for those in the community who choose to attend. While these dates run right up to Spring Break, our Youth Board would like to take a group of Youth (6th Grade through High School) **available to attend on Thursday, March 30th at 6 pm**. Please sign up on the Youth bulletin board if interested. Youth will be responsible for the cost of snacks. Note: This movie is rated PG-13 due to certain content - attendance of any Youth is at the discretion of parents. For more information, please visit the website jesusrevolution.movie. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.