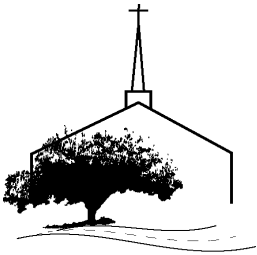


St. Paul Lutheran Church



*Loving others
into the Love of Christ*

Sunday Worship
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class
9:15 a.m.

**Our Church Infant/Toddler
Nursery is available during
the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
hour, and during our
10:30 a.m. Worship.**

Church office
254.799.3211

On the Web
www.splcwaco.com

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
pastorhesse@splcwaco.com

Youth & Family Ministry
Josh McNamara
FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com

Deaconess
Dcs. Suzanne Krahn
dcskrahn@splcwaco.com

Organist/Music Dir.
Steve Randolph

Administrative Asst.
Cindy Byrd
wecare@splcwaco.com

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to download our church app:**



Follow us on Social Media:



SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND



Lenten Worship
March 12, 2025

HEALER

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway ... Loving Others into the Love of Christ

Lenten Worship † March 12, 2025

“Be thoughtful - be silent - be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.”

(Please silence your cell phones and mobile devices during our worship time.)

OPENING HYMN, 435: “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall; Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died. | 3 | Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind; Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find. Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more. |
| 2 | Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within; From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin, Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light. | 4 | They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood. God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood, Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified. |

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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather together as friends in the healing presence of the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Be gracious to us, O Lord, hear our confession and heal our iniquity.

Response: My thoughts have veered away from your paths of righteousness.

Pastor: My ways have departed from your ways.

Response: My seeking to gain control has made me a slave to sin.

Pastor: My desires have brought disease into my heart and life.

Response: My sin makes me waste away from within.

Pastor: My heart cries out for forgiveness and healing.

Response: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that Jesus heals us from the rot and disease of sin.)

Pastor: Your healer, Christ Jesus, has good news for you! The healing mercy of Jesus is stronger than the disease of sin. Your Savior, Servant, Friend brings healing to you through the cross and the empty tomb. Jesus forgives you of all your sins, and he applies a healing balm to your heart, soul and all of your life. Because of your friend Jesus, you are forgiven. Amen.

Response: What a friend we have in Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 4:1-3

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 2:23-25

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 8:14-17

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

SERMON THEME: "Jesus our Healer" - Matthew 8:14-15

PRAYERS

Pastor: There are hurts everywhere. This world hurts. And we hurt. And so we pray that the healing hands of Jesus would be placed upon us and all our hurts. Jesus, in your great love, place your healing hands on us. You know where it hurts—come and bring healing, Jesus, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal the hurts festering in our hearts and souls so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal the hurts of this world as you bring peace to war-torn places, protection to innocent lives and integrity to leaders and rulers, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal the hurts of failing bodies and aching bones, work through the hands and feet of medical practitioners and draw near to all in their times of illness and physical hurt, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal any strife that threatens to break apart your church, and replace it with friendship and unity, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal us from all ungodly apathy or indifference so that we can be passionate for your kingdom work, in Your mercy.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Response: Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now into this world of hurts knowing what a healer you have in Jesus! May the healing power of Jesus bless you and keep you; may the healing hands of Jesus be placed upon you in faith and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN, 763: "When Peace, like a River"

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be
sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall
descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN THIS LENTEN SERVICE, we consider the fact that Jesus is our Healer. In word and song, we will remember that Jesus heals us of the sickness of our sin through his death on the cross and makes us well again in our very souls. Members, please remember to fill out a "White Registration Card" so we can have a proper soul-accounting, and Guests, please sign the guest book and complete a "Yellow Visitor Card" located in the hymnal rack. Please place your completed card in the offering plate or in the card collection slot at the end of each pew (center aisle side).

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED TODAY!

God's word says that in this Sacrament we receive Christ's real Body and real Blood in, with, and under the Bread and Wine. Our Lord Jesus makes these 4 elements present so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Jesus expresses His love to us in such a real presence, He asks us to prepare ourselves and examine ourselves in the following manner before receiving His sacrament.

In Preparation To Receive the Sacrament:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without any hope of eternal life except for God's mercy to me found only through Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and also a true human being who is my personal Savior from all sin?
3. Do I believe that His true Body and Blood are really present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with the bread and the wine?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life?

As you come to Holy Communion you are affirming a steadfast belief in the statements above. In this belief and by receiving the Sacrament you are affirming that Jesus Christ is your Savior and that you are in unity with those who commune with you. Following the above guidelines allows you to take Holy Communion in a worthy manner. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm and bring God's wrath and judgment on themselves (I Corinthians 11:27-30), we ask that any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different from the congregations of **Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** are requested to refrain from receiving the Sacrament. Each person may come forward for a blessing with hands folded as an indication to the pastor that they wish to receive a blessing. An alcohol-removed wine (distinguished by its lighter color) is offered in the center of each communion tray as an option. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request during distribution at the altar. The Common Cup will also be offered with each table. If you do not take an individual cup, the pastor will serve the Chalice. If you have any questions regarding the reception of Holy Communion please speak to a pastor or one of the elders of our congregation before the service.

FLOWERS were placed on our altar this day to the glory of God by Lloyd & Jan Swiggum in celebration of 35 years of marriage and in thankfulness for the Lord's many blessings upon their family.