

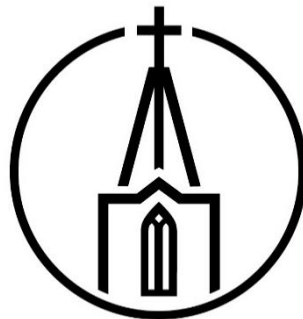
Sunday, October 11, 2020
The 19th Sunday after Pentecost



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave.
Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com



We Welcome All Worshiping God This Morning!

We're so happy that you're joining us for worship today! If you need any help, please don't hesitate asking one of the ushers. Restrooms are located in the narthex, across from the car-port entrance on the west side of the church. A cry/changing room with a live-stream is also available in that same area..

St. Paul's is a member of the WELS...the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Just what is that?!?!

Wisconsin – In 1849, a group of Christians first joined together for like-minded Gospel ministry in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. Today, although our name only says “Wisconsin,” WELS congregations exist in all fifty states and in more than 25 countries.

Evangelical – This word simply means “good news.” The “Good News” of God’s grace and forgiveness through Jesus is the heart of our faith and teaching.

Lutheran – In 16th century Europe, the church had strayed away from the Scriptures, and was teaching that a person is saved by his/her good works. A man by the name of Martin Luther worked to return to the basic Biblical truths that a person is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, which comes by Scripture alone. Our congregation continues to build on these three Biblical truths.

Synod – This word means “walking together.” For over 150 years, St. Paul’s has been blessed as part of a church body, a synod, which consists of over 1,200 congregations, “walking together” in the same faith and the same ministry of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S SERVICE THEME...

We continue our overall theme from last week, on the way
God responds to sinners. Is He fair or unfair?
Thankfully we'd say unfair!!

The Order of Worship Based on CW, p. 15, "The Common Service"

The Opening Hymn #261 "We Sing the Almighty Power of God"



P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

ALL: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

Dear gracious God, we humbly ask that You mercifully send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that all we say and all we do is directed and guided by You. Strengthen our faith this morning as we hear Your Word, because we know that without Your help, we cannot please You; 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.

The Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

God makes it clear that He holds each individual responsible for his/her own sinful actions, and my sinful actions are no less severe and punishable than ANYONE else's sins.

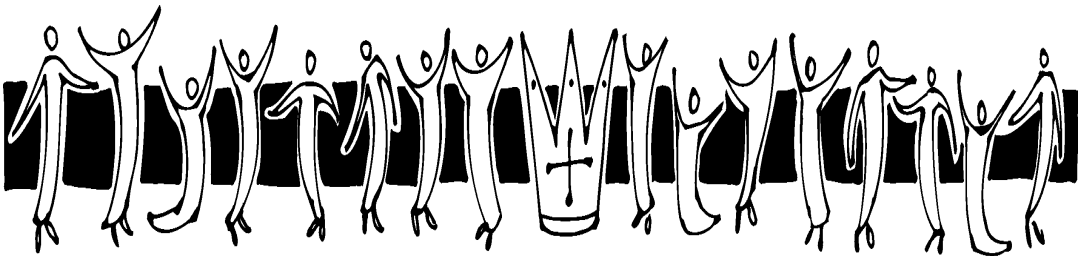
¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³ “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!



The Psalm Psalm 25 *Let's sing the Psalm together!*



To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;*
in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,*
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.

REFRAIN

Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
for I am lonely and afflicted.

Look upon my affliction and my distress*
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,*
for I take refuge in you.

**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.**

REFRAIN

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2:1-11

By humbly taking on human flesh, suffering and dying to save us, our Lord Jesus gave us both the motivation and the pattern for humble Christian living. Just as Jesus' humiliation ended in exaltation, so we also will be exalted with Him in due time.

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with

the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn #385 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” HOTW



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me. All my wants to him are known;
 and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
 won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

THAT'S WHY YOU PLAY THE GAME!

I. You can't just talk the talk,

II. You have to walk the walk!

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him.

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Sermon Response *All sing!*

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The Offering

Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us! As members of St. Paul's, we now gather our thank-offerings which are used to fund the operations of this congregation, our Christian high school – Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, and the work of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We don't expect or ask our visitors and guests to give toward this offering since it is our pleasure just to have you with us! But if you would like to, please feel free. It is our joy and privilege as Christians to generously give to the work of our Lord!



Prayer of the Church & Lord's Prayer

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.

The Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.



Closing Hymn #454 "I Gave My Life for Thee"

1 I gave my life for thee; My pre-cious
 2 My Fa-ther's home of light, My rain-bow -
 3 I spent long years for thee In wea-ri -
 4 I suf-fered much for thee, More than my
 5 And I have brought to thee Down from my
 blood I shed That thou might'st ran-somed be
 cir-cled throne, I left for earth-ly night,
 ness and woe That an e-ter-ni-ty
 tongue may tell, Of bit-t'rest ag-o-ny,
 home a-bove Sal-va-tion full and free,
 And quick-ened from the dead. I gave my
 For wan-d'rings sad and lone. I left it
 Of joy thou might-est know. I spent long
 To res-cue thee from hell. I suf-fered
 My par-don and my love. Great gifts I
 life for thee; Come, give thy-self to me!
 all for thee; Come now and fol-low me!
 years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.
 much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.
 brought for thee; Come, bring thy gifts to me.

6 Oh, let thy life be spent,
 Thy years for me be giv'n,
 As I for thee was sent
 To bear thee home to heav'n.
 I gave my life for thee;
 Come, give thy life to me.

Serving the Lord

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch

Organist: Mrs. Alicia Moyer

Radio Broadcaster(s): Gary Lingenfelter & Walt Tinius

Television Broadcast Technician: Darol Dusseau & Laurie Jackson

	On Duty This Week:	On Duty Next Week:
Elder:	Joel Wiedeman	Dave Nelson
Greeters:		
Ushers:	Eric Nunnenkamp & Joe Myers	Curt Dinkel & Randy Anderson
Technology:	Katy Nichols	Levi Uecker & Valen Searight

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 41; Sun. 9:00 AM – 96;

COVID Service 6:30 PM – 16; **Total = 153**

Sunday Bible Class – 33; Wednesday Bible Class – 15

Church Cleaning Teams:

Oct. 11 – Team 3 (Loren & Marianne Bloomquist,
Jim & Diane Herbolzheimer, John & Sarah Kouba, Gordy & Jane Winter)

Oct. 18 & Oct. 25 – Team 4 (Pat Jamison, Leonard Janovec,
John & Jan Schlomer, Debbie Webb, Marlin & JoAnn Winter)

NELHS ONLINE Fall Auction November 1–28

We'll be hosting our annual Fall Auction a bit differently this year due to Covid and will be hosting the event all online. Bidding for the event will start November 1 and continue through November 28. There will still be many AWESOME items to bid on. Please keep an eye on our website for more information and how you can help support the Christian education that Nebraska Lutheran has been providing for 41 years. Please contact Mandy at mwellman@nelhs.org or 402-728-5236 with any questions or concerns.

All Items will be online...easy access to all Items...easy pick up...help Support NELHS...in-person or over-the-phone-help with bidding registration. All proceeds will go to new cafeteria tables and equipment.

Some Announcements

- 1) **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Today (Sunday) we'll continue our review of "Key Chapters of the Bible," spending a couple of weeks on "The Flood," Genesis 6-9. This weekend we pick up with Genesis 7.
- 2) Next weekend, October 17/18, **Pastor Mark Luetzow** will be our guest preacher/presenter. Pastor Luetzow is the President of **Michigan Lutheran Seminary** in Saginaw, Michigan, which is one of two preparatory high-schools that our Synod operates in the big picture of encouraging and preparing young Christians to be future pastors and teachers (the other prep-school is Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI). He'll be here to encourage and remind and inform us of some of the work being done for this important work for the future of our church!
- 3) **OUR RECENT GOLF OUTING:** There were 74 golfers from all 5 of our local congregations. A total of \$10,500 was raised between the schools, from which \$2,974 is coming to St. Paul's!! A big THANKS goes out to Miss Joanna Smith, from Trinity Hoskins, for organizing, and to so many other helpers and volunteers from all the area churches!! We are thankful the Lord blessed us with a day of awesome weather, good golf, and great fellowship!
- 4) The **Fellowship Group** is planning to meet next for our first fall meeting for Sunday, Oct. 25. More information will be coming shortly.
- 5) Due to extenuating COVID circumstances, the regular joint **Area Reformation Service** is being cancelled this year. As a congregation, we'll be doing our Reformation focus on the weekend of October 31/November 1.
- 6) **Our Annual "Trunk or Treat" is still scheduled (but scaled down) to be held in a couple of weeks, Sunday, October 25th** from 4:00-5:30 PM. This is a joint church/school event that is a fun way to create awareness of our ministry within the community! A sign-up computer/table will be available in the coming weeks to volunteer to decorate your trunk or various other positions. Alternatively, you can also visit the Trunk or Treat page at www.stpls.com. If you need help with the computer, ask Mr. Brown or Mr. Markgraf for help. If you are unable to do this, another great way to help would be to donate candy to support the other trunks in the event. Thousands of people cross paths with us at this event and we want to give our best impression to lead hearts to the Gospel! Thanks for your support!

From WELS...THREE NEW “HOME MISSIONS”

WELS Board for Home Missions met at the end of September and authorized funding for three new missions as well as two restarts. An additional congregation will receive support from Home Missions but no funding.

“Moved by the love of our Savior, Home Missions wanted to move forward because we know the Lord hasn’t directed us to just share the gospel when life is humming along but to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in difficult times as well,” says Rev. Keith Free, administrator of WELS Board for Home Missions. “Regardless of the circumstances in this world, God’s people know what their Lord has directed them to do—tell more people about the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. We ask the Lord to bless us to do just that.”

The new missions being funded include:

Amarillo, Texas: Located 130 miles from the nearest WELS church, a group of 15 WELS members form the core group reaching out in Amarillo, Texas. The WELS pastor from Lubbock, Texas, comes to Amarillo twice a month to serve the members with God’s Word and his sacraments.

North Liberty, Iowa: North Liberty, Iowa, is a multi-site ministry with Good Shepherd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A dedicated core group of 20 members began worshiping in July 2017 at the North Liberty Community Center. Home Missions funding will allow Good Shepherd to call a second pastor to help its outreach efforts.

West San Antonio, Texas: Ten families from Our Savior, San Antonio, Texas, make up the committed core group at this new mission, which began worshiping together in March 2020. They held three in-person services at an elementary school with an average of 40 people in attendance before the pandemic hit.

“My heart goes out to our young mission churches because they lost some momentum in reaching out to people who had shown interest in learning more about their Savior,” says Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn, chairman of WELS Board for Home Missions. “But our missionaries are resourceful and persistent and found ways to stay connected to them and reach out in creative ways with the gospel.”

The three restarts that Home Missions is now supporting include Dix Hills, N.Y.; Santa Clarita, Calif.; and Burlington, Iowa (unsubsidized).

For more information, visit wels.net/homemissions.

SOME CHURCH FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 10/11 = Worship Service, 9:00 AM
Coffee / Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Monday, 10/12 = NO School (Teacher's Conference)

Wednesday, 10/14 = Worship Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class (Schliewe), 10:00 AM
Public School Youth Confirmation Class, 2:30 PM

Saturday, 10/17 = Worship Service w/ Communion, 6:30 PM
Organist: Mrs. Shannon Spreeman

Sunday, 10/18 = Worship Service w/ Communion, 9:00 AM
Weekend Guest Preacher: Pastor Mark Luetzow,
President of Michigan Lutheran Seminary
Coffee / Bible Study, 10:15 AM
COVID Service w/ Communion, 6:30 PM

St. Paul's Contact Information

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pahirschki@gmail.com

Jeanette Leuthold, Secretary
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Principal Aaron Markgraf
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amarkgraf@stpls.com

St. Paul's Website: www.stpls.com
WELS Website: www.wels.net