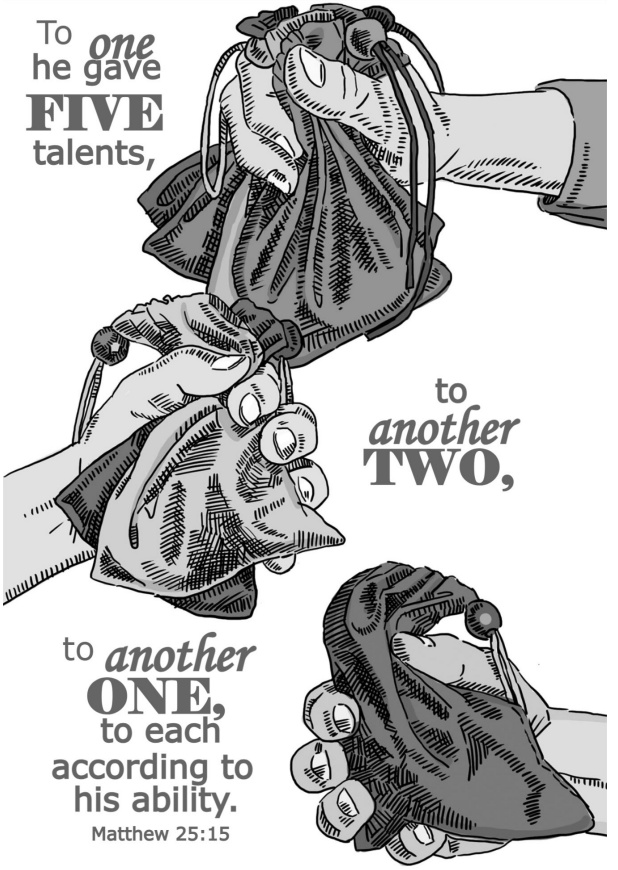
25TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST ~ NOVEMBER 19, 2023



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 and Announcements

please stand 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 God, the Creator who forms us, ☩ the Christ who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humbleness, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making things new. In ☩ Christ, you are and are always forgiven. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" #707

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.**

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 rest complacently on their
dregs, 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.**

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, beloved, 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 Paul Fuelling

please stand in body or spirit
Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia" page 142

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; 15to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them,
and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents
made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and
dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master
of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then 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.' 21His 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.'
22And 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.' 23His 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.' 24Then 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 seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.' 26But 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? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my
return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent
from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For 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. 30As 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 stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day "As Saints of Old" #695

Apostle's 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

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" #182

Offering Prayer

Let us pray…….God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **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
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #632
"Christ, Be Our Light" #715

please stand 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…….Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Holy Meal. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn "God, Whose Giving Know No Ending" #678
(tune: Hymn to Joy)

Dismissal
Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

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Matthew 25:23

"Humbly Carrying the Cross"

Welcome: Welcome to worship. God has been, and is, our dwelling place "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:1-2). Let us praise God, our eternal home, together.

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

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Dewey Jobe, Sandra Balke, Nora Mullins, Jon Beckman, Cory Rice, Judy Smith, Paul Kelly, Gene Beckman, Renee Weller, Teresa Viebrock, Gordon Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.

Cliff Eckhoff, Averi Kroenke, Sharon Forkner (friend of Ellen Harms), Maggie Roark, Mary Warden (mother of Mike Warden), Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Donna Allen (mother of Adrienn Dieckman), Ken Jenson (friend of Connie Gerken), Cora Lee Fuchs (mother of Greg Bredehoeft and grandmother of Angela Alcorn), Jamie Simon, Dena Sikoutris, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Bill Talbot (friend of Connie Gerken), Annie Bright, Kiley Simon (friend of Jenna Nash), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Bill Hampton, Alex Stevens (friend of Tina Ives) and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).

Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose.* Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC.* Kathy Hallauer: *Loving Arms.*

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: ENS David M. Gardner (son of Pam Balke), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in-law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe and Cpt. Joseph Strathman

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.

One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, **November 20th** at 9:00am.

Circle: Esther Circle will meet **November 20th** at 7:00pm in the home of Ellen Harms. Lois Viebrock will be the hostess. Bible Study is Session 3: Commandments 5 and 6 (pages 20 - 28.)

LBPS: Little Blessing Preschool will be in session on Tuesday, **November 21st** and Wednesday, **November 22nd** from 8:00am until 11:15pm in the church basement.

Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **November 22nd** at 3:30pm.

Thanksgiving Service: Join us for Thanksgiving Worship service on Wednesday, **November 22nd** at 7:00pm. Food donations as well as the Women of the ELCA Thank Offering envelopes will be collected. Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Cole Camp Food Pantry.

Ladies: For the past two Sundays, our ushers have distributed the **Women of the ELCA Thank Offering envelopes,** which are to be used in place of the Thank Offering boxes we have used in the past. If you have not, as yet, received an envelope, you can find them at each of the ushers' stands. Your donation to the churchwide organization can be placed in the offering throughout the months of November and December OR you can place your donation in the offering taken at our Thanksgiving service on November 22. Your giving will be used by the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for their ministries and publications. Count your blessings and give generously!

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will **NOT** be here on Thursday, **November 23rd** so they can share Thanksgiving with their families.

Christ the King: Saturday, **November 25th** and Sunday, **November 26th** marks the end of our church year. It is a celebration that Christ is our King and reigns forever.

Angel Tree: The Angel Tree is up in the Gathering Space. During November we are collecting gifts for kids in our community. They are to be returned unwrapped by **November 26th**. During December there will be angels on the tree for residents of our local care facilities.

Advent Dinner: Our annual Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, **December 3rd**, after worship. This is a time for us as a congregation to celebrate the start of the Advent season and share in a festive program. Everyone who can is asked to bring a dish to share, but the meat will be provided. Save the date!

~ * ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ * ~

Chirstkindlmarket Caroling: St Paul's has been asked to provide a group to sing Christmas carols at various locations in the downtown area on the evening of **December 1st** during the Christkindlmarket event. More detailed information will be provided soon. If you are available and would like to participate, please add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the link.

Ole Tyme Christmas: Trinity Pyrmont Lutheran Church in Stover, invites you to their Ole Tyme Christmas in the Country event on Saturday, **December 2nd** at 7:00 pm. This year's theme is Christmas Thru the Ages. Indoor caroling begins at 6:45 pm. The freewill offering will be divided between the Stover and Cole Camp Food Pantries. Come and enjoy the local talent as well as cookies, hot chocolate and hot cider.

Do you "Do"? Our local Cole Camp Food Pantry is so beneficial and well supported and has become an important part of our community. Through contributions and drives like the Souper Bowl, donating eggs, individuals buying "a little extra", and many other ways. By individuals, churches, schools, and organizations. Each one is important and a help to keep us going. Have you considered giving yourself? Would you like to help and be a part of the hands-on work at the pantry? Do you "Do"? The pantry could use some more volunteers in various ways – regular time, on call, special days, specific days, etc. If you would like to help the pantry in this way, you can call or text Julie Cronin, 660-723-4094 and we can find a place for you to share in this community ministry.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, November 19:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, November 20:	9:00am	Sewing
	7:00pm	Esther Circle
Tuesday, November 21:	8:00am	LBPS
Wednesday, November 22:	8:00am	LBPS
	3:00pm	Sunbeam
	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Worship Service
Thursday, November 23:		Thanksgiving
	No	BCHD
Saturday, November 25:	5:30pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, November 26:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations

~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

November 26 ····· Angle Tree Deadline
December 3 ····· Advent Dinner

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers ..... The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist ..... Lois Viebrock
Pianist ..... Jeannette VonHolten
Altar Guild ..... Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg
Ushers ..... Kelly Viebrock, Head Usher
..... Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman, Melinda Strathman & Steve Triplett

25th Sunday of Pentecost ~ November 19, 2023

Assisting Minister ..... Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants ..... Luther League
Reader ..... Sara Jackson
Children's Sermon ..... Paul Fuelling
Acolytes ..... Tristan Fox & Grant Kullman
Flowers ..... Emily Kullman

Christ the King Sunday ~ November 26, 2023

Assisting Minister ..... Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants ..... Ruth Ann Kreisel & Erin Oelrichs
Reader ..... Jim Gumbel
Children's Sermon ..... Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
Acolytes ..... Lexi Goyette & Lane Smith
Flowers ..... Janice Gerken