

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

321 N 10th, Beatrice, NE 68310

Sunday, February 18, 2026

ASH Wednesday



Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope to see you again soon! Please sign the guest book at the entrance of the church. If you do not have a church home, are interested in the teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), or are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's, please speak to the Pastor, Elder, Usher, or the church office.

Communion Guidance: Visitors wanting to commune should speak to the pastor or an elder prior to the service. Our summary of faith is available in the pews to help you determine if you share in our confession of faith. LCMS members and those from congregations in fellowship with LCMS are always welcome to commune

Hymns and order of worship Divine Service Setting 1 are in the Lutheran Service Book, page 151 in the front section of the hymnal if you prefer to follow along.

(♪ denotes responses that are to be sung.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Imposition of Ashes

Opening Hymn 820: My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

Invocation (page 151 in the front of the hymnal) *Please stand*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.**

Silent reflection

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.

C: Amen.

Introit: Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: v. 17

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

**C: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**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: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

♪ Kyrie page 152-153

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

♪ Salutation and Collect pg 156

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. *Be seated*

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12–19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every

way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. *Please stand*

Verse

**JC: Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,6-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

JC: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

JC: Praise to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

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 there 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.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day 419: Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Sermon

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Isaiah 45:14-21

¹⁴ *Thus says the Lord:*

*"The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush,
and the Sabeans, men of stature,
shall come over to you and be yours;
they shall follow you;
they shall come over in chains and bow down to you.*

They will plead with you, saying:

*'Surely God is in you, and there is no other,
no god besides him.'"*

¹⁵ *Truly, you are a God who hides himself,
O God of Israel, the Savior.*

¹⁶ *All of them are put to shame and confounded;
the makers of idols go in confusion together.*

¹⁷ *But Israel is saved by the Lord
with everlasting salvation;
you shall not be put to shame or confounded
to all eternity.*

¹⁸ *For thus says the Lord,
who created the heavens
(he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;*

*he did not create it empty,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
"I am the Lord, and there is no other.*

¹⁹ *I did not speak in secret,
in a land of darkness;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
'Seek me in vain.'*^[a]

*I the Lord speak the truth;
I declare what is right.*

²⁰ *"Assemble yourselves and come;
draw near together,
you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge
who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
that cannot save.*

²¹ *Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the Lord?
And there is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none besides me.*

Prayer of the Church *Please stand*

Congregation responds **"hear our prayer"** after each petition.
"Amen" after final petition. *Be seated*

Offering

♪ Offertory *Please stand*

**C: What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me.
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now
in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT page 160

♪ Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary..... praising You and saying:

♪ Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth.....one God, now and forever,

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord page 162

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion. Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

♪ Pax Domini page 163

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

C: Amen.

♪ Agnus Dei

**C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace. *Be seated***

Distribution

Hymn 915: Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Hymn 843: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Hymn 418: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

♪ Thank the Lord pg 164 *Please stand*

**C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ry one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.....one God, now and forever,

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. *Be seated*

Departing Hymn: From High Atop the Mount (see insert)

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Serving Today:

Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh Elder: Chuck Baker

Organist: Bev Duensing

Acolytes: Anthony & Ivan Long

Greeters: Wayne & Chris Schulz

Ushers: Dale Rickers, LaVerne Malchow, Roger Mohling,
Dave Doering

Please remember with prayers, cards, texts, or calls, our sisters- and brothers-in-Christ who are hospitalized or ill at home: Mary Scheve, Angie Fossler, Mike Holthus, Cheri McConnell, Cindy Weise (all with cancer); Duane Delozier, Pat Nave; Merle Kuhlman, Michelle Baker (surgery), and Olivia Hatzenbuehler and William Kelley (military). ****Please contact the church by Thursday morning** with additions or corrections to this prayer list.

Sunday's available for sponsorship in 2026 are July 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9; Sept 20; October 4, 11; Nov 15, 29, and Dec 6, 13, 27. You can schedule a Sunday in the **scheduling book on a table outside of the church office**. Find the Sunday you want to sponsor and enter your name and other information. Payment (by check) should be made at time of scheduling. You may also call the church office to schedule. **Sponsorships of radio broadcasts** are \$125, (this includes bulletin sponsorship).

Beside the service sponsorship book is a **calendar** (on a table near the office door). **Please write church activities** you would like listed in the bulletin on that calendar.

Happening this week:

Wednesday, Feb 18 10:30 am Ash Wednesday service-no meal
5:30 pm Ash Wednesday service-no meal
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Saturday, Feb 21 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild
Sunday, Feb 22 8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week
9:00 am Divine Service
10:15 am Children's SS, Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, Feb 25 10:30 am Lent service with meal @ 11:15
5:30 pm Lent service with meal @ 6:15
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Lent Services will be held Wednesdays during Lent on Feb 25, March 4, March 11, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. **Meals will be offered** following each of those services with an optional free will offering. We'd like the community to know about the services and meals so **please invite friends and neighbors**. Some in our community experience hunger and we'd like this to be an opportunity for them to get a free hot meal.

February Anniversaries- Happy Anniversary!

(If yours is missing, please let us know!)

7 Steve & Pam Norton, 50 yrs.
8 Mark & Sherry Rogge, 34 yrs.
12 Stan & Cheryl Wirth, 44 yrs.
14 David & Peggy Doering, 39 yrs
19 Larry & Donna Huls, 65 yrs
19 Merle & Lora Kuhlmann, 55 yrs.
20 Steven & Jackie Huls, 23 yrs.
27 Ron & Kay Buss, 60 yrs.

February Birthdays – Happy Birthday!

(If yours is missing, please let us know!)

3 Colton Kelle, Keith Knabe, Kent Knabe, Jason Stover
4 Beth Lineweber, Steve Sandman
6 George Blythe, Austin Rains
8 Zachary Carpenter
9 Betty Reiman
10 Dixie Johnson
11 Linda Engler
12 Macey Holthus, Kiersten Rademacher
13 Shari Anderson
14 Ellie Whitfield, Tina Wright
16 Rowien Kumm, Cortney Walters
17 Tommy Rudder
18 Shauna Whaley, Zadie Zutavern
19 Jessica Lindblad, Rich Scheve
20 Myra Denton, Cheri McConnell, Trendin Lang,
20 Parker Tegtmeier
21 Lorelie Ankersen, Garrett Himmelberg, Rachel Krause,
21 Linn Sunderland
22 Nicholas Jurgens, LaVerne Malchow
24 Jared Himmelberg, Balinda Schwisow
25 Lisa Oltmans
26 Lonnie Duensing, Wayne Huls, Trevin Lang, Paige Rambou
27 Nathan Mohling, Isabella Ruskamp
28 Amy Cisneros, La'Kaya Long

All are invited to attend the Grandparents Day program at school on Friday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium....even if you don't have grandkids attending St. Paul's School. Come see what the children at St. Paul's have prepared for their program!

Food Drive to benefit the Crosiers! Dorcas Society is sponsoring a food drive for Ken and Dawn Crosier to help them while Ken is away from work recovering from back surgery. Donations of nonperishable food and paper products may be left in the coat rack area of the church entry through the week of February 22. Thank you!

"Inspired - A Women's Retreat", at **Grace Lutheran, Fairbury** Saturday, **March 21**. Author and speaker, Christina Hergenrader will present Luke 1 and the story of Mary and Elizabeth to our participants. Three sessions include the topics of Peace: Resting Through Interruptions; Love: Encouragement Shapes Courage; and Sisterhood: Showing Up and Recognizing God's Work. A fee of \$20 for the day includes a lunch, treats and a book from Christina. Contact Laura for additional details at Grace via phone - (402)729-5163 or by email, gl92901@windstream.net. Space is limited so act now!

"Pancakes with a Purpose" fundraiser, pancakes, eggs & sausage, juice and coffee, will be held on **Saturday**, February 21, 2026, 8 am to 1 pm at the Veteran's Club at 701 Dorsey, Beatrice. Freewill donations accepted. Sponsored by Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

St. Joseph's Friday fish fries: Feb. 27, March 6, 13, & 20, 5:30-7:00pm in the Parish Center at 6th and High Street, enter at the northeast school doors. Fried and baked fish, coleslaw, French fries, green beans, mac and cheese, baked potato, and deserts. \$12 per adult, \$6 kids 4-10 (under 4 eat free), \$40 max price per family. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 1723.

- **Church office hours** vary. Please leave a message at 402-228-1540 or email stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com.
- **For immediate assistance**, contact Church Chair Rod Aden 402- 239-5305; Head Elder Chuck Baker 714-232-2794; or Finance Committee member Dave Doering 402-806-1015.
- **For school or church reservations**, call Wayne Oestreich (402-440-5054).
- **Busy Bags and books** for kids are in the narthex by the bulletin board.
- **Large print bulletins with large print hymns attached** are available from an usher.
- Subscribe to the LCMS Nebraska District weekly emailed newsletter at ndlcms.org. It's free.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Address: 321 N 10th St, Beatrice, NE 68310

Office: 402-228-1540

Website: www.stpaulbeatrice.org

Email: stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh; 225-361-5121;

revdochollibaugh@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Pre-School & Childcare

Address: 930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310;

Phone: 402-223-3414 Website: stpaulbeatrice.org

Email: stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com

Lead Teacher: Jonetta Hagemeyer Childcare Director: Sheridan Martinez

