

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach, Luke Kroeger and children throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.  
Remember your covenant.  
Renew your creation.  
Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all.  
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW #843**

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**

**\*KYRIE ELW p. 184**

**\*Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" ELW p.185**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen**

### **CARD SHOWER**

Wayne Schindler will be turning **90** on February 12! Wayne recently moved to the Touch of Home assisted living facility in Tomah. Take time to send him a card at 1211 Mark Ave., Tomah, WI 54660.

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

Pastor Karen will be leading a first communion class for those in 3rd grade as well as any children who are older but didn't have the class. As with Christmas program practice, the class will begin at 8:00 AM on the following Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, and 24th. The students will then take communion on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please direct any questions to Pastor Karen.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS RETREAT**

The La Crosse Area Synod is sponsoring an opportunity for council members, old and new, to gather with others in our Synod on Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM—12:00, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem. Join other congregational council leaders in the La Crosse Area Synod for a morning of learning, networking, idea sharing, and worship. Please let Pastor Karen know if you plan to attend. The cost to St. Paul's is \$25.00, regardless of the number of council members in attendance.

### **SENIORS GATHERING**

A great time was had by all!! What fun we had this past Thursday as we shared in fellowship of a meal, and then tried our hand at putting 48 piece jigsaw puzzles together in teams of 4. Yahtzee was another popular game, although Greg advised he would be giving lessons in the future. We are looking forward to our next time together.

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious, Eason Kelbel, Sr.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson, Erin Laperle, Michelle Klinger

## CALENDAR

Sun., Feb. 11	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Council	11:15 AM
Wed., Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM
Sat., Feb. 17	Council Retreat	
Sun., Feb. 18	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Children Sing & Noisy Offering Sunday	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

WOW!! A total of 83 units were collected yesterday. Thank you to Kirstin Arndt and Susan Herzog-Blumer, co-coordinators of the Wilton Drive, the Brookwood FFA students, Emily Bever and Ann McKelvey for their help at the drive.

### SOUP & SANDWICH SUNDAY

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, here in Wilton, will be serving a variety of soups, chili, sandwiches, homemade pies, bars, and beverages next Sunday, February 11, 11:00 AM—1:00 PM.

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

### A Reading From Isaiah 40:21-31

- <sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!  
<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**  
<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God’s wisdom.  
<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**  
<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

Distribution

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.***

“Lamb of God”

ELW p.191

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Giver of every gift,  
Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

\*Benediction

\*Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ELW #773

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. You are God’s Beloved.  
C: **Thanks be to God..**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Kirstin Arndt; Reader: Justin Arndt

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

**Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.**

### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

\*Great Thanksgiving

ELW p. 190

\*Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 190

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.**

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to  
grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

## A Reading From 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

**ELW p. 188**

**GOSPEL READING**

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

**The holy gospel according to Mark 1:29-39**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Karen Sparling

**\*Hymn**

**“God, Whose Almighty Word”**

**ELW #673**

**\*Apostles' 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 (God of grace, receive our prayer.)**

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*Offertory Hymn**

**“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

**We give thee but thine own, what-e're the gift may be;  
All that we have I thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord from thee.**

**May we thy boun-ties thus, as stewards true re-ceive,  
And glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.**