

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Meatball Dinner

Please turn your sold tickets in today, or as soon as possible. We could use a few more potato peelers, next Saturday, at 9:00. Please bring a peeler or paring knife, or whatever you use. Thank you.

### Friends of the Community Dinner

It's your lucky month!! You won't have to worry about your meals for two Sundays in a row! The 26th Annual Friends of the Community Dinner is being held on Sunday, November 12, from 4:00—6:00 PM. Please see the notice on the bulletin board for details.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Reformation Sunday  
October 29, 2023

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

*Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.*

***\*(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 God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

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

Steadfast and faithful God,

**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 a new way for us.  
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**\*Hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" ELW#836**

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**

**O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your  
people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train  
us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

\*Benediction

**\*Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW #632**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Karen Sparlling; Organist: Nalani Bever;  
Reader: Justin Arndt

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Matthew Dutton,  
Robert Cale

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, Barbara Johnson, Sally Dana,  
Ken Schlaver, Linda Switz Johnson, Lynn Ahrens, Myrna Ottum.

**CALENDAR**

Sun., October 29	Council Meeting	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
Sun., Nov 5	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Drive-Up Dinner	11:30 AM—1:00 PM

## Word

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

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, **hear our prayer.**)

**\*PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

**\*Offertory** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW#884

### \*OFFERTORY 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.**

### \*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,**

### First Reading

*The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God’s people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

### Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

<sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

### Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## Second Reading

*Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.*

### 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup>You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**“Alleluia”**

**ELW p. 188**

### GOSPEL READING

*Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.*

**The holy gospel according to Matthew 22:34-36**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup>“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

<sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

**Sermon**

Reverend Karen Sparling

Hymn

**“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”**

**ELW #631**

**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.**