

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097. This telephone itself is a "Caption Call". This means a written display of what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever, To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

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*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008
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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Gathering

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

Welcome Your Neighbors

Announcements

Prelude.....A time for silent reflection

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☐ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn "Lift High the Cross"

ELW #660

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**

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.

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.

frequently. We want to thank Dr. Mark Mueller of Deer Creek Dental of Tomah for donating over 100 toothbrushes to the project. We also have over 100 towels, so we would appreciate it if you would concentrate on the following items:

Soap: Bath size bars
Combs: Sturdy
Nail Clippers: Metal, with or without nail file

—During our mid-week Lenten Services this year, we will be reflecting on the "I Am" statements of Jesus. Each week we will read and reflect on a Bible passage that reminds us that Jesus brings hope to our lives.

Mar. 11	"I Am the Bread of Life"	John 6:35-40
Mar. 18	"I Am the Good Shepherd"	John 10:11-18
Mar. 25	"I Am the Light of the World"	John 8:12-20
Apr. 1	"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"	John 11:17-27

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Organist: Nalani Bever, Greeters: Anita Steinke and Lois O'Rourke, Reader: Leonard Arndt
Altar: Steve and Pam Brandau, Ushers: Bob Buchholz, Brian Buchholz, Ed Ross, Justin Arndt

Calendar for March 8 — March 15

Today	Fellowship following worship	11:30 AM
	Church Council	12:00 PM
	Youth Bowling at Thunder Lanes	3:00 pm—5:00 PM
Wed., Mar. 11	Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Sun., Mar. 15	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Children Sing/Noisy Offering	
	Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship	11:30AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

—St. Paul's high school and confirmation youth are invited to a social gathering at the bowling alley in Kendall today, from 3 to 5 pm. If anyone has questions or needs a ride please contact Justin Arndt at 414-587-6642.

—We will meet on the last Sunday of each month for a brief discussion on the "Grace to You and Peace" Epistles readings.

—We are a busy people and often have conflicts on Sunday morning which preclude us from attending church. However, whether we are in the pews or not, the bills of the church need to be paid. If you are interested in establishing an offering which would automatically transfer funds from your checking/savings account to the church account, or if you prefer to have your credit card charged, forms are available in the narthex. If you have any questions, please direct them to Nalani.

—The W-ELCA group will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits again this year during lent. While lent is a few weeks off, it's never too early to begin looking for items, especially since sales seem to run

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.

*Canticle of Praise

"Glory to God"

ELW p.148

*Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Word

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

Genesis 4:1-4a

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one

who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails

trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has

Distribution

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

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

*Prayer after communion

**Faithful God,
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

Benediction

Sending

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW #324

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share God's love and mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Drew Thurston, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes

IN THE MILITARY

Sending

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

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty;
Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale

**you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 to our Lord our God.

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

P:we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

ELW p.151

GOSPEL READING

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The gospel according to John 3:1-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born

after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

Sermon
Howe

Pastor Libby

op,

Assistant to the Bish-

ELCA

La Crosse Area Synod

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

*Hymn

"God Loved the World"

ELW #323

***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 (Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.)

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us show signs of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

*Offertory

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

*Offertory Prayer

Holy and generous host,