

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; 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 Krueger 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  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2024  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

*\*(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.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.

### 65 & OLDER GATHERING INVITATION

Pastor Karen would like to invite members, who are 65 and older, to gather at Noon on Thursday, February 1, at the parsonage. We will share in a meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and refreshments. If you chose to stay after the meal, there will be a table for those who enjoy playing cards, putting puzzles together, or just visiting. This will also give Pastor Karen an opportunity to get to know her flock!

### 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.

### Word

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

### First Reading

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

### ***A Reading From Deuteronomy 18:15-20***

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

### **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.  
<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**  
<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**  
<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.  
<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**  
<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your  
covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.  
<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise endures forever.**

### Second Reading

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

### A Reading From 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.  
<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one

### Sending

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

\*Benediction

\*Hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" ELW #434

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: Nalani Bever; Reader: Miranda Arndt

### IN THE MILITARY

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

### IN OUR PRAYERS

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

### CALENDAR

Today	ANNUAL MEETING	11:30 am
Sun., Feb. 4	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
Sun., Feb. 11	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

## 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.**

## 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.**

Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

**ELW p. 188**

## GOSPEL READING

**The holy gospel according to Mark 1:21-28**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud

