

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

321 N 10th, Beatrice, NE 68310

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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, or 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 on our webpage and in print 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 participate in communion.

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 there. (J denotes responses that are to be sung.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Opening Hymn 825: Rise, Shine, You People

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 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12

P: Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

C: How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

P: With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

C: I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

P: Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

C: With my lips I declare all the just decrees of your mouth.

P: In the way of your testimonies I delight

as much as in all riches.

C: I will meditate on your precepts

and fix my eyes on your ways.

P: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

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: Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

♪ 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.

♪ Gloria in Excelsis

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

**We worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord, God,
Lamb of God,**

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,**

In the glory of God the Father, Amen.

♪ Salutation and Collect pg 156

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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*

First Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by

no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children Sing: *O How I Love Jesus*

♪ Alleluia and Verse *Please stand*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

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

♪C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪C: 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 578: Thy Strong Word

Sermon Text: *Matthew 5:20 "Faster Than the Pharisee"*

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 579: The Law of God is Good and Wise

Hymn 580: The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

Hymn 728: How Firm a Foundation

♪ 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 563: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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Serving Today:

Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh

Elder: Greg Penner

Greeters: Dale & Rhonda Rickers

Organist: Vivian Zimmerman

Reader: Shari Pack

Acolytes: Sawyer & Sloan Penner

Ushers: Steve Sandman, Brian Hoops, Vaughn Wright, Dave Doering

Sponsor of today's radio broadcast and bulletin: **Steve and Pam Norton in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary** yesterday, February 7. Congratulations!

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 Daubendiek, Marjorie Itzen, Pat Nave; Merle Kuhlman, Michelle Baker (surgery), Beverly Daubendiek (stroke), Melva Jurgens (our School Grandma); and Olivia Hatzenbuehler and William Kelley (military). ****Please contact the church by Thursday morning with additions or corrections to this prayer list.**

We also keep in our prayers the families of Ron Naaf and David Taylor, members of St. Paul's who passed away last week, and David & Janet Trout as David's mother Carol Trout passed away.

Anniversaries so far in February: *(if yours is missing, 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

Birthdays (I think I forgot to put them in last week!):

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

11 Linda Engler

12 Macey Holthus, Kiersten Rademacher

13 Shari Anderson

14 Ellie Whitfield, Tina Wright

Sunday's available for sponsorship in 2026 are July 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9, 23, 30; Sept 20; October 4, 11; Nov 15, 29, and Dec 6, 13, 27. *A scheduling book is outside the office on the table. Payment should be made at time of scheduling.*

Sponsorships of radio broadcasts are now \$125, beginning January 1, 2026 (this includes bulletin sponsorship). Call the church office to schedule. We will still have children's bulletins but no longer need sponsorships for those. If you have already sponsored a date in 2026 **and paid** for that date, you will not be charged the extra \$25.

Thank you to the school children for your beautiful singing today!

Happening this week:

Sunday, Feb 8	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service-school children sing 10:15 am Children's Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Feb 10	8:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting here 6:30 p.m. Church Council meeting
Wednes, Feb 11	6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Sunday, Feb 15	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Pastor Hollibaugh is starting a 10-12 week Bible study this Sunday, Feb 8, ***"See Through the Scriptures"***. Understanding the Bible can be daunting. *See Through the Scriptures* makes the Bible more accessible by taking us step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, putting everything in clear context. You will see more clearly how the Old Testament and the New Testament books of the Bible fit together. With teaching graphics designed to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, students gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus, helping us to more fully understand the deeper meaning of His ministry and message of love and servanthood. **Please join us downstairs following worship for refreshments and the Bible Study.**

The Call Committee is interviewing (via Zoom) **potential candidates** received from District President Snow for our Pastoral vacancy. The confidential information on candidates is in the church office. Congregational members may review the information in the church office. The notebook may not leave the office. The congregations survey results were shared with our Circuit Counselor, Pastor Paul Warneke. A summary of those survey results were shared with Pastor Snow.

Food Drive to benefit the Crosiers! Dorcas Society is organizing a food drive for Kenny & 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!

Kenny and Dawn Crosier say THANK YOU to their church family for their overwhelming generosity in helping them while Ken is recovering from surgery. They are humbled by your monetary help and prayers.

Jr/Sr High Sunday School students: Your teacher Dixie Johnson invites you to join her for Pastor Karl's Bible study beginning this Sunday. *See Through the Scriptures* is for teens and adults.

St. Paul's students will be **packing Mercy Meals at the school Tuesday, February 17** starting at 8:45. The original date in January was cancelled due to a late start for school. Anyone from church who would like to join us is welcome and your help would be appreciated! The students raised the money for this during their August and September chapel offerings.

Chapel offerings at school for the month of January were for Lutheran Hour Ministries. Total was \$89.81. The offerings for the month of February will go to our Hearts for Jeus project, A New Children's Carepoint in Magoro, Uganda. Chapel is held each Wednesday morning at 8:20 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

We are **accepting applications for new students** in Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten through 5th grade for the next school year, 2026-2027. Please contact the school office if you need an application. **The Board of Education and Finance Committee are still finalizing 2026-27 tuition rates.

School's Ongoing Scrip Card Fundraiser: Order pre-paid shopping cards through St. Paul's Lutheran School "Script Card" Program and our school automatically gets money in return at no extra cost to you! Please contact the school office to order for your own use or for gifts.

Please save **Russ's Register Receipts** (through March), **Our Family and Best Choice UPC** codes. They can be put in the box in the narthex. Our current Russ's receipts total is \$265,115.07.

A Pancakes with Purpose Fundraiser, complete with pancakes, eggs & sausage, juice and coffee, will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 8 am to 1 pm at the Veteran's Club located at 701 Dorsey Street in Beatrice. Freewill donations accepted. The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Improvement Committee is sponsoring this event. We hope to see everyone there . . . and bring a friend!

- **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.
- Consider signing up for the Weekly Update email newsletter with news from the District office, Nebraska congregations and schools, Synod, and our ministry partners. [Click here to visit our website and sign up.](#)

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

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

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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

Give to St. Paul's Child Care Center at zero cost to you through Nebraska's Child Care Tax Credit Act. Donate up to 100% of your projected state income tax liability by writing a check to St. Paul's Child Care Center. Receive dollar for dollar tax credit for your state income taxes. **School Secretary KayLynn McCormick, can help you with forms and walk you through this.** It is a very simple process but must be done as soon as possible as the state is allowing \$2,500,000 for contribution credits and over half of that has already been applied for. When it's gone, it's gone until next year. More information can be found at

revenue.nebraska.gov/tax-credits/child-care-tax-credit-act/child-care-nonrefundable-tax-credit.

The QR codes will also take you to the information and forms. If you have questions, contact Bob Zeigler, NE LCMS District Education office and Superintendent of our school, at bobz@ndlcms.org.

If you want to give through this program, it's important to do it very soon!

GIVE TO ST PAUL'S CCC AT ZERO COST TO YOU

Donate up to 100% of your projected state income tax liability to
St. Paul's Lutheran Child Care Center.
Receive dollar for dollar tax credit for your state income taxes.

Step 1:

Fill out the Child Care Tax Credit
Contribution Application

Download PDF Here



Step 2:

After completing the application, contribute to
"St. Paul Child Care Center" & get the receipt
from the church or school office.



Step 3:

Upload the CCTC-A form (application),
and the CCTC-R form (receipt) given
to you from the church office.

Save the CCTC-R as a receipt for your taxes.