

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026    Second Sunday in Lent



# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026*

*Second Sunday in Lent*

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## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

### OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

From where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Who is our keeper?

**The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.**

How long will God protect us?

**God will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.** Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: #714 O God of Mercy, God of Light**

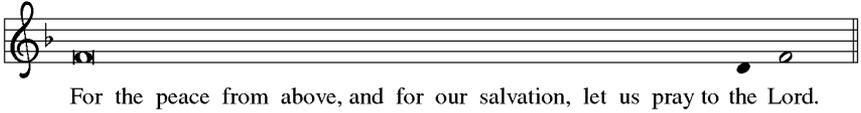
### GREETING (p. 203)

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.**

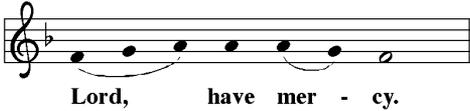
# KYRIE (p. 138)



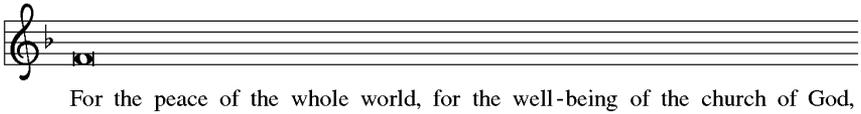
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



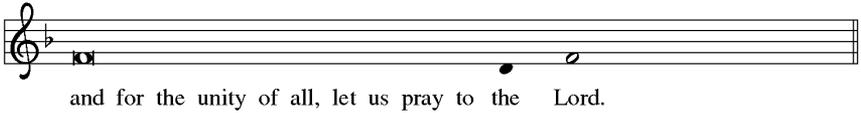
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



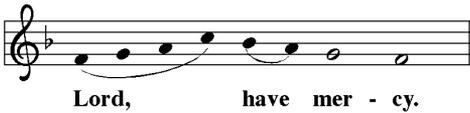
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



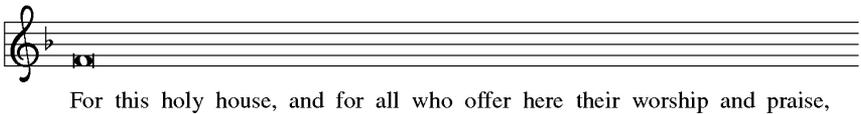
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



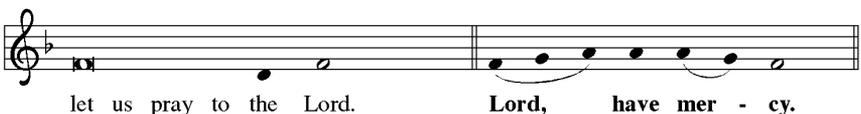
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



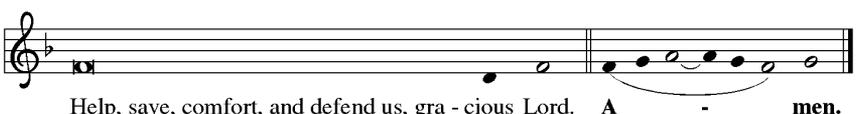
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul’s Choir

#### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a (CEB)

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
those who curse you I will curse;  
all the families of the earth  
will be blessed because of you.”

<sup>4a</sup> Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him.

## Psalm: Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming  
in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (CEB)

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> So what are we going to say? Are we going to find that Abraham is our ancestor on the basis of genealogy? <sup>2</sup> Because if Abraham was made righteous because of his actions, he would have had a reason to brag, but not in front of God. <sup>3</sup> What does the scripture say? *Abraham had faith in God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.* <sup>4</sup> Workers' salaries aren't credited to them on the basis of an employer's grace but rather on the basis of what they deserve. <sup>5</sup> But faith is credited as righteousness to those who don't work, because they have faith in God who makes the ungodly righteous.

<sup>13</sup> The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he

would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. <sup>14</sup> If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. <sup>15</sup> The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. <sup>16</sup> That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*Before:* The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 3:1-17 (CEB)**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ <sup>8</sup> God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

<sup>10</sup> “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

*After:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON “The Inheritance and the Paycheck”**

#### **HYMN: #323 God Loved the World**

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED (p. 105)**

**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**

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### **OFFERING**

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

**Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**Offering Prayer: Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude— for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray.**

**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING / HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessings and thanks belong to you, promising God. You made the sands of the desert and the stars in the sky, and in Abraham you called a people to be a great nation in whom all the families of the earth would find a blessing. In Jesus you raised up a new Abraham to be a blessing to all the people. In his death and resurrection, sin died and eternal life was born. And so we look forward to the fulfillment of your promise, rejoicing with you, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, singing your unending praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER  
 (p. 145)**

...Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)**

**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.**

**LAMB OF GOD (p. 146)**

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. Let us sing:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Each group at the altar rail will be dismissed with a blessing. Please give a family Communion card to an usher. Please follow the guidance of the ushers as you come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.*

**Distribution Hymn: # 335 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

As you go out and come in, may God keep you by sunlight and moonlight; may Christ encompass you with love; and may the Holy Spirit empower you with new life; now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: #803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

## **CHARGE**

Go out in faith, trusting in God's sense of direction. Remember how much God loves this world and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive. **Thanks be to God.**

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

## PRAYER LIST

### **For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:**

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Dale Knotek	Nash Erdman	Barb Erdman
Mark Peterson	Lenny Devos	Glorryne Casmey
Lucile Torkelson	Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee
Kari L Trudeau	Stuart Hanson	
Family of Bev Montieth		

**For our missionaries:** Steve & Kelly Solheim  
City of Joy Rwanda

**For our servicemen:** Brandon Johnson      D.J. Brace

***Please keep them in your prayers this week.***

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, [marianbakken@gmail.com](mailto:marianbakken@gmail.com).

## MISSION

### To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)

[facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: [stpauls@midconetwork.com](mailto:stpauls@midconetwork.com)

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

### THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Rick and Denice Niemela

Scripture Reader

Kathy Normandin

Communion

Kathy Normandin

Acolyte

Altar Guild

Barb Erdman

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and John Vallager

Livestream

Anna Peterson

Fellowship

WELCA

### MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM

**The Wonderful March Service Team is ready to go! Please sign up on the bulletin board form; the sooner the better. Thanks so much! 😊**

Jeffrey and Ingrid Remick

Mark and Anna Peterson

Dwain and Kirsten Fagerlund

Kathy Normandin

Richard and Denise Niemela

Cole and Kelli Bertils

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

**Readings for March 8th, 2026**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm**

Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: [facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

### *Sunday, March 1*

8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am

### *Second Sunday in Lent*

SS/Adult Bible Study  
Worship and Communion  
Fellowship

### *Monday, March 2*

8:30 am

LWR Quilting

### *Tuesday, March 3*

7:00 am  
7:00 pm

Men's Coffee Fellowship  
AA

### *Wednesday, March 4*

5:15 pm  
6:30 pm

Lenten Supper  
Lenten Worship

### *Ezra-Nehemiah Bible Study following worship.*

7:00 pm

Choir Practice

### *Thursday, March 5*

### *Friday, March 6*

Church office closed    Pastor's day off

### *Sunday, March 8*

8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am

### *Third Sunday in Lent*

SS/Adult Bible Study  
Worship  
Fellowship

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**Attendance: 52**

**Our gifts towards Budget:**

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,726.02
Loose Offering	\$ 10.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 185.00
Lent	\$ 55.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 225.00

**Other (non-budget) Receipts:**

Improvement Fund	\$ 15.00
Food Shelf	\$ 20.00

**Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:** \$4,675.42

*Total received towards Budget* \$3,211.02

*Total (non-budget) Receipts* \$ 35.00

*Total Received* \$3,246.02

**The parsonage siding fund is \$24,985.63. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of the siding fund, and all your financial gifts each week!**

## MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT: January 2026

	Month	Y-T-D
Amount needed to meet budgeted items	\$ 20,216.70	\$ 20,216.70
<b>Receipts toward budget</b>	<b>\$ 15,167.09</b>	<b>\$ 15,167.09</b>
Other receipts	\$ 1,878.88	\$ 1,878.88
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 17,045.97</b>	<b>\$ 17,045.97</b>
<b>Budgeted Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 16,842.37</b>	<b>\$ 16,842.37</b>
Other Disbursements	\$ 6,912.68	\$ 6,912.68
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 23,755.05</b>	<b>\$ 23,755.05</b>
	Income/Loss YTD	<b>\$ (1,675.28)</b>
	Due to Benevolence	<b>\$ (1,395.37)</b>
	<b>Net Income YTD</b>	<b>\$(3,070.65)</b>

## WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS 5:15 PM

<b>Feb. 25:</b>	<b>Baked Potato Bar</b>	St. Paul's Youth
<b>March 4:</b>	<b>Taco in a Bag</b>	Parish Fellowship
<b>March 11:</b>	<b>Pulled Pork</b>	CYF
<b>March 18:</b>	<b>Chili and Cornbread</b>	Choir/Worship/Music
<b>March 25:</b>	<b>Quilters</b>	Soup and Bread

## WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30 PM

<b>February 25:</b>	Returning from Exile (Ezra 1:1-11)
<b>March 4:</b>	Laying the Foundation (Ezra 3:8-13)
<b>March 11:</b>	Facing Opposition (Nehemiah 4:1-6, 15-2)
<b>March 18:</b>	Confession and Covenant (Nehemiah 9:1-3, 32-38)
<b>March 25:</b>	Reading the Word and Celebration (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>March 29:</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday School/Worship/Easter Egg Hunt
<b>April 2:</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	6:30 pm Worship/First Communion
<b>April 3:</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	6:30 pm Worship
<b>APRIL 5:</b>	<b>EASTER</b>	<b>10:00 am Worship/Communion</b>

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion class for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their parents will be Thursday, March 26th, at 6:30 pm. Sign up with Pr. Curt. First Communion will be celebrated Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## SPECIAL MESSAGES

### LENT/HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVERS

The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday worship. The congregation is encouraged to participate in worship services during this valuable time of the year for Christians. Please visit the bulletin board to sign up for serving during Lent as well as Holy

Week. Thank you very much if you have already, and thanks to all for your time and dedication!

**\*\*Lenten Devotional books** are available to pick up from the table in the Fellowship Hall.

### **LENTEN SUPPERS**



The Parish Fellowship Committee gives thanks to everyone who has committed to serving one of the upcoming Lenten suppers. In the Bible, "breaking bread" refers to the act of sharing a meal, symbolizing deep fellowship, unity, and covenantal relationship among believers. It signifies a practical act with profound spiritual meaning, referencing The Lord's Supper and joyous fellowship meals in the early church. A big THANK YOU TO ALL!

### **ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S BOOK READ**

Our next Book Read group will meet on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Our March book is, "*Everything is Tuberculosis,*" by John Green. Ingrid will lead and Amy Ellingson will host.

### **SAFE-HOME SURVEY**

The Crookston Fire Department is offering a Safe Home Survey, where they will come and check to see if your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are in good order. Call 218-281-4584 to set up an appointment.

### **PERSONAL CARE KITS**

WELCA invites you to help with Personal Care Kits. During Lent we will be collecting **new or gently used lightweight bath towels.** (Sizes 20" x 40" to 52" x 27,") and **bars of soap,** (3-4 ounces.) Donation collection is in the Fellowship Hall.

### **HOME DELIVERED MEALS**

St. Paul's will be doing Home Delivered Meals, March 30 – April 3, Holy Week. What a privilege for us to bless the homebound with a bit of holiness during this important week! Please see the insert for more information. Thank you, Marian, for organizing this once again!

## COMING IN 2026

### Mark Your Calendars

As we look ahead, please note these important dates in your calendars:



### February – March Lenten Season

Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for suppers and a transformative Lenten journey with our theme:

**“Rebuilding: A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal,”** as we explore powerful themes from Ezra and Nehemiah.

### Holy Week & Easter

- **Sunday, March 29:** Palm/Passion Sunday
- **Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday
- **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday
- **Sunday, April 5:** Easter

### May

- **Sunday, May 3:** Confirmation—celebrating our 9th grade confirmands.

*We look forward to worshipping, learning, and growing together in the year ahead!*

## FAITH FORMATION

It has been a busy and inspiring week for our young people as they explore what it means to live out their faith through stories and service.

### Sunday School: A Big Miracle from a Small Gift

Our Sunday School students dove into the story of **Jesus Feeding the 5,000**. Through the eyes of a young boy with just five loaves of bread and two fish, the children learned that no gift is too small when placed in God's hands.

- **The Lesson:** While the disciples worried about how to feed the massive crowd, a young boy offered everything he had. Jesus blessed it, and not only was everyone full, but there were **12 baskets of leftovers!**

- **Ask Your Child:** "If you were the boy who gave Jesus his lunch that day, what would you tell people about what happened?"

### **Confirmation: Faith in Action**

There is **no formal Confirmation class** during Lent. Instead, our students have been busy serving and assisting with our Wednesday Lenten Services.

- **Serving Together:** A huge thank you to our Confirmation students who worked hard serving the baked potato bar for our **Wednesday night meal**. And a big thanks to the parents who helped as well!
- **Lenten Worship:** Our students also stepped up to assist with worship teams during our **Wednesday Lenten service**. We are so proud to see them put their faith into practice through hospitality and worship leadership.

**"Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish that the boy offered... All 5,000 people ate until they were full!"**

### **REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

#### **Reflection**

Consider a time when you felt uncertain. Can you see how God was at work in your life at that time? What from Abraham and Sarai's story, or from Nicodemus's story, is a help to you as you look for evidence of God's presence in your own life?

#### **Household Prayer: Morning**

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing. If you present me with a mysterious truth or grace, help me to understand, or to seek understanding, with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son's name, I pray. Amen.

## Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, as the evening comes and the light fades, I look for you even in the shadows. Your love and protection stay with me through the night hours, and I rest in your promises. For the day as it has been, I give you thanks. For the gift of rest, I offer a hymn of

praise. You love me and the whole world so greatly that you offer us salvation. After a night of rest, bring me into the light of a new day. In gratitude, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## LENTEN PRACTICES: WEEK TWO

*"The wind blows where it chooses..." — John 3:8*

This week, we follow Abram, the Psalmist, and Nicodemus into the unknown, trading certainty for a journey of trust.

**1. The Step of Faith (Genesis 12)** Identify a spiritual "nudge" you've been hesitant to follow. Take one **micro-step** toward it this week (e.g., a phone call or admitting a need for change).

- **Prayer:** "Lord, I do not see the road ahead, but I trust the One who calls me."

**2. The "Eyes Up" Practice (Psalm 121)** Three times this week, stop and look at the sky or horizon. Take three deep breaths, shifting your gaze from your to-do list to the Creator.

- **Reflection:** My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**3. Holy Curiosity (John 3)** Like Nicodemus, bring a "hard question" about faith to God. Sit with it in prayer for ten minutes without trying to solve it. Just listen for the "sound of the wind."

**A Breath Prayer for the Week (Inhale):** I am born of the Spirit. **(Exhale):** I trust where the wind blows.

