

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+**For a swift end to COVID-19**; for those infected and those who have been exposed; For loved ones and caretakers; For those leading nations; For physicians, nurses, technicians, researchers, administrators, and all other healthcare employees around the world; For those who must work, despite the threat of sickness; For those who have become unemployed or under employed during this pandemic; For Churches and all ministers of the Word; For parents and children; For Wyneken and all places of learning; For those who are alone; For all navigating decisions during this time of uncertainty and fear; For all other petitions we would ask of the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

+**For the Sick and Recovering at St. Paul**: Anita Spiegel; Bonnie Gallmeyer; Ken Schueler; Jeff Schueler; Dick and Ruth Bultemeier.

+**For the Homebound & Infirm**: Delores Rumble, Edna Mesing, Irene Bieberich, Faye Keuneke, Marge Merriman (at Woodcrest); Anita Spiegel.

A Collect for Plagues

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust you during this time of illness and distress. In mercy, put an end to the plague that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all who mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause your people ever to serve you in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OFFERINGS 3.22.20

Need Weekly: \$7,049.84 Received Last Week: \$4,245.75
(+) or (-) Week \$2,804.09 Year to date (-\$19,616.88)

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

<u>Today:</u>	9am	Lent 5—Office of Matins
<u>Wednesday:</u>	7pm	Lent Midweek 5—Vespers
<u>Next Sun:</u>	9am	Palm Sunday—Office of Matins

NEWS AND NOTES | *March 29, 2020*

At St. Paul, Preble.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent gives us the Gospel from St. John 11:1-45, the last of our Lord's seven signs in the Gospel of John, and the miracle which will lead the chief priests to conspire toward his own death: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. In it, we have a preview of what we will celebrate next Sunday and throughout next week: the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Highlighted in today's Gospel is our Lord's compassion over people on a pilgrimage to death. The grief that accompanies the disruption of human relationships that is at the heart of death is a natural human response. For death is not a part of life. Its scourge is part of the curse of sin. In the face of bitter death, we only have questions: "What did I do wrong?" "What more could I have done?" "Why, God?" "Why?" And then the questions often turn to anger and frustration: "What kind of a God would allow this to happen?"

Is it any wonder that all in today's Gospel are frustrated with Jesus? Many were likely witnesses to his works. Now he seems strangely unwilling to address a crisis right in front of him: the death of his friend. Instead, he delays, and misses the opportunity to raise sick Lazarus. "Why won't Jesus do something? If you'd have been here, my brother would not have died."

Into the reality of human despair steps the Lord of life. Jesus saw Mary weeping and Jesus wept. His eyes overflowed. No more profound statement of the incarnation exists. The same God who came to shoulder the burden of the world's sin and death is here, sharing in the grief and sorrow of men. But the God who weeps over that man is also determined to call that man—all people, you—from the tomb to life in his presence. "Lazarus, come out!"

Truth himself speaks a Word and calls forth those who reek of death and decay. He will not allow death to have the final word. He will have the last word at the moment of God's death: "It is finished." The price is paid, sin atoned for, the world justified. For Lazarus and for us, this means very simply that we are free. "Unbind him and let him go." The last enemy is vanquished by him who is for the world the Resurrection and the Life.

The (Temporary) Suspension of Corporate Worship and all Business of the Church. Due to the Governor's edict to limit all public gatherings to groups of ten people or less until April 7th, we are suspending all regular services at St. Paul. Services will be recorded and broadcast on Facebook Live and immediately uploaded to YouTube and sent out to the membership via email. If you are reading this here are a couple things you can do to get started watching the services:

+Go to www.facebook.com/StPaulPreble, like and follow us. You will see recorded services and announcements on our page.

+Go to www.youtube.com, search St. Paul Lutheran Church Preble, and you will find our Church's page with previously recorded services. Like and subscribe to these videos as well—if we get 100 subscribers we will be able to start broadcasting live on YouTube.

+Think of family members who are members of St. Paul who do not currently receive our emails. Ask them if they would send their email address to andrewtyeager@gmail.com to be added to the list.

Hearing the Word of God. As you watch these services, participate by gathering your family around the computer, opening your LSB Hymnal to the proper page (if you do not have a Hymnal, we will kindly bring you one), hear the Word, pray the prayers and sing the hymns as you would in Church. Of course this is no perfect substitute for the Corporate Worship of Word and Sacrament that happens as we gather together as a congregation in the Lord's house, but it is a good, right, and salutary means for receiving the Word within the context of personal and family prayer.

Divine Services are being offered at Church 10AM and 7PM daily for groups of 9 and under: such small group meetings are designed to comply with the guidelines set by the CDC and mandated by Governor Holcomb. If you are interested in signing up for one of these services, contact Pastor Yeager. All guidelines related to social distancing and other precautions will be observed.

Confirmation. Originally, I had prepared to meet with our eighth graders in person after the service on Sunday but I am suspending this meeting too.

Look for a study guide to come out soon with catechetical questions and answers for the confirmands to put to memory as we prepare for examination and Confirmation at the end of April and the beginning of May.

Loving Our Neighbor in the Nursing Home. All of the homebound members listed above are not getting visitors. Because we cannot visit with

them we are encouraging all members to send cards of greeting and encouragement. If any homebound member is critically sick, we will do our best to work with the nursing homes to see them, as pastoral care is also primary care. Please call Pr. Yeager with the information. He will see to it.

E-Giving. Go to splutheranpreble.org/online-giving/ to establish an automatic offering to the Church through the software of GivePlus+. Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, and others wishing to support our mission may now provide their contributions through a secure, and Synod-approved online website, titled Vanco GivePlus. To view this opportunity, simply go to the Congregation's website, www.splutheranpreble.org, click the Online Giving tab, then click the Donation Link provided, set up your online giving profile, and follow the simple instructions. More details will be coming over the next several months. Please contact Tim Ehlerding.

Wyneken has suspended in-class learning but is continuing with home-based remote learning over the next several weeks. Temporary office hours are 8-11:30am or by appointment if anyone needs to visit the school.

Childcare needs. Childcare services at Wyneken will be temporarily unavailable while the in-school instruction is suspended. Understanding that this suspension of services may place an unexpected burden on your family, we have several employees who are willing to offer in-home services for babysitting if needed. You may directly contact any of the following individuals to check availability and make possible arrangements (including compensation for services, as these arrangements would be made independently of Wyneken childcare):

Kaylyn Cornett—431-3943

Bethany Fuhrmann—273-7231

Colleen Fuhrmann—417-5893

Dakota Miller—701-1084

Kali Roe—223-0468

Ashton Schlemmer—223-5343

Amy Schultz—602-3687

Adult Catechism is scheduled to start April 26th at 11:30-12:30 and will proceed all Sunday mornings thereafter. Talk to Pr. Yeager if interested. We have a good group of individuals already preparing to take this class, and it is open to all members that are confirmed. Our book is "Lutheran Catechesis" by Pastor Peter Bender of Sussex, Wisconsin.