



ST. PAUL'S  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Brownsville, Wisconsin 53006

[www.stpaulsbrownsville.org](http://www.stpaulsbrownsville.org)

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**The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 22, 2020**



A member of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
[www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)



A member of the  
Winnebago Lutheran Academy Association  
[www.wlavikings.org](http://www.wlavikings.org)

*If we were able to be together in our sanctuary this week, we would say...*

**WELCOME** to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We pray that God would bring you his richest blessings through the Word of truth we share here today.

*If you have questions – or would like to learn more – about what you hear today, please contact the pastor.*

### Statement of Mission

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to uphold the truth of God's Word and proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ

- by providing opportunities for men, women, and children to gather for worship and Bible study
- so that we all might grow in our faith and knowledge of God's Word
- and be equipped as his servants and witnesses in our community and our world.

### Announcements

**COVID-19 RESPONSE** - Out of love for each other and our fellow citizens, and in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will continue to suspend all public services, meetings, and activities until guidance from federal, state, and or local authorities tells us that it would be wise to resume them.

**WORSHIP SERVICES** - We hope to continue to post video of our worship services online. Right now, we're using Facebook Live to make that happen. We experienced some glitches the first time we tried it for last week's Midweek services. We hope to get them resolved before this Wednesday's Lent service.

Today's service and next week's service will be live-streamed on the Facebook group page of St. Luke's, Oakfield as part of the pulpit swap that Pastor Carter and Pastor Schwartz had already planned for these two Sundays. This week Pastor Carter will preach. Next week Pastor Schwartz will preach. You can find St. Luke's group page on Facebook by typing "St. Luke's Lutheran Church, School, & Sunday School - Oakfield, WI" into the Facebook search bar. We also hope to be able to share the live-stream on St. Paul's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/stpaulsbrownsville](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsbrownsville) as soon as it goes live. You should not need to be a Facebook member to view the stream on either site.

Copies of today's bulletin and order of service are available to view or download at [www.stpaulsbrownsville.org](http://www.stpaulsbrownsville.org). Find the link for "News and Worship Folders" along the left side of the page and click on the link for Mar 22 Worship Folder.

**Lent** - Pastor Kiecker from St. John, Lomira is scheduled to be here for this week's Midweek Lenten service. We haven't finalized plans to make that happen. We'll let you know what we're able to make work as soon as we can. If we're able to make that work, you'll hear him focus on the various skirmishes that we and our Savior have fought in the battles against our spiritual enemies.

**Holy Week** - We'll get out word about our plans for Holy Week as soon as we determine them.

**VIDEO CONFERENCING** - Pastor Carter has signed up for the video conference service at zoom.com. We're already making plans to use it for Catechism Class and Council of Elders meetings. We're looking into the possibility of using it for Sunday School and Bible Classes. He can also use it for one-on-one meetings with members and others. Please let him know if there is something you'd like to talk to him about this way rather than over the phone and he try to set it up with you.

**OFFERINGS** - The best ways to continue to contribute your regular offerings to St. Paul's would be mail them to the church office or use the Bill Pay feature of your online banking. You may contact our bookkeeper, Amy Thomas, to get the paperwork needed to set up automatic withdrawals from your account. We might also be able to set up something with one of the online payment platforms like PayPal or Venmo if someone would prefer that. We will also place a drop box outside Room 3 (the southeast classroom). Please practice social distancing if anyone else is in the building when you come.

**COMMUNICATION** - We will continue to use email, our Facebook page, and our website to post any necessary updates or changes to our schedule. If you aren't receiving our emails, please contact us at [office@stpaulsbrownsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbrownsville.org) to get your name added to that list.

We realize that there are more than a few of our members who do not have email or Internet access. Please help share information that you receive electronically (including our worship services) with family members of friends who may not be receiving these notices.

**CHOIR and HANDBELLS** - have been cancelled for the rest of the spring. Both will start up in the fall to start getting ready for our services at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**WINTER WALKING** – has been cancelled for the rest of the season.

**CLASSROOM CONVERSION TO OFFICE** - We will probably see a lot of progress on the project in the next few weeks, because our contractor will not be able to work at his day job, so he'll have more time to work on our project. Applying the final coat of paint began this weekend. And lumber will soon be ordered for the new exterior wall.

**FLYWAY OWLS** - The next meeting of the Flyway chapter of the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors that was scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 has been cancelled to help prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter, Fond du Lac.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE** (news from area WELS schools)

**In-Person Classes Cancelled: Online Learning** - Governor Evers' has ordered that all K-12 schools be closed until further notice. St. Luke's last day of classes was this Monday. They ran their first test of online learning on Wednesday and conducted some classes online on Thursday and Friday. Principal Buch reports that it seems to be working very well. The faculty will use the week of Spring Break (see below) to get an even better understanding of the online learning tools that are available to them.

**Spring Break** - St. Luke's rescheduled this year's spring break to this week in an attempt to lessen the amount of in-person school days they'd miss when this initial order to close the schools was scheduled for only two weeks. As noted above, the faculty will also use this time to get a better understanding of the online learning tools available to them.

**School Choice Registration** - The applications are beginning to come in for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. Let's keep those coming! Parents remember that we are here to help if you have questions with the enrollment process. The deadline (April 16) is not as far off as it seems. Please do not delay in signing up!

**Divine Call** - Principal Buch received a divine call to serve as the principal and upper grades teacher at St. John Lutheran School in Baraboo on March 8. He has already returned the call and will continue to serve at St. Luke, Oakfield.

**Notes and News** - We will continue to post St. Luke's Notes and News on the "News and Worship Folders" page of our website.

**NEWS AND NOTES FROM  
WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY**



**In Person Classes Cancelled** - WLA is also closed due to Gov. Evers' order to close all K-12 schools until further notice. The WLA faculty is making use of their spring break this week to learn as much as they can about their options for online learning. WLA will use the parent tool "Power Announcement," their Facebook page and their webpage, [www.wlavikings.org](http://www.wlavikings.org) to send out information and updates.

**Office Hours** - The WLA Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. this Tuesday and Wednesday (March 24,25) and every day next week (March 30 - April 3).

**Hot Lunch Volunteers** - St. Paul's has been asked to supply hot lunch volunteers for WLA the week of April 6-9 from 9:30 till 1:30. If you're able to help or have questions, please contact Laurie Schraufnagel at 920.960.5221 or [dlschrauf@gmail.com](mailto:dlschrauf@gmail.com). Note: we'll try to get information out as soon as we know whether or not school will resume before these dates.

**The Hymnfest** that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 8 at St. Peter, Fond du Lac has been cancelled. The fine arts department plans to use some of the music that was scheduled for the Hymnfest in the spring concert in May.

**Traveling Choir** - The WLA Traveling Choir is scheduled to sing here on Sunday, April 19. Watch for information about plans to serve a meal after the service that morning. Director Dale Witte will let us know as soon as he knows whether this date will be cancelled.

**Scrip** will not be sold at WLA again until the week of April 6, at the earliest. Orders can still be placed through [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) for download to your mobile device. Just let us know if you have questions!

**Second Impressions** - will be closed until further notice to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

**The EVENT** - Save the Date! The EVENT takes place on April 25, 2020 at The Golf Club at Camelot in Lomira. Thank you for your support!

**Freshman Lockin Date** - has been changed to Friday, August 21. Note: this is a different date from the one published previously.

**CLEANING THE CHURCH** - We'll be looking for volunteers to clean the church and school building once we're able to resume our usual activities. Ardis Weigand is still recovering from the broken kneecap she suffered while working as our janitor in November. She had another surgery on the knee this week and she probably won't be able to return to work for a while. There's a signup sheet on the counter at the back of the sanctuary for you to indicate when you might be able to help. Thank you.

*Note: at their videoconference next Sunday, the Council of Elders will discuss the possibility of hiring a company to do a "deep cleaning" before we use the building again.*

**CAMP PHILLIP** - Information and registration forms for a variety of summer camps at Camp Phillip near Wautoma are available at [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com)

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (LWMS)** - The spring rally of the Dodge-Washington Circuit is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at the Trinity Community Center in Town Herman. Watch for more information.

**Hearing the Word of the Lord**

	Mar 15	YTD	Avg.	Pct.
Worship Attendance	60	670	61.0	22.0%
Last Year	82	821	74.6	25.2%

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Today,	9:00 a.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> (live streamed)
Monday,	5:00 p.m.	Catechism Class (teleconference)
Wednesday,	3:30 p.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> (live streamed)
Next Sunday,	9:00 a.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> (live streamed)
	7:00 p.m.	Council of Elders (teleconference)

**TOGETHER**



March 17, 2020

## **Facing COVID-19 together: A message from our synod president**

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Events of the recent weeks and days surely remind us that Jesus' words describing the trouble that we will experience in this world are all too true. But especially in times of trouble like these, we will want always to remember the rest of what he told us: He has overcome the world. Our times are still in his hands. He will never leave us or forsake us. No matter how dark the days, he remains our light and salvation; whom (or what) shall we fear?

Throughout our synod, various areas of ministry, congregations, and schools have already been affected by the current health crisis and have been taking steps to respond. And, as the situation continues to change, many more decisions will likely need to be made in the days and weeks to come.

The synod has taken various actions in response to government recommendations and mandates, and, after much prayer, other decisions have been made based on common sense and an abundance of caution. To do our part in helping to limit the spread of COVID-19, the synod has placed a moratorium on all non-essential foreign and domestic air travel for synod personnel. Meetings at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry have been postponed or canceled. Martin Luther College, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary have canceled in-person classes through the Easter break.

As the situation changes, WELS congregations will be faced with making difficult decisions about how gospel ministry and congregational worship will be carried out in the coming weeks and months. Here are some important points to consider:

- The Fourth Commandment and other words of Scripture remind us not only to show respect and obedience to governmental authorities, but also to remember them in our prayers as they make decisions to safeguard our nation.
- According to the Fifth Commandment, we have the responsibility not to do anything to hurt or harm our neighbor (or ourselves, for that matter), but to help our neighbor in times of need.
- God's Word reminds us of the importance and blessing of worship and encourages us to make faithful use of the means of grace.

How do we apply these biblical principles at a time like this? The Centers for Disease Control has recently recommended that for the next eight weeks, public gatherings should be limited to no more than 50 people. Some local governmental bodies have already gone further, issuing an outright ban on public gatherings of 50 people or more. Restrictions could become even tighter than that in the coming days and weeks. What does this mean?

- While we can make recommendations, the synod does not have the authority to mandate uniform actions by all of our congregations. Rather, congregations will need to make their own responsible decisions about worship gatherings, depending on local circumstances and governmental restrictions.
- Respect for our government, Christian love for our fellow citizens, and proper concern for our own health may require congregations to alter their worship plans. In some places, services may need to be canceled to comply with government mandates. In other places, congregations may decide to offer more service times to keep gatherings below the recommended or mandated limit. Congregations that cancel services are encouraged to find alternate means, such as live streaming worship, sermons, and Bible classes. Congregations that do not have the ability to do this may want to make their members aware of other congregations that do. In some cases, emailed sermons and devotional materials might be considered. Congregations can also equip parents with resources that can be used in family devotions. Our trust in the efficacy of God's Word reassures us that his Word works even when public worship gatherings are not possible.
- Recognize that this is an extraordinary opportunity to let our light shine in the ways that our congregations and their members serve the people in their communities in Christian love.
- In times such as these, as your local ministry strives to meet these challenges, your continuing and regular offerings are as vital as ever. God's work must go on.

We ask you to be patient with us. We are doing the best we can to provide information and guidance in this difficult time. And we ask for your prayers that God will guide us with wisdom and faith as we make what will likely be difficult decisions.

So it is with God's church in these last days. We know that Satan is doing all he can to silence the proclamation of God's saving gospel. We know that our enemy from hell tries to use events like this to drive a wedge between God and his people. But we also know that God can and will cause even this crisis to work together for the good of those who love him. He will use this to drive us to the cross of our Savior, where he gave himself to make us his own. And he will lead us to the open door of the empty tomb, where he demonstrated his complete victory over Satan, sin, and death.

May our gracious God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver, keep you strong in your faith and confident in his promises.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

## Schools and families facing COVID-19 shutdowns

Schools are shutting down and kids are home. Now what? Many of our WELS schools are seeking to offer solutions for learning opportunities and activities while students are home. The WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) has met with various members of schools' leadership to brainstorm and share ideas.

First and foremost, Mr. Jim Rademan, director of CLS, says, "We are requesting that all our WELS schools follow CDC, state, and local guidelines regarding closures."

Many schools are already working on plans to keep kids engaged in education during the shutdowns. "Several of our schools have been working very hard to engage children in continuous learning and have put together their plans and are willingly sharing those with others," says Rademan.

CLS is working to compile plans, documents, and resources that schools can adapt for their own use. The list will grow and change as more information becomes available. View and download resources at [cls.welsrc.net/download-cls/covid-19schoolresources](https://cls.welsrc.net/download-cls/covid-19schoolresources).

It's unknown how long students will be out of school; it's a moving target, but the key for schools is to find a way to connect with students during this time to cultivate ongoing learning, explains Rademan. Right now, there are more questions than answers as to

how this will affect the school year and academics. Currently, the main priority is to keep communities healthy.

"Every state and every local district and every local school is going to need to adapt to the local culture and community that they're in. The key is to communicate," says Rademan. "We're encouraging our schools to pay attention to their state instruction websites and local schools and figure out ways to connect with kids for continuous learning."

Mrs. Cindi Holman, Early Childhood Ministry national coordinator, has provided some helpful tips for parents and families as they will now be home together. View tips for families at [wels.net/suggestions-for-parents-of-young-children](https://wels.net/suggestions-for-parents-of-young-children).

"One recommendation is being really prudent about watching out for having the news on all day long. While it may look like your children are not paying attention, they're hearing this," says Holman. "Just the same way we can get overwhelmed and stressed by the constant barrage of information, the little ones don't really know what to do with that kind of information."

Holman says, "For parents, is it going to be challenging? Yes, it is, but we can really embrace this as a special treasured opportunity for families. In a time when we're overscheduled and running all over all the time, this opportunity to have extended family time, I think, will bring tremendous blessings to families. It'll take some adjustment, but I think it will bring great blessings." 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit [wels.net/together](https://wels.net/together).

**THROUGH THE BIBLE IN THREE YEARS**  
**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**  
 Year 1, March 26 - April 1

**March 26** **Genesis 47:13-48:22**

Joseph continues to administer the famine relief program, saving many lives and bringing great blessings to Egypt. Jacob's family also continues to increase. As Jacob nears the end of his life, he asks Joseph to swear that he would be buried in the land of Canaan. As death draws near, Jacob tells Joseph and his sons the story of God's promises and gives Joseph's sons the same status as his own sons. (This is why Ephraim and Manasseh are included among the twelve tribes of Israel.) He then lays his hands on their heads to bless them, crossing his hands (over Joseph's objection) so that the younger son would receive the greater blessing.

**March 27** **Genesis 49**

Jacob calls his sons together and pronounces blessings and/or predictions on them and their descendants (the twelve tribes). Because of their immorality and violence, Reuben's tribe will become insignificant and Simeon's and Levi's tribes would be scattered. Judah receives the promise of the Savior instead of them. The other sons' blessings refer to the kind of land their tribe would receive or profession their tribe would pursue in the promised land. Jacob specifically lists greater physical blessings (but not the spiritual blessings Judah received) for the tribes from Rachel's sons, Joseph and Benjamin. He then asks all the sons to see to his burial in Canaan. Then he dies.

**March 28** **Genesis 50**

After Egypt observes a period of mourning, Joseph receives permission to take his father home to Canaan for burial in the same cave as Abraham and Isaac. When they return from Canaan, the brothers, worried that Joseph will now use his Egyptian power to get revenge on them, concoct a story that Jacob had told them to tell him not to harm them. Joseph's answer reassures them and shows his trust that God had worked all things for good. The book closes with Joseph's death after the brothers promise that his remains will also be taken back to the land promised to them and their descendants.

**March 29** **Luke 19:29-46**

March	
	<b>Luke</b>
5	18:35-19:10
6	19:11-28
	<b>Genesis</b>
7	27:1-45
8	27:46-28:22
9	29:1-30
10	29:31-30:43
11	31:1-32:2
12	32:3-32
13	33
14	34
15	35
16	36
17	37
18	38,39
19	40:1-41:13
20	41:14-57
21	42
22	43
23	44
24	45
25	46:1-47:12
26	47:13-48:22
27	49
28	50
	<b>Luke</b>
29	19:29-46
30	19:47-20:47
31	21:1-24
April	
1	21:25-38
2	22:1-13
3	22:14-30
4	22:31-46
5	22:47-62
6	22:63-23:12
7	23:13-25
8	23:26-43
9	23:44-56
10	24:1-12
11	24:13-35
12	24:36-53
	<b>Psalms</b>
13	1,2
14	3,4
15	5
16	6
17	7,8
18	9,10
19	11,12
	<b>Acts</b>
20	1:1-11
21	1:12-26
22	2:1-13

<b>CURRENT book</b> ←
started book . . .
finished book ✓
<b>GENESIS</b> ←
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi
Matthew
Mark
<b>LUKE</b> ←
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

The last chapters of Luke's gospel include the events of Holy Week. Today, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on "Palm" Sunday. After the disciples find the colt just as Jesus said, the crowds begin to praise Jesus all the way into the city. When the Pharisees object, Jesus tells them even the stones would shout. He then weeps over the city and speaks about the judgement that is coming upon it because it would reject him.

**March 30** **Luke 19:47-20:47**

That afternoon he casts some merchants out of the temple. A few days later the Jews question his authority. Jesus silences them by asking a question about John the Baptist that they refuse to answer. He tells the parable of the tenants to show them how close they were to stumbling on him and being crushed. Later they are unable to trap him with questions about paying taxes or the resurrection. Jesus points out several other problems with the way they had interpreted Scripture and exploited the people and promises punishment for them.

**March 31** **Luke 21:1-24**

Jesus commends the offering that a poor widow brings to the temple treasury. Then the disciples question how they could know when the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed like Jesus had said. Jesus answers by warning them not to be deceived by false prophets and by telling them some of the signs that would remind them destruction was coming. He especially talks about persecution and tells them that they would be given the words they needed when the persecution came. He also describes how difficult things would get before Jerusalem would be destroyed.

**April 1** **Luke 21:25-38**

Jesus' focus then shifts to things that will happen when the whole world will be destroyed on Judgement Day. He tells them to look forward to the redemption that will be ours that day, recognizing its approach the same way we recognize the approach of the changing of the seasons. He also encourages them to not to let the worries of this life keep them from being ready for his return. He tells them always to watch. The last two lines of this section summarize Jesus' activities for the remainder of Holy Week.