

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 31, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Divine Setting One pg 157

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

#913

INVOCATION

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

KYRIE

“Lord, Have Mercy”

GLORIA

“Glory to God in the Highest”

COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (ESV)

Moses was one of the greatest Old Testament prophets. But here he foretells the coming of Christ who will be God's mouthpiece like no one before him.

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers--it is to him you shall listen-- just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 32

L: Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,* but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is for- | given,* whose sin is | covered.

L: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,* and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

C: I acknowledge my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;* said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

L: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;* surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.

C: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;* you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

L: Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,* but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (ESV)

Paul uses a controversial issue in his day - eating food from a pagan temple - to instruct us. Christian freedom should be used responsibly, not causing others to stumble.

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"-- yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING**Mark 1:21-28 (ESV)***Jesus demonstrates his divine authority by freeing a man of an unclean spirit. Jesus came to give us victory over Satan.*L: The Holy Gospel according to St Mark the first chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. 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." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.****APOSTLES' CREED****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****Pastor Jon Dunbar****HYMN OF THE DAY*****"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*****#849****SERMON****OFFERING****OFFERTORY*****"What Shall I Render to the Lord"*****LSB pg 159****PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH****LORD'S PRAYER****BENEDICTION****CLOSING HYMN*****"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*****#549****ANNOUNCEMENTS****† St. Paul Visitation Ministry †**

Duane Barth Don Butzke Linda Ehlers Paul Heidorn Norma Ehlers Christine Erks
 Jim Klepper Rosemary Matlock Elsie Pirrie Alretta Klepper LaVerne Rohren *Bill West
 *Marilyn Ziemke Delores Nordmeyer Ardith Stuhr *denotes nonmember

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev David Feddern, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Hampton

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

St Paul Visitation Ministry**For Our Congregation and Community:****Derek Glassman (Cristy Richter niece's husband) falling accident****Family of Elvira Whitt (Geri Rutledge's mother) passed away Thursday January 21st**

Baptised into God's family on Saturday Jan 30th
Elliot Coffey (son of Brandon & Emily Coffey)

Collin Sansom (husband of Rosie Matlock's Granddaughter) having another surgery on Tuesday February 2,
2021

Dealing with an illness: Christal Fehlhafer, Shirley Utter, Roger Rhodes, Aaron DeWaard, Amy Frye's Father Frank, Paula Huebschman (Jamie Ramsey's mother), Mitch Peeks, Barb Nordmeyer (niece of Verna Neujahr), Hawley Family Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Sheila Franks, Dick Greenwood, Linda Ehlers, Debbie Haleem, Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law), Mya Noreen (Great Grand Daughter of Darlene Link)

Recovering from surgery: Duane Barth, Jayne Griffiths, Linda Luebbe, Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer)

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School:402-534-2121

Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar; **Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Richard Gudgel; **Principal:** Mr. Bob Brauer

Cell:402-641-4813

Cell:402-319-0965

Cell:402-534-3406

DCE: Brittany Fulcer; 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love

January 24: Total Attendance: 84 Sunday School: 8

VOLUNTEERS:

TODAY(01-31-21) Acolyte: Abbie Saunders **Lay Reader:** Colleen Classen **Organist:** Carol Erks

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (01-31)	9:00 AM	Worship online and in person
	10:30 AM	Bible Study online and in person Sunday School in person
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Group
MONDAY (02-01)	-----	NO Bible Study Pastor out of the office
TUESDAY (02-02)	-----	
WEDNESDAY (02-03)	8:30 AM	Chapel
	3:45 PM	Midweek Classes
THURSDAY (02-04)	-----	
FRIDAY (02-05)	6:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
SATURDAY (02-06)	-----	
SUNDAY (02-07)	9:00 AM	Worship w/Communion online and in person
	10:30 AM	Bible Study online and in person/Sunday School in person
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Group

As of 01-26-21	Amount received 01-24-21	Needed each week	Received YTD 2021	YTD Amount needed to cover 2021 budget	Difference
General Fund	\$5,477.00		\$49,853.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$0.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$3,851.00		
Total	\$5,477.00	\$15,513.00	\$53,704.00	\$61,411.00	-\$7,706.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00	Bldg Fund**	\$46,917.00
Teacherage Fund	\$50.00		\$100.00	Teacherage Fund	\$125.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$405.00		\$421.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/20-8/21) 5k goal	\$0.00	\$88.00	\$2,285.00	\$2,019.00	\$266.00

Current Operating Note: \$0.00 (debt limit is \$90,000) **Insurance Proceeds Received

LLL DOOR OFFERING Today JANUARY 31, 2021 - LLL PANCAKE DINNER Due to Covid-19, the annual LLL Pancake Dinner for this year has been canceled. The offering held at the Pancake Dinner goes toward the Nebraska District LLL Projects. A large portion of the Special Project monies goes towards Scholarships for students that are going into full time church work attending LCMS Universities and Seminaries as well as projects such as the State Fair Booth Ministry, and several other worthwhile projects. Our local LLL will be holding a door offering today Sunday, January 31st for these Special Projects. Donations may also be mailed to Myron Schmieding, 2032 420th, Utica, NE. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul LLL. Thank you.

LCMS Convention Referendum The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult or impossible for districts to hold their state conventions on schedule. This, in turn, will have consequences for a Synodical Convention, currently scheduled for 2022. As a solution to this problem, LCMS President Matthew Harrison, with the support of the Board of Directors, has called for a vote by every LCMS congregation. A "yes" vote would add a year to the current triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention to 2023. **If you would like to weigh in on this question and offer direction to our Church Council, please share your thoughts with Pastor Dunbar or Neal Koch before Wednesday, February 10th. Thank you!**

"Praying for Muslims 2021" booklet sign up sheet in at the Welcome Center

Project for Deployed LCMS Chaplains Our mission offerings for the month of January will be designated to deployed LCMS chaplains. The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces supports almost 200 chaplains, who represent the church on active duty, the reserves, the National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol. We will be collecting items appreciated by service members (if individually wrapped, go quickly): Protein and granola bars are considered desirable. Individually-wrapped hard candies, Tootsie Pops, suckers, etc. Rice Krispies treats are always winners. Small cans of Pringles or small cracker packs (peanut butter, cheese, etc.). Nuts in small packages are regularly sought after and are a hot commodity. Chewing gum, especially "breath enhancers" when you cannot always brush after a meal. Personal hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, bar soap, etc. If anyone would like to help with this project, a collection box for these items will be in the church narthex. Thank you.

Preschool Enrollment Time St. Paul Preschool in Utica is now taking enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be a Preschool Open House on Saturday, February 27th from 10:00am to 11:00am for interested families to visit our classroom. The preschool is located on the east end of the school building behind the church. Children should be 3 years old by July 31, 2021 to attend preschool next year. We are excited to offer another year of social, emotional, cognitive, physical, AND spiritual learning experiences for preschoolers in and around our community! For more information please call the school at 402-534-2121 or preschool teacher, Pam Johansen, at 402-534-5138. Please share this information with friends and family who may be interested in our preschool program. We can also schedule a visit at another time. St. Paul Preschool is tuition free, but there is a \$250 yearly book and registration fee for all students who attend St. Paul School, with a maximum of \$500 per family with multiple students at St. Paul. Assistance to cover this fee is available if needed. An enrollment form and \$35 nonrefundable deposit (which will cover snack fees) must be returned to hold your child's spot for next year.

St. Paul Lutheran School (Utica) will have **Kindergarten Round-Up** on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** Children who are or will be 5 years old before July 31, 2021, are eligible to attend. You are also invited to attend our school chapel at 8:35. There will be special activities for the children, while the parents will have an opportunity to receive information about our program and address any questions or concerns. Letters of invitation have been sent to those names we currently have on our list. If you did not receive an invitation, or if you know someone who might be interested in this Christ-centered educational opportunity, please call the school at 534-2121 or Mrs. Luebbe's cell at 641-9383.