

February 11, 2024

## Transfiguration

## **ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS** 2045 LYNN ST | SANFORD, MI 48657

Pastor: Christopher P. Vossler Organist: Heidi Stecker



**Reception of New Members** Today we welcome Tim and Sharon Hakes

# Congregational response at the end of the Rite:

▶ Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## **C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment.

But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

#### Introit

Psalm 99:1-5; antiphon: v. 9

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy | mountain;\*

## for the LORD our God is | holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples | tremble!\*

**He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the | earth quake!** The LORD is great in | Zion;\*

he is exalted over all the | peoples.

Let them praise your great and | awesome name!\*

Ho- | ly is he!

The King in his might loves | justice.\*

## You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in | Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his | footstool!\*

Ho- | ly is he!

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy | mountain;\* for the LORD our God is | holy!

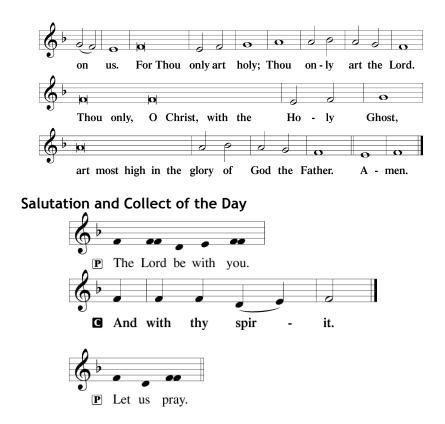




as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



**C** O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### **Old Testament Reading**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." <sup>10</sup>And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." <sup>11</sup>And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

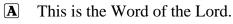
Praise the LORD, all | nations!\* Extol him, all | peoples! For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\* and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\* bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

#### Epistle

2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup>Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



#### Thanks be to God.

Please Stand in Honor of The Holy Gospel



#### Holy Gospel

C

Mark 9:2–9

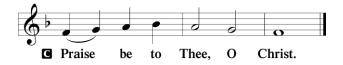
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.



<sup>2</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." <sup>8</sup>And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

<sup>9</sup>And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



#### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** 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 thence 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.

Sit

## Children's Message



Sermon

"Veiling and Revealing" 2 Corinthians 3-4

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

Goal: That the hearers would be bold in making the Good News known to those around them.

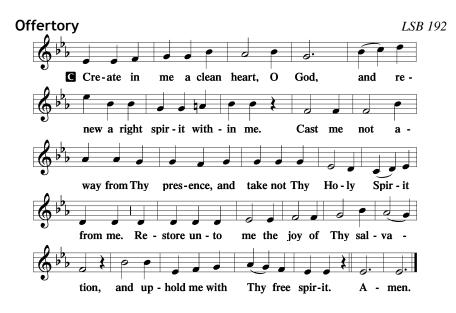
- I. Introduction
  - •
- II. Veiled
  - Why did Moses wear a veil in the camp?
  - Does God continue to veil His Gospel today?
- III. Revealed
  - How did God reveal His Gospel to people?
  - What means does He continue to use in revealing His message?
- IV. Boldness
  - What is our role in revealing God's message?
  - How does God empower us for this purpose?
- V. Conclusion

•

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

Stand



Sit

Offering Special Music- "Jesus on the Mountain Peak"

Stand

## Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

C 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;

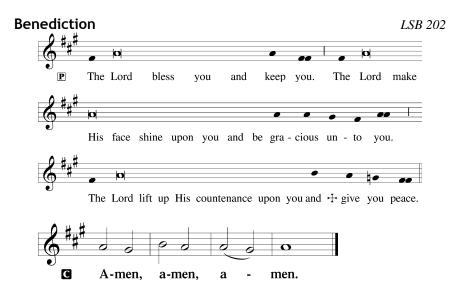
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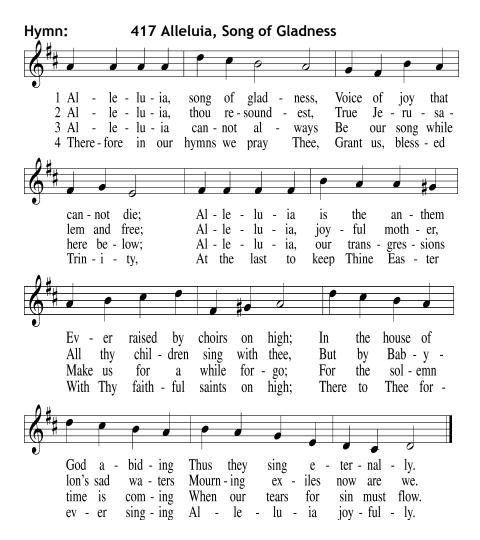
## and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### Collect for Peace

▶ O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Stand





Dismissal for Sunday School

Dismissal for Youth Bible Study

**P** Go in Peace, serve the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Church Office: 989-687-2824 E-Mail: <u>stpaullutheran@tds.net</u> | <u>www.stpaulsanford.org</u>

### WELCOME:

We join in welcoming our visitor's this morning. If

you would please be sure to sign the guest book (Elders can direct you to the location), Thank you!

## THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

SUNDAY: Worship Service 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship/11am Council Meeting

**MONDAY:** 

**TUESDAY:** 5pm Confirmation Class/7pm Lifelight

WEDNESDAY: Ladies Aid 9am/Lifelight 1pm/

Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm/Choir 8pm

THURSDAY: Trustee Meeting 6pm

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY: Band Rehearsal 4pm/Game Night 7pm

SUNDAY : Worship Service with Communion 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship/11am Bible Study/

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 2/4/24					
OFFERINGS Env / Plate	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE	
\$5625/179	21	-	\$5825	72	

**Council Meeting Today** –Council meeting following fellowship today.

**Ladies Aid** –Resumes 9am on February 14<sup>th</sup> to begin planning future projects

**Ash Wednesday Service**: this Wednesday-February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

**Fellowship**-Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship this morning for refreshments and conversation! Refreshments are provided each Sunday by members of the congregation. If you would like to provide snacks for fellowship, please sign up on the clipboard by the kitchen.

Youth Movie Night-Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm Pizza|poporn|smores and movie discussion.©



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

<u>**Prayer Request</u>**: If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer</u>

Mission of the Month: In *February*, we are collecting donations for Wellspring Lutheran

**Services**, a Christ-centered organization dedicated to helping families work through difficult life situations as well as providing housing options for seniors in need



The flowers on the altar for our worship service this morning are provided by **Patty Billingsley** in

honor of Megan Giddings birthday. *Happy Birthday, Megan! ©* 

Would you like to beautify the altar with flowers for a worship service? The 2024 Altar Flower Sign-up is on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall. Sign up now and pay for your flowers in the offering plate. After the service, you can enjoy your flowers at home for as long as they last. Just remember to bring back the vase to reuse!

Altar Guild representatives for February are Carolyn Sutton (631-3953) and Patty Billingsley (860-4024).

*Congratulations* to the *McDonald family* for the birth of *Michael David McDonald* on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Michael is the son to Trevor and Kayla McDonald and grandson to Dave and Andrea McDonald. ☺

**Blacktop Project-**We are accepting donations to the Blacktop project as we work toward future upgrades.

**Pastoral Care:** Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email <u>stpaulrev@tds.net</u>. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaullutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: <u>stpauldeacon@tds.net</u> or <u>esocidnator01@gmail.com</u> if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!



# Wanted: VBS Coordinator for Summer 2024

Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work

has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for someone to join us and serve as VBS Coordinator for this year. Responsibilities include: attending monthly Youth Ministry Board meetings, organizing VBS week, coordinating volunteers, and overseeing the registration process. If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler. **Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study** is be on vacation through Easter

National Honor Society Can Drive: Help support Aaron, Kaitlin and Jace, by bringing in your recyclable beverage cans or just the tabs. There is a deposit collection bin at the lower level entrance.

**Please be sure** to lock up and turn down the lights when leaving Church.

## #Up Coming Events#

**3 Lent Crosses** – First showing of the 3 crosses made by Mike Schweigert, Randy Engblade, and Don Retzloff will be Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

February 14<sup>th</sup> **Ash Wednesday Service** 7pm

Youth Movie Night-Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm Pizza/poporn/smores and movie discussion.©

**Sanford Food Pantry:** The current needs for the Food Pantry are **Hamburger, Tuna, Chicken Helper.** There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. *Thank you for all of the*  items and monetary donations. Please remember that the food pantry does not accept expired or dietary food.



Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. We encourage our Youth to share in the once in this lifetime opportunity to learn more about God's love attending "Endure" 2025. To be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans

SERVING	This Week 2/11	Next Week 2/18
Flowers:	Patty Billingsley	St Paul Office
Music:	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
Proclaimer:	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler
Fellowship Host	Margie Dittmer	Julie VanKuiken
Ushers	Duane Grubaugh & Curt Bowland	Gerianne Barnard & David McDonald
Acolytes	Jeffrey & Sam	Deklan & Jace
Greeters	Linda & Bill Mitchell	Christy Martin

## Lenten Worship Services

## "What Is a Christian?"

Have you ever been asked, "what is a Christian?" The simple Sunday School answer to this question certainly comes to mind: "A Christian is one who believes in Jesus as their Savior." And while this answer does explain *whose* a Christian is and how one becomes a Christian, we can go so much deeper. A Christian is characterized by their faith in Jesus, but "you will recognize them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). The way we live shows us to be Christian. On the Sundays in Lent, Pastor Vossler will unpack the Christian life in five different ways: A Christian is Steadfast, Conciliatory, Zealous, Saved, and Humble.

## "Hear Our Penitential Cry"

While most of our favorite psalms declare God's glory and rejoice in His mighty deeds, not always are our prayers so joyous. Seven times, the psalmists turn to God in penitence, crying our for mercy because of their sinful actions. During our midweek worship services between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, we will be blessed by pastors of the Midland Circuit preaching on the Penitential Psalms to guide our own life of penitence. The Christian life is one of repentance: acknowledging our sins and turning from them toward God, the source of our forgiveness.

February	14	Ash Wednesday
	21	Lent I
	28	Lent II
March	6	Lent III
	13	Lent IV
	20	Lent V

LENTEN Midweek SCHEDULE - 2024

Lenten Dinners @ 6pm & Services @ 7pm, February 21, 28 & March 6,

13, 20					
HOLY WEEK – 2024					
March	1 24	Palm Sunday	9:30 am		
	28	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm		
	29	Good Friday	1:00 pm		
	31	Easter (Sunrise Svc)	7:00 am		
		(Breakfast)	8:00 am		
		(Celebration Svc)	9:30 am		
April	6	Easter Concert	4:00 pm		
<b>Read the Bible in a Year!</b>					

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For Christians – and especially for Lutherans – nothing is more important that God's Word. God speaks to us through His Word, and we do well to listen to what He has to say to us. That is why regular devotions and prayer and Scripture reading are so important for our spiritual life.

It's always a good time to start a plan to read the Bible! And in fact, you can read through the entire Bible in a year, with only 15-20 minutes per day. Are you worried that the Bible might be too much for you to read in a single year? There are resources that can help. One option that is available is on your smartphone: Download the YouVersion Bible App and look up the "Reformation Reading Plan," which was developed by the Michigan District to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

If you don't have a smartphone, you can follow this reading plan in the bulletin every week, along with suggested readings from Luther's Small Catechism. Note that whatever day you start the reading plan in the app will be "Day 1," so you may find yourself on a different day than what is in the bulletin.

Duny Readings.				
Days 106-112	Reading	Catechism		
Monday	Luke 10: 25-42, Numbers 23,24,25	The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar		
Tuesday	Luke 11: 1-36, Numbers 26	The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar		
Wednesday	Luke 11: 27-54, Numbers 27, 28, 29	The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar		
Thursday	Luke 12: 1-48, Numbers 30, 31	How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily		
Friday	Luke 12: 49-59, Numbers 32, 33	Daily Prayers		
Saturday	Proverbs 8: 1-11, Psalm 52, 53, 54, 55	Table of Duties		
Sunday	Genesis 22: 1-18, Psalm 25: 1-10, James 1: 12-18, Mark 1: 9-15	Who is Jesus?		

Daily Readings:

## Daily Devotion Resources:

Daily Prayers for Morning, Noon, Evening, Close of Day (LSB 294-298)/*Treasury of Daily Prayer*/Portals of Prayer

Prayer Requests:

- Youth in the Church, especially our Confirmands
- Our Shut-ins
- Pastors of our congregation and Synod, and for increase in the numbers of Seminary students for future Pastors