

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chris Anderson, Chris, Janet Davies, Donna, Ruth Hunter, Carl Janovsky, James Kolkoski, Dorothy Kowaleski, Jim McKnight, Tim Palmioli, Cathy Runquist, Tom Sutherland, Eugene & Marge Walz and Jeremy Webb.

Council person of the day is Betty Hrdlicka. Next week's person is Joan McPartland.

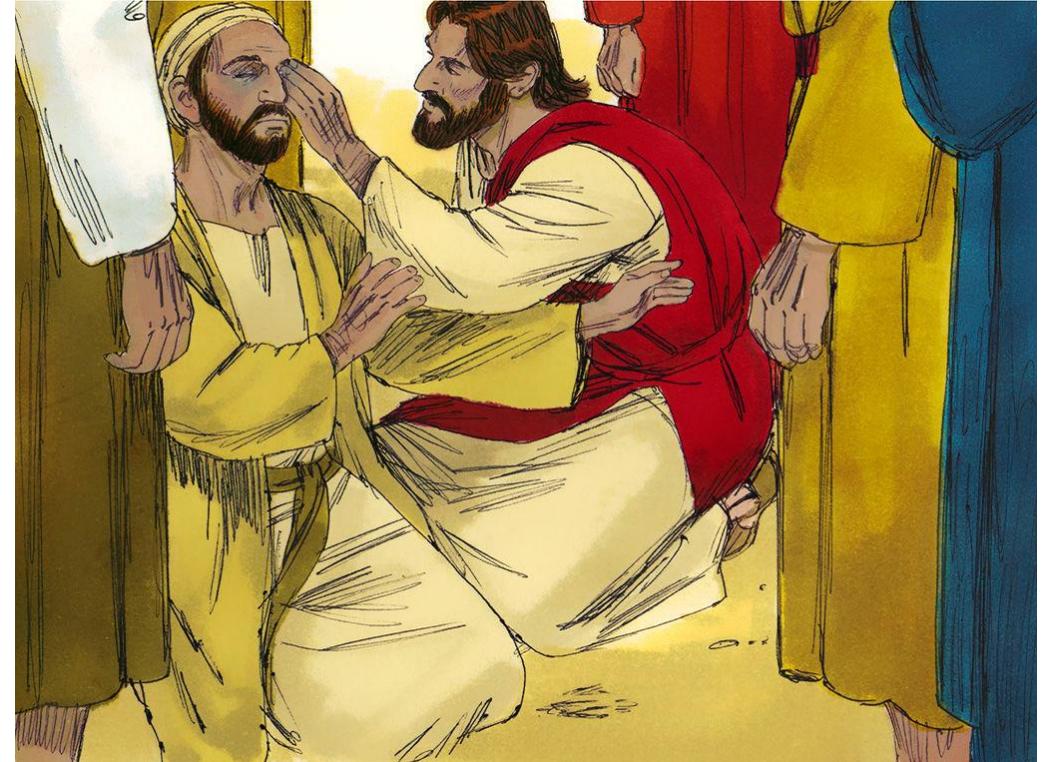
Bible Study will begin at 11 am on Thursdays, March 5-April 2. Bring your lunch and we'll explore the Word during Lent!

Scholarship Applications are due in the church office by Thursday, April 30 in order to be considered. Please contact the church office if you need a form.

Easter Lilies Form is due Sunday, April 5.

Communion Safe Practice – We will be pre-filling the cups, and we ask that you refrain from doing intinction or drinking from the common cup during this time of precaution.

World Hunger Noisy Coin Collection – Empty your pockets and purses of loose change for Lutheran World Relief every 4th Sunday. Thank you.



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020

Welcome to Worship!

At St. Paul, no one is a stranger, for we are united by the common bond of our life in Christ. We welcome you to receive Communion at God's Table this morning or to come forward for a blessing if this is more comfortable for you. Communion can also be brought to you where you are sitting, and gluten-free wafers are available. All are welcome here!

***Please stand as you are able.**

Announcements

Service of Light

Evening Hymn

Evening Thanksgiving

Psalmody

Readings

Message

Sermon Song **"Amazing Grace"** **#779**

Litany and Prayers

Passing of the Peace

Offering *With the Lord There Is Mercy* *-Rowan*

Communion

Lord's Prayer

Communion Song **"You Are Mine"** **#581**

Post Communion Blessing

Final Blessing

Sending Song **"Lead Me, Guide Me"** **#768**

Postlude

Devotional

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Now I See

Blindness means different things to different people, but it means something to everyone. While only some people experience physical blindness, everyone has moments in which we struggle to discover a truth or to see a bigger picture, as well as moments of realization or revelation or sudden remembrance—moments when we say, "*Now I see.*" Often such a moment shows that we were blind in some way. The moment of new sight might be a move of repentance, a stumbling out of naïveté, or an awakening to the needs of the world around us and the radical way God loves that world.

When Jesus meets the man born blind in John 9, he initiates all sorts of new vision. He treats the man's physical condition. He declares that the man's lifelong state does not have to do with how good or evil he or his parents are. Gradually the man also sees who Jesus is; he progresses from labeling Jesus "the man called Jesus" to declaring, "He is a prophet," to worshiping the Son of Man. In this gospel reading we see Jesus challenge the assumptions the religious authorities hold about how to follow God and even what "sin" means.

The story of the man born blind invites us to open ourselves to the moments that make us say, "*Now I see.*" These moments include the realization of our wrong actions and our sinful inaction, what we have done and left undone; but they also include the rethinking of our categories, the reconsideration of how God is asking us to minister, the new affirmation of our baptism, and further listening to God's promises and God's call. The God who cannot be confined to categories or pathways comes to us today to challenge our blindness and open for us an ever-new way of salvation.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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