



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Aberdeen, SD March/April 2025

Confession

Church historians can trace the history of confession and absolution in worship services back to the 12th century with Peter Abelard and Peter Lombard and even earlier. However, we can trace much farther back all the way to the time of Moses. Where God gave the Israelites a sacrificial system to forgive their sins. You also had the practice of placing the sins on a goat once a year and then sending the goat out of the city. The goat was literally a scapegoat. It carried away the sins of the people. Or you simply had the practice of sacrificing a lamb to forgive your sins.

Point being God's people have practice confessing their sins for a very long time. It is a key part in what we do as God's people. Not because we love to talk about sins, or compete with whoever has the worst sin, but because we need to acknowledge our shortcomings. We need to acknowledge our sins. That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. That we cannot free ourselves of our sinful condition. That is simply the reality of the situation no matter how much we may not like it or hate to admit it. We are sinful broken people.

However, in confessing our sins we also see a wonderful reality. For when we confess our sins, we see the Holy Spirit at work. Our sinful flesh does not want us to admit that we are broken. Think of all the excuses we so easily come up with when we do something wrong. We'd love to blame anyone but ourselves. Likewise, the world loves to tell us that we are perfect the way we are. If we have fallen short, it isn't our fault but someone else's. They are the ones to blame.

You see, we can only confess our sins through the work of the Holy Spirit. He alone gives us the ability to come before God and one another and admit we have done wrong. Without a doubt we should be ashamed of our sins. Our sin that breaks relationships, that tears people down instead of building them up, and that causes so much pain and heartache. Yet, at the same time we should not be so afraid or anxious to confess our sins before God or one another. For we have a God who is ready to forgive and we as His people are called to forgive as He forgives us. We should be a people who abhors sin and yet, openly confesses our sins before God and one another knowing we can only do that because of the Holy Spirit. Knowing that around the corner is something beautiful as we eagerly await hearing those wonderful words of pure Gospel, "I forgive you".

In Christ,
Pastor Smith

Absolution

Lent will soon begin with Ash Wednesday. At this service and throughout lent, we focus on repentance and also ultimately the hope of we have in absolution given by Christ through a called pastor. The Augsburg Confession, one of our earliest church documents states,

Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance. (Source: <https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/#ac-xii-0002>)

Absolution is a promise from God. Jesus commands his Disciples to baptize and teach in Matthew 28:18-20. Specifically, he says, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." He teaches us to pray and directs us to forgive one another. And in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant he states, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." This is meant as a warning, Christian people are people who have been forgiven much and are called to forgive others. The bible clearly teaches that Pastor's are called to forgive sins publicly, but we are called by God to offer forgiveness to sinners.

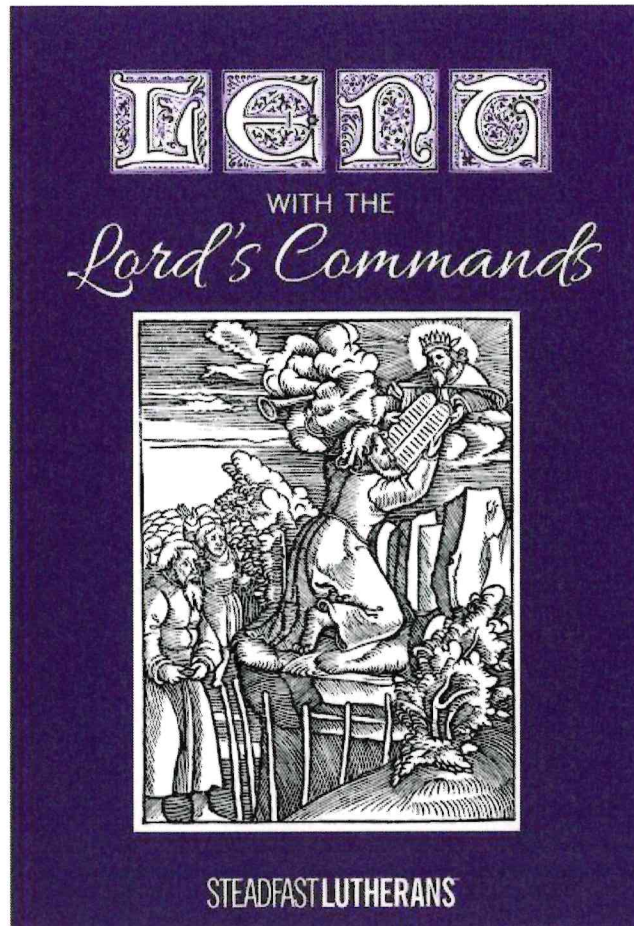
Our duty is clear, but Absolution is also a gift. After confession, the pastor pronounces forgiveness by virtue of his call. He has been set apart for this ministry of proclamation and we can know as God's people it's as though God himself is telling us, "You are forgiven of your sins." It's such a unique gift for Lutherans to hear our Lord speak to us actively. This is the voice of Proclamation in our midst, there is no greater instance of the Gospel being spoken.

And what's more is that we have a Father in heaven who has promised that when we confess, he will forgive. Listen to the Father speak through Ezekiel,

Ezekiel 33:10-11 "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

With other faiths how does one know if you are forgiven but not in ours. Our God desires us to know we are forgiven and promises us that if we confess, we will be forgiven. That is not a threat, it is a promise. In Christ, there is forgiveness in absolution. Thanks be to God.



Our hope over the next few years here at St Paul's is to review the Small Catechism. The Small Catechism is a right summary of scripture and so we will also learn the scriptures, God's grace and his love. This year we will review the Ten Commandments and Meanings.

We will utilize the Service of Prayer and Preaching due to its focus on the Small Catechism. Lenten hymns will begin and end our services every week. My hope is that these services will refresh both your heart and mind about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are both God's rules but also his words to us. He describes a people he will create out of blood and water and the bread of life. May we hear God's word both Law and the Gospel which will come with the resurrection of our King.

Ash Wednesday (March 5)

Midweek 1 (March 12)-First Commandment

Midweek 2 (March 19)-Second and Third Commandments

Midweek 3 (March 26)-Fourth and Fifth Commandments

Midweek 4 (April 2)-Sixth and Seventh Commandments

Midweek 5 (April 9)-Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments

Lent



Lent/Holy Week Worship Schedule

Theme: The Ten Commandments

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2025 Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm.

Lent Services: March 12-April 9, 2025 Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm.

Palm Sunday: April 13, 2025 Services at 8:00am and 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 2025 Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm

Good Friday: April 18, 2025 Services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm

Easter Vigil: April 19, 2025 at Our Savior Lutheran—time TBD.

Easter Sunday: April 20, 2025 Services at 8:00am and 10:45 am

Soup and Sandwiches will be served at the Lent services; after the 12:15pm service and prior to the 6:15pm service. This is a good time to be in fellowship with other members.

**Upcoming
Events:**

Confirmation: May 4, 2025 at the 10:45 am service. Statements of Faith will be given by confirmands on April 30th after the Wednesday 6:15pm worship service.

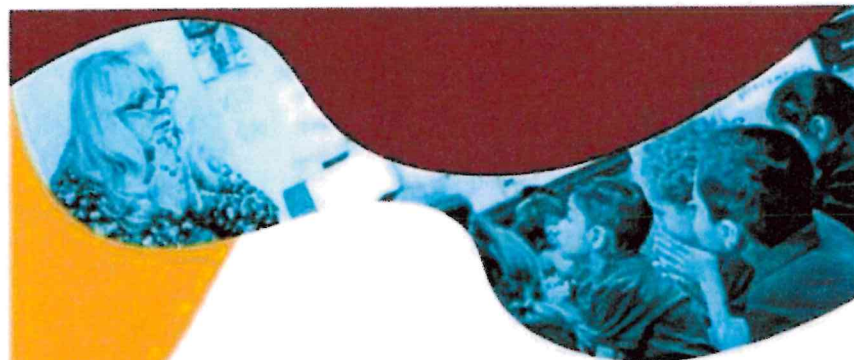
Watch for information regarding Vacation Bible School this summer. More details to follow!

Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

February/March 2024

We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week!



Lutheran Schools

PROVIDING EXCELLENT Academic Preparation

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

1,885
Schools



21,222
Teachers



35
Districts

Sharing the life-changing message of Jesus' love with more than **200,000** students, their families and the community

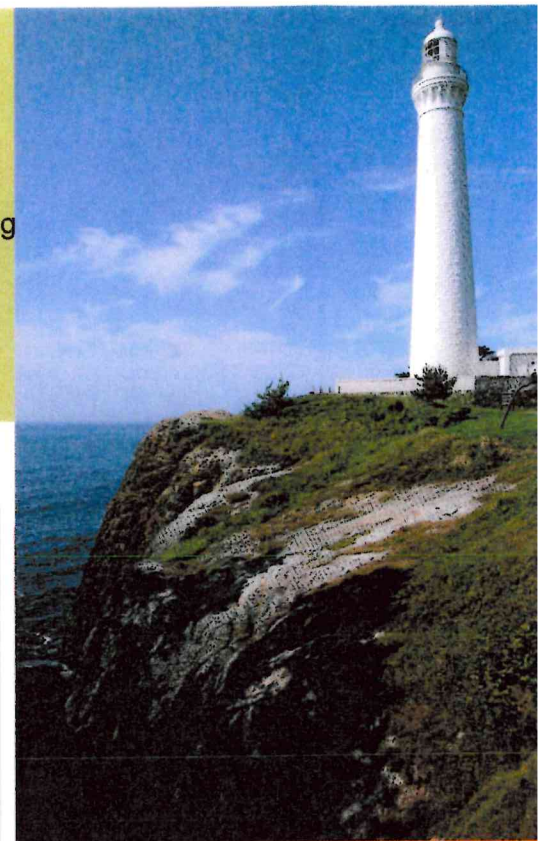
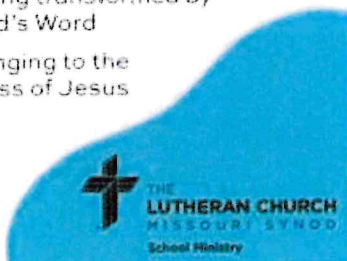
RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF Faithful Christian Disciples

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

Learn more:

888-THE LCMS (843-5267)

lcms.org/school-ministry



Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 17- President's Day- NO SCHOOL

March 14- No School- Conferences

March 20-21- No School Spring Break!

April 18-22- No School Easter Break!

May 12- Spring program/graduation 6:15

Reminders:

Please continue to save grocery receipts and pop tabs!

Some of our activities during NLSW this year!



Silly Sock Day!



Field Trip!



Water exploration and pajama day!

REMINDERS:

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2025-2026 School year! Our new full-day Jr. Kindergarten program is limited to the first 12 students who enroll! Please call the preschool for more information or pick up a registration packet from the church office!

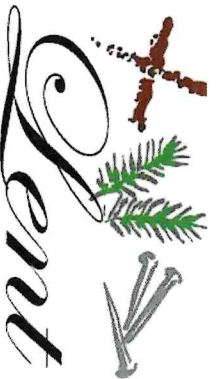
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

& Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Ryan Drevlow

Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077

March



Every Sunday
 Divine Service @ 8am
 Bible Study @ 9:30 am
 Sunday School @ 9:30 am
 Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT

2	3	4	5	6	7	1
Coin Bank	6pm Altar Guild meeting	7pm Elder Meeting	11am Bible Study 12:15pm Ash Wed Worship 5pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Ash Wed Worship 7pm Confirmation	9am Quilting 6:30pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice	5:30-7:30pm Youth For Christ	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12:30 Prayer Service 5-7pm Youth Group		7pm Men's Bible Study	11am Bible Study 12:15pm Lent Worship 5pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Lent Worship 7pm Confirmation	9am LWML Meeting 6:30pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			11am Bible Study 12:15pm Lent Worship 5pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Lent Worship 7pm Confirmation	9am Quilting 6:30pm Choir Pract. 7pm Rural Gospel mtg 7:30pm Bell Practice	5:30-7:30pm Youth For Christ	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5-7pm Youth Group Food Bank			11am Bible Study 12:15pm Lent Worship 5pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Lent Worship 7pm Confirmation	9am Quilting 6:30pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice		
30	31	Soup and Sandwiches each Wednesday – after the 12:15pm service and before the 6:15pm service.				