

*“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

**March 12, 2025**

**7:15 PM**

**Midweek 1**

We know that following Jesus on our Lenten journey takes intentionality. It’s not a spectator sport. You have to do it. So, over the coming weeks of Lent, we will inspire each other; we will invite each other deeper into faith; and we will give thanks for all God is doing in us and through us, as each week we explore a different Lenten practice.

So what is a Lenten practice? A Lenten practice is anything we do, during Lent, that opens us up and brings us closer into God’s presence. A Lenten practice is like going to the gym for your faith. It may be awkward at first and difficult, but afterwards you feel good; and after doing it for a while, you notice changes and strengths, and it becomes so much a part of your routine that you can’t imagine life without it. Some common and traditional Lenten practices include prayer, fasting, generosity, confession, Bible study, hospitality, working for justice, and meditation.

***Tonight we explore HOW TO SAY NO!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we travel this Lenten pathway,  
we journey together, a community of faith.

**All: As we travel this Way of Jesus,  
we journey together, but also alone.**

One: Practicing our faith:

**All: living Christ’s call  
to love God with all that we are, to love our neighbor  
as we love ourselves.**

One: Practicing our faith:

**All: as stewards on the Way.**

SONG

If You but Trust in God to Guide You

PRAYER

**All: God of the hungry times,  
God of the difficult times,  
God of all the times of our lives,  
we need to talk.**

**Sometimes it’s difficult to understand  
the direction we need to go.**

**With all the choices we have in our lives,  
sometimes we’re not sure**

**when to say “Yes,” or when to say “No.”**

**So we ask for your guidance.**

**We ask for wisdom.**

**We ask for Spirit.  
In our worship, in our work,  
in our choices, in our lives.  
May it be so, loving God!  
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE                      A Narrative Reading of Matthew 4:1-11

REFLECTION

FOR CONTEMPLATION

*List three Christian values, to which you have said “Yes.”*

CHALLENGE

*Whenever a choice presents itself in your daily living, say “No” when it contradicts your list—those Christian values to which you have said “Yes.”*

OFFERING

*Prayer Before the Offering*

**All: We do not live by bread alone,  
but by your Word, loving God.  
May that Word fill our hearts and our hands,  
all that we have, and all that we are,  
that it may be a blessing in your world.  
In Jesus’ name, we ask it. Amen.**

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING

One: As we travel this Lenten pathway, we journey together, a community of faith.

**All: As we travel this Way of Jesus, we journey together, but also alone.**

One: Let us go into God’s world, practicing our faith,

**All: living Christ’s call to love God with all that we are, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.**

One: Let us go into God’s world

**All: knowing we are never alone. Christ’s peace, the Creator’s love, and the breath of the Holy Spirit go with us. Amen!**

SONG                              How Firm a Foundation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**