

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, School, & Preschool (WELS)

922-1080 (office phone) 1010 Adams Ave., North Fond du Lac, WI 54937

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Pastor Thomas Behnke, 948-1384 (cell), 922-1718 (h)

Pastor Michael Kampman, 238-5777

Website: [www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com](http://www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com)

WLA Principal David Schroeder: 921-4930

WELS Christian Family Counseling: 800-282-0561

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving: 920-740-5899

Principal Aaron Hartwig, 7-8

Steven Lehman, 5-6

Marlee Hill, 3-4

Rebecca Miller, 1-2

Dawn Hinn, Kindergarten

Stephanie Liepert, Preschool

**Public worship, classes, and gatherings have been suspended until further notice.**

**Please visit our website for recorded and written sermons and services, devotions, and announcements.**

### **Palm Sunday (April 4 & 5, 2020)**

**God's Word this week:** Hail the King who humbly comes to save us. For 1,700 years the Church has celebrated this festival that opens Holy Week. Jesus entered Jerusalem to the sounds of praise and adoration of the people there. Laying palm branches and their cloaks in the road, the people honored the prophet from Nazareth as their Savior. Some surely saw their Savior from sin; others likely saw their earthly savior from the Romans and foreign rule. But either way, the songs of exultation rose: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The appointed readings this week are Zechariah 9:9,10; Philippians 2:5-11; and Matthew 21:1-11. (WELS devotions, usually based on these weekly readings, are available at [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com). The synod can email these insightful devotions to you daily if you'd like.)

**Recorded services** are available on our website ([www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com](http://www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com)) at anytime. You may choose the time you'd like to watch them. Some online recorded worship services will be current and some will be from past years if you'd like to hear the hymns and expanded liturgy. Devotions, printed sermons and services, and other materials are also available anytime from our website. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it" (Luke 11:28).

**WELS App:** There are many resources for you to use on the WELS App that you can download for free. It includes daily devotions, articles from *Forward in Christ*, Christian music, answers to theological questions (even about this virus outbreak), and much more. You can google the WELS app anytime.

**Holy Week Worship:** Please look for online worship opportunities this Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday). While staying apart this week is not what we were hoping for as we praise the Savior for his gift of communion, his sacrificial death, and triumphant resurrection, the fact remains that those gifts are all still ours! We may have to wait a bit to receive the Lord's Supper, but what a joy it will be when we can do so again. We may have to wait a bit to enjoy the festive music, singing, fellowship, and flowers, but what a joy it will be when we can do so again! For now we pray to God to have mercy on us and our fallen planet, to help us be responsible, loving neighbors to others by *very carefully* observing health guidelines, and to lead us to find as many ways as safely possible to share the message of true life through Christ. Finally, once again please especially keep our senior (seasoned) citizen members in your prayers as well as those whose jobs have been put on hold.

**Our offerings last week:** Current Fund-\$9,651.23; Missions-\$500; Improvement Fund-\$65; Mortgage Fund-\$529; Lent-\$1,160; Initial offering-\$5; A/V Ministry-\$25; Organ/Piano Fund-\$80; Gym Improvement Fund-\$25 (Total electronic funds-\$1,899.48). May the Lord use these to his glory and honor.

**Address, phone, and email changes:** If you have personal contact information changes, please forward them to the church office at your convenience. We appreciate it! If we don't have your email address, please share that also if you are comfortable doing so. Contact us at [office@stpaulslutherannfdl.com](mailto:office@stpaulslutherannfdl.com) or 922-1080.

**Divine Call:** This week our congregation extended a divine call to **Miss Kasey C. Hoffman** to teach pre-school and serve as our school's resource teacher. Miss Hoffman currently teaches at Dei Spring Child Care Center in Cold Spring, Minnesota (northwest of the Twin Cities). We ask the Lord of the Church to guide her in the decision-making process and bless her with wisdom from above. We also continue to pray for **Mr. Michael Mittelstadt** (currently teaching at Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls) as he deliberates our call to him to teach grades 5-6 and serve as our athletic director.

**Youth Rally:** WELS has cancelled the 2020 International Youth Rally, June 23-26 in Knoxville. As it's unknown how long and significant the impact of COVID-19 will be along with the financial toll this crisis is taking on families and congregations, it was decided to postpone the event until the next scheduled rally in 2022.

**Palm Sunday evening** (this Sunday night) WELS President Mark Schroeder will deliver a brief message to the members of our synod in an online video broadcast. The message will be broadcast live at 6:00pm (central). He invites us to access that message live online or it will be archived at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net).

**Thank you!** Our congregation's leaders and called workers continue to need your prayers and support. We thank you for your past practice of bringing your loving offerings so we can carry out Christ's ministry together. It is important that we continue to do this even if we can't meet together for a while. Our controller will be able to fulfill our financial obligations if we are regular in our gifts, as the Lord asks (1 Cor. 16:2). This can be done by bringing offerings to the office during the week (because of current closure rules, please call ahead), sending them by mail (1010 Adams Ave., NFDL, 54937), or using electronic options. **You may also drop offerings off at church on Sunday morning from 8:00-10:30 if you'd like.** Thank you to all who did so last Sunday. It was wonderful to see you even if we had to talk at a distance! A form for electronic funds transfers can be found at our website or you can request one from the office and we can send or email it. You can also give via your smart phone. Go to your phone's app store under "Giving Plus" and follow the directions. Finally, Vanco is now accepting gifts over the phone for our congregation members. They will take donations if St. Paul's members call them at 800-675-7430.

**A plea/reminder:** It is hoped that all of us will take very seriously the directives given us by our national and state leaders to implement measures to stop the spread of this debilitating and sometimes deadly virus. With community spread now occurring in Fond du Lac County, *we all need to act as if we have the virus* and could pass it on to others. This is the loving thing to do so that we are not responsible for its further spread to our families or neighbors. Currently, this is the only weapon we have to combat it. "Safer at home," except for necessities, means just what it says: We are safer at home or in our private office apart from others. This will ultimately also end the threat sooner, shorten the time of our separation, and get people back to work again. A history lesson about the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918 shows us that those who survived were those who stayed home. Also, while the Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift from the Savior, it is also difficult to distribute it safely at the present time (touching items, keeping one's distance, even disinfecting the building after people enter and leave). Please remember that our members in the military must often go for months without communion being available. During those times, they are encouraged to go even more frequently to the Word. The Gospel is in the Word in all its power, through which the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith and reassures us of God's forgiving love. There are many scriptural resources available to us at home and online. Please use God's Word regularly, even daily! *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you* (Isaiah 54:10).

**Quotes from Luther:** "In times of trial we should learn to judge not by our feelings but by the Word of God. This Word promises us that every trial is only the eventide upon which the morning of comfort follows. But our flesh does the opposite and, disregarding the Word, directs its attention only to the present feeling of affliction and judges by that feeling. Therefore it cannot conceive of the end of the trial in its heart." He says in another place, "Dwell on the Word, not on your worries."