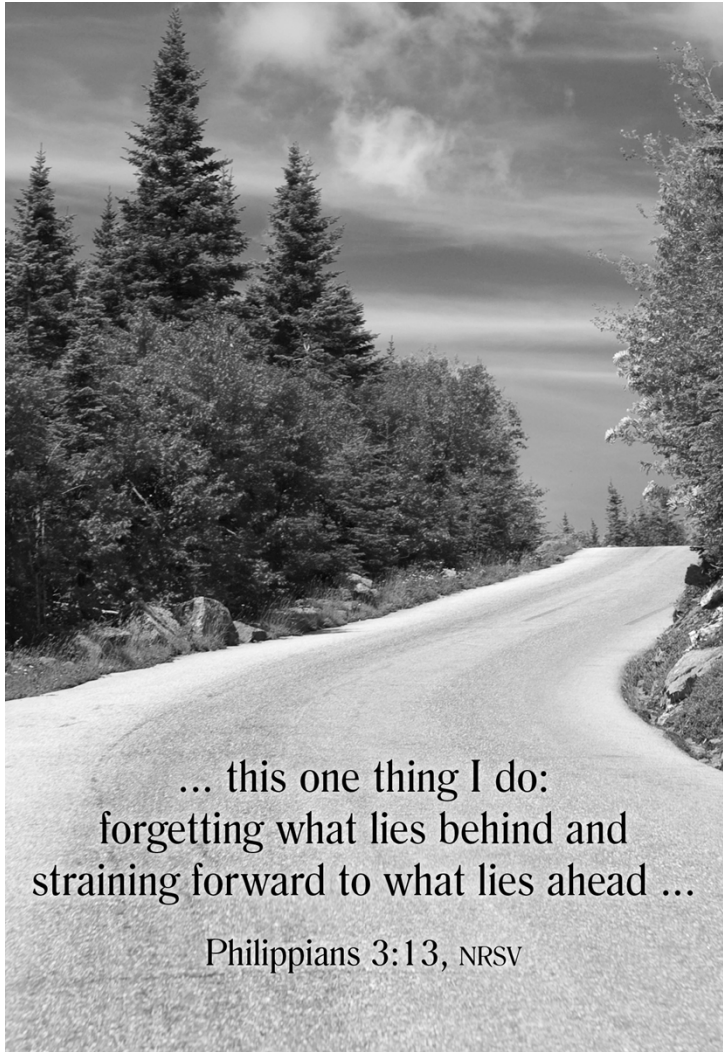


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



... this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Philippians 3:13, NRSV

THE LORD OFFERS
THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF SALVATION

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

April 7, 2019

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

How beautiful is our journey to the cross and tomb! In these final hours before Holy Week, even as we rejoice in the great things God has done for his people throughout history, let us put the ways of the past behind us and continue to strive for that for which Christ has laid hold of us.

The liturgical color* throughout the season of Lent is purple, which communicates somberness and quietness. This is fitting given Lent's somber focus on Jesus' sufferings and death.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

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* The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

THE COMMON SERVICE

The common service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain | 106 (1-4)

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

In absolution, God fulfills his promise from 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will purify us from all unrighteousness."

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♪ Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. CW p.16
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men. ♪

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Connected to themes from today's Gospel reading, this prayer asks God for mercy, blessing, and aid in living a Christian life.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:16-25

Israel thought salvation from Egypt was amazing; he offers salvation from sin!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73 | CW p.94

Refrain: ♪ **Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense
And he will be my Savior.** ♪

♪ I am always with 'you, O LORD;*
 You hold me by my 'right hand.
You guide me with your 'counsel,*
 And afterward you will take me into 'glory.
Whom have I in heav'en but you?* And earth has nothing I desire be'sides you.
My flesh and my 'heart may fail,*
 But God is the strength of my heart
 and my portion for'ever.

♪ Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*
 And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,*
 Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

Leave everything else behind and press on toward Christ!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Verse of the Day serves to highlight one of the main themes for this Sunday of the Church Year.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

C: **and to give his life as a ransom for many.** (*Mark 10:45 cf. NIV84®*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 20:9-19

Rejection of Christ brings destruction.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." – Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16

HYMN OF THE DAY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | 125 (1-4)

SERMON - WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST GAIN: GARBAGE OR GOD?

EVERYONE:

CW p.20

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen. ♪

OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register, which will be passed out during the offering.

If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Grace Wins

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **♪ It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

These sung responses are among the oldest parts of the Christian worship service.

ICW p. 21

**C: ♪ Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of heavenly hosts:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. ♪**

| CW p. 22

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

| CW p.23

C: ♪ Amen.

**C: ♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen. ♪**

Please be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION

If you are in need of gluten free wafers or grape juice, please ask for directions from an usher.

The communicant members of our congregation will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor prior to communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we've had an opportunity to explain and prove them from Scripture. The pastor would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God's Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living | 114 (1-7)
Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face | 315 (1-6)

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

**C: ♪ Lord, now you let your servant
depart in peace according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before
the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel. ♪**

This song, known as the “Nunc Dimittis” (“Now Dismiss”), joins us with Simeon, the man who originally sang this song in Luke 2:29-32. We have seen Jesus today through Word and Sacrament; that brings us peace and comfort, and moves us to trust in God’s promises.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: ♪ And his mercy endures forever.

M: Let us pray together.

C: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen. ♪

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image | 319



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Like Paul's list in Philippians 3:4-6, what gains would be on your list of accomplishments that you now consider a loss for the sake of Christ?
2. Paul's line of thinking can get a little confusing, but it's important to understand. Paul normally speaks of his salvation as a done deal (Romans 8 comes to mind). Why all this talk about pressing on and straining forward, then? In other words, what is Paul aware of and making us aware of?
3. Read all of Isaiah 43. As you read, write down all the things that are unnatural or defy human reason. For example, in verse 2, "When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned." Try to come up with 5 others from the chapter. How does that help your understanding of the message from Philippians 3?
4. In the parable from Luke 20, the vineyard is given to people other than the original tenants. Assuming the original tenants are the people of Old Testament Israel, including the Jews of Jesus' day, who would the "others" who receive the vineyard be? Why was that such a shocking thing to the Israelites (v. 16)?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN FORUM & VOTERS' MEETING TODAY

April 7 | 9:15 a.m.

At today's open forum, we will discuss recommendations on whether to call Mr. Pahl to serve as a part-time staff minister, request a teacher assignment from MLC, and/or request a seminary graduate to serve as an associate pastor. A voters' meeting will immediately follow the open forum, so we can formally vote on any decisions. This vote may seem rushed, however graduate requests and the subsequent paperwork are due by May 1 and the month of April becomes rather busy with Holy Week and Easter festivities. Please continue to pray for our congregation during this time of change.

SPREAD THE NEWS

April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

We will be hanging invitations to our Easter celebration on doors throughout the west-side of Wisconsin Rapids next Saturday, April 13. We could use your help! You don't have to talk to anyone (expect to be polite and say "hi" if they are outside). Please meet at church by 10:00 a.m. so we can organize who is going where.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

What if you invited your friends and family to breakfast at church, and we ran out of food or you couldn't find a place to sit! How embarrassing. Please, let us know how many people you are bringing for breakfast, so we have everything ready for when you arrive. Sign up in the Welcome Center, call the office, email us, or look for the sign-up link on our website.



ST. PAUL'S GOT TALENT

April 12 | 6:30 p.m.

This year's talent night at St. Paul's Lutheran School will showcase the many gifts and abilities showered on our students by our Heavenly Father. The evening will include a performance of *Wide Mouthed Frog* by the preschool and kindergarten as well as band, handbell, vocal, and piano performers. You can view the 1st & 2nd grade art displays and the Rube Goldberg machines created by the 5th & 6th grade students starting at 6:00 p.m. The performances will start at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Bring a friend to enjoy the show!

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS SUNDAY

Because of the open forum and voters' meeting, today's bible study has been cancelled. Please join us next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. for a study of 1 John 3 – Living in Love and Righteousness. The study is held in the cafeteria.

FLOWER ORDERS DUE NEXT SUNDAY

April 14

If you would like to purchase flowers to beautify the church on Easter morning, please submit your order by next Sunday, April 14. See the chart in the Welcome Center to see the flowers that are available and their cost. The flowers will be part of the decorations at the Easter services and then will be yours to keep or give as a gift. For more information, please contact Veronica Klish at 715-421-3607.

IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU

Photos for the new church directory will be taken in June. Online scheduling goes live this week. You can find a link on our website. We will also have volunteers on hand after worship on April 14 & 28 to help you schedule an appointment. The directory won't be complete unless everyone takes part, so be sure to sign up.



PHOTO SESSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During the photography session for our new church directory (June 5-8 & 12-15), we will need volunteers to greet and direct people. Short-shifts are available. Think about tying this in with your own photo session. You can sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.

LIFE-A-THON RUN/WALK IN MEQUON

May 11

WELS Lutherans for Life's Life-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 11, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The annual walk/run benefits the pregnancy medical clinic operated by WELS Lutherans for Life. There will be a kid's ¼ mile run (up to age 14), a competitive 5K run, and a 2 mile walk. For more information or to register, visit www.life-a-thon.org.

**But whatever was to my profit ...
I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ**



AN UPDATE FROM ST. PAUL'S SCRIP

In March, families at our school earned a total of \$148.46 toward their tuition by using scrip for everyday purchases. Other members donated their scrip earnings, totaling \$433.18, to the operating expenses of the school. You can help fund Christian education by purchasing gift cards from our program and using them to make your regular purchases at local stores, gas stations, and restaurants. To learn how, talk to someone at the scrip table on Sunday morning, or visit stpaulswr.org/scrip.

EASTER STORYBOOKS AND CARDS IN THE BOOKSTORE

As Christians, we know that Easter is about more than candy and bunnies. Put something extra in your little one's Easter basket that tells what the holiday is really about. Our bookstore has many children's books to choose from. There are also Easter cards to send to your friends and loved ones. Check out the selection in the Resource Center.

WILDCAT BASKETBALL CAMP

June 10-14

Your child will learn sound fundamentals and improve their skills at the Wildcat basketball camp at Northland Lutheran High School on June 10-14. Boys and girls entering grades 3-9 are invited. The camp runs from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and each child will receive a T-shirt. For more information, please contact Ryan Weichmann at NLHS (715-2987-4427 or rweichmann@nlhs.org).

A Thank You from SWEPS

SWEPS thanks your church (St. Paul's Lutheran) for the volunteers that helped during the days March 4th through 3/8. During that week 82 households were served for a total of 207 individuals in South Wood County. Eight new clients were welcomed into the Pantry. We are so thankful for those who care about the well-being of our neighbors in this area.

Our needs are ongoing, so food and monetary donations are continuously and graciously appreciated. We also appreciate receiving paper and plastic bags as well as children's books.

Again thank you for your help at SWEPS and supporting those in need in our area.

South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf, Pat Barton Assistant Operations Mgr.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Easter Sunday draws many of our family and friends to our church as well as people from the community. Extra help is needed to make sure everything runs smoothly. On Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m., decorating of the church will begin. We also have a group setting up tables and prepping for the Easter breakfast at the same time. Both groups need more volunteers. You can just show up, or contact Veronica Klish about decorating and Tom Peronto about the breakfast. We could also use a few more ushers. Contact Al Vejinsky to volunteer.

Decorating: Veronica Klish 715-421-3607 or spdbuggy@wctc.net

Easter Breakfast: Tom Peronto 715-421-3365 or faithful@wctc.net

Ushering: Al Verjinsky 715-569-3812 or averjinsky@tds.net

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER?

Check out our webpage, www.stpaulswr.org. We try to keep an up-to-date list of camps, retreats, workshops, and other events with links to websites, so you can quickly find the information you need. Just look for "WELS Events" under our "What's Happening" tab.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 212

Year-to-date average attendance: 232

From July 1, 2018 to March 29, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 746,731

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 763,693

Mortgage Balance \$ 1,532,790

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 7 Handbell Festival in Medford
- April 21 Easter Sunday
- April 27 St. Paul's Booth at Children's Festival
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 19 Confirmation Sunday
- June 5 Photography Sessions Begin

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



April 14-21

Palm Sunday Worship
at 8:00 & 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday Worship
at 3:35 & 6:30PM

Good Friday Worship
at 12:10 & 6:30PM

Easter Sunday Worship
at 7:00 & 9:30AM

Easter Breakfast – 8:00-9:00AM

CALENDAR

April 7-14

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Open Forum & Voters' Meeting
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
MONDAY	4:00 PM	Children's Outreach Task Force in the Bible Study Room
	7:00 PM	Board of Mission Outreach in the Resource Center
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Board of Lutheran Education in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	3:35 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	4:30 PM	Lenten Supper in the cafeteria (Helpers P-Z)
	6:30 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	8:00 PM	Contemporary Choir Practice in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:00 PM	Hafermann Singers at Atrium Care Center
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
FRIDAY	6:30 PM	St. Paul's Got Talent
SATURDAY	10:00 AM	Distributing Door Hangers
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
	2:00 PM	Lutheran Pioneers in the cafeteria





www.stpaulswr.org

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Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org