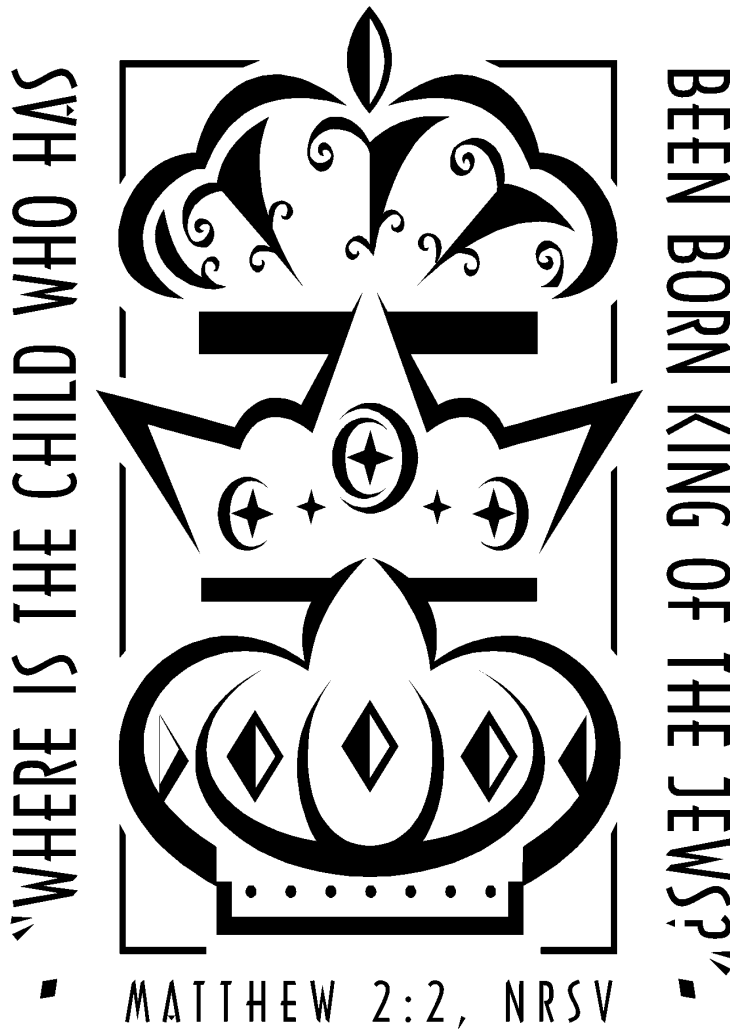


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



JESUS APPEARS AS THE SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS
The Epiphany of Our Lord

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

January 5, 2020



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 give you directions or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Jesus appears as Savior of the Nations. The Church remembers January 6th as the Twelfth Day which closes the Christmas season. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord is the second oldest festival celebrated by the Church, dating to the second century. The Eastern Church commemorates the birth of Christ on this day, but the Western Church remembers it as the "Gentile Christmas" and celebrates Jesus who appeared (the Greek word for Epiphany actually means "appear" or "reveal") as the Word for the world.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, which focuses us on the glory of the Lord that is revealed at Epiphany.

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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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

The service of word and sacrament proclaims the gospel through God's Word and the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory | CW 80

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation (C): And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: ♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. CW p.28
Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love,
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
You make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
You came to live with us; you made your Father known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. ♪

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

All nations will know their Savior.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72 | CW p.93

Refrain: ♪ Let the people praise you, O God.

Let all the people praise you. ♪

♪ Endow the King with your justice 'O God,*
The royal Son with your 'righteousness.
He will defend the afflicted among the 'people*
And save the children of the 'needy.
He will endure as long 'as the sun,*
As long as the moon, through all gener'ations.
He will be like rain falling on a 'mown field,*
Like showers water'ing the earth.

Refrain: ♪ Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you. ♪

♪ All kings will bow 'down to him,*
And all nations will 'serve him.
All nations will be 'blessed through him,*
And they will 'call him blessed.
Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does mar'velous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his 'glory.

*Notice who will
worship and serve the
King—all nations!*

♪ 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: ♪ Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you. ♪

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

The nations hear about their Savior through the work of the Church.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east

C: **and have come to worship him. Alleluia.** (*Matthew 2:2b*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Gentiles are drawn to the Savior of the nations.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Last week, we heard about God's plan after the Wise Men left. Even though we are visiting these two accounts "out of order," the truths remain the same—God's plan for all people triumphs!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | CW 79

SERMON - Epiphany: Mystery Made Known

Please stand.

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.

THE THANK OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. Please fill out the friendship register as it is passed.

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

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: **You ushered in the day so long foretold.**

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

C: **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

THE 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

THE PREFACE

CW p. 33

M: The Lord be with you.

C: 🎵 And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: 🎵 We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 🎵 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

These sentences are among some of the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

CW p. 34

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

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.35

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 and await the direction of the ushers.

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!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Jesus, King of Glory | CW 94
Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face | CW 315

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

CW p.36

C: 🎵 **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises
and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia! 🎵**

Notice that this section of the service encourages us to do what we heard from Paul in Ephesians 3 – make known the wisdom of God to the whole world.

M: Let us pray together.

C: **Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.** 🎵

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old | CW 83 (1,4)



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are we in danger of being on the outside looking in at the gospel and its work?
2. What has stopped you from telling people about Jesus in the past? How can you work past that, whatever it might be?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you felt like you were experiencing God's grace for the first time? What happened and what followed?
4. How can you connect the other two Scripture readings (Isaiah 60 and Matthew 2) to the words from Ephesians 3?
5. What are some ways you can teach someone about Jesus without actually talking to them?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAY FOR BRUNCH

Jan. 5 | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Our Lutheran Pioneers are serving brunch in the cafeteria this morning. The menu includes, potato pancakes, regular pancakes, French toast, sausages and more. A freewill offering will be taken to pay for the meal and to support the local Lutheran Pioneers Ministry.



NO BIBLE CLASS THIS SUNDAY

So everyone can enjoy the Pancake Brunch, our Sunday morning Bible class is cancelled. Please take time to fellowship with and encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ.

NEW STUDY TOPIC NEXT SUNDAY

Jan. 12 | 9:15-10:15 AM

We give thanks for all people who believe in Jesus as their Savior, but why do we have all these different Christian churches? Are there really that many differences that we can't all just get along? In this upcoming Sunday morning Bible class series, Pastor Proeber will strive to equip you with answers to these, along with further understanding of what each church generally teaches and believes. While there won't be time to delve deeply into every specific doctrine, the hope is that you will have a better idea of how to speak with and love Christians of other denominations. The first class will deal with Catholicism.

NEW STUDY FOR WOMEN

Jan. 7 | 9:45-11:00 AM

"Your Vocation in Christ" begins this Tuesday. Whatever your place in life - whether married or single, a mother, a retiree, an employee, or employer, or a volunteer, every woman has a vocation in Christ. Join us on Tuesday mornings, to walk in the gym from 9:00- 9:45 and/or to meet together in the library from 9:45 - 11:00 to learn about God's plans for life. It is a five-week study, but come when you can!

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

The new year is a great time to recommit to growing closer to God. The WELS website (wels.net) has devotions, prayers, and bible reading schedules to help you spend time with God each day. Look for these under the "Serving You" tab.

NEW DERBY OPEN TO ALL

Jan. 26 | 12:00 PM

It is time to get creative. Can you make a derby car from recycled items that will actually race? You will be given a piece of scrap wood and some wheels. Add recycled materials fastened with duct tape, wire or string. Young and old are invited to compete for awards in design and speed categories. Contact Tom Kulhanek (715-421-4414) to get your starter "kit." More information is available on this Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.

WOMEN'S EVENT NEXT SATURDAY

Jan. 11 | 8:30-11:30 AM

When we're tired, busy, anxious, or preoccupied, we tend to default to snapping and barking at our family. But life doesn't have to be this way. Author and speaker Becky Kopizke will help you assess the triggers that spark your angry responses, understand your children better so you can minimize frustrations, and learn gentle, effective responses to trying situations. Tickets to "The Cranky Mom Fix" are only \$10 and can be purchased thru St. Paul's facebook page or through the church office. A light breakfast will be served. Any questions, please contact Michelle Gear at michellemgear@gmail.com or 920-784-4643.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Jan. 9 | 6:30 PM

In January, Pastor Proeber is offering a bible study, called A People Close to God, which covers the core teachings of the Bible. Anyone is invited. We will explore questions like "How can you know the Bible is true?" "Why is there so much hardship in this world?" and "How do you get faith?" This class is essential for those interested in church membership. Classes will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 PM beginning Jan. 9. If this time does not work for you, please contact Pastor Proeber about alternatives.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) needs a regular dependable driver for their Wisconsin Rapids route. Currently the bus is driven by teachers and administrative staff, who add this duty to their regular school day. Consider buddying up with someone - one driving mornings and one driving evenings, or one driving three days a week and the other two days. This is a PAID position, and your training and testing will be paid for by NLHS. For more information, please contact the principal, Ryan Weichmann, at 715-297-4427 or the NLHS office at 719-359-3400.

WANT A HEALTHIER MARRIAGE? YOU'RE IN LUCK!

Feb. 8 & 9

St. Paul's is partnering with the other WELS churches in our area to help you maintain and strengthen your marriage! With materials produced by WELS, pastors will encourage and equip couples toward habits and efforts that will make a marriage as healthy as it could possibly be. The seminar will take place at Eron's Event Barn (near Stevens Point) on Saturday, February 8 from 10:00-5:00 and Sunday, February 9 from 12:00-5:00. Lunch on both days will be catered by Great Expectations; there will also be snacks and refreshments throughout the day. For more information and to register, look under Events on our website (www.stpaulswr.org) or the facebook page for Eron's Event Barn LLC.

HAS YOUR LIFE WORKED OUT JUST AS YOU ENVISIONED?

Feb. 8

When we're younger, we have hopes, dreams, and plans for the future. Sometimes those plans for hope and a future come to reality; often they do not. Because of sin in and all around us, life often doesn't work out the way we hoped. There is only one who has 20/20 vision for our future and the ability to make it happen – your almighty, loving Savior. Learn more about "God's 20/20 Vision for Your Future" at the Men of His Word Conference on Saturday, Feb. 8 in Oshkosh, WI. For details on breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, and how to register, visit www.menofhisword.org.

HIRING: PART-TIME JANITORIAL WORKER

We are in need of someone to daily clean the restrooms, hallways and more. This position is for 20 hours per week. For more information, please contact Fred Camacho at 715-323-4566 or facjac@charter.net.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 184 Average attendance for 2019: 240

From July 1, 2019 to December 24, 2019

Actual ministry income: \$534,345

Actual cost of ministry: \$549,627 Mortgage balance: \$1,443,485

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 12 Installation of Officers
- Jan. 19 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- Jan. 26 Junk Car Derby & Pinocar Derby



CALENDAR

January 5-12

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	Pancake Brunch in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	8:15 AM	Board of Elders in the Resource Center
	4:00 PM	Children's Outreach Ministry in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Worship
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
	4:30 PM	Board of Fellowship in the Welcome Center
	6:30 PM	Board of Lutheran Education in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministers in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:00 PM	Board of Mission Outreach in the Resource Center
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Contemporary Choir 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
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
SATURDAY	8:30 AM	The Cranky Mom Fix in the Welcome Center
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106
	10:30 AM	Worship

Wise Men Still Seek Him



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