

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



ANOINTING UNCOVERED:
WHAT THE EYE SEES DIFFERS
FROM WHAT GOD DECREES

First Sunday after Epiphany

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

December 26, 2021



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. Please also fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to mankind's natural assumptions about him. In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be discovered by us. Rather, it needs to be uncovered for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. Week after week, surprising truths about Jesus our King and life in his kingdom will be uncovered.

Our sight tends to be the sense we trust most. We say we will believe something when we see it. That presents a problem when it comes to the work of God. So often what our eye sees differs from what God decrees. This is true of the life of Jesus. In the eyes of the world, he was nothing special. This is also true in the life of the Christian. To the world, the believer does not look more blessed than the unbeliever. In fact, the believer may appear to have more hardships as the devil and his allies attempt to destroy him. So, to assure his children, God connects his grace, power, and blessing to something we can see—a visible sign: the anointing of baptism.

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THE SERVICE: SETTING THREE

Starting on page 188 of the blue hymnal

Please understand that there have been some unexpected delays with the release of the Service Builder. This software would help us create a more complete service folder like we have grown used to. Until we have access to that, we will be producing service folders that rely much more heavily on using the hymnal as part of the worship experience.

All hymns and page numbers, unless otherwise noted, correspond to the blue hymnal.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert | 379
The Song Leaders will sing the first two verses.
Please join on the remaining verses as you feel comfortable.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

on page 188
Beginning with "Blessed are they..."

LORD HAVE MERCY

on page 190

GLORY BE TO GOD

on page 191
The Song Leaders will sing through once; please join in singing the second time.

The Word

The service continues on page 193.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

To the eyes of the average Israelite, the young boy David was not the best choice to be king. Yet, the Lord chose him through an anointing.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2 (in the front of the hymnal)

The pastors will sing the verses; please join to sing the refrain and the Glory be to the Father

The service continues on page 160.

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a ceremonial washing. But it is so much more, bestowing salvation and the Spirit.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

on page 194

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17,21-23

Despite appearing ordinary, Jesus is shown to be God's Anointed One through his baptism.

After the reading of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

*All Christians Who Have Been Baptized | 682 vv.1-4
The Song Leaders will sing the first verse; please sing as you feel comfortable.*

SERMON

I Am Well Pleased With You

Stand

CREED

Apostles' Creed on page 197

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O heavenly Father, we come before you this day in thanksgiving and praise. We thank you for revealing yourself at the baptism of Jesus. There you declared the one born at Bethlehem and adored by the Magi to be your dearly loved Son in whom you are well pleased.

Enable all of us to find in him our hope and salvation.

As you anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit, so pour out the same Spirit on us that we may serve you in the world. Take from us all fear and doubt, overcome our laziness and indecision, and drive the ugliness of sin from our lives.

Open our eyes to the glorious truth that as your baptized children we are your priests in this world.

Grant your strength and blessing to all pastors, teachers, and missionaries. May they proclaim your Word with fervor and diligence and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. In your mercy bring help and healing to the sick and the afflicted.

By your grace enable them to cast their care on you, knowing that you care for them.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

May we all together rejoice in your Son, Jesus Christ, whom we worship with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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. 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.



WELS CONNECTION VIDEO

The service continues on page 171.

HYMN

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | 377

Stand

PRAYER

*on page 171
Beginning with "Almighty God..."*

LORD'S PRAYER

on page 171

BLESSING

Be seated

on page 171

CLOSING HYMN

Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured | CW 685

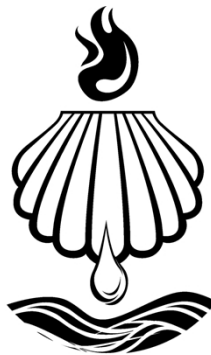
ALL CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED

(Verses 5-6)

O Christian, firmly hold this gift
and give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
in all that you endeavor.

When nothing else revives your soul,
your baptism stands and makes you whole
and then in death completes you.

So use it well! You are made new—
in Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians live and do
within your own vocation,
until that day when you possess
his glorious robe of righteousness
bestowed on you forever!



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Do (at least) one of the things below for (at least) the next week to help you remember your baptism. Parents, think of how you might use one of these things to help remind your children that they are baptized.
 - a. Put a sign in your bathroom/on your fridge that says, “I am baptized” or “God is well pleased with me.”
 - b. Make the sign of the cross on yourself (the same sign of the cross that was likely made on you when you were baptized) when you get up in the morning or when you go to bed at night.
 - c. Whenever you wash your hands, do the dishes, take a shower, or clean anything with water—think about how God has washed you in the waters of baptism.

2. 1 Samuel 16:7 (and especially the last sentence) is probably the most well-known verse of that entire account. In what ways can that serve as a comfort—that the Lord can see the heart when we can only see the outward appearance?

3. Read Titus 3:3. What added impact does that bring to the verses that follow?

4. There are plenty of people who will claim that they are the second coming of Jesus or that they speak on behalf of Jesus. In what ways can we use what John the Baptist says in Luke 3:16-17 to help figure out whether such people are “on the Lord’s side” or not?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY:

The Great O Antiphons

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCH FOR ORGAN FUND

The schedule on our organ repairs has moved up quite a bit. The organ will now be picked up at the end of January rather than in March. This means we need to the funds sooner than planned. We have a donor who would like to challenge the congregation to raise the money, by offering a dollar for dollar match up to \$10,000. To give a gift to be matched, please use the envelopes on the tree in the Welcome Center, the Organ Fund envelopes on the Ministry Table, or mark Organ on your regular offering envelope. This challenge runs through next Sunday, January 16.

TAKING DOWN THE DECORATIONS

Jan. 16 | 11:45 AM

Our Christmas decorations will be coming down next Sunday after the second service. Your help would be appreciated. No special skills are required.

ST. PAUL'S SERVING AT FOOD PANTRY

Jan 17-21

Our congregation will be filling grocery orders at the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) the week of Jan. 17-21. Volunteer hours are 4:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday and 12:00-4:00 PM the rest of the week. To get on the schedule, please contact Judy Anderson at 715-423-5922 or 5JAnderson@charter.net.

A GOD-LIVED LIFE CARDS

If you turned in any challenge cards during our "A God-Lived Life" series, we have returned them to you mailslots. See how you did, and maybe challenge yourself to fulfill any unmet challenges.

**Monday Night Worship Service Return this Week
Mondays at 6:30 PM**

YOUTH GROUP MEETS THIS SUNDAY

Jan. 9 | 12:00 PM

Parents & teens are invited to this Sunday's meeting of St. Paul's Youth (SPYs). In addition to fun and fellowship, you will learn more about the WELS International Youth Rally, which will be held this summer in Tennessee, and the steps necessary to get there.

TOUR NLHS THIS AFTERNOON

Jan. 9

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) is holding tours this Sunday Families with 7th and 8th graders are especially encouraged to attend. Sign up for a timeslot at NLHS.org. If you can't make it today, please call NLHS (715-359-3400) to schedule a private tour. Freshman Registration is January 18-19.

FOUNDATIONS COURSE STARTS THIS WEEK

Jan. 13 | 6:30 PM

Whether you are new here or a lifelong member, *Foundations of the Christian Faith* will teach you something new. The twelve lessons cover the basics of Christianity and what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. The course materials also include an index of key terms, Luther's Small Catechism, and an appendix of articles, charts, and diagrams. The classes begin this Thursday in the Resource Center. If that day and time do not work for you, please contact Pastor Plagenz to see if other arrangements can be made: 920-689-3036 or pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org.

THANK YOU, SCRIP USERS!

In 2021, St. Paul's School Scrip Program contributed \$7,297.95 to the school budget. Families also used the program to earn \$2,400.02 toward current and future school tuition. Thank you to everyone who used the scrip program in 2021!

COCA COLA GIVE

We recently received \$43.85 through the Coca Cola Give program. This money is earned by entering codes from caps and cartons of Coke products. You can submit the codes online or bring them to the school. The funds will be used for field trips.

SPECIAL PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- Carolyn Zernicke who is hospitalized
- Miss Deanna Rahn called to teach 1st & 2nd grade in the fall
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CALENDAR

January 9-16

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the West Wing
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	12:00 PM	St. Paul's Youth (SPYs)
MONDAY	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
	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Cafeteria
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the West Wing
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	12:00 PM	Take down Christmas decorations

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 187

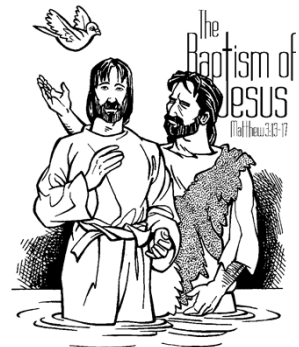
New Year's Eve: 76

Financial reporting for 2022 is under review.

Watch for a revised format soon.

Mortgage balance: \$1,186,570

Organ Fund balance: \$ 57,412





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