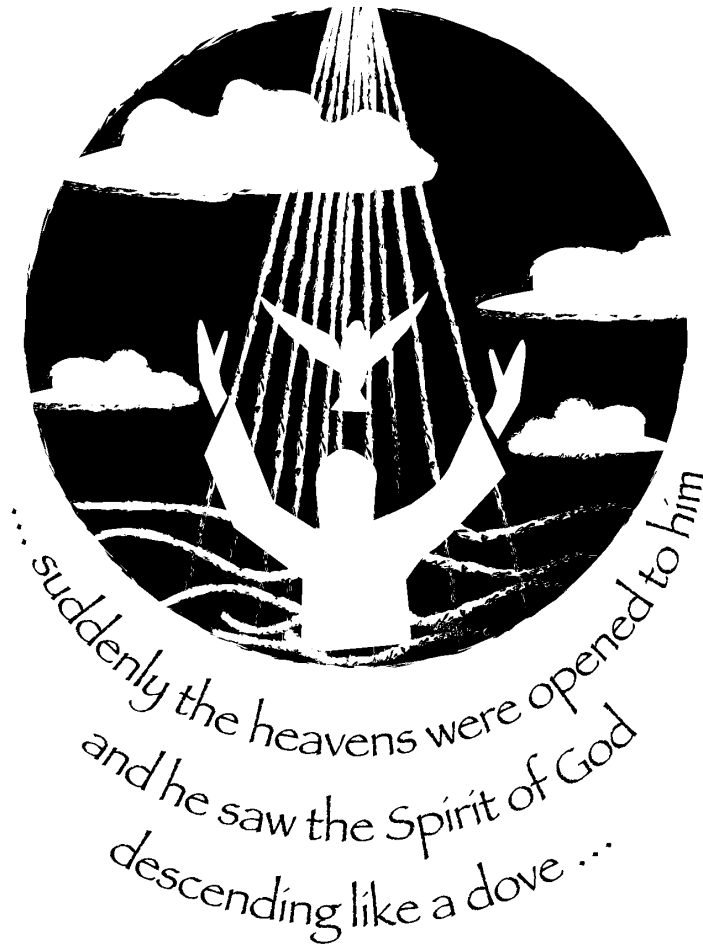


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

Identity Revealed:
Jesus Is the Christ, the Anointed One

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 11, 2026



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



“Christ” is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word “Christ” and the Hebrew word “Messiah” both mean the same thing: “The Anointed One.” Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist: Kristi Perry; Pre-Service Music: Terri Dobratz

Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Service

Welcome

Hymn

679 *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 189

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.


Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191


The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with the lyrics "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to" written below it. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, with the lyrics "God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth," written below it.



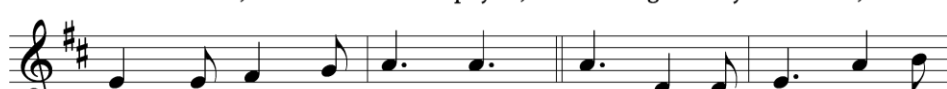
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



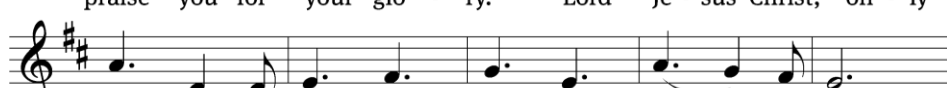
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



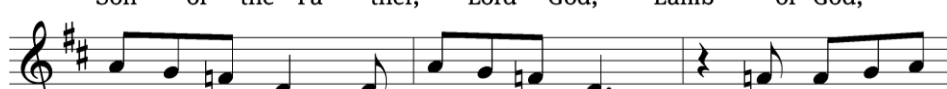
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



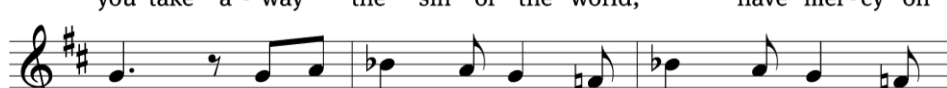
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



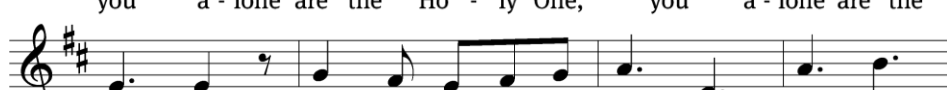
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



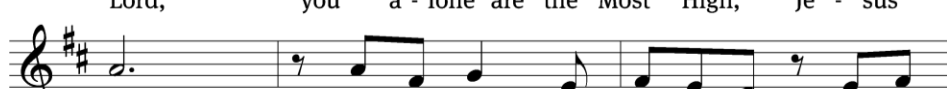
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



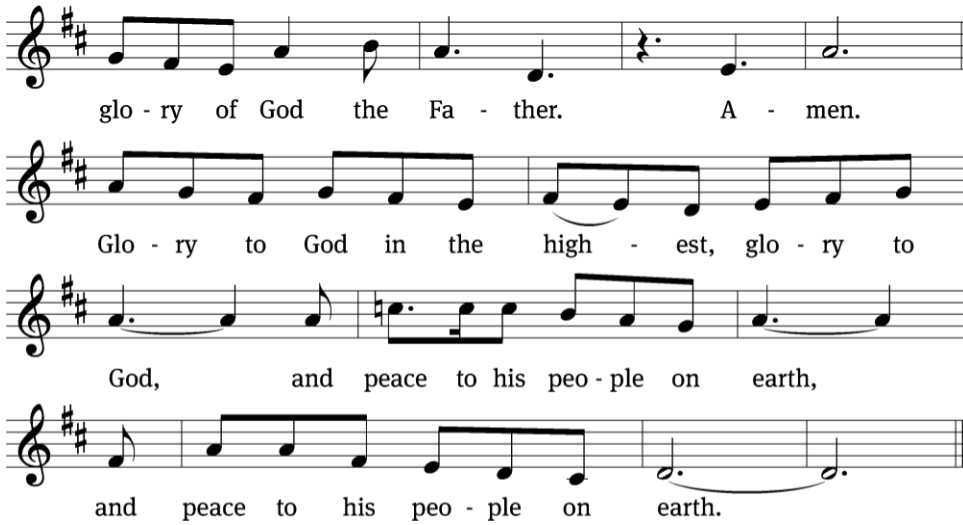
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman; © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

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

Isaiah 42:1–7

The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I am placing my Spirit on him. He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

²He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice. He will not make his voice heard in the street. ³A bent reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out. He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict. ⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken, until he establishes justice on the earth. The coastlands will wait for his law.

⁵This is what the true God says, the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk on it. ⁶I am the LORD. I have called you in righteousness. I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you. I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to be a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes of the blind, to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon, and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

45B Great Are the Works of the LORD

The Church sings Psalm 45 in services that honor Christ, the anointed King, as the groom for his Church, the bride.

Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 lu-ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone

My heart is stirred by a / noble theme
 as I recite my verses / for the king.
 You are the most excel- / lent of men
 and your lips have been anoint- / ed with grace.
 Gird your sword on your side, you / mighty one;
 clothe yourself with splendor and / majesty. *Refrain*

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and / ever;
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your / kingdom.
 You love righteousness and hate / wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, has set you above your com- / panions.
 I will perpetuate your memory through all gener- / ations;
 therefore the nations will praise you for ever and / 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**

Music: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Second Reading

Acts 10:34–38

The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter’s listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, ³⁵but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ³⁸God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.” (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11

Alleluia! You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:13–17

In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. ¹⁶After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, ¹⁷and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Sermon

Stand

Creed

Remembrance of Baptism

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Be seated

Installation of Members Who Participate in the Public Ministry

Dear friends,

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ set you free from sin and death and made you members of his body, the church. Through Word and sacrament, the Holy Spirit has nurtured your faith and increased your love.

You have now been appointed to serve our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with responsibilities that you are to carry out according to his Word. St. Paul wrote concerning service in the church: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

St. Paul spoke to all who serve the Savior: “It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” The Lord has promised to be with you and give you the gifts you will need to carry out the work entrusted to you.

As servants of Jesus Christ and workers in this congregation, you are to set aside time for study of the Scriptures so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are to strive to be an example of Christian faith and life so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the work entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installation

I install you as the Leadership Council at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been called to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

Kent Schroeder, President

Jacob Ibarra, Vice President

Chris Jardine, Secretary

Kevin Meister, Treasurer

Mike Anderson, Financial Secretary

Tom Blaes, Chairman of the Board of Mission Outreach

Al Verjinsky, Chairman of the Board of Fellowship

Chris Williams, Chairman of the Board of Worship

Tom Peronto, Chairman of the Board of Lutheran Education

The minister speaks to the congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God's gifts to his church. Pray for them and support them in their service so that believers may be strengthened in faith and many others may come to know the Savior and the eternal hope he gives.

The minister says to those being installed:

The Lord bless you and make your service a blessing to others.

Those being installed may return to their places.

Special Prayers This Week

† For our congregational meeting and for our call meeting.

†

†

†

Prayer of the Church

Loving Father, lead us to rejoice every day as we remember our baptism. When we sin against you and others, give us power to put down the sinful nature that was drowned in the water of baptism. When we doubt your love, cause us to remember the promises you made when we came to the font.

When we feel weak, invigorate us with the hope of eternal life that awaits all who are baptized and believe in you.

Keep in your care all our brothers and sisters who are suffering in sickness, enduring hardship, carrying a cross, or mourning the death of someone they love. Let them also return to their baptism and remember the blessings you bestowed on them through the water and the Word.

Keep all the baptized in your care and bring us at last to the river of the water of life in heaven.

Gracious God, you bless your church through the willing work and special gifts of so many people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to the servants we are installing today that they may carry out their duties with diligence, wisdom, and humility. Encourage them to seek guidance from your Word and lead them to pray for your direction. Help them to be good examples to others and support the work of the gospel ministry in this congregation.

Keep them in your care and encourage them by your grace.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

All this we pray in the name of our baptized and anointed Lord Jesus,
Amen.

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. 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

Chaplain Certification Program

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

692 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



Take Home Questions

Isaiah 42:1-7

1. In what ways do you see Isaiah's prophecy here fulfilled at Jesus' baptism?
2. How does this prophecy help us understand what kind of Christ Jesus is (not just that he is the Christ)?

Acts 10:34-38

3. In these verses, Peter is speaking to a house full of Gentiles. In what ways does his presence and preaching exemplify Jesus' mission as the Anointed One?
4. Peter began his story of Jesus by saying that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power." Why do you think Peter began here?

Matthew 3:13-17

5. John hesitates to baptize Jesus. For what reasons might Jesus' request have seemed so strange or inappropriate to John?
6. Jesus responds to John's hesitation by saying that his baptism is "to fulfill all righteousness." What does this phrase mean in light of who Jesus is and what he came to do?

Bonus

7. How does Jesus standing in the place of sinful human beings, first at his baptism and later at the cross, help you understand both who Jesus is and what your own baptism means?
8. If baptism gives us a new identity as God's children, whom he loves, in what ways does that shape 1) how we see ourselves, 2) how we face guilt or failure, and 3) how we view other baptized believers?

News & Announcements



Winter Congregational Meetings Today *Jan. 11 | 10:30 am*

Our Winter Congregational Meeting is this Sunday, Jan. 11 at 10:30 am. In addition to regular ministry updates, we will also discuss aspects of the second-pastor role. Please plan to stay after the service to hear important updates about the future of our congregation.

Pastoral Call Meetings on Monday *Jan. 12 | 6:30 pm*

We will be calling a second pastor at the meeting this Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 pm. At this meeting, the congregation will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider a call list and take the next step in calling a pastor to serve alongside our current staff.

St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night *Jan 27 | 6:00-8:00 pm*

Following our congregation's participation in the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership, we invite you to a St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night. This event, which will be featured in an upcoming WELS Connection, is for all leaders and members of St. Paul's to unite around our shared ministry and boldly shape its future. Those who attended the conference will share key insights and lead short breakout conversations focused on how we can faithfully and practically move our congregation forward. We hope to see you there!

Could You Be a Leader?

We have vacancies on a few of our Boards including Elders, Family Ministry, and Properties. Consider whether God is calling you to serve in one of these areas. Contact Kent Schroeder or Pastor Plagenz for more information.

Snow White Comes to Town *Jan. 14 | 8:40 am*



We have a special opportunity to see the NLHS Drama Club perform *Snow White* at our school this Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 8:40 am. The play is an interactive retelling for the classic fairy tale where the audience become a part of the story. The performance will be repeated at Northland Lutheran High School on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 1:00 pm. You are invited to both performances. There is small \$2.00 fee for the Northland performance. Come and celebrate the arts!

Brrr . . . It's an Igloo Project!

Our preschool is making an "igloo" and is in need of milk or water gallon jugs. Please be sure they are washed out and place the cap back on them. You can leave your jugs on the bench by the preschool classroom or in the office. Donations will be accepted through the end of the month.



Be a Sister on a Mission

All women are invited to the Sisters on a Mission meeting this Monday, Jan. 12, after the call meeting (about 7:00 pm). We will have a short Bible study, discuss serving a Lenten meal to raise money for missions, and pray for one another. The gathering is held in the Resource Center.

Panther Home Game

Our St. Paul's Panthers kick off their basketball season with a home game against Immanuel of Wisconsin Rapids. The game starts at 4:30 pm. Come cheer on our Panthers!

Freshman Registration at NLHS

Freshman registration at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) starts soon. There are four convenient date options: January 20, 21, 22 and 28, and two timeslots are available each day: 4:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-7:30 pm. To reserve your spot, call the NLHS office at 715-359-3400 or email Andrew Schoenfeld (aschoenfeld@nlhs.org).

Volunteers Still Needed

Sunday Refreshments - Bring a treat, make coffee, or help with clean up. A signup sheet can be found on the Ministry Table or on our website at stpaulswr.org/serve.

Welcome Committee - Serve for about a half hour before the service starts. You just stand near the entry and welcome people as they come through the door. You can sign up at the Ministry Table.



Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

St. Paul's is serving at the local food pantry (FOCUS) during the week of Jan 26. We are looking for volunteers to serve on Monday, Thursday, or Friday from 11:45-3:45 and on Tuesday from 3:45-6:45. (The pantry is closed on Wednesday.) To volunteer, please contact Kaytlyn Peardot at kaytlyn.peardot@gmail.com or 970-413-0883.

- Sunday** **9:00 AM** **Sunday Worship/Installation of Officers**
10:30 AM **Congregational Meeting in the church**
10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5th)
- Monday** **1:30 PM** Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services
4:30 PM **Panthers HOME Basketball Game in the gym**
6:30 PM **Pastoral Call Meeting in the church**
7:00 PM Sisters on a Mission in the Resource Center
- Tuesday** **6:45 AM** Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
9:34 AM Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
6:30 PM Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
- Wednesday** **8:45 AM** School Chapel Service
6:00 PM Catechism Class in room 110
6:30 PM **Compline Service**
7:00 PM Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
- Thursday** **7:00 AM** Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
1:00 PM Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
- Sunday** **9:00 AM** Sunday Worship
10:30 AM Bible Study in the Bible Study Room
10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5th)

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 189

Next Sunday

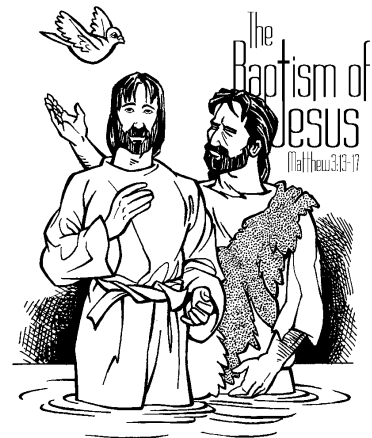
Theme: Identity Revealed:

Jesus Is the Lamb of God

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6, Colossians 2:6-15, John 1:29-41

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 20 Freshman Registration Begins at NLHS
- Jan. 20 Panthers HOME Basketball Game
- Jan. 27 St. Paul's Leadership Night





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Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org