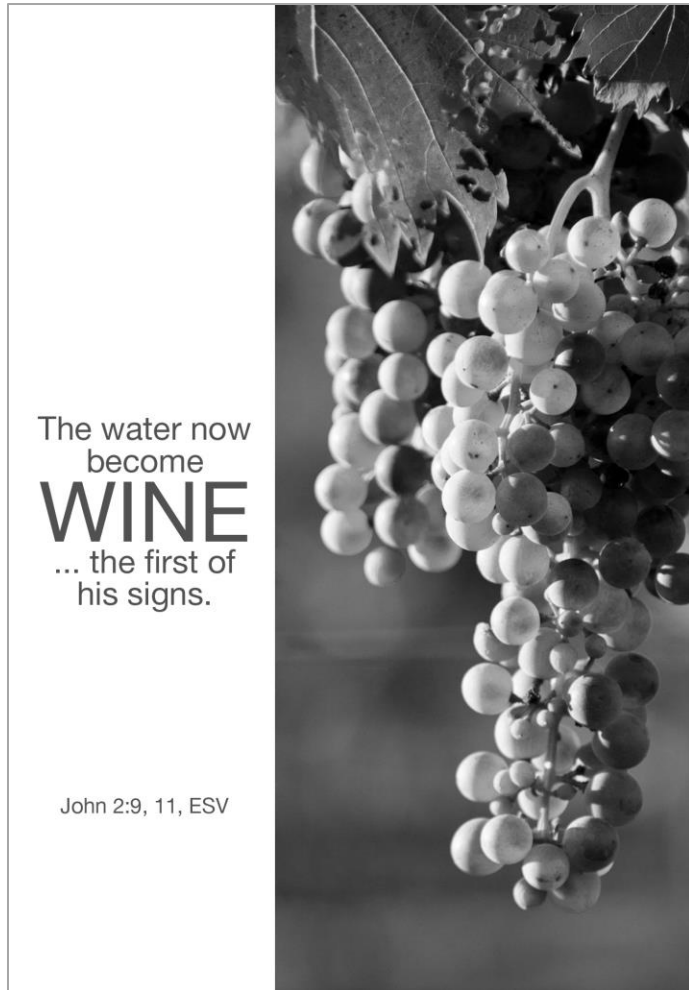


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



The water now
become
WINE
... the first of
his signs.

John 2:9, 11, ESV

Epiphany Moments:
God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less
Second Sunday in Epiphany

January 19, 2025



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



It is easy for us to assume that if God says “no” to a request, we are getting less than we wanted. We need to have an epiphany moment, seeing the reality—that God always wants more for us than we want from him. Saying “yes” to all our requests would often result in us receiving less joy, less blessing, a lesser life. So, when God says “no” to our request, we can be assured it is because he wants to give us more. Far more than existing as a “help desk” or 911 dispatch, God’s love for us is like that of a groom for his bride. His love for us exceeds all expectation and understanding. In that love, God always delivers more than we ask, not less.

Today’s service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek; Soloist Chris Williams

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

386 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
Song Leader will sing st. 1.

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an-swer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

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.
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.

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10:30 – Installation of Officers

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1–5

The prophet Isaiah pictures the Church's relationship with the Lord as an infinitely happy marriage. As our bridegroom, Christ delivers more than that for which we ask.

¹For the sake of Zion I will not be silent.
For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly,
and her salvation burns like a torch.

²Nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings will see your glory.

You will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will assign to you.

³Then you will be a beautiful crown in the LORD's hand,
and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

⁴You will never again be called Abandoned,
and your land will never again be called Desolation,
for you will be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land will be called Married,
because the LORD delights in you,
and your land will be married.

⁵For just as a young man marries a virgin,
your sons will marry you,
and just as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride,
your God will rejoice over you. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

145A I Will Exalt My God and King

We praise and exalt God for his exceeding power and love.



* 1 I will ex - alt my God and King, and I will
* 3 The LORD our God is rich in grace, both ten - der
* 4 All you have made will praise you, LORD; your might - y



ev - er praise your name. I will ex - tol you ev - 'ry
and com - pas - sion - ate. His an - ger is most slow to
acts your saints will show, till all the peo - ples on the



day and ev - er - more your praise pro - claim.
rise; his love and kind - ness are most great.
earth the splen - dor of your king - dom know.



You, LORD, are great - ly to be praised; your great-ness
The LORD is good in all his ways; his crea-tures
E - ter - nal is your king - dom, LORD, for - ev - er



is be - yond all thought. From age to age your peo - ple
know his con - stant care. To all his works his love ex -
strong and ev - er sure; while gen - er - a - tions rise and



tell the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
tends; all crea - tures in his mer - cies share.
die, your glo - rious reign will still en - dure.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14–21

St. Paul teaches that God wants us to have a life that is fuller than we could possibly imagine.

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom the entire family in heaven and on earth receives its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he would strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner self, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸I pray that you would be able to comprehend, along with all the saints, how wide and long and high and deep his love is, ¹⁹and that you would be able to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him, who is able, according to the power that is at work within us, to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2



Refrain

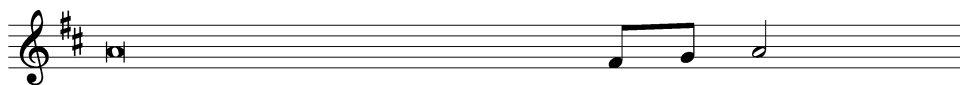


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

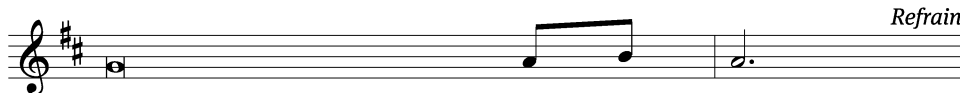


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and on - ly Son,



who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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Gospel

John 2:1–11

To spare a newlywed couple embarrassment from having run out of wine, Mary asks Jesus to do something. Jesus delivers more than his mother asks, turning water into the choicest of wine.

¹Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. ²Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine."

⁴Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." And they did.

⁹When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!"

¹¹This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

375 Arise and Shine in Splendor

Sermon

Stand

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 truly 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

8:00 - Installation of Officers

Prayer of the Church

Today, the prayer will be offered by individual petitions. Each petition will end this way:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The final petition will end this way:

...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

†
†
†
†
†
†

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.



Musical Offering

Water Into Wine

Questions for Examination

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199



The Lord be with you.



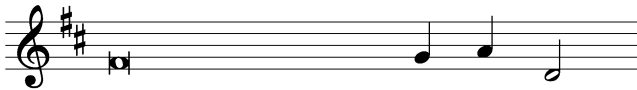
And al - so with you.



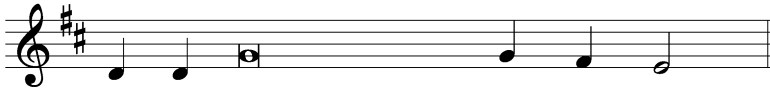
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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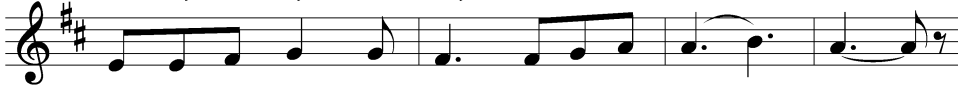
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.**

Words of Institution

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 T 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 T 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

510 In Christ Alone

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

385 Christ Begins (sts. 1,2)

Song Leader will sing st. 1; then congregation will repeat st. 1 and sing st. 2.



ONLY ONE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY

Jan. 26 at 10:00 am

125th Anniversary Celebration

We want our entire church family gathered together to mark our 125th year as a congregation. Therefore, we will have only one service next Sunday.

It is at 10:00 am. Some of our former pastors will take part in the service, and there will be lots of special music.



Take Home Questions

Isaiah 62:1-5

1. Make a list of all the names we will be called or the things we will be in these verses.
2. What do these names and things tell us about our relationship with God?
3. How do they all affect our attitude in this life?

Ephesians 3:14-21

4. Make a list of all the things Paul is praying for in these verses.
5. What does this tell you about what Paul found important for the believers in Ephesus?
6. In what ways can we enrich our prayer life by looking at his prayer?

John 2:1-11

7. Mary asks Jesus to step in and fill an immediate need at this wedding. However, what is Jesus' different, larger purpose in mind? (v. 11)
8. In what ways might we, like Mary, look to Jesus only as a "help desk" instead of seeing him fully as the Messiah to save us from sin?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour:

1 Peter – Chapter 3

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

New Leaders

Today we install the leaders of our congregation. We encourage you to keep them in your prayers as they carry out their duties. Here is a list of councilmen for 2025: Kent Schroeder – President; Chris Jardine – Secretary; Kevin Meister – Treasurer; Mike Anderson – Financial Secretary; Rich Herrmann – Board of Elders; Tom Blaes – Board of Mission Outreach; Al Verjinsky – Board of Fellowship; Chris Williams – Board of Worship; Tom Peronto – Board of Lutheran Education; and Bryan Fiecko – Board of Properties.

We have two positions that remain vacant: Vice President and Board of Family Ministry. Please consider who might be a good fit and encourage them to serve.

Congregational Meeting Today

Jan. 19 | 12:30 pm

Our winter congregational meeting is today at 12:30 pm. In addition to regular business, we will be calling a 1st grade teacher for fall. There is a fellowship meal beforehand – from 11:30-12:30 pm – so you don't have to run home for lunch. If you haven't yet, please pick up the packet of reports in your member mailslot. Everyone in the congregation is invited to the meal and the meeting!

Help Set Up for Anniversary Luncheon

Jan. 25

We need some people to help set up tables and chairs in the gym and to decorate for our 125th Anniversary Luncheon. Work begins at 9:00 am on Saturday, Jan. 25. Alan Verjinsky and Jan Peronto are heading up this project. We also need people who are willing to clean up after the meal. You can sign up for either of these tasks at the Ministry Table.

Book Soon!

If you have not booked a photo session yet, please do so soon. Only 20% of our timeslots are still available. You can call the church (715-421-3634) or schedule on your own. There is a link on our website and a QR code on posters throughout the building. Photo sessions are on Feb. 6-8 & 10-12. You will receive a free professional portrait for participating.



Greeters Needed for Photo Sessions

We need volunteers to greet people as they arrive for their photo sessions and assist the photographers with paperwork. There is over 40 hours of photography taking place, so please consider serving a 2-3 hour shift. See the Ministry Table to sign up or contact Judy Stensberg (715-421-3634).



Event Host Needed for BIC Workshop

Feb. 1

Pastor Plagenz is looking for a volunteer to help with hosting our BIC Workshops. The first session is Saturday, Feb. 1 from 8:30-12:30. Duties include making coffee, organizing snacks and lunch, etc. Contact Pastor Plagenz to volunteer.

Learn to Run the Soundboard

Feb. 8

The Technology Director from St. Peters in Weyauwega will be here on Feb. 8 to help us learn more about how to operate our sound board. We would like to have a minimum of 5 people who are trained to operate this equipment. If you are interested, please contact either Chris Williams (507-279-0167 ~ cawilliams56@gmail.com) or Veronica Klish (spedbuggy@gmail.com ~ 715-421-3607).

A Note to Scrip Users

The scrip team received a call from Home Depot saying that people have been trying to use scrip to pay off credit card bills. Please note that scrip can only be used for making purchases, but not for paying credit card balances. Thank you for supporting Christian education by using scrip.

Nerf Wars

Jan. 26 | 5:45 pm

The next WELS Youth Night is next Sunday, Jan. 26 - 5:45-8:30 pm at Northland Lutheran High School. The event is free of charge, and all area teens from 8th grade to 12th grade are invited. The Nerf War is like "paint ball" but with nerf guns. (Nerf guns and ammo will be provided, but you can also bring your own). Eye protection is encouraged. Please sign up as early as possible to make sure we have enough nerf gear and food for everyone. Teens are encouraged to bring a friend. Register at www.mysaintpeter.org/wels-youth-night



Freshman Registration at NLHS

Feb. 21 & 22

Freshman registration at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) is this Tuesday and Wednesday. Schedule a time, either 4:00-5:30 or 6:00-7:30, at NLHS.org. If those days and times don't work for you, please contact Andrew Schoenfeld at (608) 622-8304 or aschoenfeld@nlhs.org to set up an appointment.

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship Luncheon in the cafeteria
	12:30 PM	Winter Congregational Meeting in the cafeteria
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
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	Leadership Council in Resource Center
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
Saturday	9:00 AM	Set up for Anniversary Luncheon
Sunday	10:00 AM	125th Anniversary Worship Service
	11:30 AM	Anniversary Luncheon

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 226

Next Sunday

Theme: 125 Years of God's Amazing Grace

Readings: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 17:1,13-26

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 1 Foundations of the Christian Faith
- Feb. 6 Bible & Brews Begins
- Feb. 6-12 Photo Sessions for New Directory
- Feb. 8 Worship Technology Training Session

**Only One Service
Next Sunday**

Jan. 26 at 10:00 am



**125th Anniversary
of our Congregation**



311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org