

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



MYSTERY REVEALED:  
GOD WANTS OUR HELP IN REVEALING HIS MYSTERY  
*The Third Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 24, 2021*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

If you are worshipping online, we would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at [www.stpaulswr.org/watch](http://www.stpaulswr.org/watch). You can also contact us with any questions or prayer requests via email or phone ([churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634).

## **SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC**

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Your offering and connect card** can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you have a smartphone, you can fill out the online connect card. Empty offering plates will be brought forward and placed on the altar to symbolize our sacrifice to God.
- † **Children's bulletins** can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



Today, one more layer of the mystery of Christ is peeled back. It is indeed a mysterious thing that the almighty and all-knowing God would enlist the help of wayward and sinful people like us to serve him. But this is what makes it such a joy to serve our amazing God. We also celebrate Christian Education Sunday today, which connects well with the theme of the Church year; we train families and young people in the faith so that they would be better equipped to serve the Lord in whatever they do and wherever they go.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is green, which refers to the growth in knowledge we and many others experience through the gift of Christian education.

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

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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*Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.*

## WELCOME

*The Holy Spirit works in our hearts in various ways as we teach and learn his Word. This hymn highlights just a few of these works of the Holy Spirit.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Holy Spirit, Light Divine | CW 183*

*Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-All; 3-Women; 4-Men; 5-All*

*Please stand.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

C:

*There Is A Redeemer*

*Song Leaders will sing the verses; All sing the refrain.*



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his



Son, Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,  
names, Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,  
face; There I'll serve my King for - ev - er

*Refrain*



Ho - ly One.  
Hope for sin - ners slain. Thank you, O my  
In that ho - ly place.



Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

# The Word

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## FIRST LESSON

*Jonah 3:1-5,10*

*God's servant shows how powerful the Word of God can be.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 62 | The People's Psalter*

*Refrain - All; Verses - Song Leaders*

Refrain

Lord, come and help me; in you a-lone I trust.

Lord, come and help me; in you I trust.

Song Leaders: My soul, O God, in silence waits;  
My hope secure without a sound;  
You are my refuge, you are my rock,  
In whom the joys of life abound.

**All: Lord, come and help me; in you alone I trust.**  
**Lord, come and help me; in you I trust.**

Song Leaders: I set my trust in you beyond  
The futile boasts of mortal pride;  
With steadfast faith I hold your prize,  
And cast dishonest claims aside.

**All: Lord, come and help me; in you alone I trust.**  
**Lord, come and help me; in you I trust.**

Song Leaders: Into silence, Lord, you have said  
That goodness rests with you alone;  
The great reward for my delight:  
A share of love, of your own love.

## SECOND LESSON

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

*God has called us into the Light.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*As we teach the Word of God, we know just how useful and profitable it is since it comes right from the mouth of God!*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness,

**C: so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.**

**Alleluia.** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

*Mark 1:14-20*

*Jesus calls his disciples into service.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*For the time being, please keep children with you in the pews for the Children's Message.*

## HYMN

*Christ Is the World's Light | CW 343  
Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

## SERMON

**Born into Darkness, Joyfully Called into the Light**

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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.**

*Be seated*

## **THANK 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.*

*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**

*Meditation*

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- M:** O Lord, you have revealed your good and gracious will to your people on earth. Forgive us for pursuing that knowledge that serves only our selfish desires and for using what we have learned to exploit and hurt others. Cleanse our guilty hearts of the apathy we feel for searching out the deeper truths of your Word.
- C:** **Holy Spirit, hear our prayer that we may put self aside and rejoice in the truth that builds up.**
- M:** Heavenly Father, send the Spirit of Jesus into our hearts so that we would eagerly learn of you. As the deer pants for streams of water, may we be instilled with a longing to explore the mysteries of your grace.
- C:** **Holy Spirit, increase in us the knowledge of your truth.**
- M:** As you sent your Son among us as the Word made flesh, so bless the efforts of schools, colleges, and seminaries to train those who proclaim your presence among us in Word and sacrament. We pray especially for the educational ministries we offer here at St. Paul's, for Northland Lutheran High School, for Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.
- C:** **Holy Spirit, instill in us a desire to teach others the wisdom of your ways.**

M: God of light, give to the Church renewed wisdom and fresh understanding that the message of your salvation may shine ever brighter in this dark age.

**C: Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love so that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth so that at the name of Jesus every knee may bow.

**C: May your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

*The beauty of the Lord's Prayer is how it succinctly prays for God's blessing and help in every aspect of life.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

*Be seated.*

## HYMN

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness | CW 353  
Verse 1-All; 2-Song Leaders; 3-All*

*Please stand.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

**C: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

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 on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

*As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in His name. Worshippers may make the sign of the cross on themselves as they are encouraged to live each day with Baptismal confidence, knowing that they have the Lord's blessing and presence with them.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*On What Has Now Been Sown | CW 322  
Verse 1-Men; 2-Women; 3-All*



# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. What implications are connected to being called fishers of men, as Jesus calls the disciples in Mark 1?
2. Knowing what you know about Jonah (if you need a refresher, you could read the short four-chapter book), what makes Jonah 3:1-10 so amazing?
3. Ephesians 5:10 says, "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." In what ways is that command extremely simple to carry out? In what ways is it extremely difficult to do?
4. Psalm 62:1 says, "My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation is from him." Come up with at least four ways in which those words are applicable for Christian Education Sunday and a Sunday on which we consider Christian service to God.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## LEARN MORE ABOUT NLHS

*Jan. 24 | 9:15-10:15 AM*

Our guest preacher today is Mr. Frank Van Brocklin from Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS). During our Bible study hour, Mr. Van Brocklin will have a special presentation on NLHS. We hope you will stay for this.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

In addition to our guest preacher this Sunday, our school will celebrate Christian Education Week with a book fair, mini basketball clinic, and dress up days. The students will also be recording a song that will be played during the worship service next Sunday. See our monthly newsletter for more details on these events.

## VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR

*Jan. 25 - Feb. 7*

This year the school's Scholastic Book Fair will be held exclusively online. As in the past, the book fair is open to church members as well as school families. You can browse over 6,000 titles, and every dollar spent will benefit our school directly. The link to our Book Fair homepage is [www.scholastic.com/bf/StPaulsEvangelicalLutheran5](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/StPaulsEvangelicalLutheran5). The book fair opens on Jan. 25.

## REDUCE THE COST OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

When you use scrip from St. Paul's School or Northland Lutheran High School, you can earn money toward tuition at these schools. Just make your regular online and in store purchases with scrip cards, and a percentage of your gift card purchases will be applied to your tuition account. You can even begin earning tuition before your child enters school. Grandparent and other relatives can also have their scrip earnings applied to your account. Learn how to sign up for this program:

St. Paul's Scrip: Deb DeWilde 715-569-4018 or [StPaulsScripWR@gmail.com](mailto:StPaulsScripWR@gmail.com)

NLHS Scrip: 715-359-3400 or [scrip@nlhs.org](mailto:scrip@nlhs.org)

In January, St. Paul's scrip users earned a total of \$113.65 toward school tuition. Other scrip users asked that their earning be credited to the school's operating fund, a total \$563.87.

## THE THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS

Feb. 7 | 9:15-10:15 AM

Our next Sunday morning Bible Study series will be on The Theology of the cross. This study is based on a book by Daniel Deuschlander. You are not required to purchase the book for the class. However, if you would like to, The Theology of the Cross is available from Northwestern Publishing House ([online.nph.net](http://online.nph.net)). Kindle and Nook versions are also available. If you don't have internet or need help ordering a copy, please contact the church office.

## PRIVATE COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Due to the prolonged time frame of the pandemic, the pastoral staff is offering an additional way for families to privately partake of the Lord's Supper. Ten-minute appointments will be available the week following when communion is offered in public worship. Families can choose whether to stay in their vehicle or come into the sanctuary. Please follow the link in the Sunday Sneak Peek or call the church office to sign up for an appointment. Reservations are due by the end of the day on Monday of that week.

The next opportunity for communion is in worship on Sunday, February 7 and Monday, February 8. If you would like to receive private communion later that week, please reserve a time by the end of the day on Monday, February 8.

## TASTY TREATS FOR SALE



Warm up wintertime with a homemade apple pie that you bake yourself, thanks to the efforts of Willing Workers. Treat yourself to either a crumb crust or two crust apple pie that can be purchased for only \$12 per pie. Pick up your pie during regular office hours or arrange a special pickup by calling ahead. Also, pick up a jar or two of homemade jam (mostly raspberry) in the office as a thoughtful gift to yourself or someone you love for Valentine's Day.

## HELP WITH NLHS HOME GAMES

Volunteers are needed to help with NLHS's home basketball games. Because of the unpredictable nature of COVID quarantines, games have been cancelled and rescheduled, so we don't have all necessary positions covered. Want to volunteer? Visit [nlhs.net](http://nlhs.net), tap on volunteer for sporting events, and choose a timeslot on the SignUp Genius form.

## HYGIENE DRIVE IN FEBRUARY

*Feb. 14 - Mar. 7*

We are once again participating in the "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive," which begins next month. We will be collecting personal hygiene and household cleaning products from Feb. 14 to March 7. Organizations that benefit are SWEPS, the Family Center, local schools as well as those people in our area who are classified as homeless (about 3 dozen people per month). Urgent Needs include laundry detergent, dish soap, soft hand soap, shower gel, 2-in-1 shampoo, trash bags (shelters especially need these for bedrooms!), diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups), deodorant (unscented), wet wipes for babies, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper towels, disposable razors, tampons and feminine hygiene pads (especially pads for young teens). All of your donations will stay local. Look for the donation box in the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, Feb. 14.

## DIME & DOLLAR UPDATE

After a successful holiday season and a thorough cleaning of the store on January 2nd, Dime and Dollar Thrift Store in Stevens Point is working its way into 2021! We are now ready for your donations so feel free to drop off any household items or clothing from 10-4 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, or Saturday by appointment. Please note that we have had to close the store on Thursdays due to lack of volunteers. Give Jan Peronto a call at 715-340-2809 or email her at [jkp111310@gmail.com](mailto:jkp111310@gmail.com) with your desire to volunteer or with questions.

## SUMMER CAMP IS ON!

Camp Phillip in Wautoma will be running its usual summer camps at reduced capacity. Week-long and half-week camps are available for children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children have the option of taking specialty camps on art, archery, horseback riding, and more. Camps run from mid-June through mid-August. Registration begin at noon on February 1. With limited capacity, camps will fill quickly. For more information, visit [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com).



<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	<b>Worship - Christian Education Sunday</b>
	9:15 AM	<b>Presentation on Northland Lutheran High School</b>
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	<b>Worship - Christian Education Sunday</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
<b>TUESDAY</b>	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	Choir Practice in the balcony
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men’s Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:00 PM	Men’s Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship - Installation of Leaders
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship - Installation of Leaders

**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT**

Last Week’s Attendance: 150  
 From July 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021  
 Actual ministry income: \$534,590  
 Actual cost of ministry: \$564,513  
 Mortgage balance: \$1,305,818





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