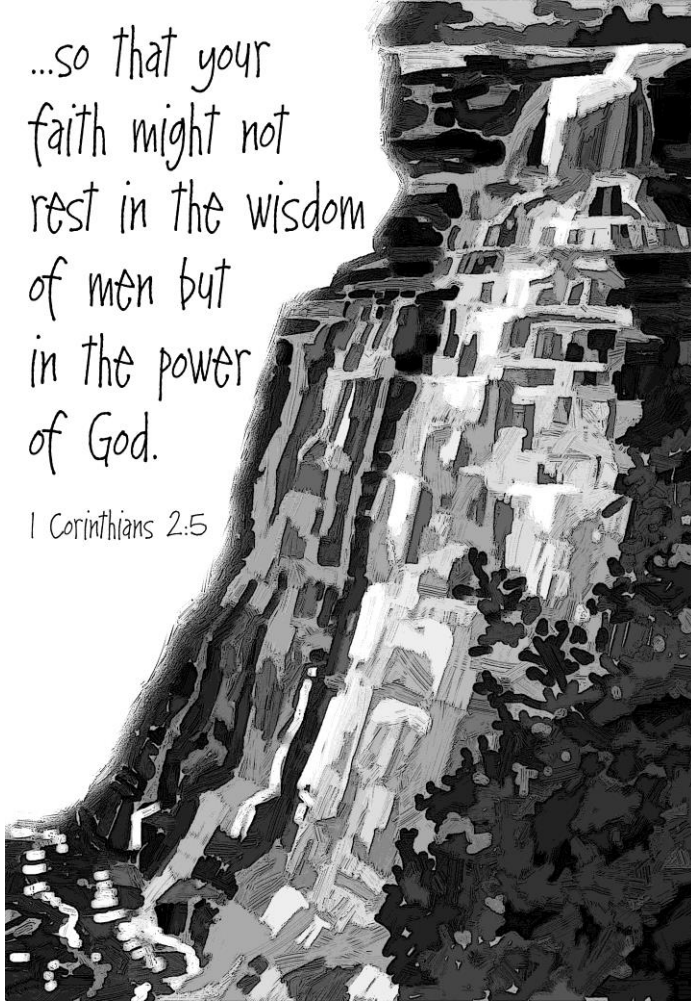


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

...so that your
faith might not
rest in the wisdom
of men but
in the power
of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5



Built on the Rock of the Word

Christian Education Sunday

January 25, 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



Christian Education is not merely about passing on information, but about building lives on the rock of God's Word. The Lord calls his people to treasure his Word in their hearts and impress it on the next generation. True wisdom is not discovered by human reason but revealed by God through his Spirit. The outcome of such Spirit-given wisdom is a life built on the solid foundation of his Word, able to stand firm against every storm. Christian Education centers on Christ and his Word, forming faith that endures and lives that are securely built on the Rock.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Staff Minister Randy Pahl; Principal Andy Van Weele, Vice Principal Micah Biesterfeld, Teacher Rachel Provost; Organist: Sue Kulhanek; Preservice Music: Terri Dobratz; Musical Offering: Peter & Lauren Plagenz

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

909 O Lord, Our God, Your Gracious Hand

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 first line of the melody. The second staff contains the second line of the melody, with the lyrics "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to" written below it. The third staff contains the third line of the melody, with the lyrics "God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth," written below it.



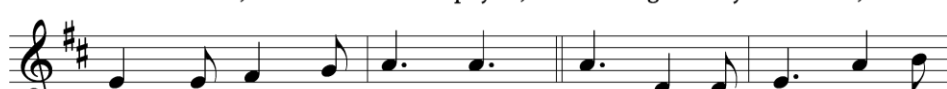
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



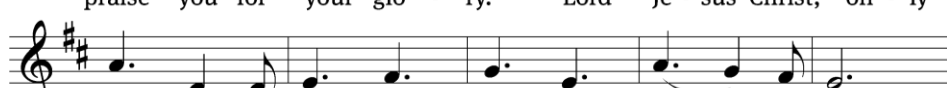
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



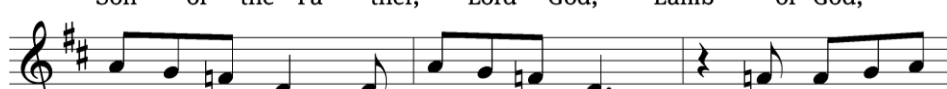
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



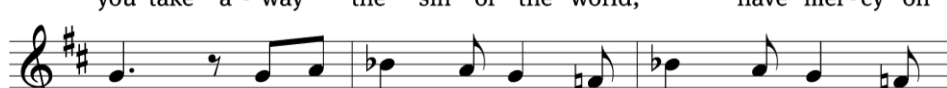
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



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




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



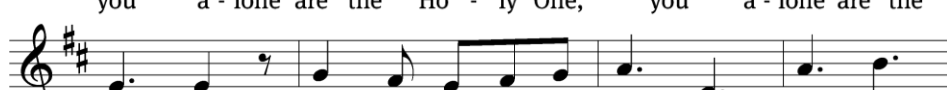
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



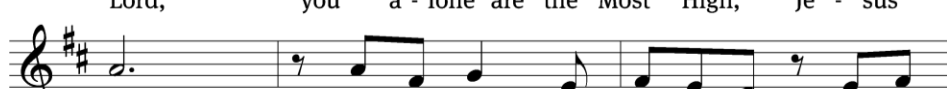
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



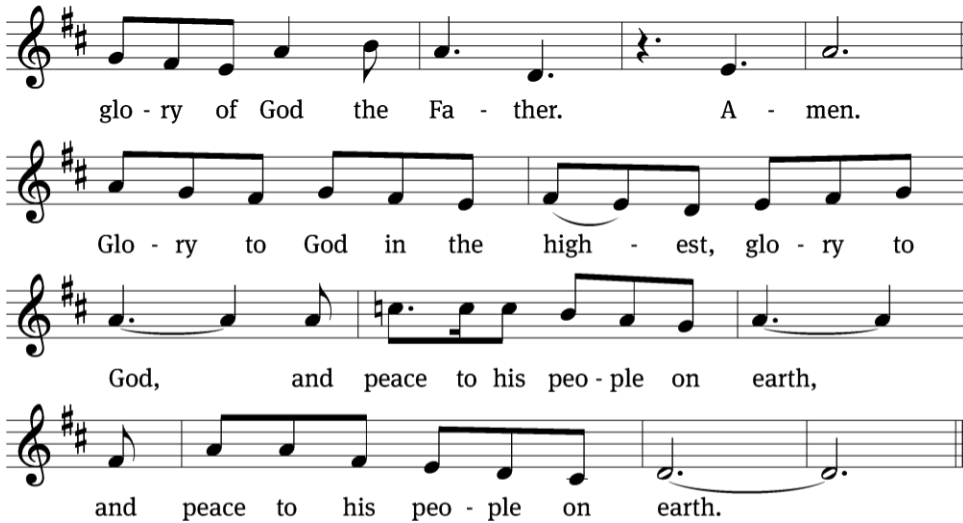
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



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.

Merciful Lord, comforter and teacher of your faithful people, increase in your church the knowledge of your will. Strengthen the hearts of those who hope in you, and show them the depth of your promises. Let our children follow the light of your Word, and follow you with eager footsteps; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Deuteronomy 11:1–7, 16–21

Moses urges God's people to let the Word shape their hearts, their homes, and the next generation.

¹Love the LORD your God and always carry out his requirements, his statutes, his ordinances, and his commandments.

²Know this today! I am not addressing your children, who have not known and seen all these things: the discipline of the LORD your God; his greatness, his strong hand, and his outstretched arm; ³his signs and his deeds that he performed in Egypt against Pharaoh king of Egypt and against all his land; ⁴what he did to the army of Egypt and its horses and chariots; how he caused the water of the Red Sea to flow over their heads when they pursued you; how the LORD has destroyed them to this day; ⁵what he did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; ⁶what he did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab son of Reuben; how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them with their households, their tents, and every living thing that was at their feet, in the middle of all Israel.

⁷Know today it is your own eyes that have seen every deed that the LORD your God performed.

¹⁶Be careful, or your heart will be deceived and you will turn away and serve other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will close up the heavens. There will be no rain, the ground will not produce crops, and you will perish quickly from the good land that the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead. ¹⁹Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, ²¹so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the LORD promised to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

78C Your Word, O LORD, Is a Lamp

Refrain

Your Word, O LORD, is a lamp for my feet
 and a light un - to my path.

Tone

My people, hear my / teaching;
listen to the words / of my mouth.
I will utter hidden things, things / from of old—
things our ancestors have / told us.

We will not hide them from their de- / scendants;
we will tell the next gener- / ation
the praiseworthy deeds / of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders / he has done. *Refrain*

He decreed statutes for / Jacob
and established the law in / Israel,
which he commanded our / ancestors
to teach their / children,

so the next generation would know them, even the children yet / to be born,
and they in turn would tell their / children.
Then they would put their / trust in God
and would not forget his deeds but would keep / his commands.

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: © 2014 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1–10

Paul reminds us that saving truth and lasting wisdom are not discovered by human effort, but revealed by God through his Spirit.

¹As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. ²For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness, in fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not marked by persuasive words of human wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

⁶Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. ⁷Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.)

⁹But as it is written:

What no eye has seen and no ear has heard
and no human mind has conceived—
that is what God has prepared for those who love him.

¹⁰But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Proverbs 2:6

Alleluia! For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 7:24–27

Jesus teaches that those who hear his words and put them into practice build their lives on a foundation that no storm can destroy.

²⁴ “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. ²⁶Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.” (EHV[®])

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

758 Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

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

Special Prayers This Week

- † For Sue Brester, as she rehabs from hip surgery.
- † For the family of Don Provost, who passed away.
- † For Pastor Jeremiah Wallander, whom we called to serve as our second pastor.
- †
- †
- †

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that your servants might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Lead us to love your Word more and more and to receive your message with great eagerness.

Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach little children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Let them find Jesus in stories, songs, and prayers. **Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in Sunday Schools and youth Bible classes. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.

Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.

We thank you for enabling our congregation to provide elementary education and support secondary education for our children. We know our schools are your special blessing, and we pray for the resolve to establish and maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of education. Move us to be generous in our offerings so that teachers may teach and students may learn in fitting surroundings.

Lead us to provide Christian schools that reflect the immensity of your love.

Bless the schools and teachers who prepare public ministers of the gospel for service in our churches and around the world. Lead teachers and professors to be faithful to your Word and provide insights that enable them to pass on your truth to their students. Ignite the zeal of young men and women to be willing and eager to share the truths of Scripture with others. Move us to support with our prayers and gifts the schools our synod has established.

We pray that you send workers in your harvest fields.

Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.

Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

All this we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



Musical Offering

Pass the Promise

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

762 Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young



Take Home Questions

Deuteronomy 11:1-7,16-21

1. Verses 18-21 describe God's Word being bound to hearts, hands, and homes. What might that look like in a modern household or daily routine?
2. Put into your own words the spiritual responsibility parents have to their children.
3. In what ways does this reading challenge the idea that Christian education is only for children or only for formal settings?

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

4. Paul contrasts human wisdom with God's wisdom. Where do you see the temptation to rely on human wisdom, even within Christian education?
5. According to this passage, who is responsible for revealing spiritual truth—and what does that mean for teachers and learners alike?

Matthew 7:24-27

6. Compare and contrast the two builders in Jesus' parable. What crucial differences exist between them?
7. What does a life "built on the rock" look like during suffering or uncertainty?

Bonus

8. In what ways can our congregation more intentionally build lives—young and old—on the rock of God's Word?
9. Pick up the guide Resources for a Home Built on God's Word and peruse the materials on the table in the Welcome Center. Use the guide to begin or enhance your personal study of God's Word.

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Fellowship in Practice

Come to the Bible Study Room from 10:30-11:30 am



St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night

Jan 27 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Come this Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night. **This is for any congregational member** who is interested in the mission and direction of St. Paul's. Member who attended the WELS Lutheran Leadership Conference will share some key insights to help us think intentionally about how we move forward together as a congregation. Our prayer is that this night will strengthen our unity around Christ, sharpen our sense of purpose, and encourage bold, joyful service as we look to the future God is shaping for St. Paul's.

The Glory of Living under The Cross

Feb. 1 | 10:30-11:30 am

Through February and March, our Sunday morning Bible study will focus on the series ***The Glory of Living under the Cross***. This topic will guide us through key aspects of Christian life shaped by the cross—Christ's saving work, our union with God, humility, suffering, witness, and the hope we have as those who already live under Christ's gracious rule. This Bible study meets ***Sunday mornings*** from **10:30-11:30** in the Bible Study room in the West Wing. Join us for this series as we grow together in faith and fix our eyes on Christ and his cross!

Empowered to Proclaim

Jan. 27 | 9:45-11:00 am

Through the work of Holy Spirit, early Christians were empowered to proclaim the gospel message. The Women Walking in the Word group will consider accounts from the book of Acts and how the Holy Spirit's work continues today, empowering us to proclaim the gospel. You can join them on Tuesday at 9:45-11:00 am in the Resource Center.

School Book Fair Open to All

Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

St. Paul's Lutheran School is excited to partner with I55 again for our annual Book Fair. I55 is a company "passionate about raising up a generation of inspired readers." Their name comes from Isaiah 55 all of their products are screened through the filter of faith. A portion of the proceeds are banked as "book bucks" for our school to improve and expand their library. The book fair will be open for in-person shopping after worship this Sunday and next. The book fair is located in the school library. You can also shop after school Monday through Friday or online at <https://i55bookfairs.com/pages/wio46>.



It Is School Spirit Week

Students at our school are invited to celebrate School Spirit Week by dressing up according to the daily theme: Monday – Fake and Injury Day; Tuesday – Jersey Day; Wednesday – Holiday Day; Thursday – Pajama Day; Friday – School Colors Day. The week concludes with a Pep Rally on Friday afternoon.



Come for Family Fun Night

A Spirit Week event that is **open to everyone** is Family Fun Night on Thursday from 4:45-6:30 pm. A simply supper will be served along with a hot cocoa bar. Kids are welcome to wear their pajamas and get cozy for some story time.

One by One

The Bible & Brews Group has temporarily relocated to the Bible Study Room. (No alcohol will be served. ☺) This is a great time to join the group. They will be doing a video-based study by Pastor David Rosenau. You will learn why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one.

Donate to the Food Pantry

Higher winter utility bill cause more people to turn to the local food pantry (FOCUS) for help. This week, our congregation is serving at FOCUS, so now would be a good time to make a donation. Please drop off your non-perishable food donations either at FOCUS or in the collection bin under the Ministry Table at church.

Help Serve a Lenten Meal

The Board of Fellowship is seeking groups to help serve meals on Wednesdays during Lent. A freewill offering is taken to cover the cost of the food, and any profit can go to your group's preferred ministry. There is a signup sheet on the Ministry Table.

Volunteer for Easter for Kids

Help share the Easter message with children ages 3-10. Volunteer to help at Easter for Kids, which is on Saturday, March 28. We need both helpers and activity leaders. You can find signups on the Ministry Table or on our website under the Serve tab (www.stpaulswr.org/serve).

Teens, Mark Your Calendar!

Teens in grades 8-12 are invited for tubing at Sylvan Hill in Wausau on Sunday, Feb. 22. Come between 1:30 and 3:00 pm. There will be a devotion and pizza at 3:00 pm in the Sylvan Hill Party Room. There will also be hot cocoa and snacks. You are welcome to bring a friend. The event wraps up at 5:00 pm. Register at www.mysaintpeter.org/wels-youth-night



Sunday	9:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Bible Study Room 10:30 AM School Book Fair in the library 10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5 th)
Monday	1:30 PM Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services 6:00 PM Choir Practice in the balcony
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 6:00 PM St. Paul’s Leadership Night in the Bible Study Room
Wednesday	8:45 AM School Chapel Service 6:00 PM Bible & Brews <i>in the Bible Study Room</i> 6:00 PM Catechism Class in room 110 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 4:45 PM Family Fun Night in the cafeteria
Sunday	9:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Bible Study Room 10:30 AM School Book Fair in the library 10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5 th)

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 194

Next Sunday

Theme: Identity Revealed:

Jesus Calls You Blessed

Readings: Zephaniah 2:3,3:11-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31,

Matthew 5:1-12

Upcoming Events

Jan. 27 Freshman Registration at NLHS

Jan. 26-30 St. Paul’s School Spirit Week

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday



ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Enrollment for the
2026-2027 School Year
Is Now Open.

www.helpingstudentsgrow.com



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