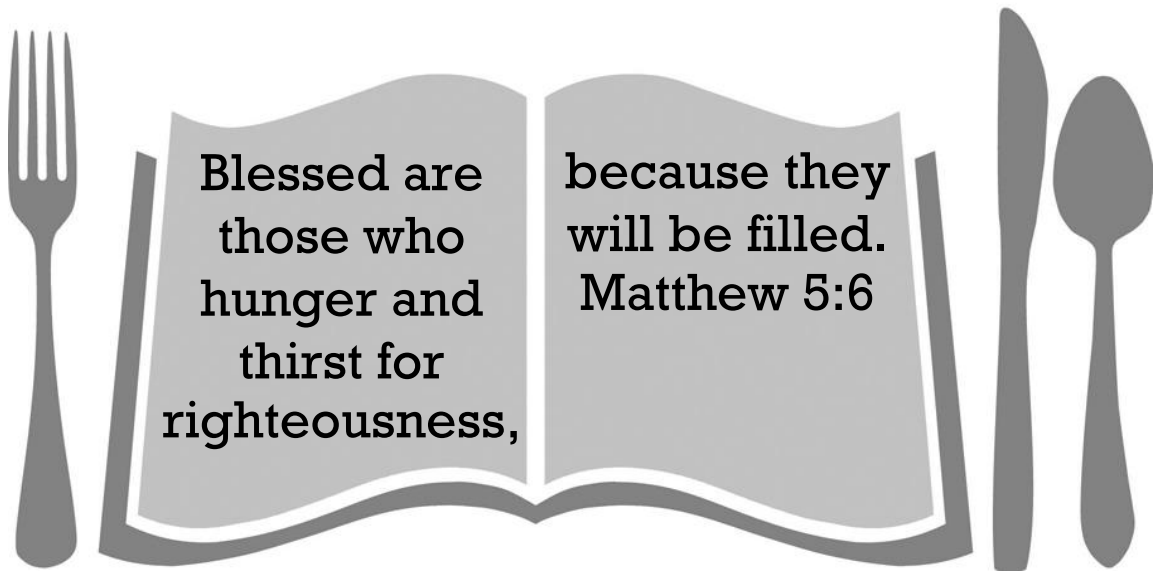


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Identity Revealed: Jesus Calls You Blessed

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 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



You may not feel blessed when you are hungry or insulted or mourning the death of a loved one. You may not be in the mood to boast when you feel foolish, weak, or lowly. But knowing your difficulties, Jesus still chose you to be his own. He gives you many gifts, and he calls you blessed.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 10 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist: Kristi Perry; Musical Offering: Tammy Paul

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

867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

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.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glory to God in the Highest'. It consists of ten staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the tenth staff.

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.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

Tune: © 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11–13

The Lord promises that those who trust him will not be put to shame.

³Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill. ¹²But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. ¹³The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them. (EHV®)

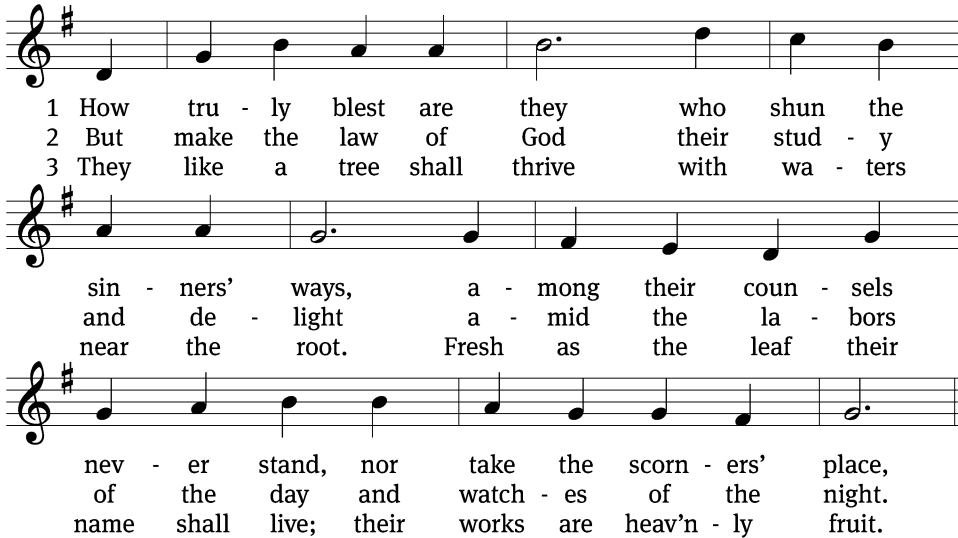
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

1B How Truly Blest Are They

The Church sings Psalm 1 in services that emphasize the blessedness of meditation on the law of the Lord.



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the
2 But make the law of God their stud - y
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters

sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
and de - light a - mid the la - bors
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their

nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,
of the day and watch - es of the night.
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.; Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, alt.; Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

God changes how we view ourselves by connecting us to Christ Jesus.

²⁶For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3

Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the ideas of the world upside down.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things.

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
because they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the gentle,
because they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
because they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
because they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

690 Blest Are They

Please join the song leader as you feel comfortable.

Sermon

Stand

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

Special Prayers This Week

† For Pastor Jeremiah Wallander, whom we called to serve as our second pastor.

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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.

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

All My Boast is in Jesus

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, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,'. The third staff continues with 'heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.' The fourth staff contains 'Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The fifth and final staff concludes with '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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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

CW 202

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 Hymns

816 *I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus*
670 *I Come, O Savior, to Your Table*

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.

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

849 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



Take Home Questions

Zephaniah 2:3,3:11-13

1. In these verses, God removes pride and boasting from his people (v. 11). In what ways can pride—even spiritual pride—get in the way of trusting God’s promises?
2. In what ways does humility and weakness (v. 12) actually lead to peace and security (v. 13) under the Lord’s care?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

3. How does the world define “success” or “blessedness”? Where do you see tension between those definitions and what Paul says God values?
4. In what ways is Paul’s dichotomy of wisdom vs. foolishness, strength vs. weakness, power vs. lowliness epitomized in Christ and his cross?
5. What security is ours when we “boast in the Lord?”

Matthew 5:1-12

6. When you hear the word “blessed,” what kinds of situations or emotions do you usually associate with it? How does that compare with the situations Jesus describes in Matthew 5?
7. How do the Beatitudes shift the focus from changing our circumstances to changing our identity?
8. Which Beatitude most resonates with you right now or is the hardest to accept as a blessing? What gospel promise helps you trust Jesus’ words anyway?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: The Glory of Living under The Cross

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



New Sunday Study Starts Today

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

We are starting a new Sunday Bible study series today called *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!

Leadership Night Follow Up

If you missed our Leadership Night, you can find the attendee booklet on the table in the Welcome Center. Feel free to fill out an Interest Card as well. Completing the card does not obligate you to serve. However, it allows us to follow up with you when conversations about those ministries develop. Please drop your card in the basket provided.

Men of His Word Men's Conference

Men are invited to the Men of His Word Conference on Feb. 21 in Oshkosh, WI. A day of worship, encouragement, and biblical teaching for men. This year's theme, "Courage Under Fire", reminds us that even in life's toughest moments God equips us through his Word to stand firm and lead well in our families, churches, and communities. Visit menofhisword.org

Ash Wednesday Is Feb 18

We are returning to two midweek services during Lent—4:00 and 6:30 pm. Our first midweek service is on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18. During these services, we will be looking at the prophecies of Zechariah that point to Jesus' passion and death. A meal will be served between the services (about 5:00-6:00 pm).



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 sign-up sheet on the Ministry Table.

Order Easter Flowers Today!

Today is the last day to order Easter flowers. We are using Pick 'n Save Floral again, and that is the deadline they set. Lilies are \$8; Daisy Mums are \$12; and Daffodils, Hyacinths, & Tulips are \$10 each. All come in 6" pots. There are no color choices due to the flowers coming in mixed boxes. This is an inexpensive way for you to help us beautify the church for Easter. After the Easter worship service, the flowers are yours to keep or give to a friend. Please see Veronica Klish after church today, or send her an email at spdbuggy@wctc.net.



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 (ww.stpaulswr.org/serve).

Teen Tubing Event in Wausau

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



Camp Phillip

Registration for Summer Camp Opens

Camp Phillip near Wautoma offers summer camps for kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade from mid-June through mid-August. Registration opens this week (Monday at noon), and camps fill quickly. Check out their website (www.campphillip.com) to see what they offer.

Wash Our Glass Doors

Dale Kretschmer always showed up on Friday afternoon to wash dirty handprints from our glass doors, so they looked nice for Sunday worship. Now Dale is recovering from a broken leg and can't do it. We are looking for someone to take this over. The work does not have to be done on Friday afternoon, and you can work with a spouse or friend to take care of the task quickly. If you can help, please contact the office (715-421-3634) or our janitor, Matt Oligney (715-421-0825).

NLHS Strategic Ministry Meeting at St. Paul's

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) invites you to an interactive evening of discussion and collaboration on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Be a part of the conversation about how NLHS can more effectively prepare students for this life and beyond.

Be Loved

How are we to love God and love others well when we don't even like ourselves? That is the primary topic tackled at this year's two-day Awake and Alive Retreat for young adults and professionals in their 20's. Many young people are living trying to please everyone around them and painfully aware of their failures. Spend Feb. 13 & 14 in Brookfield with some great Christian teachers learning how the Bible helps us to love God, love ourselves, and love others... by being loved. Learn more and register at awakealive.com



Strength Made Perfect in Weakness

We are duped into thinking that a real servant of Christ is dynamic, assured, confident, fearless, witty, glamorous, fit for the Christian TV network . . . you get the idea! Don't think you are unusable because you don't have that air about you. The account of Gideon convinces us that we need to alter our stereotypes of what a servant of Christ is like. That is subject of the latest WELS National Online Teen Bible Study. This study will be conducted over Zoom on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 6:00 pm. Register at wels.net/national-teen-bible-study.

From the Cross to the Grave

This Lenten season, WELS Women's Ministry invites you to join us in an in-depth look at some of the events Matthew records in his gospel. Journey from Calvary's hill to the temple, from the tombs of holy people to Jesus' own tomb, and all the way to the depths of hell. Travel from the cross to the grave as you consider the significance of these events for our lives today. Subscribe at www.wels.net/womens-ministry.

YOU Are an Influencer Webinar

We tend to think of influencers as people on social media whose goal is to convince you that you either need something or need to believe something. God has called us to be influencers too, but of a different kind! Our end goal isn't monetary profit, but a gain for God's kingdom by pointing others to Christ! To equip and encourage women around this topic, WELS Women's Ministry is hosting a webinar on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7:00-8:00 pm. Register at wels.net/womens-ministry.

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 9 Sisters on a Mission
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 19-20 Teachers' Conference
- Feb. 22 Hygiene Drive Begins
- Feb. 28 Grade School Basketball Tournament at NLHS



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
Feb. 18 at 4:00 & 6:30 PM

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)
	11:30 AM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Bible Study Room
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
	4:30 PM	HOME Basketball Game in the gym
	4:30 PM	PTO Meeting in the library
	6:30 PM	Rock Reset Meeting in the Bible Study Room
Wednesday	8:45 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:00 PM	Bible & Brews in the Bible Study Room
	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
Friday	4:30 PM	HOME Panthers Basketball Game in the gym
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the Bible Study Room
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (Grades 3K-5 th)
	11:30 AM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Bible Study Room

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 170

Next Sunday

Theme: Identity Revealed:

Jesus Calls You Salt and Light

Readings: Exodus 19:1-8, 1 Peter 2:9-12,

Matthew 5:13-20



LAST DAY TO SHOP!

School Book Fair
In the Library!
You can also shop
online at

[https://i55bookfairs.com/
pages/WI046.](https://i55bookfairs.com/pages/WI046)



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