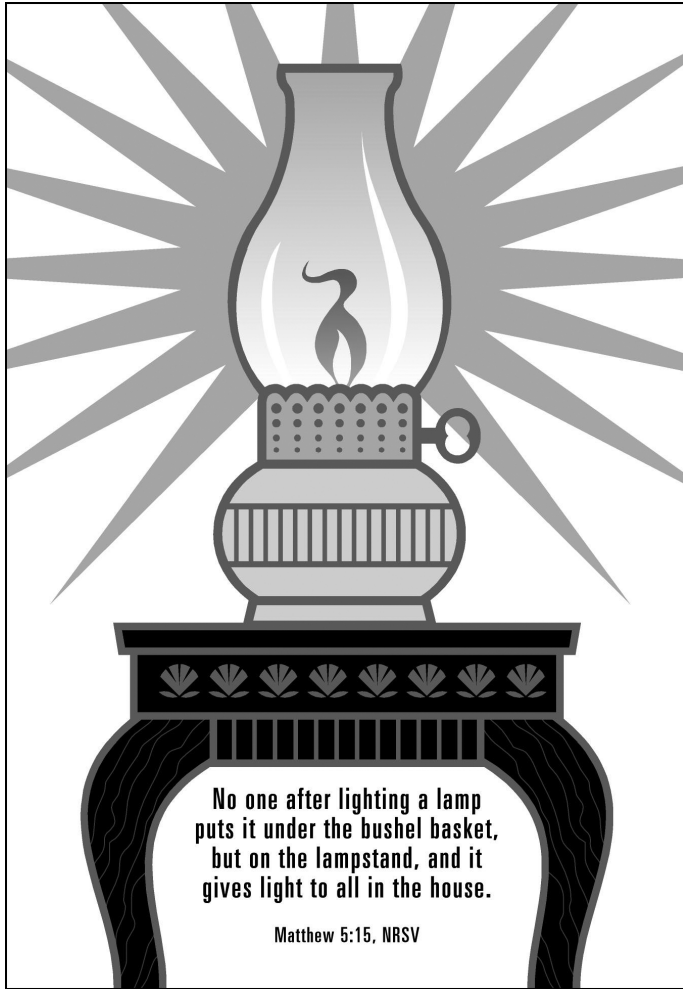


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



The Savior's Sermon:
You Are... So Be

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5, 2023



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



Imagine a beautiful guitar, carefully crafted out of the finest mahogany and steel strings. Now imagine that fine instrument is never played. It is placed atop a bookshelf and never touched. It just collects dust. Tragic, right? What a thing is finds fulfillment when that thing does what it was made to do. Of what use is a guitar that makes no music? What would be the point of turning on a lamp and then throwing a heavy blanket over it. It might still be a lamp, but it provides no light. (It only serves as a fire hazard!) Form and function are intimately connected.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that the same is true of discipleship. He wants us to see that being a disciple and acting as a disciple are intimately connected. When God called us to faith, he declared that we were something new: light, salt, his children. Jesus now encourages us to be what God says we are, so that God might bless the world through us. As Jesus speaks to us, he means to mold our will to his own.

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.

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Two

Setting Two begins on page 172 of the hymnal

Welcome

Hymn

919 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

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.

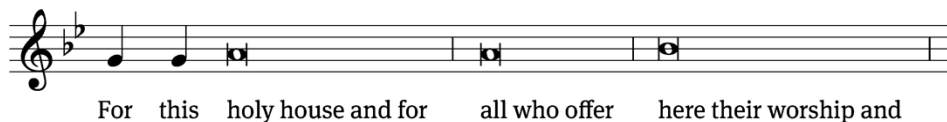
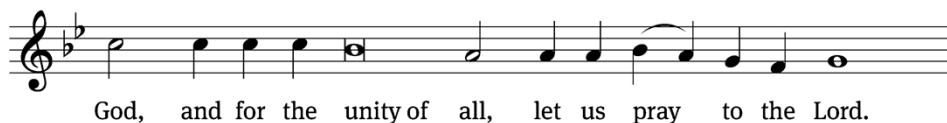
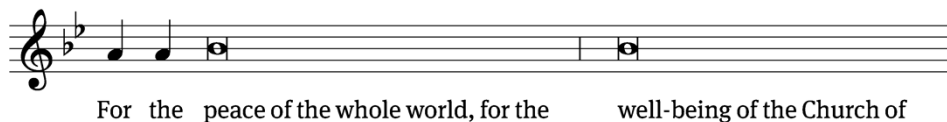
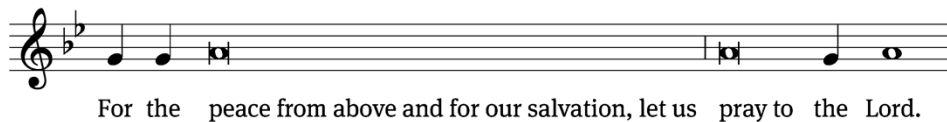
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
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.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. 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. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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

Exodus 19:1–8a

God called Israel to live as a kingdom of priests, even though they were formerly slaves.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

18C The LORD My God Will Turn

Refrain



The LORD my God will turn my dark-ness in - to light.

Tone



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my de- / liverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take / refuge.

In my distress I called / to the LORD;

I cried to my / God for help.

From his temple he / heard my voice;

my cry came before him, in- / to his ears. **Refrain**

He reached down from on high and took / hold of me;
he drew me out of deep / waters.

**He rescued me from my powerful / enemy,
from my foes, who were too / strong for me.**

They confronted me in the day of my dis- / aster,
but the LORD was / my support.

He brought me out into a / spacious place;

he rescued me because he delighted / in me. Refrain

You, LORD, keep my lamp / burning;
my God turns my darkness / into light.

**With your help I can advance a- / gainst a troop;
with my God I can / scale a wall.**

**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**

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Second Reading

1 Peter 2:9–12

God calls us to be members of a royal priesthood and citizens of a holy nation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:16

Refrain



Pastor sings:

Let your light shine before / others.

that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in / heaven.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 5:13–20

Jesus says that his people are blessings in this dark world; we strive to be what he calls us.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

630 Thy Strong Word

Sermon

People with a Purpose

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

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with respect and patience. Help parents to grasp the value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Give us passion to share your love with those we know. Overcome unbelief, and open hearts to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

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

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 183

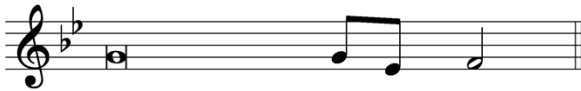


The Lord be with you.

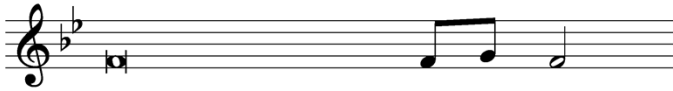
And al - so with you.



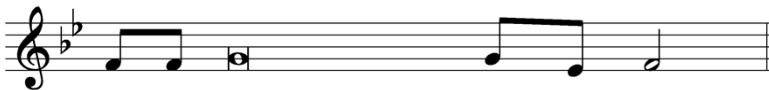
Lift up your hearts.



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 184



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Handbell Choir Distribution Hymn

*Just As I Am
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.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

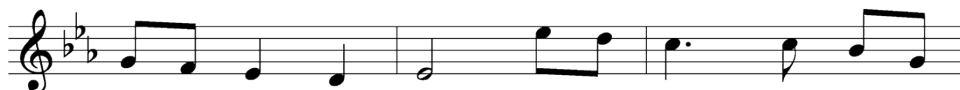
736 Lord, You Call Us as Your People sts. 1, 4-5



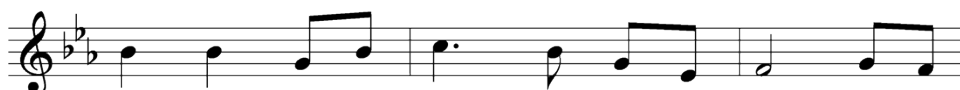
1 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, out of dark - ness
 4 Lord, you call us to new ven - tures by a path - way
 5 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, now in faith we



in - to light. You cre - at - ed and re - deemed us, made us
 yet un - known. Though we can - not see the end - ing, we will
 sing your praise: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, al - le -



pre - cious in your sight. Give us faith to trust you
 fol - low you a - lone. Know - ing that your hand is
 lu - ias to you raise. Hold us in your gra - cious



bold - ly and to love you stead - fast - ly. By your
 guid - ing and you love us faith - ful - ly, by your
 pow - er, bless - ed Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, that re -



Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
 Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
 joic - ing we will ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.

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Take Home Questions

1. Read Exodus 19:5. God here made a covenant with Israel, but it was two-sided. As they promised in verse 8, they had to keep all of God's commands. Think through some of Israel's history. How did they do? Then, read Jeremiah 31:31-34. We live under a new covenant with God. In what ways are these covenants different? For what reasons is this a source of comfort for us?
2. What we do matters. However, why we do what we do matters, too. Read 1 Peter 2:9... and 1 Peter 2:12... and Matthew 5:16. For what reasons do we live lives according to God's Word? Write a prayer asking God to fill your heart with that God-focused motivation in all you do.
3. Read Matthew 5:20. As we reflect on our lives, we might be left feeling discouraged after reading that passage. However, for what reasons can we rejoice and be glad? (Hint: read 2 Corinthians 5:21.)
4. Look at all three readings and make a list of all the names or identity markers (chosen people, salt of the earth, etc.). Choose one and meditate on it. For what reasons would God use _____ to describe you? What would living like _____ look like in your life right now?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Trading in the Truth

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

Call Meeting Scheduled

Feb. 6 | 6:00 PM

We will hold a call meeting this Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:00 pm. At that meeting, we will issue calls for both a principal and a 1st-2nd grade teacher. We will issue two calls due to the fact that John Melso, who currently serves in both positions, does not view himself as the long-term solution for either call. Please keep this matter in your prayers, and please attend the meeting.

Learn About Stephen Ministry

Feb. 9 | 6:30 PM

On Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6:30, Willing Workers will be hosting a Stephen Ministry speaker. If you are not a Willing Workers member and would just like to know more about this valuable program you are welcome to join us. Willing Worker members are encouraged to bring a friend, also.

Kindergarten Roundup

Feb. 25 | 10:00 AM

Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 am. If you know of any families that might be interested in our kindergarten program, please share their names with Mr. Melso so he can send them an invitation.

Volunteers Needed for Teachers' Conference

Feb. 15-17

St. Paul's is hosting the Western Wisconsin District Teachers Conference on February 16-17. Approximately 250 teachers will be in attendance. **We are in need of volunteers for set up on Wednesday and take down on Friday.** Sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center or email John Melso at principal@stpaulswr.org. The days and times we need help are as follows: Set Up on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 9:00 am until finished. Work includes setting up tables and chairs, cleaning hallways, putting up signage, decorating and covering tables. Take Down on Friday, Feb. 17 at 2:00 pm until finished. Work includes taking down tables and chairs, emptying trash containers, and cleaning floors.

WELS Annual Report Available

"Your Gifts, God's Blessings: An Annual Report to Our Members" is now available online at wels.net/annualreport. The report includes photos of Christian brothers and sisters around the world, stories of faith, and updates on WELS' ministry.

Annual Hygiene Drive

The annual area-wide hygiene drive gets underway next Sunday, Feb. 12. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP a.k.a food stamps) does cover hygiene and cleaning products, so low-income families need basic items can struggle to afford basic things like soap and toilet paper. Your donations can help. We will be collecting items in the Welcome Center through March 5. The items most needed at this time are shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, and paper products. Please note that our local food pantry does NOT need diapers or feminine hygiene products at this time. All donations will stay with local programs.

New Time for Midweek Lent Services

4:00 & 6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday is just a couple of weeks away on Feb. 22, so we want to make you aware that times of our midweek services have changed a little. The first service will still be at 4:00 pm. However, the second service will be a half-hour earlier at 6:00 pm. This was done for a variety of reasons. (See the article in the monthly newsletter.) We hope this will not be an inconvenience and will remind you several times so hopefully you do not forget.

Check Out Our Church Directory

So far just a few people have submitted new photos for our online church directory. If you haven't yet, check it out at InstantChurchDirectory.com. You will have to click on Member Sign In and create a login. The website will only allow access to people whose email addresses are listed in the information submitted by the church, so if you are having difficulty please contact the office.

Little Lambs Before/After School Care Help Needed

We are looking to fill some paid and/or volunteer positions in our before- and after-school care. We can be very flexible and will look for **a commitment of only a month at a time**. You can commit to **as little as one time slot a week**. These are the days and hours that help is needed: Monday-Friday 7:00-8:30 am; Monday & Thursday 3:15-4:30 pm; and Tuesday & Wednesday 3:15-4:15 pm. Duties include welcoming families, supervising activities, reading books, puzzles, clean-up, helping children pack up, and, in the afternoon, supervising gym or outdoor play. You will be partnered with another staff member, so you will not be on your own. Please let Carole Melso or Kellie Jensen for more information at littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119. We would appreciate your help!

2022 Giving to the Synod

Last year, St. Paul's sent the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) \$33,507.85 in congregational mission offerings (CMO). Our CMO amount is based on a percentage of our regular offerings. This year, we exceeded our "intent" (or pledge) of \$30,000 by 12%. In addition, our giving to special offerings for World Mission, Christian Aid & Relief, etc. totaled \$3,210.00. Plus individual congregation members sent \$3,815.00 directly to the WELS.

Help with NLHS Fundraiser

The Northland Lutheran High School fundraiser, Together We Shine, is coming up on March 5. Please consider **donating something for the auction**: a unique item or craft goods, gift cards, tickets to some exciting destination, trips, or service vouchers. Call the office (715-359-3400) or email (nlhsoffice@nlhs.org) with your donations.

NLHS will also hold their annual **Soup Cook-off**. Call to register yourself or your team, and stew up your best concoction! Please be prepared with a second choice when registering, so we get a wide variety of choices, and plan to bring an electric roaster full. Prizes will be awarded for best soups (the Golden Ladle, Silver Ladle, and Bronze Ladle) as well as the first roaster finished (Empty Bowl Award).

New this year is a **Soup Cookbook**! This is the fifth year of Soup Cook-off. If you have ever entered a soup, would you care to share your recipe? A cookbook will be compiled of all our delicious dishes. Please also note if your submission won a prize, and which year!

If you have questions on any other these opportunities to support NLHS, please call their office (715-359-3400) or email (nlhsoffice@nlhs.org). A Signup Genius page will be available soon to register auction items, soups, or volunteer help. We'll see you there!

Drive a Van for Students

We usually need drivers for two vans to transport our students to Northland Lutheran High School, but often scramble to find those two drivers. We are asking you, on occasion, to consider driving a van from St. Paul's to Northland. You only need a good driving record and to pass a physical (which Northland will pay for). You can drive mornings and/or evenings as often or as little as fits your schedule. Please call Principal Ryan Wiechmann at 715-297-4427 if you can serve the Lord in this way. Thank you!

Special Prayers This Week:

- Lanny Boyles was baptized during chapel on Wednesday
- Pastor Proeber received a call to serve at Salem Lutheran Church in Woodbury, WI
- For our call meeting on Monday
-
-
-
-
-
-



| | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School for 3K thru 6 th grade |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| Monday | 4:30 PM | Choir Practice in the balcony |
| | 6:00 PM | Call Meeting in the church? |
| | 6:30 PM | Unified Board Meetings in the church |
| 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 |
| Wednesday | 8:55 AM | School Chapel Service |
| | 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 |
| | 6:30 PM | Willing Workers in the cafeteria |
| Sunday | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School for 3K thru 6 th grade |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 202

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 550,703

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 426,193

Upcoming Events

Feb. 12 ~ Hygiene Drive Begins

Feb. 15 ~ Conference Set Up

Feb. 16-17 ~ Teachers' Conference at St. Paul's

Feb. 17 ~ Conference Take Down

Feb. 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

Feb. 25 ~ Kindergarten Roundup



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 22

4:00 & 6:00 PM

Fellowship Meal
served 4:45-5:45 PM



311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org

Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org