

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Bless those who
persecute you;
bless, and do not
curse.

- Romans 12:14

**THE SAVIOR'S SERMON:
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!**
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

February 9, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

What could be more counterintuitive than loving your enemies? Yet Christ calls his disciples to a love for our neighbor that models itself after Jesus' love for the world. As Luther said: *Christi sumus in nominativo et genitivo* (We are Christs—with and without the apostrophe). A heart like Christ's has no room for vengeance, but is filled with love for all.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which signifies Christ's encouragement that our love for all people grows daily.

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

WELCOME

8:00 & 6:30 OPENING HYMN
10:30 SONG BY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Son of God, Eternal Savior | CW 492
Make Me a Servant

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.

This is a good general confession. However, as you confess your sins in general, it's also good to consider specific questions about sin such as, "Have I been dishonest, unfaithful, or lazy?" "Have I hurt anyone by word or deed?" "Have I been careless or wasteful?"

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.

All to Me

5

1. All I want, all I need; Je - sus, you are
 2. All my words, all my deeds; Je - sus, you are
 3. All I want, all I need; Je - sus, you are

9
 all to me. All my life, all my breath; Je - sus, you are all to
 all to me. All my hope, all my dreams; Je - sus you are all to
 all to me. All my life, all my breath; Je - sus you are all to

14
 1. 3 2. 3.
 mc. mc. So, I will lift my
 — mc.

21
 voice to glo - ri - fy you, Lord. Au - thor of all I will ev - er be,

26
 you are all to me. Je - sus you are all to me. D.S. 3 1st time.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 26:7-25

David had a chance to take his enemy's life but waited for God to act.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 119b | CW p.110

Refrain: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Teach me, O LORD, to follow 'your decrees;*

Then I will keep them 'to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will 'keep your law*

And obey it with 'all my heart.

Direct me in the path of 'your commands,*

For there I 'find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from 'worthless things;*

Preserve my life according 'to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your 'servant,*

So that you 'may be feared.

How I long for your 'precepts!*

Preserve my life in your 'righteousness.

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

*Old Testament believers
responded to readings from the
Scriptures by singing psalms.
We continue this custom in
our worship still today.*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

Treating enemies well can show itself in a lot of different ways.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Be merciful,

C: Just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia. *(Luke 6:36)*

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

In loving your enemies, do more than turning the other cheek.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Might | CW 499

SERMON - GO THE EXTRA MILE WITH LOVE!

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith just preached. The creeds signify our allegiance to Christian doctrine and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.

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. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering.

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

In Unity & Peace

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O God, Lord of all, your Son commanded us to love all—even our enemies—and to pray for them. Keep our hearts from being filled with prejudice, hatred, and cruelty toward anyone, regardless of varying backgrounds and experiences.

C: **Strengthen us by your Word, so that we might endure unjust treatment without seeking revenge.**

M: Fill our hearts with the forgiving love that we learn only from Christ. As he sought the good of all people, may we so model Christ to everyone we meet in all we do.

C: **Strengthen us by your Word, so that we might live to lovingly serve others to the glory of your name.**

M: Send your Holy Spirit, so that the hearts of our enemies might also be emptied of all bitterness, anger, and vengeful thoughts.

C: Strengthen them by your Word, so that we would be able to live at peace with all people.

Special prayers and intercessions

M: Finally, Lord, we pray that, through the power of your Word, you bring many more to know you as their Lord and Savior. Whether we consider them enemy or friend, give them the joy of salvation so that we might stand before you, reconciled to you and to one another, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us also to pray:

THE 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.

Be seated.

HYMN

*Brother, Sisters, Let Us Gladly | CW 484
Contemporary Setting*

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: 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.

This hymn is in the stewardship section of the hymnal, which might make us think only about money. But stewardship is about how we live our entire lives in service to God and others!

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace To love all
Break down the wall that would di - vide Your chil - dren
Give me your cour - age, Lord, to speak When - ev - er
With your own love may I be filled And by your

6
peo - ple, ev - 'ry race, And in each per - son
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bors' good let
strong op - press the weak. And should I be a
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, That all I touch, what -

11
help me view My kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by you.
me pur - sue; Bind them to me and all to you.
vic - tim, too, Help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring you.
e'er I do, May be di - vine - ly touched by you.

WELS CONNECTION - New Hymnal Project



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The prolonged interactions of David and Saul are fascinating to watch through the book of 1 Samuel. Saul's reign as king starts in 1 Samuel 13. Take a half hour to read from there to 1 Samuel 26, Sunday's first reading. In what way does that help you see how big of a deal it was for David to do what he did in 1 Samuel 26?
2. In Romans 12, Paul has some pretty strong commands, much like Jesus has throughout his Sermon on the Mount. But there's a point to be made about a Christian's life of love—think about these words as “calls to action.” How can you take Paul's words and not just say, “Those are nice,” but also do something with them, according to James 1:22-25?
3. There is a fine line to be drawn from Jesus' words in Matthew 5:38-42. Are Christians doormats? Or are they servants? What's the difference?
4. Discuss/ponder the following statement: (Do you agree/disagree? What kinds of things play into a statement like this?) “We, as Christians, are labeled as unloving because we tell our enemies (unbelievers) more about what we stand against than what we stand for.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

WELS & Other Christians:
LCMS and other Lutherans
Join cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.



For those of you keeping up with our Sunday morning Bible Class, the discussion last week on ELCA took longer than expected. So this week, we will look at Missouri Synod and other Lutherans. The remaining schedule has been adjusted as follows:

- February 9 – Missouri Synod and other Lutherans
- February 16 – Baptists and Seventh-Day Adventists
- February 23 – Methodists, Wesleyans, and Assemblies of God
- March 1 – Mega churches, non-denominational
- March 8 – Questions you have about other Christian denominations
- March 15 – New series on the Lord's Supper!

As you can see, the topic each week is pretty independent from the others, so if you haven't attended yet or can't attend regularly, you can easily drop in and not feel lost. We hope you will join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the cafeteria.

DONATE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Feb. 9-16

The "Willing Workers'... Willing Hearts Hygiene Drive" will be going on the next two Sundays. This community outreach program of the Willing Workers benefits our local food pantry, SWEPS. A large decorated box is located in the Welcome Center to accept donations. The drive will culminate with the next Willing Workers meeting on Monday, February 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM where the box will be presented to Mr. Dale Davis of SWEPS, their guest speaker, who will share how the program provides food and education to the people they serve. All members of the congregation are invited to join in this event. Specific items needed are: dish soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, feminine products, and toilet paper.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

Feb. 10 | 7:30 PM

Our quarterly voters' meeting is this Monday, Feb. 10 following the evening worship service. Be sure to bring the packet of reports that was placed in your mailslot.

STUDY THE JUDGES

Feb. 12 | 6:30-8:00 PM

The book of Judges records the history of the nation of Israel between Joshua bringing them into the Promised Land and Samuel beginning his ministry. It was a time when “Israel had no king; and everyone did as they saw fit” (Judges 21:25). When they forgot about God, their culture spiraled down into chaos. (Sounds familiar.) Come learn more on Wednesday nights in the Resource Center.

PLAN A SUMMER EXCURSION TO THE ARK

June 4-7

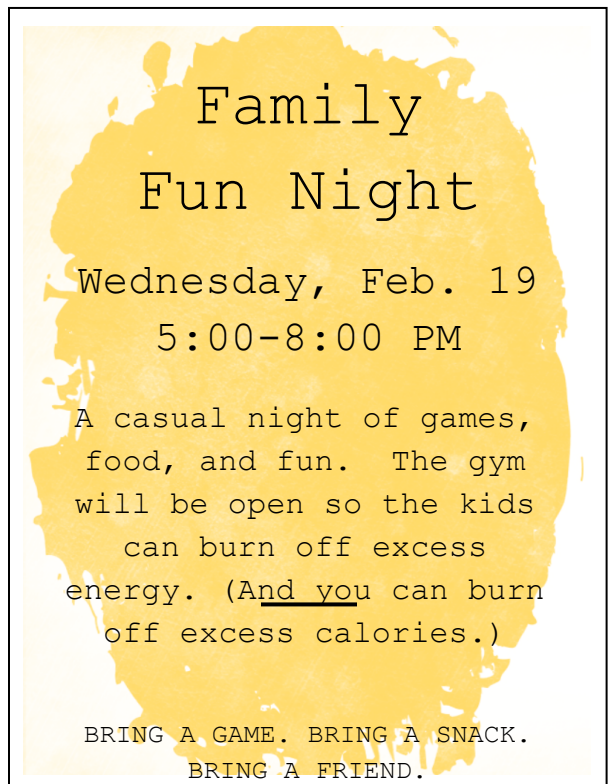
Join your church family as we travel to Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum. The world would like you to think that creation and the flood are just myths. See the evidence that God was at work in the formation of all we see. Rates start at just \$255 per person and include bus fare, hotel room, entrance into both attractions, and one meal. Look for brochures on the Ministry Table or contact Michelle Gear at 920-784-4643 or michellemgear@gmail.com.

SHOE BOXES NEEDED

The 1st-2nd grade class is in need of empty shoe boxes for a project they are doing. You can drop off your donations in the church office.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to work in the office for a couple of hours on Thursdays. Tasks may include proofreading, photocopying, filing, and other simple tasks. You may serve on a rotational basis or come every week. Please contact Judy Stensberg if available: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634.



Family
Fun Night

Wednesday, Feb. 19
5:00-8:00 PM

A casual night of games,
food, and fun. The gym
will be open so the kids
can burn off excess
energy. (And you can burn
off excess calories.)

BRING A GAME. BRING A SNACK.
BRING A FRIEND.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES ON THE SMALL CATECHISM

Feb. 26-April 1

Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 26. We hope you will join us for our special midweek services during Lent. The sermon will focus on the six main parts of Luther's Small Catechism. The Catechism beautifully summarizes the truths of God's Word. It's more than a book we use for confirmation classes; it's a rich resource for knowing God more deeply. Pastors Tullberg and Melke from Good Shepherd rotate with Pastor Proeber to lead our worship. Our services will again be at 4:00 and 6:30 with a meal in between. Good Shepherd will have services at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM, if the St. Paul's schedule doesn't work for you.



RVSP FOR WELS TRIP TO POWERS BLUFF

Feb. 15

If you would like to join other WELS members for a morning at Powers Bluff County Park, please RVSP by this Monday, Feb. 10. The day of outdoor fun begins at 10:30 AM with a devotion in the shelter. Then you can enjoy cross country skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, downhill skiing or even snow biking. You can rent tubes, downhill skis, or snowboards at Powers Bluff. (Please visit the Powers Bluff Wood County Park website for a list of fees.) Cross country skis or snowshoes can be rented from The Sports Den in Marshfield. This event is organized by Trinity Lutheran Church of Marshfield. Please RSVP to them by calling or texting 920-655-8017 or email office@trinitymarshfield.org.

SCHOOL SECURITY UPDATE



You may have noticed the new Ring device by the main entrance. We will soon put our new Physical Security Access Policy into effect. Our target date is March 1. From that point forward, your keys will no longer work on the exterior doors. Members of St. Paul's who want access to the building will be issued Key Access Cards at a cost to them of \$10. Parents of Little Lambs or School children will receive access cards that only work during drop-off and pick-up times. Anyone else wishing to enter the building will have to press the doorbell, identify themselves, state their reason of visiting, be buzzed in, and sign the visitors' log. Measures like this have become standard at schools throughout the nation. We apologize for any inconvenience and ask for your understanding in helping us keep our children safe.

HELP SELL SCRIP ON SUNDAYS

We need volunteers to sell St. Paul's scrip cards on Sunday mornings. The commitment involves selling cards for roughly 15 minutes before and after each service. Our scrip sales help to fund our Lutheran grade school and offset tuition costs for families, so it is well worth your time. Please give Deb DeWilde a call at 715-323-4028 if you can help.

BUS DRIVER STILL NEEDED

Did you know that on Wednesday the principal at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) drove to Wisconsin Rapids, drove the bus route back to NLHS, and drove to Wisconsin Rapids again to lead our chapel service, before returning to NLHS. That's dedication! NLHS staff members are transporting our kids back and forth every day, so they can receive a Christian education. Let's give them some relief. Can you drive the bus route once a week? More often? NLHS will pay for your training and licensing, and you will be paid for your time. Contact NLHS at 715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org.

SCHOOL CHOICE AT NLHS

Private school education is more affordable than you think. Open applications for Wisconsin Private School Choice Program runs from Feb. 3 - April 20. New 9th graders and transfer students to Northland Lutheran High School are eligible to apply. Use your Choice voucher dollars for a Christ-centered, premier education at NLHS! Go to sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/ to begin an application. For more information, contact NLHS at 715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 275

YTD Average attendance: 261

From July 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$627,459

Actual cost of ministry: \$662,239

Mortgage balance: \$1,422,587



www.facebook.com/groups/WCWR2020/

CALENDAR

February 9-16

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:30 PM	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
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	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:00 PM	Hafermann Singers at Atrium Care Center
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 15 WELS Trip to Powers Bluff
- Feb. 19 Family Fun Night
- Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 29 Kindergarten Round-Up





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