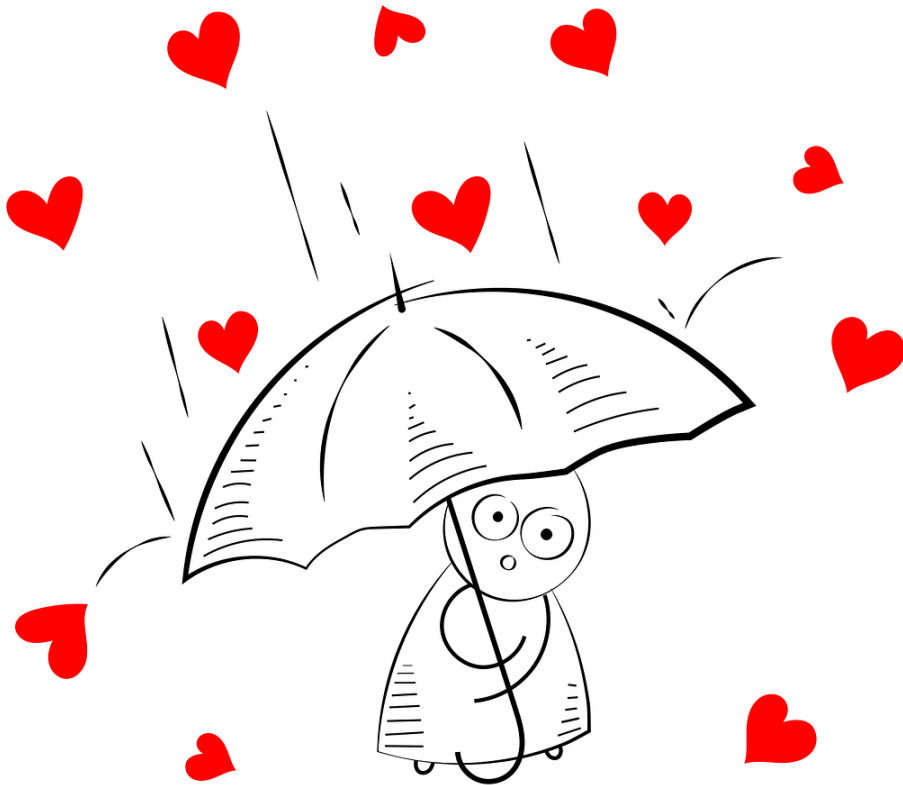


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



REACTIONS UNCOVERED:  
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES;  
OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD  
*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

February 20, 2022



## 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 Sunday



Last week we saw that the governing principles of Christ's kingdom initially seem upside down. This week we see that truth in how Christ would have us react to those who wrong us or oppose us. Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet, have we not seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily evil with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he has won us for himself. Following the strategy Jesus lays out today is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 12 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

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# The Service: Setting One

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## Welcome

## Hymn

733 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 10:30 – Recognition of the Private Baptism of Matthea Lynn Plagenz

pg. 14

## Confession

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*

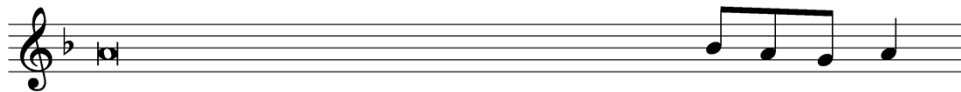
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



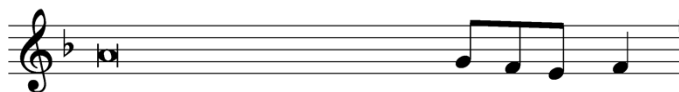
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

## Glory Be to God



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



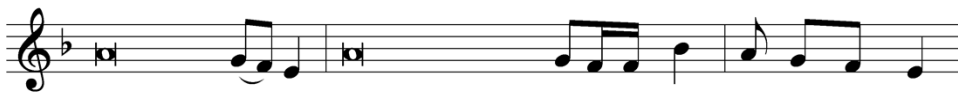
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



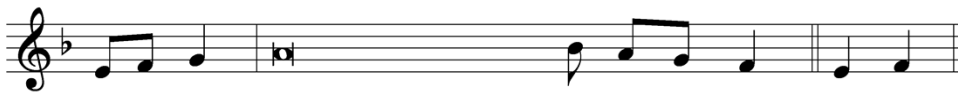
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; 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

Genesis 45:3-15

God worked through Joseph to overcome the evil of his brothers with the good of forgiveness.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

103A The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

*Refrain*

The LORD is kind and mer-ci-ful,  
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

*Tone*

Praise the LORD, / my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—



## **Gospel**

Luke 6:27-38

*In our interactions with others, we are to show the same grace that God has shown to us.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **Children's Message**

## **Hymn of the Day**

*729 Son of God, Eternal Savior*

## **Sermon**

**Unbelievable Love Does Unbelievable Things**

*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*

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

## Prayer of the Church

*This morning each petition of the prayer will be prayed and then concluded in this way:*

...Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The final petition of the prayer will be concluded in this way:*

...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Offering

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. 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

### The Sacrament

Stand

#### Preface





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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,



bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.**

## **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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - - - men." The final note of the piece is a whole note on the G line of the staff.

Be seated and await the direction of the ushers.

## Distribution

### 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.

For further examination questions, see page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Distribution Hymn

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

*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 thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.**

*Be seated*

## Hymn

726 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



## **Recognition of the Private Baptism of Matthea Lynn Plagenz**

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life.

We rejoice that Matthea Lynn Plagenz was baptized on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. Through water and the Word, she received the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and gained the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. I now ask you, the sponsors: Was Matthea baptized with water and in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, Matthea was baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

Matthea, receive again the sign of the cross on the head and heart  $\mp$  to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified. The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

## **Exhortation**

As parents and sponsors, it is your responsibility and privilege not only to bring Matthea to Baptism, but to do all you can so that she may serve God all the days of her life and remain a child of God until death. Will you pray for her; remind her of her baptism; teach her the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer, and provide for her further instruction in the Christian faith; and strengthen her with the Word of God and bring her to worship in the Lord’s house? If you are willing to do so, answer: “Yes, and we ask God to help us.”

**Yes, and we ask God to help us.**

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Matthea as your own child and made her a member of Christ’s body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The service continues with Confession.*

# Take Home Questions

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1. In Genesis 50:19-21, we find a helpful summary of Joseph's attitude toward his brothers. Even after his brothers plotted to kill him (Gen. 37:18-20) but, instead, sold him into slavery (Gen. 37:28), Joseph forgave his brothers. In your own words, what had happened that helped him reach the decision to forgive them?
2. Read the parable of the Unmerciful Servant in Matthew 18:21-35. After doing so, find the verse(s) in Romans 12:14-21 that would have helped that servant avoid such an unloving response. Also, note what Jesus says at the end of the parable concerning those who are like the Unmerciful Servant.
3. Luke 6:38 can sometimes be used for stewardship--God never lets you outgive him. But it can be used with regard to forgiveness, mercy, and joy. Explain how those things can fit into that verse.
4. Psalm 103:10 says, "[God] does not treat us as our sins deserve. He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds." What (Who) is the reason we can trust in such radical statements? What are you led to want to do because of God's treatment of you?

# News & Announcements

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## **This Sunday's Bible Study: Called to Serve**

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

## **Lent Starts Soon**

*March 2*

Ash Wednesday is just a week and a half away. Our midweek Lenten services begin that day and will be held each Wednesday through April 6 (just before Palm Sunday). You can choose from two service times, 4:00 & 6:30 PM. We will also have fellowship meals on Wednesdays during Lent. These will be served from 4:45-6:00 pm. See the monthly newsletter for more details.

## **Jigsaw Puzzles Wanted**

Mrs. Fiecko is looking to beef up the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom's collection of jigsaw puzzles. If you have any in the 300-750 piece range you'd like to donate, they would love to take them off your hands! Landscapes, buildings & animals are favorites. The puzzles are accessible to students when they're finished with homework and have a little downtime. You can bring your donations to the church office. Thank you!

## **Kindergarten Round Up**

*Feb. 26 | 10:00 AM*

Families with children entering kindergarten in the fall are invited to Kindergarten Round Up on Saturday, February 26 at 10:00 am. Meet the teacher, other students, and the principal. See the classroom. Learn more about the advantages of attending a Christian grade school. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

## **School Enrollment Opens**

St. Paul's Lutheran School is now accepting applications for 3K-8<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment for fall 2022. Applications can be made online at [stpaulswr.org/school](http://stpaulswr.org/school). Some classrooms fill quickly, so please apply as soon as possible. Let your friends and family know as well.

## **The Crucial Hours**

*Feb. 23 | 6:30 PM*

Never in all of history were the stakes so high or the results so far-reaching. Examine the record of the crucial hours when mankind's redemption was secured through Christ's death on the cross. The Bible Book Group will be reading through The Crucial Hours beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 23. Join them in the Resource Center at 6:30 PM.

## **Help Spread the Word**

*April 2*

On April 2, we will be holding Easter for Kids, and we need your help to spread the word. We have a list of businesses around town that have accepted our posters in the past. This longer list has been divided up by location into several shorter lists. Please consider picking up one of these lists and hanging the posters that are attached at the businesses on the list. The packets are located on the Ministry Table. If you own a business or know of a business that allows posters, please pick up a poster and hang it for us.

## **NLHS Fundraiser Fast Approaching**

*March 6*

In just two weeks, Northland Lutheran High School is holding their annual Together We Shine fundraiser. Their goal is to raise \$12,000 for tuition assistance with anything over that amount going to debt reduction. You can still sign up to make a Nesco of soup for the soup competition, or donate something to the silent auction. Contact NLHS at 715-359-3400 to participate.

## **Donate to the Hygiene Drive**

*through March 6*

Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) does not cover the cost of non-food items such as toothpaste and toilet paper. What would you do if you couldn't afford soap? That is why we are collecting new hygiene and cleaning items for our local food pantry. Although this is part of the larger "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive," all of your donations will stay in our community. The most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen-size trash bags, shampoo, cleaning supplies, and toilet tissue. The collection box is located by in the Ministry Table.

## **Need Someone to Talk to?**

St. Paul's Stephen Ministers are ready to listen. Although they are volunteers, our Stephen ministers have received training in providing confidential one-on-one care to those who are hurting, no matter the reason. If you are struggling with guilt or loss, talk to one of our pastoral staff about being connecting with a Stephen Minister.

## Save the Date

**LWMS Spring Rally** – Saturday, April 9 at Divine Word, Plover. Doors open at 8:00. Breakfast 8:30. Rally 9:00-11:30.

**LWMS National Convention** – June 23-26 in Rochester, New York. More info at [59.lwms.org](http://59.lwms.org)

**WELS Night at American Family Field** – Friday, July 8. Brewers vs. Pirates. Tickets at [brewers.com/wels](http://brewers.com/wels)

## Volunteer for Easter for Kids

Help us share the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Easter for Kids will be held on the morning of Saturday, April 2 for children ages 3-10 years. Volunteers are needed for crafts, games, music, food service, and more. You can be a helper or a leader. See the signup sheet on the Ministry Table or look for the SignUp Genius link in the Sunday Sneak Peek email or on our website. If you want more details, please contact Kent Schroeder at 715-213-7904 or [knks@wctc.net](mailto:knks@wctc.net).

## Paid Openings at St. Paul's

We continue to seek an administrative assistant and a part-time custodian. Both positions have somewhat flexible hours and training will be provided. For more information on the office position, please contact Judy Stensberg at [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634. To learn more on the custodial position, contact Larry Wesenberg at [lwes@wctc.net](mailto:lwes@wctc.net) or 715-204-7685.

### Special Prayers This Week:

- Dorothy Ubinger remains on hospice care, and her daughter, Renee Nieman is suffering with cancer.
- Thanksgiving for Gerry Paul's prognosis toward being able to stand and walk after 2 years bed-ridden
- For Lisa Crump as she goes through testing to see whether her cancer is still in remission
- Tom Stensberg, the brother of Dennis & Gary Stensberg, passed away on Thursday
- Donna Hofschild, the sister of Marla Mueller, passed away on Thursday
- For Deb Buelow as she deliberates the call to serve as St. Paul's 1st & 2nd grade teacher
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<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in church
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the West Wing
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
	10:30 AM	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Worship
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen's Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the West Wing
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
	10:30 AM	Worship

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 26 ~ Kindergarten Round Up
- Mar. 2 ~ Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 4 ~ Easter for Kids Planning
- Mar. 6 ~ Together We Shine at NLHS

## Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 192

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 498,300

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 473,160

YTD giving to the Organ Fund: \$ 107,997





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Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org)