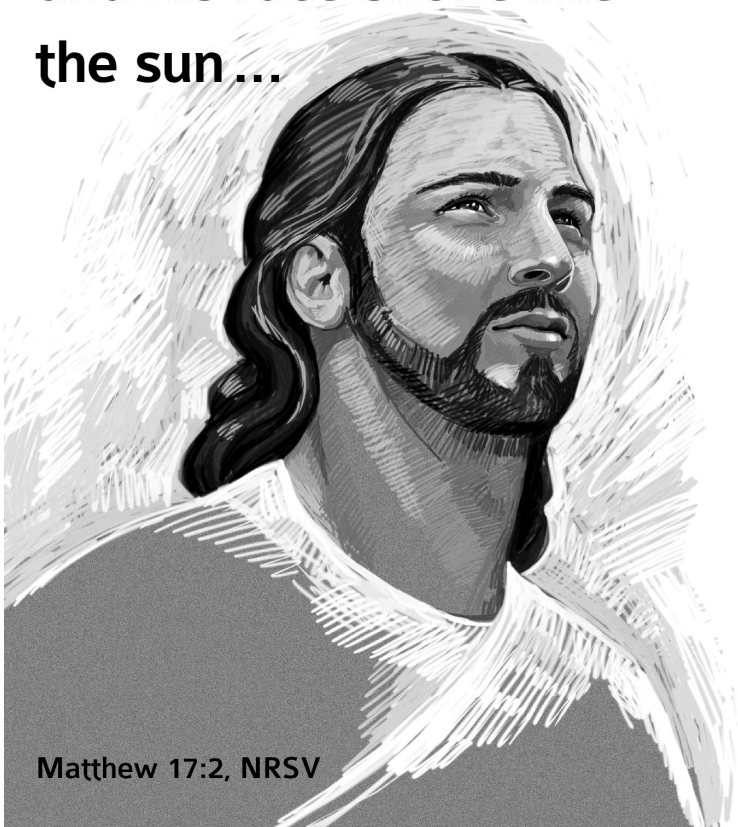


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

He was transfigured  
before them,  
and his face shone like  
the sun ...



JESUS APPEARS AS THE SON OF GOD IN GLORY

*The Transfiguration of Our Lord*

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

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*February 23, 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

The Epiphany season is bookended by the voice of God the Father proclaiming Jesus his Son (recall the Baptism of Jesus a number of weeks ago). Before he suffered as man's substitute, Jesus gave his Church a glimpse of the glory that he set aside to be our Savior. See how much he loves us! The God of Mt. Sinai, the Majestic Glory, became a man to suffer and die for us, just as Moses and the Prophets had foretold. How good, Lord, to be here!

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is white, which signifies the perfect glory that Jesus possesses, and which is ours through faith in Jesus.

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

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

*How Good Lord to Be Here | CW 95*

*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.**

## 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.

**C: ♪ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.  
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness continues forever.  
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Blessed are they who take refuge in him. ♪**

*"Your Word, O Lord, is eternal." Pay attention for other truths we hear about God's Word in relation to the Transfiguration.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

*Imagine the sight of God's glory on the mountain! Nearly every time God shows his glory to sinful people, they are left to cower in fear. Thankfully, Jesus has made us able to approach God without fear.*

## The Word

### FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 24:8-18*

*Without Jesus, the glory of God is a fearful sight.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 2 | People's Psalter*

*The first time through, the choir will sing the refrain then all will repeat.*

*Thereafter, the refrain will be sung once.*

**Refrain**

God is the Lord, the Lord of heav'n and earth.

God is the Lord, the Lord of all.

*Choir* - Why do nations madly rage? Why do people vainly dream,  
Dream of wars they fiercely rage, Wars against the Lord supreme?  
God anointed they deride; Ruthless rulers, plotting say,  
"Their dominion be defied, Let us cast their bonds away."

*Refrain*

*Choir* - God will surely scorn them all; God sits firmly throned on high.  
Soon great wrath on them will fall; Angered, God will then reply,  
“Yet according to my will I have set my king to reign.  
There on Zion’s holy hill, My anointed I maintain.”

***Refrain***

*Choir* - God then speaks, “you are my son; Yes, I have begotten you;  
Nations all, yes, ev’ryone, I will give them as they’re due.  
Your strong rule will let them learn, Threatened with an iron rod,  
Dash them like a potter’s urn, Crush the mighty foes of God.

***Refrain***

*Choir* - Therefore rulers, kings come near, Hear you, hear God’s holy word.  
Come with rev’rence, come with fear, Hail the son and serve the Lord,  
Lest God’s anger be made known, You may perish on your way.  
All are blest who trust the Lord, Yes, supremely blest are they.

***Refrain***

**SECOND LESSON**

*2 Peter 1:16-21*

*Peter writes of his eyewitness encounter with the glory of God.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M:** Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud:

**C:** **“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” Alleluia.** *(Mark 9:7b)*

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL**

*Matthew 17:1-9*

*We have seen the glory of God!*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

**M:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Be seated*

*Moses and Elijah are pillars of the Old Testament who would have strengthened Jesus for his journey, but also bore witness to the fact that he is indeed God's Son!*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

### HYMN

*Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain | CW 712*



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain Where, with Pe - ter,  
2 What do you want us to see there That your close com -  
3 What do you want us to hear there That your dear dis -  
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain Where we see you  
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, Ris - en and as -



James, and John, We are daz - zled by your glo - ry,  
pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en  
glo - ri - fied, Where you shout - ed, "It is fin - ished!"  
cend - ed Lord, Can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



Light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
Fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
Says of the in - car - nate Word: "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
Where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
All that we have seen and heard, Say with Pe - ter,



for the night By the vi - sion of that sight.  
ours you go, Matched to meet our dead - liest foe.  
ev - 'ry - one; This is my be - lov - ed Son!"  
tu - ri - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

## SERMON - WE HAVE A SURE PROPHETIC WORD!

*Please stand.*

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

*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*

### 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.*



### STEPHEN MINISTRY VIDEO

*Please stand.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: We praise you, O Father, for the precious gift of your Savior and for his glorious transfiguration on the holy mountain.
- C: Give us the firm resolve to listen to your Son, the eager readiness to believe his promises, and the joyful willingness to heed his commandments.**
- M: By the sign of Moses and Elijah, show us that blessed are the dead who die in faith, for they shall know the power of Christ's resurrection and shall be "changed from glory to glory."
- C: Lead us to trust that your promises are reliable and true, rather than empty myths and stories.**

M: O God and Father, let your Holy Spirit find a dwelling in our poor bodies and transform our weak, sinful lives into the radiance of goodness, purity, and righteousness. Transform our minds, our understanding, our judgments, yes, our whole persons to reflect the mind of Christ.

**C: Take our sickness and pain, our disappointments and despair, our sorrows and mourning, our pride and anger, our selfishness and envy, our hate and fear: take all these, O Father, and transform them by the healing touch of Jesus into noble impulses, pure motives, kind thoughts, constructive deeds, high courage and true faith.**

*Special prayer and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Look on your Church, O Lord, here and in every place, and grant that we and all who bear the name of Christ may daily offer up to you the acceptable sacrifices of repentance, thanksgiving, and loving obedience.

**C: Hear our prayer, and by your mercy grant our petitions for Christ's sake.**

## 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.*

*There are actually quite a few references in this song to the Transfiguration account. Can you spot them all?*

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

## HYMN



Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, In the midst of the dark-ness shin - ing.  
Lord, I come to your awe-some pres - ence, From the shad-ows in - to your ra-di-ance.  
As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness. So our fac - es dis-play your like - ness.

Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us; Set us free by the truth you now bringst  
By the blood I may en - ter your bright-ness; Search me try me, con-sume all my dark-ness.  
Ev - er chang-ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, Mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry. —

9  
Shine on — me, Shine on — me. Shine, Je-sus, shine! — Fill this land with the

16  
Fa-ther's glor-ry. Blaze, Spir-it, blaze! Set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv-er flow! — Flood the

23  
na - tions with grace and mer-cy. Send forth your Word, Lord, And let there be light!

*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.

## 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.*

M: The next time we gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. This is also when we begin our solemn journey from the mount of Transfiguration to the mount of Calvary, where our Savior was crucified. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the entire year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word alleluia, which means, “praise the Lord.” And so, in our closing hymn, we have included a verse of farewell to this glad refrain. We do so to prepare for the quieter and more somber days of Lent. But we also note that, on Easter Sunday, the alleluias will return as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

## CLOSING HYMN

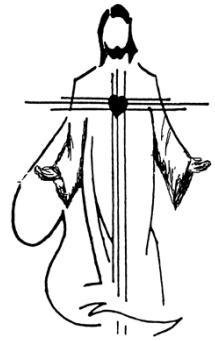
*Down from the Mount | CW 97*

**Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.  
Again your faith will view him In double glory here;  
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.**

**Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame  
Our Lord again ascended A Mount – The hill of shame.  
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;  
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.**

**Now in this time we ponder On what our sin has done,  
Which killed on that hill yonder The Love of God, the Son.  
So now, dear Alleluia, Farewell, you glad refrain,  
Until we sing you newly When Christ shall rise again.**

**Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!  
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;  
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer yours and mine.**



# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Think about Jesus' ministry as a whole. Why was it fitting for Jesus to tell his disciples not to let anyone know about his Transfiguration until after he was raised from the dead?
  
2. Compare and contrast the scenes of Exodus 24 and Matthew 17. What's the same? What's different?
  
3. What are some reasons people might give for calling the Bible a "cunningly devised fable"? What do they tend to forget when they think about the Bible in this way?
  
4. In 2 Peter 1:19, the Word of God is referred to as a "lamp shining in a dark place." In what ways is this such a fitting picture for what the Word of God is and does? Look up the following verses to help formulate your answer:
  - a. Psalm 18:28 –
  - b. Isaiah 9:2 –
  - c. 2 Corinthians 4:6 –
  - d. John 3:19-21 –



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY**

WELS & Other Christians:  
Methodists (Wesleyan, Assemblies of God)  
Join cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

## **LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY**

*Feb. 26 | 4:00 & 6:30 PM*

Please join us for our Midweek Lent Services on Wednesdays at 4:00 & 6:30 PM for an extra opportunity to worship and focus on God's Word. This Lent, we will focusing on the six main parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Pastors Tullberg and Melke from Good Shepherd rotate with Pastor Proeber to lead our worship. If you can't make our service times, Good Shepherd has services at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

## **FELLOWSHIP MEAL DURING LENT**

For many years, Helen McAuley has organized the meals for our midweek services, funerals, and special events. We are thankful that she was able to serve in this manner for so long. However, because of health problems, Helen is unable to take care of these tasks any longer. We are seeking a person or people to take her place. Randy DeBoer, the chairman of the Board of Fellowship, and his wife Pat have volunteered to plan the meal for Ash Wednesday. We are asking for volunteers to be the lead person for the remaining meals in Lent - on March 4, 11, 18, & 25 and on April 1. This person(s) would plan the menu and purchase the food and supplies. We have volunteers willing to help with food prep, and as usual, congregation members would help with serving and clean up. If you are able to help in this capacity, please contact Randy DeBoer at 715-572-1573. If we are unable to find volunteers, we will not have fellowship meals after Ash Wednesday.

Assuming we do have people volunteer as meal coordinators, the congregation will help with serving and clean up on the following schedule. Because of varying schedule, we know most people cannot be there for the entire time. We just ask that you help while you are here. Dessert to share are also appreciated.

Last names A-J help on Feb. 26 & March 18

Last names K-O help on March 4 & 25

Last names P-Z help on March 11 & April 1



## **WILLING WORKERS MEETING & SPEAKER**

*Feb. 24 | 6:30 PM*

Just a reminder that Willing Workers meeting has been rescheduled to this Monday, February 24, at 6:30 PM. Mr. Dale Davis from SWEPS, our local food pantry, will be our guest speaker. He will share how the SWEPS program provides food and education to the people they serve. **The congregation is invited to this event.**

## **KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP**

*Feb. 29 | 10:00 AM*

If you have a child entering kindergarten in the fall, be sure to come to our Kindergarten Round Up on Saturday, Feb. 29. You and your child will meet our kindergarten teacher, Ms. Rachel Haugly, see our kindergarten classroom, and meet other kindergarten families. Parents will learn about our school from our principal, Mr. John Melso, while the children enjoy some fun activities in the classroom. If this date does not work for you, please contact Ms. Haugly to arrange another time.

## **TOGETHER WE SHINE**

*March 1 | 12:00-3:00 PM*

Everyone is invited for a soup/sandwich luncheon, silent auction, musical performances, tours, and presentations at Together We Shine at Northland Lutheran High School. Please let NLHS know if you want to compete in the soup cook off, can prepare sandwiches and/or pans of bars, or have items to donate to the silent auction. You can contact NLHS at 715-359-3400 or [nlhsoffice@nlhs.org](mailto:nlhsoffice@nlhs.org).

## **COCA COLA GIVE**

We recently receive a check for \$46.25 from the Coca Cola Give program. If you drink Coca Cola products (including Sprite, Fanta and Dasani) be sure to save the caps or codes printed on the inside of cartons. Coca Cola gives us cash for each code entered. You can leave your caps & codes in the office or the lost & found table in the school hallway. As with other cap and label programs, the money we receive helps pay for school field trips.

## **NLHS LENT/EASTER CONCERT**

*March 8 | 3:00PM*

Northland Lutheran High School will hold a concert under the theme, The Power of the Cross, on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 PM. If you have a friend who is a music lover, be sure to invite them! Refreshments will be served after the concert.

## HANG POSTERS FOR EASTER FOR KIDS

You can help us promote our Easter for Kids coming on April 4 by hanging posters. On our Ministry Table, you will find packets of posters plus a stack of individual posters. Each packet is a different cluster of businesses that have been willing to take our posters in the past plus enough posters to cover those businesses. You can take a packet (or two) or just pick up an individual poster to display at your workplace. Our goal is to make as many families aware of the event as possible, so more children can hear about their Savior.

## HOW DID NOAH FIT ALL THOSE ANIMALS ON THE ARK?

*June 4-7*

Get the answer to that questions and many others. Join our bus trip to the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum in Kentucky. See the evidence that God was at work in the formation of all we see. Rates start at just \$255 per person. For more information visit our website ([www.stpaulswr.org/ark-trip](http://www.stpaulswr.org/ark-trip)) or look for brochures on the Ministry Table. Contact Michelle Gear at 920-784-4643 or [michellemgear@gmail.com](mailto:michellemgear@gmail.com) with any questions.

## BUS DRIVER STILL NEEDED

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) still needs a driver to cover the Wisconsin Rapids route. If you drive the bus route once a week or more often, please contact NLHS at 715-359-3400 or [nlhsoffice@nlhs.org](mailto:nlhsoffice@nlhs.org). This is a PAID position and NLHS will pay for your training and licensing.

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 215     YTD Average attendance: 242

From July 1, 2019 to February 14, 2020

Actual ministry income:     \$671,149

Actual cost of ministry:     \$713,043

Mortgage balance:     \$1,409,584

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 29     Kindergarten Round Up
- Mar. 1     Together We Shine at NLHS
- Mar. 8     Lent/Easter Concert at NLHS
- Mar. 14     Baby Shower for Pastor & Amy Proeber



# CALENDAR

*February 23-March 1*

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	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
<b>MONDAY</b>	4:00 PM	Children's Outreach Ministry in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Willing Workers in the Dining Room
<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
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	4:00 PM	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>
	4:45 PM	<b>Lenten Fellowship Meal</b> (Meal Helpers A-J)
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>
	7:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kindergarten Round Up</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	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
	12:00 PM	<b>Together We Shine at NLHS</b>
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball



[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)  
Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)