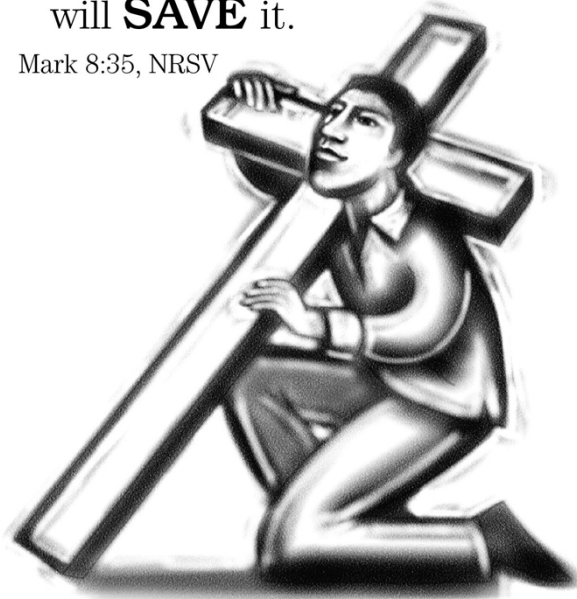


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Those who want to  
**SAVE** their life will **lose** it,  
and those who **lose**  
their life for my sake,  
and for the sake of the gospel,  
will **SAVE** it.

Mark 8:35, NRSV



JESUS CHRIST: GIVER OF CROSSES

*Second Sunday in Lent*

*February 28, 2021*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

If you are worshipping online, we would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at [www.stpaulswr.org/watch](http://www.stpaulswr.org/watch). You can also contact us with any questions or prayer requests via email or phone ([churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634).

## **SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC**

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the Bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Your offering and connect card** can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you have a smartphone, you can fill out the online connect card. Empty offering plates will be brought forward and placed on the altar to symbolize our sacrifice to God.
- † **Children's bulletins** can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



We focus on one cross in Lent—the cross of Jesus. But, in focusing on his cross and in listening to his voice as he approaches his cross, we realize that we also have crosses to bear in life. These crosses come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but they all have one thing in common: they bring suffering, pain, and difficulty into our lives. God allows these crosses, but he promises that suffering leads to salvation. It was that way for Jesus; may it be so for us! The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is purple, the color of Lent, which signifies repentance and mourning over sin.

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“He Knows My Name.” by Tommy Walker. © 1996 Doulos Publishing (Admin. by Maranatha! Music) Used by permission. CCLI#145043

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<sup>1</sup> The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and 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

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken | CW 465  
Verse 1-All; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All*

*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.

*Even in Lent, God is gracious and merciful. He forgives us for Christ's sake. This assures us that we can receive the rest of his gifts through the service and return thanks for those gifts, having been set free from the burden of sin.*

C:

*Jesus Paid It All*


*Song Leaders will sing the verses; All sing the refrain.*

Song Leaders - I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small,  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

All:



Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Song Leaders - Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

**All - Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

Song Leaders - For nothing good have I  
Where-by Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

**All - Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

Song Leaders - And when, before the throne,  
I stand in Him complete,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
My lips shall still repeat.

**All - Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through 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*

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### FIRST LESSON

*Job 1:13-22*

*Job shows how Christians bear their crosses.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 73 | CW p.94*

*Song Leaders will sing the verses; All sing the refrain and the "Glory be ..."*

**All - ♪ Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense  
And he will be my Savior. ♪**

Song Leaders - I am always with 'you, O LORD;\*  
You hold me by my 'right hand.  
You guide me with your 'counsel,\*  
And afterward you will take me into 'glory.  
Whom have I in heav'en but you?\*And earth has nothing I desire be'sides you.  
My flesh and my 'heart may fail,\*  
But God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion for'ever.

**All - ♪ 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.**

**All - ♪ Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense  
And he will be my Savior. ♪**

## **SECOND LESSON**

*Romans 5:1-11*

*Bearing crosses leads to rejoicing.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M:** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

**C:** **For when I am weak, then I am strong.** (*2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)*)

*Please stand.*

## **GOSPEL**

*Mark 8:31-38*

*The cross is necessary for the Christian.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

*Be seated*

*The Gospel is the pinnacle of the Service of the Word because it represents the direct words and actions of our Lord during his earthly ministry. For this reason, we stand to hear the Gospel, much like we stand when a judge or politician enters a room.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Please keep children with you in the pews.*

## **HYMN**

*Lord, You I Love with All My Heart | CW 434*

*Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-All*

## **SERMON**

**May the Name of the LORD Be Blessed**

*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. 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

*Please stand.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**C: We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

**C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M: We pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

**C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M: We pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy burden.

**C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

M: We pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special Prayers and intercession may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*One of the blessings of being in a Christian church is that we can bear our crosses together. One way we do this is by praying for each other through general prayers and specific petitions.*



**All - He knows my name,  
He knows my every thought.  
He sees each tear that falls,  
And hears me when I call.**

Song Leaders - And hears me when I call.

*Please stand.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**M:** Let us pray together.

**C:** **O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing | CW 121  
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-Women; 4-Men; 5-All*

*This hymn is a wonderful prayer which asks Jesus to be with us in whatever temptations the devil, the world, and our flesh may throw at us, so that in the end God may turn it all to His glory and our eternal good!*



# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Compare and contrast Job's response to suffering and Peter's response to Jesus' suffering. What thoughts and actions are commendable and what are reprehensible?
2. What does Jesus identify about Peter's mindset? How does he address that error when he turns to talk to the rest of his disciples?
3. Paul tells us to abnormally rejoice in suffering. From these verses in Romans 5 list all the reasons we have to rejoice.
4. Paul gives us the "Why?" behind Jesus' command to take up our cross and follow him. How does Jesus' cross change all the crosses you have had, have now, and will have in the future?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### **The Theology of the Cross**

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



## **JOIN US FOR SUPPER**

*March 3 | 4:45-6:00 PM*

Fellowship meals are returning this Wednesday. We will be doing things a little differently. This year we are seeking groups to serve the meal. The Willing Workers are taking the first meal and will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and coleslaw with bars for dessert. We are still seeking other groups (whether you serve together in a ministry or learn together at a bible study) to prepare and serve the meals for March 10, 17 & 24. Small groups might seek other groups to team up with. If you are willing to help, please contact Seth Kroells at [sethk1996@hotmail.com](mailto:sethk1996@hotmail.com) or 507-676-7142.

## **PURCHASE FLOWERS FOR EASTER**

Having fresh flower on Easter morning has long been a tradition at St. Paul's. They beautify the church and fill it with wonderful fragrances. You can help with our annual decorating by purchasing a potted plant, which is then yours to take home and enjoy or to give to a friend or loved one. A list of flowers and plants along with their costs is on display in the Welcome Center. Take an envelope from the display and note what plant you would like. Then place the payment inside the envelope and drop it in the offering slots in the Information Booth. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Klish at 715-421-3607.

## **TIME TO APPLY FOR SCHOOL**

Enrollment at St. Paul's Lutheran School is open for fall 2021-2022. You can start your application process online at [stpaulswr.org/school](http://stpaulswr.org/school). 3K & 4K classes especially fill quickly, so be sure to secure your spot right away. Feel free to contact the school with any questions or to arrange a tour: 715-421-3634 or [school@stpaulswr.org](mailto:school@stpaulswr.org).

## **PERSONAL CARE & FIRST AID ITEMS NEEDED**

We are in our final week of the Hygiene Drive Three Week Challenge. This week is personal care and first aid items. Consider donating items like bath soap, deodorant, razors, cotton balls, lotion, lip balm, band aids, and OTC medicines (like antacids and cold meds). Donations of other types or items are also welcome. See the drop off area in the Welcome Center for more ideas. The collection ends next Sunday.

## **ARE YOU PREPARED?**

March 4 | 7:30 PM

If you feel ill-equipped or uncomfortable telling other about Christ, you will want to check out the Prepare to Proclaim webinar, which starts this Thursday. This four-lesson course will help you overcome your fears and re-discover the power of God's Word. Find out more at [praiseandproclaim.com/evangelism-bible-study-webinar](http://praiseandproclaim.com/evangelism-bible-study-webinar).

## **CIRCUIT MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S**

March 1 | 1:00 PM

What does that even mean? A circuit consists of WELS congregations within a relatively short distance from one another. St. Paul's belongs to the Mid-State Circuit, which consists of the churches in and around Wisconsin Rapids, Neillsville, Marshfield, and Stratford. Once a month, the pastors within the circuit meet for bible study and fellowship. It give them a chance to support one another in their ministry. This month that meeting takes place at St. Paul's. Given how busy our building is each day, the meeting will take place in our Welcome Center. Why not take time this week to pray for the pastors in our circuit.

## **CHANGES TO NLHS TOGETHER WE SHINE**

March 6 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Northland Lutheran High School has made changes to their previously advertised Together We Shine Event. Activities for Sunday, March 14 have been canceled. Next Saturday from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM, you are invited to NLHS to view the items up for online auction and purchase soup by the pint and quart. (Social distancing and masks will be required.) You can also visit the auction online and bid from the comfort of home! See [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org) for a link to the auction. The auction ends at noon on March 13. Winning bidders can pick up their items March 15-19 or call the school office to make other arrangements.

St. Paul's is serving at the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf during March 8-12.

# CALENDAR

February 28-March 7

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|                  |                |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | 8:00 AM        | Worship   |
|                  | 9:15 AM        | Bible Study in the cafeteria                              |
|                  | 9:15 AM        | Catechism Class in the Resource Center                    |
|                  | 10:30 AM       | Worship   |
|                  | 2:00 PM        | Adult Co-ed Volleyball                                    |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | 11:00 AM       | Worship for at-risk individuals                           |
| <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          |
|                  | 4:30 PM        | Choir Practice in the Balcony                             |
|                  | 6:30 pm        | Unified Board Meetings                                    |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 8:55 AM        | Chapel Service  |
|                  | <b>4:00 PM</b> | <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>                               |
|                  | <b>4:45 PM</b> | <b>Lenten Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria</b>            |
|                  | 5:30 PM        | Handbells in the balcony                                  |
|                  | <b>6:30 PM</b> | <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>                               |
| <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        | Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | 8:00 AM        | Worship   |
|                  | 9:15 AM        | Bible Study in the cafeteria                              |
|                  | 9:15 AM        | Catechism Class in the Resource Center                    |
|                  | 10:30 AM       | Worship   |
|                  | 2:00 PM        | Adult Co-ed Volleyball                                    |

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 127

From July 1, 2020 to February 25, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 675,560

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 696,399

Mortgage balance: \$1,294,710



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