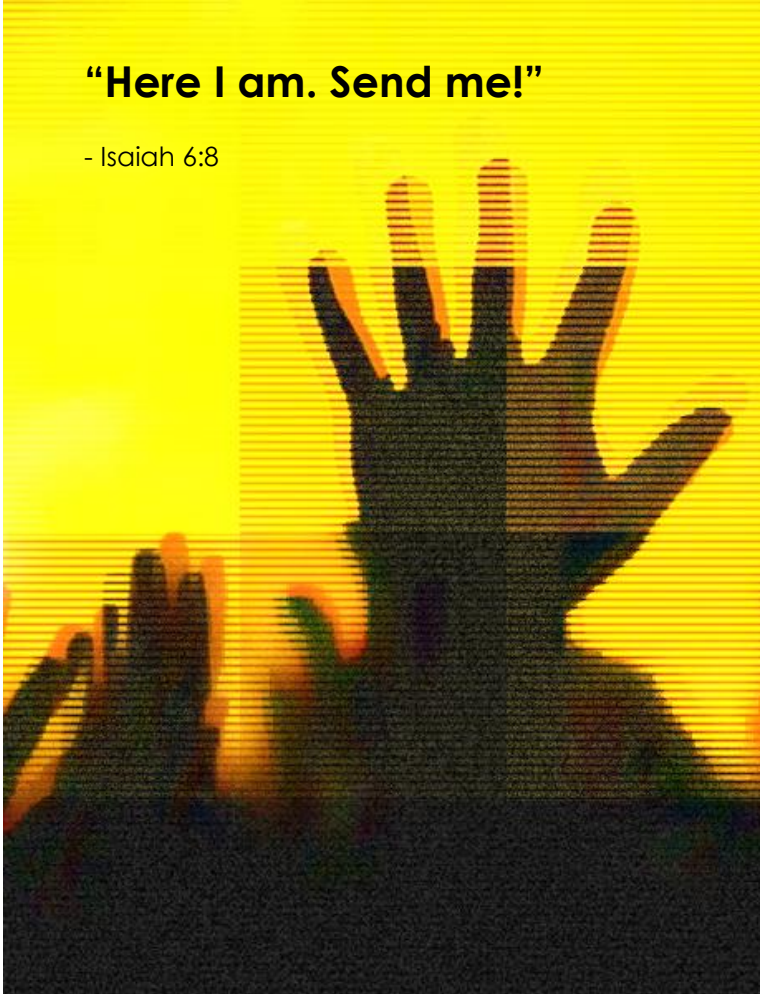


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**“Here I am. Send me!”**

- Isaiah 6:8



BECAUSE HE LIVES  
WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL MISSION  
*Mission Sunday*

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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April 27, 2025



## 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

If Jesus remained dead, all he would provide is an example of a beautiful life. Therefore, if Jesus remained dead, the mission of his followers would simply be to share advice. "Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another. Or "Jesus would want us to think about money like this." Or "This is how Jesus would pray." But because he lives, his followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Thus, Jesus is not a standard, but our Savior. Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory will be the resurrection of all who put their faith in him. Sharing that good news—that's our mission.

The Sunday after Easter can seem like a bit of a letdown. Chances are the church isn't quite as full. There might not be a choir or special instruments to go along with our hymns. Even the lilies have begun to wilt. It might feel like the fun is all over. Wrong! The adventure has just begun. Because he lives! Therefore, we have a meaningful mission. Let us open our eyes to the privilege and the opportunity.

## Those Serving in Worship

Liturgist, Mr. Randy Pahl; Preacher, Pastor Fred Berger; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek

## Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

# The Service: Setting Three

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*Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.*

## Welcome

### Hymn

*442 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia*

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 188

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

Congregation sings:

Hymn 938 This Is the Feast

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Verses*



1    Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2    Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
5    For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -



blood set us free \_\_\_\_\_ to be peo - ple of God.    *Refrain*  
hon - or, \_\_\_\_\_ bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.    *Refrain*  
gun his \_\_\_\_\_ reign. Al - le - lu - ia!    *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 6:1–8*

*With sins forgiven, Isaiah longs to take up the meaningful mission of proclaiming God's grace.*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. <sup>3</sup>One called to another and said,

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies!  
The whole earth is full of his glory!

<sup>4</sup>The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>Then I said, "I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Then I said, "Here I am. Send me!" (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look, he is coming with clouds,  
and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him.  
And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.  
Yes. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

<sup>10</sup>I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, saying, “Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

<sup>11</sup>I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. <sup>14</sup>His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last— <sup>18</sup>the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*John 20:29*

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen  
**and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel**

*John 20:19–31*

*Jesus lovingly deals with our doubts and provides us with peace so that we might be empowered to carry out the meaningful mission of sharing Christ’s forgiveness.*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” <sup>22</sup>After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one <sup>24</sup>called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **Children's Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*456 O Sons and Daughters of the King*

### **Sermon**

**Here am I. Send me!**

*Stand*

### **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*

### ***Special Prayers This Week***

† For Kurt & Tina Callaway, who we called to serve as teachers in our school

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†

### **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

**Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.**

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

### *Silent prayer*

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

**Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.**

### *Special prayers and intercession*

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

## **Connect Card and Offering**

*Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. 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.*



## **WELS Connection**

*World Missions – Australia*

## **Hymn**

*746 I Love to Tell the Story (sts. 1,6,3)*

*Stand*

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.**

## 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.

## 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

*447 Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed*



# Take Home Questions

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## Isaiah 6:1-8

1. In verse 5, Isaiah is filled with fear. In verse 8 he is eager to serve. What caused this change? Where do you see this cause in your own life?
2. Characterize Isaiah's response to God's call in verse 8 with three one-word adjectives. What steps can you take in your life to apply those same adjectives to your life of meaningful mission work?

## Revelation 1:4-18

3. Pick out the three key words in verse 9. Explain why each word is central in the life of a Christian.
4. Describe what John saw in his vision of Jesus (vv. 12-16). How did he react? What did Jesus do in response (vv. 17-18)?
5. Jesus comforts John with some statements about himself (vv. 17b-18). Consider each statement, what each means, and what impact each would have on John's and our meaningful ministry.

## John 20:19-31

6. The first words Jesus spoke to his disciples were "Peace be with you!" For what reasons would those words be especially meaningful, especially considering everything that had happened since the last time they were together and had talked. What could Jesus have said?
7. Jesus gave the disciples and the church as a whole a tremendous right and responsibility. What was it (vv. 22-23)?
8. How do we as a church still carry out that responsibility today? In what ways can you carry out that responsibility in your personal ministry as a priest to God the Father (Rev. 1: 6)?

## Bonus

9. Write and pray a prayer asking God to bless the mission work the Holy Spirit is doing through Pastor Berger and others in Kronenwetter.

# News & Announcements

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## **This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: Starting a Home Mission**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

## **Special Offering Today**

In honor of guest preacher, Pastor Fred Berger, we are taking a special offering today to support the Kronenwetter mission. You can place your gifts in the offering plates in the Welcome Center.

## **Support Our Christian High School**

*April 27 | 12:00-3:00 pm*

After learning about missions this Sunday, head up to Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) for their annual silent auction and soup cook-off from noon to 3:00 today. Bid on beautiful auction items and decadent whole pies, sample hearty varieties of soup, enjoy scrumptious baked goods, and engage in Christian fellowship with our NLHS family. Admission is free and the event is fun for the whole family! This event raises money to help Northland train future Christian leaders.

## **Social Media Safety Presentation**

*April 28 | 6:00 pm*

This Monday, Jason Christianson, a former St. Paul's Lutheran member and Senior Special Agent with the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation, will be giving a presentation on internet and social media safety with a case example. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the content, we ask that children do not attend as specific and in-depth examples will be given of how and what happens on these platforms. Join us at 6:00 pm in the library.

## **To God Be the Glory Night**

*May 1 | 6:30 PM*

Our school is showcasing the amazing gifts and talents with which God has blessed our students. Everyone is invited to this special night on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 pm. The program begins in the church with a devotion on how we can boast only in Christ. Then you are free to walk around the school and see the displays of the students' work. The evening concludes back in the church with a hymn and thanks to God for his undeserved blessings. We hope you can attend.

## **Thrivent**

This month we received a grant of \$1,378 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We are thankful to Thrivent and also to its members, who designated gifts to go to St. Paul's.

## WELS Night at the Brewers

July 11 | 7:20 pm

Plan to join thousands of WELS members for an evening at the ballpark on July 11. The Brewers will take on the Nationals at 7:10 pm. WELS members and guests will receive a discount of up to 50% on tickets and will be seated together in all seating levels. Bring a friend to rub shoulders with WELS Christians and to enjoy the fun. Tickets are available at [brewers.com/wels](http://brewers.com/wels).

## “Mission” and Safari Trip

March 3-26, 2026

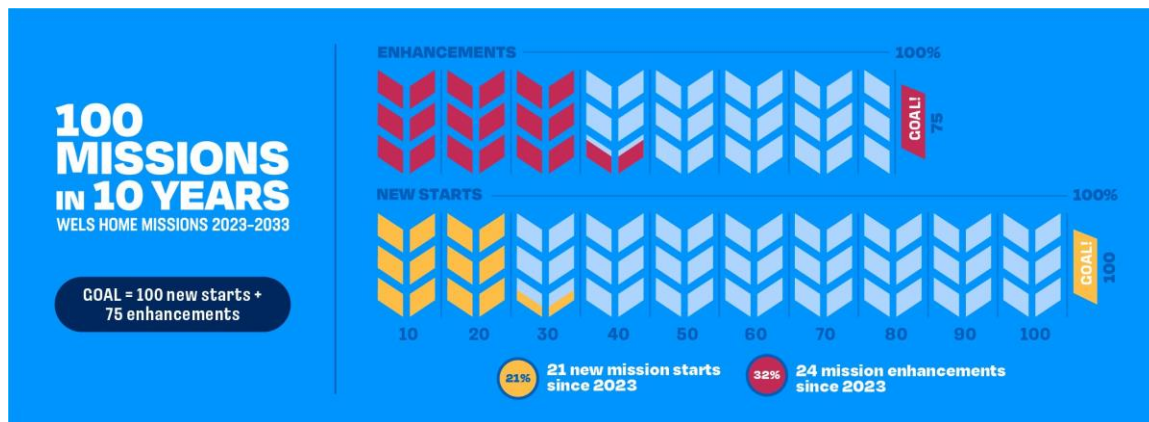
Former Good Shepherd member, Tom Thiele has organized a trip to Kenya and Tanzania for next March. In addition to participating in a safari adventure, you will have a chance to visit churches in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). For more information, see our monthly newsletter or call Tom at 262-560-0750.

## Love Your Neighbor: Break the Stigma

Many people hesitate to talk about mental health, even when they’re struggling. As Christians, we can break the silence and show Christ-like love. Our church has short-term counseling services available at no cost to our members when referred by our pastor. The services are provided by Christian Family Solutions through their Member Assistance Program (MAP). Contact the pastor if you wish to schedule a time to meet with him about your needs. Visit [ChristianFamilySolutions.org](http://ChristianFamilySolutions.org) for additional information and faith-based mental health support.

## Update on Congregational Mission Offering

On a monthly basis, we send a percentage of our regular offerings to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). This Congregational Mission Offering (CMO) is for our church body’s work of sharing God’s peace with others and with one another. They use the money to fund program that we as a congregation could not do on our own. That includes training called workers and sending out missionary. Through April, we have sent WELS \$8,513.20. This is 24% of our goal for the year, so we are where we want to be for CMO giving.



Sunday	8:00 AM	<b>Mission Sunday Worship</b>
	9:15 AM	<b>Mission Presentation in the cafeteria</b>
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	<b>Mission Sunday Worship</b>
	12:00 PM	Together We Shine at Northland Lutheran High School
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
Monday	6:00 PM	<b>Social Media Safety Presentation in the Resource Center</b>
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
	4:30 PM	Parent Teacher Organization in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	<b>Glory Be to God Night at St. Paul's School</b>
Sunday	8:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 398

## Amazing Grace Update

Thru Apr. 20: \$98,651 toward mortgage principal

Goal: \$125,000 in 125 days (by May 31)

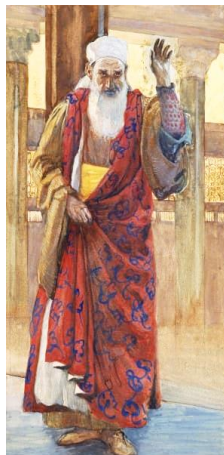
## Upcoming Events

May 4-5 ~ Pastor at Conference

May 7 ~ Compline Service at 6:30 pm

May 14 ~ Confirmation Banquet

May 18 ~ Confirmation Sunday



Then I  
said, "Here  
I am. Send  
me!"

Isaiah 6:8



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