

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Hold on to the Powerful Word

Confirmation Sunday

May 15, 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



A joyous ceremony; gifts and parties; robes and flowers; confirmation can look a lot like a graduation, can't it? It seems like all the hard work is done. But confirmation is just the beginning of our formal growth in the Word. Satan, the world, and our flesh would love to have us hold on to anything other than God and his promises.

That is why we need encouragement, from early on, to hold on to the Word above everything else. As we celebrate God's gift of faith and thank him for the ability to confess his name to others, we ask that God would move us to remember what his promises mean for us and for all his children.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 8 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

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The Service: Setting Five

Welcome

Hymn

*707 Cling Tightly to the Word of God
Please join beginning with the third verse.*

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession

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 T 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.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you promised that you will confess before your Father in heaven those who confess you before others on earth. Grant those who confess their faith before your altar the grace and strength to avoid all things contrary to what they confess, that in humble faith they seek and do all things pleasing to you; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Joshua 1:6–9

As we hold on to the Word, Lord our God is with us wherever we go.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

812 Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

As we hold on to the Word, God gives encouragement and hope.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10

Alleluia! Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:25–35

As we hold on to the Word, we realize that it comes with a cost.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

695 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Sermon

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

Connect Card

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

10:30 – Rite of Confirmation

Please see page 12 of the service folder.

8:00 and 6:30 – Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, you have gathered people of all ages into the communion of saints. On this day of Confirmation, we thank you especially for the gift of young people to your Church.

Keep them in your care.

Protect them from the perils and temptations common to youth. Help them resist the pressure to engage in godless and immoral activity. When they become confused, show them the way. When they hurt, bind up their wounds. When they fail, restore them according to your mercy.

Keep the cross of Christ before their eyes.

Bless them with good friends, capable teachers, faithful ministers, caring parents, supportive homes, and life-enriching experiences. According to your wisdom, spare them from the perils of unexpected tragedy, severe illness, violent crime, a broken home, or an untimely death.

Keep all children safe from every kind of harm.

Be with our children as they continue to mature and grow. Specifically on our hearts are the confirmands of St. Paul's. Guide and direct them in all they do.

Remind them that their highest joy is found in using their abilities in service to you.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Most of all dear, Lord, we ask you to keep this and every generation faithful to your truth. Strengthen believers everywhere through regular use of Word and sacrament.

Open our mouths to share the gospel with friends and acquaintances, that each new generation may know the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. 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

I Run to Christ

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.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: ANTHES



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

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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 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 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

Tune: ACH BLEIB BEI UNS

1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love
you took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
will nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

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

Closing Hymn

776 With the Lord Begin Your Task



The Rite of Confirmation

This rite is used when children who have been instructed in the Small Catechism desire to confess their faith publicly and affirm that they are prepared to receive the Sacrament of the Altar.

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We bring our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and implore him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

I am.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Yes, 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do reject him.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another. On this day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you gave these young people a new birth as members of your family. Help them and all believers remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your law to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have mercy on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in the glorious mansions you have prepared for us, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

Kerrie Anne Aumann – Psalm 121:7,8 – The Lord will watch to keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your going and your coming from now to eternity.

Vanessa Gloria Christenson – 1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no one look down on your youth. Instead, be an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

Camie Sue Dittmann – 1 John 1:7 – But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Keagen James Kimball – Romans 3:23,24 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Chase Jeffery Leberg – Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future.

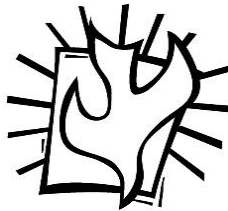
Matthew Jared Vollert – Matthew 6:33,34 – But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Following the individual blessings, the minister says to the confirmands:

On behalf of the members of St. Paul's, I now invite you to receive the sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Make use of this precious privilege by receiving the sacrament often and in thankfulness. I also encourage you to participate more fully in our ministry through the gifts of your prayers, volunteered time, unique abilities, and financial offerings, all used to the glory of God and the good of his Church. The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

The Service continues with the Offering on page 8 of the service folder.



Take Home Questions

1. God's powerful Word is what gives spiritual life to the dead and brings believers to faith, so we rightly focus on it today. How is God's Word highlighted in all three readings for today?
2. In what ways does Jesus identify and illustrate the cost of being his disciple in Luke 14? What are some ways you pay that cost in your life? List promises of God which give comfort while paying that cost.
3. What is your confirmation verse? In what ways does it strengthen you as you carry your cross and follow Jesus? If you didn't receive or don't remember your confirmation verse, what verse would you choose and why?
4. Write a prayer for one or all the confirmands: Kerrie Aumann, Vanessa Christenson, Camie Dittmann, Keagen Kimball, Chase Leberg, and Matthew Vollert. As you are comfortable, share the prayer with them or their parents.

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study:

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? The Moral Example

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

Special Ascension Day Service

May 26 | 6:30 PM

We often celebrate Jesus' ascension on the Sunday after Ascension Day. This year we are holding a special worship service on the actual day ~ Thursday, May 26. This is a joint service with other area WELS congregations, similar to the Epiphany service we held in January. We hope you will set aside to worship our ascended Lord on May 26.

Making Summer Plans

May 17 | 2:00 PM

Willing Workers will meet Tuesday, May 17 at 2:00 pm to plan projects for June & July. All women are invited to join them. They will also be electing their officers for 2022-2023.

Concerts at St. Paul's & NLHS

Concerts for St. Paul's Lutheran School and Northland Lutheran High School will be held this week. St. Paul's concert is on Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 pm. This is a piano recital and mini-band concert. The concert at NLHS is on Friday, May 20 at 7:00 pm and will feature their band and choir. Come support our students.

Save the Date for Church in the Park

June 26 | 10:30 AM

Church in the Park is returning this summer. We will be worshipping at the band shell in Robinson Park and enjoying a picnic afterwards. Be sure mark your calendars, so you don't miss this special event.

Teachers Make Us Better

Our school recently received a check for \$44.20 from the Box Tops for Education program. These funds were earned by people scanning their store receipts with their phones using the Box Tops app. The app finds participating products on your receipt and adds cash to our online total. The school periodically receive a check for the earnings. Right now, new Box Top participants can earn \$5 for our school, by using the referral code, TeachersMakeUsBetter. Just download the app, enter the code during registration, and scan a receipt. You can download the app on Apple Store or Google Play.

Sign Up for Family Fest

June 17-19

Family Fest is a weekend full of activities for campers of all ages, kids and parents alike, at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI. Come on Friday to enjoy a campfire run by Camp Phillip staff full of songs, games, and fun! Saturday is full of activities such as archery, tomahawks, and ropes course. That evening, there is a concert at the outdoor stage. Cabins, tent sites, and electric sites are available. For more information visit CampPhillip.com or call 920-787-3202.

A Hymnbook Inspired by God

June 18 | 6:30 PM

Many of our hymns and much of our liturgy is based on the Psalms. Come explore these songs praise and prayer beginning this Wednesday in the Resource Center.

Gift from Thrivent

Recently one of our members used the Thrivent Choice program to direct a \$23 gift to our school. If you are a Thrivent Financial customer, please check to see whether you qualify to participate in Thrivent Choice. Thank you to our member and to Thrivent.

ShopWithScrip Is Now RaiseRight

ShopWithScrip has changed their name to RaiseRight. The website (raiseright.com) also has a new look, but it is the same scrip program; your account information should work and your gifts will still be directed to St. Paul's or NLHS. You can still reach the website by searching for ShopWithScrip, but you will automatically be sent to the new RaiseRight.com site. Why not check out the new site. "Today's Bonuses" are right on the landing page.

No Chapel on Wednesday

May 18

Our school's K-4th grade classes will be on a field trip this Wednesday. With half the school gone, we will not have a chapel service that day. School chapel services are open to parents and congregation members who want a little midweek encouragement from God's Word. Your presence is also an encouragement to our staff and students.

Special Prayers This Week:

- Rachel Haugly & Ross Provost were united in marriage on Saturday
- Former member, Sandy Johnson passed away. Her funeral will be on Saturday, May 21.
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-
-



Sunday
 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 ~ Confirmation

Monday 6:30 AM Worship

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
 2:00 PM Willing Workers in the cafeteria
 6:30 PM Leadership Council in the Resource Center

Wednesday 6:30 PM Bible Book Group in the Resource Center

Thursday
 7:00 AM Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
 1:00 PM Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
6:30 PM School Piano Recital & Mini Band Concert

Sunday
 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

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 223

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 679,500

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 663,972

YTD giving to the Organ Fund: \$ 121,624

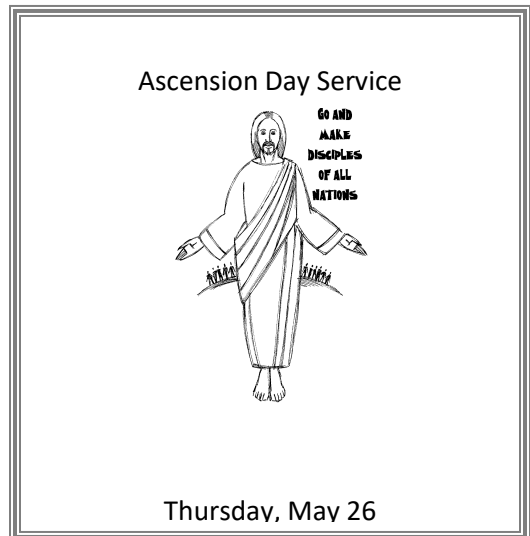
Upcoming Events

May 20 ~ Spring Concert at NLHS

May 25 ~ Preschool Program

May 26 ~ Ascension Day Service

May 28 ~ Graduation at NLHS





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