

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Those
who *find*
their life
will *lose* it,
and
those
who *lose*
their life
for my
sake will
find it.

Matthew 10:39, NRSV

GOD'S SERVANTS SERVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020

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.



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. You can also contact us via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. There is tape on the floor of the Welcome Center to help assist you in practicing social distancing. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary. Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Offering plates and friendship registers will not be distributed.** Our offering can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. Those with smartphones can fill in the online connect card.
- † **The children's quiet activity bags have been removed.** However, children's bulletins can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you 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



God's Servants Serve God Above All Things. This is no easy task, as we see in all three readings. We are easily deceived and turned away from our God and Lord. The task of denying ourselves and taking up our crosses to follow Jesus takes total commitment. There are certainly earthly ramifications, but also promised heavenly blessings for such commitment.

And so, today, we pray for the love of God to rule in our hearts and minds, that we might always love him above all things.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which represents the growth of our love for God, for which we pray today and always.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2018 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission: www.wartburgproject.org

Service of the Word. Words and Music: *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us." by Stuart Townsend. © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing). All rights reserved. Used by permission: CCLI #145043

Psalm 27. Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers. Verses text: public domain. Tune: public domain. Setting: Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Lead Us On | CW 422

Verse 1 - Song Leaders; 2 - Men; 3 - Women; 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.

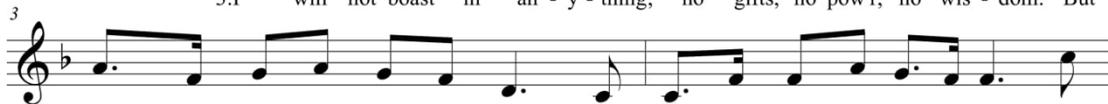
Parents -- you can help your children worship by pointing out short responses like "Amen" to them and encouraging them to participate.

C:

How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure, that
2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing; no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But



He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why



great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ran - som!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, 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

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 32:15-29

Serving God alone brought a sword in response to sin.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27

*Choir will sing refrain once. Then All will repeat the refrain.
Thereafter, the choir will sing the verses, and All will sing the refrain.*

Refrain

God is my light, the strong - hold of my life.
God is my sal - va - tion; in God a - lone I trust.

Choir - God is my strong salvation;
What foe have I to fear?
In peril and temptation
My light, my help, is near.

*Notice the theme of total
commitment to God that
comes out throughout
these verses.*

Refrain

Choir - Though hosts encamp around me,
Firm to the fight I stand;
What terror can confound me,
With God at my right hand?

Refrain

Choir - Rely on God's protection,
With courage wait each day;
Gods' truth be your affection,
When weak, your hope and stay.

Refrain

Choir - God's might your heart shall strengthen,
God's love your joy increase;
With hope your days shall lengthen,
The Lord will give you peace.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Serving God alone means we must fight the good fight of faith.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. If anyone would come after me,

C: **he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia.** *(Mark 8:34b)*

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:34-42

Serving God means carrying a cross.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke | CW 453
Verse 1 - Pastors; 2 - Women; 3 - Men; 4 - Song Leaders; 5 - All

SERMON - THE WORD OF THE LORD IS SUPREME FOR HIS SERVANTS

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

Members and guests alike, please use this time to fill out the Connect Card. This helps us know that you worshiped with us. Plus, it serves as an opportunity for you to leave any comments or questions for the pastors.

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him.
- C: **We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.**
- M: We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.
- C: **Constantly remind us that nothing in the world can offer these eternal blessings to us.**
- M: Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence.
- C: **Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**
- M: Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful.
- C: **Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.**
- Special Prayers and Intercessions may be offered*
- M: All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord, who has taught us also to pray...
- C: **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.

HYMN

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

Verse 1 - Men; 2 - Women; 3 - All

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

Fight the Good Fight | CW 457

Verse 1 - Song Leaders; 2 - Men; 3 - Women; 4 - All

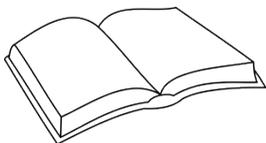
This hymn serves as one final way to focus us on our strength, our light, our path, our prize, our life, our love: Christ Jesus our Lord.



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Exodus 32 recounts overt idolatry when the Israelites worshiped a golden calf. I doubt you bow down to golden statues in your home, but what are some idols you have in your life? What things (even good things) does your sinful heart want to put before God? Hint: Jesus warns against one in Matthew 10.
2. List the main characters in the account from Exodus 32. What examples of service to God, both good and bad, do they give? What are some lessons you can take-away from these examples?
3. 1 Timothy 6 has the following list of characteristics for the people of God to pursue: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. What are some things you can do in your everyday life which exemplifies these characteristics? List at least one action for each characteristic.
4. In the opening paragraph of the Gospel reading Jesus alludes to Micah 7. Read through that chapter. In what ways does that add to our understanding of what Jesus is saying here?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

The Christian's Responsibility to Civil Government
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

CALL RENEWED AND BUDGET PASSED

Last Monday, the voters renewed Mr. Pahl's call to serve as our staff minister. This is a one year renewable call. The 2020-2021 budget was also passed. Details on the budget are still available in the welcome center.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

July 3

The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Please stop by earlier in the week if you want to drop off an offering, purchases scrip, or have other business. Our summer office hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

TASTE AND SEE TAKING PLACE

June 27-July 11

During the next two weeks, you can take part in an online mission festival called Taste and See. An opening worship service was streamed yesterday, June 27. However there are other livestreamed events, presentations on mission work, daily devotions, and family-friendly activities throughout the next couple of weeks. For a full itinerary, visit welstasteandsee.com

SAVE THOSE CAST OFFS

August 4-5

If you are holding a garage sale this summer, be sure to hold on to your unsold clothing. We are holding our second annual clothing giveaway in August. With all of the economic turmoil this year, we will be providing a great service to our community. Donation days are Tuesday & Wednesday, August 4 & 5 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Sorry, we do not have room to take early donations. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, please contact Michelle Gear at 920-784-4643 or michellemgear@gmail.com.

WELCOME PASTOR PLAGENZ

July 26 | 4:00 PM

We will formally welcome Pastor Plagenz to St. Paul's and into the public ministry with an ordination and installation service on Sunday, July 26 at 4:00 PM. Pastor Plagenz's father will preach the sermon, plus a number of other pastors will also be involved in what is called the "laying on of hands." in which pastors give their blessing and biblical encouragement to Pastor Plagenz as he continues his ministry here among us.



After the service, there will be a meal served in the gym. To meet with CDC guidelines, the meal will be served by the plate and be limited to a certain number of attendees. Please look for an invitation to the event soon and RSVP if you plan to attend so we can accurately plan for food. If you would like to help with this celebration, please contact Jan Peronto at 715-340-2809 or jkp111310@gmail.com.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

July 6 - August 5

We will be taking part in the community Stuff the School Bus school supply drive. Look for a collection spot in the welcome center beginning July 6. The supplies will be distributed to families with financial need during an event at Lincoln High School on August 16-17. All types of school supplies are accepted. However, this year's biggest needs are for backpacks, notebooks (in plain colors), folders (in plain colors), colored pencils, highlighters, water colors, glue sticks, and scissors.

Do you know a child who needs school supplies? They can receive FREE school supplies at Stuff the Desk on Aug 14-15. All families in financial need qualify, whether they attend public or private schools. However, they need to register online (www.uwswac.org) or call 2-1-1 Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM -5:00 PM by August 1.

NORTHLAND SCRIP NOTICE

The scrip center at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) is closed this week. We will still sell what scrip cards we have here is our stock. Regular orders from NLHS will resume on July 5. As always, thank you for supporting Northland Lutheran High School through your scrip purchases.

WILLING WORKERS MEETING IN JULY

July 21 | 4:00 PM



The Willing Workers is a women's service group that meets monthly. They are involved in fellowship events like anniversary celebrations, welcome events for new pastors, confirmation recognition, funeral meals, and Advent by Candlelight. Their annual bake and craft sale raises funds to support church projects. They also promote areas of service such as working at Dime & Dollar, the Neighborhood Table, SWEPS community pantry, gifts for shut-in members, and helping school teachers with projects.

Although they usually take a break in the summer, because of the unusual circumstances this year, Willing Workers have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 21, at 4:00 PM. All women of our congregation are invited to attend and help with the upcoming celebrations in July and August.

If you haven't yet, please complete their survey. It will only take a couple of minutes and can be found on our website under the Serve tab.

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Are you being layoff? Does the current economic slowdown make you anxious for the future? Are worried about the on-going pandemic and whether you or your loved ones may become ill? We have people who will walk beside during these times of change. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to provide you confidential, one-on-one, Christian counseling at no charge. They are lay people, but all of them have faced trials of their own and are willing to serve you for as long as you need - whether that requires one meeting or many. To be connected with a Stephen Minister, please contact either Susie Dempze (jscraby@gmail.com or 715-424-1324) or Mike Grosskreutz (mgrosskreutz@tds.net or 715-315-274).

COKE AND A SMILE

Your favorite summer drink could help fund field trips for school students. If you drink Coca Cola products save the codes found inside caps and cartons. Each is worth between \$.05 and \$.38 for our school. You can bring your caps and codes to the church/school office, or if you are comfortable doing so, you can set up your own account at us.coca-cola.com/give and enter the codes there. It is an easy way to support our Christian school.

CALENDAR

June 28-July 5

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word
WEDNESDAY	5:30 PM	Board of Properties
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 3 Office Closed
- July 6 School Supply Drive Begins
- July 20 School Graduation and Awards
- July 26 Ordination/Installation Service for Pastor Plagenz
- Aug 2 Confirmation Sunday
- Aug 9 Easter 2.0
- Aug 16 New Member Welcome/Baptism Affirmations
- Aug 23 Celebration of Mr. Pahl's 40 years in Ministry

OFFERING REPORT

From July 1, 2019 to June 19, 2020
Actual ministry income: \$1,017,790
Actual cost of ministry: \$1,021,887
Mortgage balance: \$1,389,929

Pursue
righteous
ness,
godliness
,
faith,
love,
persevera
nce,
and



www.stpaulswr.org

311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org

Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org

Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org