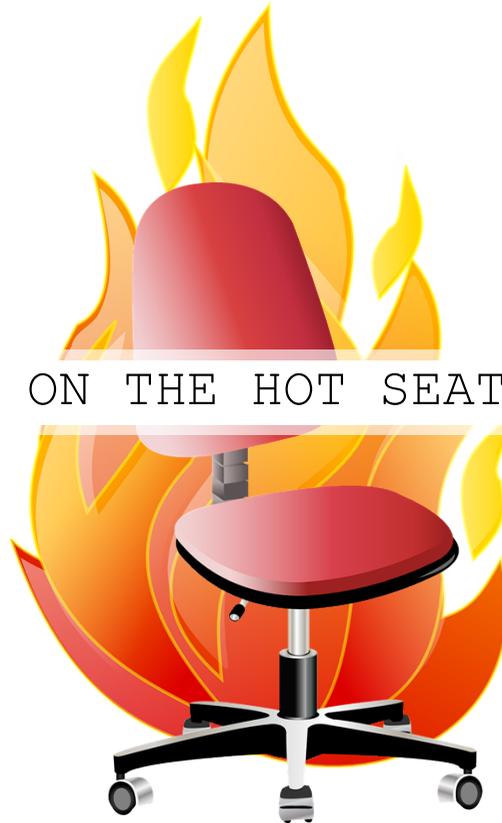


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



ON THE HOT SEAT

HOW A CHRISTIAN APPROACHES
CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS: POLITICS

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. 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 Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

What's the first word that comes to mind when you hear "politics"? Division? Republican? Democrat? Libertarian? Messy? Without a doubt, there are many things that come to mind when people think about politics. What about as a Christian, though? What does God say about politics and government? As we look at his Word, we will see that he commands (yes, really) Christians to honor and obey their rulers. At times, that can be a difficult pill to swallow; but we pray that God would work in our hearts so that we would do what he has called us to do, so that we would live our lives in humility, in service, and in peace.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which is the color of growth. Our faith and trust in God grow as we hear the Word. Our love for others also grows as we are called to serve them.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 10 of this service folder.

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785 "O Lord of Nations." Text; Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 © 2001 Laurie F. Gauger. All rights reserved. Tune (Kirkwood) & Setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959 © 1998 Joseph Herl. All rights reserved. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net A-719903. All rights reserved.

¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and the pulpit.

CALENDAR

July 4-11

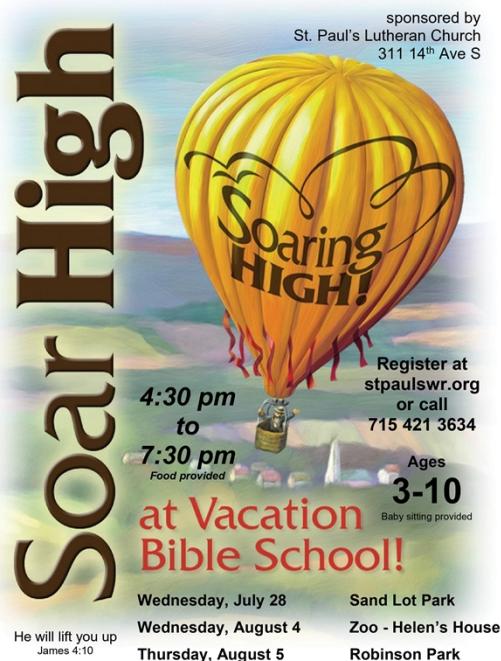
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Worship
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Unified Board Meetings
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:00 PM	Kitchen Cleaning
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1	School Supply Drive Begins
July 22	Farmers Market Booth
July 28	VBS in Sandlot Park
Aug. 4	VBS at Helen's Zoo House
Aug. 5	VBS at Robinson Park
Aug. 5-7	Clothing Giveaway

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 174
From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
Actual ministry income: \$ 1,055,484
Actual cost of ministry: \$ 1,151,947
Mortgage balance: \$1,244,066
Organ Fund balance: \$14,080



sponsored by
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
311 14th Ave S

Register at
stpaulswr.org
or call
715 421 3634

Ages
3-10
Baby sitting provided

He will lift you up
James 4:10

Soar High
Soaring High!
at Vacation Bible School!

4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Food provided

Wednesday, July 28
Wednesday, August 4
Thursday, August 5

Sand Lot Park
Zoo - Helen's House
Robinson Park

DIVINE SERVICE II

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church intended to be used when Holy Communion is celebrated.

WELCOME

HYMN

Before the Lord We Bow | CW 618 (1,4,5)

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

sung to the tune in CW 334

♪ All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race. ♪

The Word

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Help us elect wise leaders, contribute to decisions made for the welfare of all, and serve you faithfully in our generation, so that your holy name would be honored; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 146:1-10 (NIV84)

The LORD is the ultimate ruler!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Typically, our worship service has a separate reading from the Old Testament and a Psalm. Today, the Psalm is so fitting that it is worth highlighting as one of the main readings.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:13-17

We are called to fear God and honor our rulers!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. A king's heart is like streams of water in the hand of the Lord.

C: He directs it wherever he desires. Alleluia. (*Proverbs 21:1*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Mark 12:13-17

Jesus teaches obedience to the government!

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

This hymn is a wonderful prayer filled with thanks, petitions, and hope. It also recalls the blessings that God has given us as a nation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord of Nations | CW 785

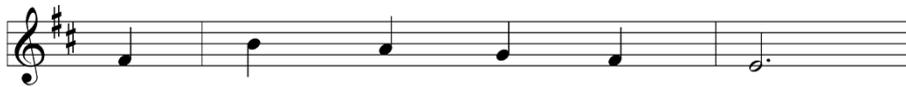
Verses 1-2 Pastors; 3-7 All



1 O Lord of na - tions, hear our prayer.
2 For farms and fields of gold - en grain,
3 Most grate - ful, gra - cious God, are we
4 For - give us, Lord, when we for - get



We thank you for this land most fair,
For sci - ence and for med - i - cine,
That in this coun - try we are free
Your gifts to share, your Word to spread



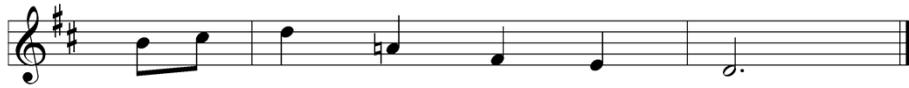
Cre - a - ted by your might.
For wealth be - yond com - pare,
To wor - ship you a - bove.
To those who ache and bleed.



For moun - tain sun - set, lake at dawn,
For lei - sure time and work to do.
We gath - er here to speak your name,
Re - new our will to help the weak,



For wood - land bloom and rob - in song,
 Lord, all these bless - ings come from you,
 Then leave this place to spread your fame
 To feed the hun - gry, and to speak



For stars that lace the night,
 Signs of your lov - ing care.
 That all may know your love.
 Your Word to souls in need.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 And for the leaders you ordained
 We pray, O Lord, that they remain
 Courageous, honest, wise.
 Oh, give them guidance, make them strong
 To stand for right, to battle wrong,
 That freedom's song may rise.</p> | <p>6 When storm and terror strike our land,
 Remove our fear and help us stand
 Against our enemies.
 Lord, may no wicked men prevail.
 May ev'ry plot of treach'ry fail.
 May we remain at peace.</p> |
|--|--|

- 7 And when at last all nations fall
 And you return as Lord of all
 To make the earth anew,
 Then may we join that shining band
 Of saints from ev'ry tribe and land
 And make our home with you.

SERMON

Freed to Submit

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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 fully 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.

THANK OFFERING

Members of St. Paul's 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

Christ, by Heavenly Host Adored

Remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.
- C:** **We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.**
- M:** You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.
- C:** **For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.**
- M:** Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.
- C:** **Give us willingness to obey our nation's law and to work for the common good.**

M: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

M: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit, lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect

Special prayers and intercession.

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

Silent prayer.

M: To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Please Stand

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.

The Sacrament

PREFACE *(spoken)*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

The opening responses of the Service of the Sacrament are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

M: 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 has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.* Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

sung to the tune in CW 474

♪ **O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.** ♪

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | CW 311
Please sing the verses as you feel comfortable.

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

sung to the tune in CW 474

♪ **O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten all gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory of those in Israel!** ♪

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Having drawn our peace and assurance from Jesus' body and blood, we now go into the world—our neighborhoods and workplaces—to be the light that God has called us to be!

BLESSING

M: 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

May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill | CW 458



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Psalm 146 tells us not to trust in princes (governing authority). However, trust is an attitude of the heart which may be difficult to recognize in ourselves. What actions in our lives might point to this misplaced trust in our heart?
2. The command to submit in 1 Peter was given to Christians living under a hostile government which persecuted them. In what ways does this impact what we're told to do in these verses.
3. Based on these verses from 1 Peter, explain the relationship between living as a free person and living in submission.
4. Jesus answers the Pharisees' trick question about paying taxes by saying, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." In what ways are what we give to those people the same thing? In what ways are what we give different?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today's Bible Study: Ephesians
9:15-10:15 AM in the Cafeteria

KITCHEN CLEANING

July 8 | 2:00 PM

A small crew will be giving the kitchen a deep cleaning this Thursday afternoon, starting around 2:00 PM. They could use some extra help, as there are many jobs, both big and small, to be done. If you have some time to spare, please come and help get our kitchen clean and ready for next school year and upcoming fellowship activities.

TEACHER CALLED

Last Sunday, we called Mrs. Stephanie Wolfram to serve as our 1st & 2nd grade teacher. Her husband, Pastor Scott Wolfram, serves at Divine Word in Plover and The Word in Stevens Point. Please keep the Wolframs in your prayers as she deliberates this call.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE BEGINS

Help our community "Stuff the School Bus" with school supplies for needy children. All donations will be distributed to local families in August. Any school supply donations are welcome, but those most needed are backpacks, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, water colors, glue sticks, and scissors. Please place your donations in the collection box in our Welcome Center.

SERVE THE LORD AT ST. PAUL'S

July 6 | 6:30 PM

Volunteers are needed for many ministries including worship, outreach, office work, and Dime & Dollar Thrift Store. To learn more about these and other ministry opportunities, come to the Unified Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 6. We start out in the church with a devotion. Then we split into groups to focus on different areas of ministry. If you can't make the meeting, visit stpaulswr.org/serve to learn about current service opportunities. While there, download the Ministry Fair Form for a list of even more ways to serve the Lord at St. Paul's.

WHERE'S MY MAIL SLOT?

Our member mail slots have been cleaned and reorganized, so your mail slot may not be in the same column or at the same height that it was before. If you are having difficulty finding your slot, just ask someone for help.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP

St. Paul's Youth (SPYs) is selling masks or coffee mugs as a fundraiser for their program. The items were designed by our youth and are on display in the Welcome Center. Order forms are nearby. Donations are also welcome.

VBS UNDER 4 WEEKS AWAY

July 28, Aug. 4, & Aug. 5 | 4:30-7:30 PM

Volunteer: You can help us share the gospel with children in our community through our Vacation Bible School (VBS). Volunteers are needed each day for crafts, games, bible lessons, meals, snacks, music, registration, supervising children, set up, and clean up. More details are available on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. You can sign up for just one day or all three. To volunteer, please sign up in the Welcome Center, use Signup Genius, or contact Kent Schroeder at 715-323-6167.

Register: Although we are targeting families who live near the parks where we are holding VBS, all children (ages 3-10) are invited. You, your friends, your neighbors, and your co-workers can pre-register their children at stpaulswr.org/vbs. The program is the same each night, so choose the date that works best for you.

HIRING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT & CHILDCARE WORKERS

Paid help is needed in the church/school office and our childcare. The hours are flexible. Contact Judy Stensberg about working in the office (715-421-3634 ext. 1000 or churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or Carole Melso about working in the childcare (715-421-3634 ext. 1119 or littlelambs@stpaulswr.org).





www.stpaulswr.org

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

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