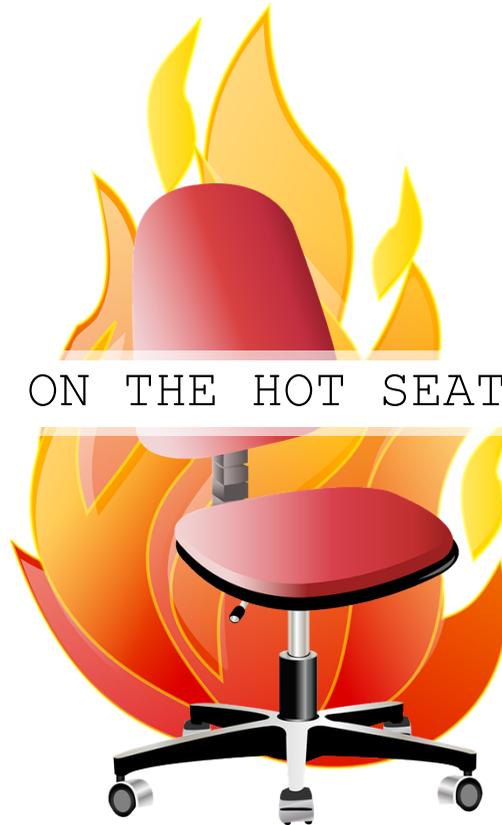


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



ON THE HOT SEAT

HOW A CHRISTIAN APPROACHES  
CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS: SEXUALITY

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

# ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

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*July 18, 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**

Our "On the Hot Seat" series continues with sexuality. We know what God says about his gift of sex; we only need to look at the Ten Commandments and other places where Jesus, Paul, and others speak about sexual immorality. We know what the world says about God's gift of sex; and it's nowhere near what God says. Perhaps this is what makes it so difficult for us to address this topic. Yes, talking about sex and sexuality is awkward; yes, it takes a delicate balance of vulnerability and decency; but, most importantly, talking about sexuality needs to come back to Christ. God bless our worship as we strive to do just that.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> 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 9 of this service folder.

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

# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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*The service of word and sacrament proclaims the gospel through God's Word and the Lord's Supper.*

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

*Renew Me, O Eternal Light | CW 471*

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*This regular beginning of our worship service puts us all on the same level: we are all sinful and deserve God's punishment; but we are all forgiven and recipients of God's grace.*

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

**C: Amen.**

## RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: ♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love,  
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
You make us pure and holy in your sight.  
You did not spare your only Son,  
but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious  
is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
You came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. ♪

CW p.28

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, through the bond of marriage, you have given men and women the gift of sexual relations to serve us as an unselfish blessing. In a world where that gift has been twisted by sin, give us hearts that seek your ways. Restore us when we fall and compel us and others to live in thankfulness for your forgiving grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## *The Word*

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#### FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 2:18-25*

*God created marital sexuality as a gift.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Refrain:* **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

**Blessed are they whose ways are 'blameless,\*  
Who walk according to the law 'of the LORD.  
Blessed are they who keep his 'statutes\*  
And seek him with 'all their heart.  
You have laid down 'precepts\*  
That are to be ful'ly obeyed.**

*Refrain*

**Oh, that my ways were 'steadfast\*  
In obeying 'your decrees!  
Then I would not be 'put to shame\*  
When I consider all 'your commands.  
I will praise you with an 'upright heart\*  
As I learn your 'righteous laws.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son\*  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,\*  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

*Refrain*

1 Corinthians 6 and 7 are some of the most helpful chapters in the Bible when talking about marriage, self-control, and sexuality.

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

**SECOND LESSON**

*A proper view of sexuality honors God.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M:** Alleluia. Marriage is to be held in honor by all,  
**C:** **and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled. Alleluia.** (*Hebrews 13:4a*)

*Please stand.*

## **GOSPEL**

*John 8:3-11*

*An adulteress is brought before Jesus.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN**

*The Ten Commandments Are the Law | CW 285 (1,7,11,12)*

### **SERMON**

**What Do You Say: Condemn or Condone?**

*Please stand.*

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*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.*

## THE THANK 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 – Clarinet Duet

*Remain seated.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Almighty God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. All the stars, the sun and moon, all energies and forces, the sea and clouds are messengers of your wonder and might.
- C: **For your creation, we praise you, Father.**
- M: We pray also for your Church and your people. Grant us ministers and teachers who are led by the Spirit and earnestly hold forth your Word of Life. Save us from all false prophets and deceitful guides.
- C: **Help us speak the truth in love at all times and in every place.**
- M: Guard and defend your institution of marriage and the family that spouses and parents, children and siblings are all able to live at peace with one another.
- C: **Bless us with regular reminders of your forgiveness in our homes and lives.**
- M: Bestow your favor on all useful labor in industry and agriculture, education and science, the professions and the arts, that in their advancement your people may prosper.
- C: **Thank you for giving us so many ways to benefit others and glorify your Name.**
- M: We pray for all who may be ill in body, mind, or spirit; for all who may be in danger; for all who may be in anxiety or perplexity; for all who may be suffering disappointment or defeat. *(We pray especially for...)*

*The Prayer of the Church gives us time each week to recall all of the blessings God has given us, as well as to pray for those we know who are thankful, suffering, or in need.*

*Special prayers and intercessions*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Heavenly Father, be with us and hear our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus, who did not come to condemn what was found, but to save what was lost.

C: **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## THE 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.**

## *The Sacrament*

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### THE PREFACE

| CW p. 33

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 right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *He sends his Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

C: **♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

| CW p. 34

**The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**You are my God, and I will exalt you.**

**I will give you thanks,**

**for you have become my salvation.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

**The whole earth is full of your glory.**

## 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."

*The words of institution remind us that Christ's very body and blood are offered and that they are offered for the forgiveness of sins.*

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.

| CW p.35

C: **♪ Amen.**

C: **♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.  
Amen. ♪**

*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

*Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior* | CW 313

*Please stand.*

## THANKSGIVING

| CW p. 36

**C:** 🎵 **Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.**

**He renews his promises And leads his people forth in joy**

**With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia! 🎵**

**M:** Let us pray together.

**C:** **Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**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. Amen. Amen. 🎵**

*Be seated.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus* | CW 348



## TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Where do you find the gospel message in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20? How might that simple message help someone who commits a sexual sin?
2. Many who want to fight against God's design for marriage to be a one-man-one-woman, lifelong commitment will point to the Old Testament. There are numerous cases of God's people NOT upholding God's gifts of marriage and sex. First, recall or find three of those instances. Then, discuss (or ponder) why God would include the details of those sins in his account of history.
3. When we cross paths with a sexual sin—perhaps in our own lives or in the life of someone we know—our initial reaction is likely one of disgust or shock. While it might seem like the Christian thing to do, for what reasons is that not a helpful or loving response?
4. Walking the balance between condemning and condoning sin is difficult; what are some encouragements God gives in his Word to help us find that balance and, God-willing, bring more people to faith in Jesus? In other words, think of some Bible passages that help us acknowledge sin but also extend grace.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Today's Bible Study: Ephesians

9:15-10:15 AM in the Cafeteria

## REGISTER FOR VBS

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

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly. This year, we are having the same one-day program at three different public parks, so pick a date or location that works best for you. Please help us with our planning by pre-registering online ([stpaulswr.org/vbs](http://stpaulswr.org/vbs)) or in the Welcome Center.

## MORE VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Help share the gospel with children in our community through our Vacation Bible School. Our biggest need right now is for people to guide groups of children from one activity to the next. 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.

## CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Community Clothing Drive is in early August. Now is the time to go through your drawers and closets and pull out things you no longer wear. Your donations will be given away free to the public on Aug. 5-7. Please note, that we do not have storage room for early donations, so donation dates are set for Aug. 3-4. All sizes from infants to men's, shoes, coats, and accessories will be accepted. (No housewares please.) If you would like to help with sorting and organizing clothes, please contact Michelle Gear at 920-784-4643 or [michellemgear@gmail.com](mailto:michellemgear@gmail.com).

*Aug. 3-4 | 10:00AM-6:00PM*

Save your garage sale extras

Our clothing drive will  
be held August 3-4  
10:00AM-6:00PM

Your donations will  
be given away to the  
community ON Aug. 5-7.

AUG. 5 - 4:00-6:00 PM  
AUG. 6 - 10:00 AM-6:00 PM  
AUG. 7 - 8:00 AM-Noon

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

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.

## 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.



## 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](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)) or Carole Melso about working in the childcare (715-421-3634 ext. 1119 or [littlelambs@stpaulswr.org](mailto:littlelambs@stpaulswr.org)).

## HELP AT THE FARMERS MARKET

*July 22 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM*

Help spread the word about our VBS, Clothing Giveaway, and other ministries at the Downtown Farmers Market on Thursday, July 22. We especially need people to help children with a special activity. There are two shifts: 8:00-11:00AM and 11:00AM-2:00PM. To volunteer, contact Todd Ferkey at 715-423-9792.



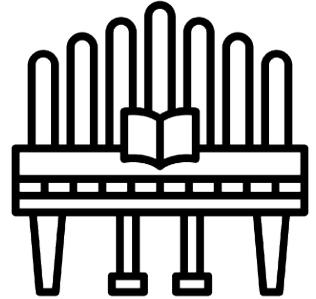
## PLASTIC BOTTLES NEEDED



One of the VBS crafts calls for clean plastic water or soda bottles-16 or 20 ounce-with caps. If you empty any within the next two weeks, please bring them to the receptacle in the Welcome Center. Thank you!

## ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Through last Sunday, \$20,370 has been given towards renovation of our pipe organ. To lock in pricing on the repairs, a down payment of \$25,000 is needed by August 30. We are making very good progress toward that goal. If you would like to give a special gift, over and above your regular giving, just mark "Organ Fund" on your offering envelope or pick up a special envelope in the Welcome Center. Ultimately, we would like to raise \$125,000 to cover the full cost of the renovations. You can track our progress by checking the "Attendance & Offering Report" in the weekly bulletin or the chart on the east wall of the Welcome Center.



## VOLUNTEER AT DIME & DOLLAR

The Dime & Dollar Thrift Store, located at 1351 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, is in need of volunteers, especially cashiers and baggers. Please consider volunteering once a month, once a week, or more often. For more information, please contact Jan Peronto at 715-340-2809.



# CALENDAR

July 18-25

<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Worship
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Booth at the Downtown Farmers Market</b>
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 205

From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 1,055,484

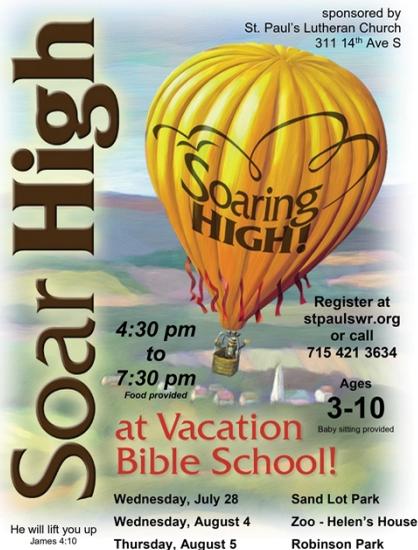
Actual cost of ministry: \$ 1,151,947

Mortgage balance: \$1,234,563

Organ Fund balance: \$20,370

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28	VBS at Sand Lot Park
Aug. 3-4	Clothing Drive
Aug. 4	VBS at Zoo Helen's House
Aug. 5-7	Clothing Giveaway



sponsored by  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
311 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S

**Soar High**

Soaring HIGH!

Register at  
stpaulswr.org  
or call  
715 421 3634

4:30 pm  
to  
7:30 pm  
Food provided

Ages  
**3-10**  
Baby sitting provided

**at Vacation Bible School!**

Wednesday, July 28 Sand Lot Park  
Wednesday, August 4 Zoo - Helen's House  
Thursday, August 5 Robinson Park

He will lift you up  
James 4:10



311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)  
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Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org)