

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



*I came to bring
fire to the earth...*

LUKE 12:49, NRSV

Tough Truths:
We Want Peace, God's Word Divides
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 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 Service



We often divide humanity into groupings that are not really significant: this ethnic group versus that one, men versus women, wealthy versus the poor. Yet, every ethnic group is under God's law. That law convicts both men and women of sin. Because of sin, the wealthy and the poor will both die. Only through faith in Christ is sin forgiven and the sting of death removed. God's Word creates that saving faith, but not in everyone who hears it. Fallen man retains the awful power to resist the working of the Spirit inside him... to reject the gift of faith.

Therefore, God's Word produces the only people grouping that ultimately matters: believers and unbelievers. We want to overcome division and live in peace with other people. Here is a hard truth: total peace is impossible for the believer to achieve. Those who embrace the gospel in faith will inevitably face hostility and opposition. Following Jesus will come at a price. Yet he promises us our perseverance will be rewarded

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Two

Welcome

Hymn

590 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23–29

The Word of God divides what is true from what is false.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

4C O God, Be Gracious
Join as you feel comfortable.



1 O God, be gra - cious; hear my prayer, and
 2 How long, O God, will li - ars boast while
 3 When ter - ror wakes me from my dreams and
 4 Some fear that you will not pro - vide; they
 5 Now lay me down to sleep in peace; in



an - swer when I cry. You give me hope in
 I am smeared with shame? Come, set your faith - ful
 shakes me through and through, teach me to pray with
 cry, "Show us your face!" But you have sat - is -
 safe - ty let me rest. O God, with - in your



my dis - tress; you will not pass me by.
 ser - vant free; I call up - on your name!
 con - fi - dence and put my trust in you.
 fied my heart with good - ness, joy, and grace.
 lov - ing care I am for - ev - er blessed.

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Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1–13

New converts would often be divided from their friends; the only way to persevere would be to fix their eyes on Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 15:58
Please sing the Alleluias.



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Pastors sing:

Always give yourselves fully to the work / of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is / not in vain.

Refrain

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Gospel

Luke 12:49–53

Jesus makes it clear that his work and Word would cause division, even among families.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

870 O Church, Arise

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Connect Card

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

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment and respect. Help parents to grasp the value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



WELS Connection Video

Non-traditional Seminary Students

Hymn

838 The Will of God Is Always Best

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

876 Fight the Good Fight

Join on verse 2.



Take Home/Bible Study Questions

1. Read Luke 12:49-53. We may be confused at these words of Jesus. Isn't he a bringer of peace? (cf. Luke 2:14; 7:50; 10:5-6; 24:36) However, other references point to Jesus bringing division. (cf. Luke 2:34-35; 7:29-30; 20:9-19) In what ways can this **apparent** contradiction be reconciled?
2. Read Jeremiah 23:25-28a. God was speaking against false prophets and their dreams. What might these kinds of prophets look like today and what might they be saying? In what ways can these same dangers be found in our own hearts?
3. The division Jesus brings often cuts close to home and brings a great deal of pain, as illustrated in Luke 12. Yet, as a Christian we are joined to Christ and, in a way, experience everything he experienced, including division and strife. Based on Hebrews 12:2-3 and John 15:18-25, in what ways can you encourage someone wrestling with hostility and division Jesus brings?

Activity: Based on those encouragements, write a letter to a friend who fits the description above. If you don't have someone like that, write a letter to your past or future self who already has or may yet wrestle with division.

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study:

Sermon Deep Dive

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

Opening in Grades 1-8

St. Paul's Lutheran School still has openings in its 1st – 8th grade classrooms. (3K, 4K & K are full.) Contact Principal Melso to apply at 715-421-3634 ext.1118 or principal@stpaulswr.org. Parent Orientation is this week, and classes begin on Aug. 24.

Upcoming Foundations Course

Aug. 31 | 6:30 PM

Foundations of the Christian Faith is twelve lessons covering the basics of Christianity and what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. Whether you've been at St. Paul's for weeks or decades, this course and its materials will teach you something new. The classes will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm through mid-November. Come to be refreshed with the core teachings of the Bible and to expand your knowledge. Better yet, invite a friend to come study with you and learn the Foundations of the Christian Faith. Classes begin August 31.

Seeking Sunday School Teachers

We would like to add a few people to our Sunday School staff. Share the truths of scripture with children ranging from 3K to 6th grade through familiar Bible accounts and fun activities. The more volunteers we have, the less often they need to serve. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please contact Darci Nowak at 715-316-8250.



SPYs Kickoff

Aug. 28 | 12:00 PM

After a busy 2021-2022 (including the Youth Rally) it is time for a new season of St. Paul's Youth (SPYs). We say good-bye to our seniors and hello to the incoming freshmen as we will have our initial gathering on Sunday, August 28th, after church around noon. We will meet in the cafeteria for a quick lunch, followed by a Bible study, planning meeting, and some open gym time! If you or anyone you know is of high school age, be certain to set aside this date on your calendars and join us for food, fellowship and fun!

Donate to the Food Pantry

Our congregation is serving at the local food pantry this week. If you can't volunteer, please consider giving. Pick up a extra cans or boxes at the grocery store next ime you are there. You can place the items in the bin across from the mailslots, and we will make sure they go to the food bank. Or you can deliver your donations yourself to FOCUS at 2321 West Grand Avenue, on the east side of the Sparhawk building.



Before/After School Volunteers Needed

The start of the school year is fast approaching, and we still need volunteers to help with before- and after-school care. You can do just mornings, just afternoons, or both. Volunteer every weekday or just a couple of days a week. Please contact Mrs. Carole Melso or Mrs. Kellie Jensen if you are interested: littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119. Your help would be most appreciated!

Conference on Lutheran Leadership

This conference is for **anyone** who is passionate about the mission of the church and wants to lead others to engage in that mission. The WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held January 16-18, 2023 at the Hilton Chicago. Five keynote presentations will discuss the larger strategic issues facing every congregation. Choose from almost 50 breakout sessions. Learn more at LutheranLeadership.com.

Use Scrip for Back-to-School Shopping

Scrip is available for many retailers that sell clothing and school supplies: Walmart, Target, Kohl's, Staples, Amazon, and many more. You can purchase physical cards or download scrip to your phone. The profit that the scrip program generates from gift card sales helps fund Christian education, or you can choose to have the profit go to a child's tuition account. Just use scrip where you normally do shop. On Sundays, someone at the scrip table in the Welcome Center can help you purchase scrip. You can also visit stpaulswr.org/scrip or nlhs.org/scrip to learn more.

Long-Term Mission Volunteer Opportunity

WELS Mission Journeys wants to place mission-oriented individuals in strategic locations to assist in forming and developing core groups, the building blocks in starting new home missions. A core group does the work of meeting, praying, outreach, planning and evangelism. Current openings are in Idaho Falls, ID and Bentonville, AR. For more information, please contact Mission Journeys Coordinator, Mr. Shannon Bohme, at shannon.bohme@wels.net or 651-324-4218.

Support The Neighborhood Table

St. Paul's usually serves at The Neighborhood Table (TNT) in September. (TNT is a community meal site in Wisconsin Rapids.) Since the onset of the pandemic, TNT has been making take-out meals only and do not need extra volunteers at this time. However, we will still be supporting TNT with a special offering on Sept. 4. TNT also needs donations of store-bought cookies. These can brought to the church by Sept. 7.

NLHS Seeking Vehicles

Northland Lutheran High School is looking for the donation or purchase (at a reasonable price) of two vehicles. The first would be a fuel-efficient vehicle for staff/driver use. The second would be a van capable transporting seven or more passengers in addition to the driver. Please contact Ryan Weichman at 715-297-4427.



Recovery Retreat

WELS members will be gathering in Phoenix, AZ on Oct. 13-15 for the Resilient Recovery Retreat. The retreat is open to those in recovery, family members, and anyone else interested in recovery ministries. The agenda includes sharing groups, panel discussions, and training. For more information, visit RestInJesus.org/the-retreat or call 602-491-4090.

New Share-a-Ride Program

Some of our members would love to be at church regularly, but they are no longer able to drive themselves. That is why we are starting a Share-A-Ride program. To begin with, we will be transporting people once a month. Volunteers just need to leave for church a few minutes early to pick up someone else, then drop them off after the service. To volunteer, please contact Seth Kroells (507-676-7142) or Pastor Plagenz (920-689-3036).

Special Prayers This Week:

- For Georgene Provost as she recovers and tries to regain strength to return home.
- For the Chris & Melissa Johnson Family as they all deal with health issues. Especially for baby Ashlyn, who was born premature and remains in the hospital after two mos.
- For Dorothy Ubinger, whose health is failing
- For the health of unborn babies and their mothers.
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Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	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
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council 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 Parent Orientation in the cafeteria
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Worship

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 188

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 106,588

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 75,930

In June and July, St. Paul's Scrip Program generated \$1,367.24 in support for our school. Families also earned \$449.88 toward their school tuition.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 15-19 ~ St. Paul's serving at food pantry

Aug. 21 ~ Opening Service at Luther Prep

Aug. 24 ~ First Day of School at St. Paul's

Aug. 28 ~ SPYs Kickoff

Aug. 29 ~ First Day of School at NLHS

Aug. 31 ~ Foundations of the Christian Faith





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