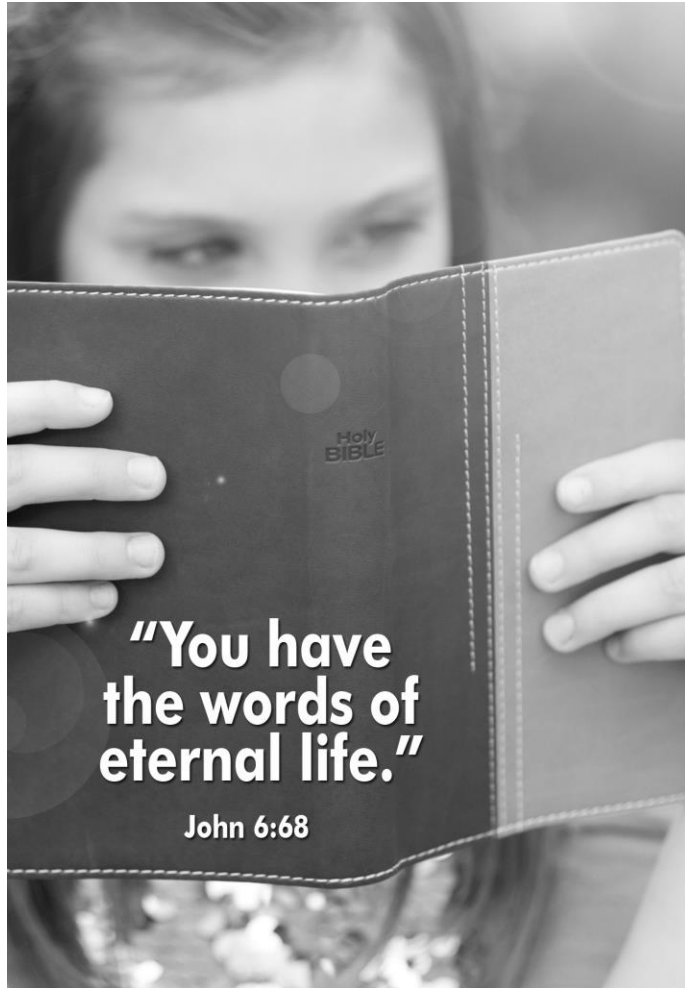


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



I Am the Bread of Life:  
The Only Necessary Food  
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 25, 2024



## 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 can continue to serve you.

Restrooms are located in the hallway outside the gym. If you would like one, large print copies of the service folder or a children's bulletin for kids are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can also help you find the restrooms or answer any other questions you may have.

## Service Notes For This Service



As Jesus concluded his Bread of Life discourse, many said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” and walked away. Read carefully. They did not say the teaching was hard to understand. The meaning was clear enough. Jesus was teaching that the only chance to enjoy eternity in heaven is through a close connection to him. He is the only bread that gives eternal life. That isn’t hard to understand, but it is hard to accept. Eating this bread means reordering our lives so that Jesus is by far our highest priority. It means loving the Blesser infinitely more than his earthly blessings. It means realizing that Jesus is the only thing we really need. If we had nothing but him, we would not lack anything that ultimately matters.

Jesus watches the multitudes walking away from him. He turns to the Twelve—he turns to us this week—and he whispers, “You do not want to leave me too, do you?” May the Spirit give us the wisdom to answer, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Today’s service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist Sue Kulhanek; Chris Williams & Kristi Perry

## Acknowledgements

Setting Two from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

# The Service: Setting Two

Setting Two begins on page 172 of the hymnal.

## Welcome

### Hymn

606 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Stand

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

**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 172

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.**

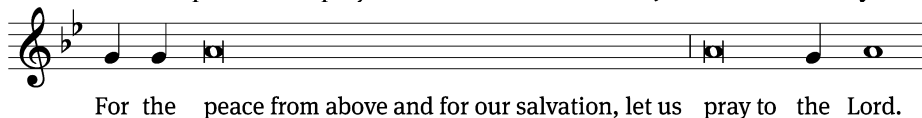
*Silence for meditation and reflection*

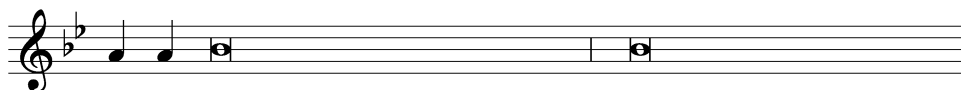
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174





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.**

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## 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 God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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

*Joshua 24:1-2,14-18*

*Joshua asks the Israelites to remain faithful to God who had brought them out of Egypt. The LORD was the only God they needed or wanted.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup>Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel has said.”

From ancient times your ancestors, including Terah, who was the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they served other gods.

<sup>14</sup>Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!”

<sup>16</sup>The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup>For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

*Refrain*

119G Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

*Tone*



Oh, how I / love your law!

I meditate on it / all day long.

Your commands are always / with me  
and make me wiser than my / enemies.

I have more insight than all my / teachers,  
for I meditate on your / statutes. *Refrain*

I have kept my feet from every / evil path  
so that I might o- / bey your word.

How sweet are your words / to my taste,  
sweeter than honey / to my mouth!

I gain understanding from your / precepts;  
therefore I hate every / wrong path.

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*

## Second Reading

Hebrews 11:24–28

*In faith Moses chose to be part of the people of God rather than remaining an Egyptian prince. Being with Christ in the true Promised Land was all Moses needed or wanted.*

<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a little while. <sup>26</sup>He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

<sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's wrath, because he persevered as one who sees him who is invisible.

<sup>28</sup>By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not strike them down.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68



Refrain



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

Tone



Refrain

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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## Gospel

John 6:51–69

*When many left, the Twelve stayed with Jesus, who had the words of eternal life. The Holy One of God was all they needed or wanted.*

<sup>51</sup>“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup>At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me,

and I in him. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”

<sup>59</sup>He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?”

<sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? <sup>62</sup>What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup>He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

<sup>66</sup>After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?”

<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **Children’s Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*631 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening*

### **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*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Today, the prayer will be offered by individual petitions. Each petition will end this way:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The final petition will end this way:*

...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### ***Special Prayers This Week***

†  
†  
†  
†  
†  
†

## Connect Card & 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

### Questions for Examination

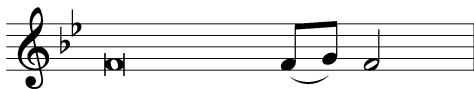
- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens 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.

## The Sacrament

Stand

### Preface

CW 183



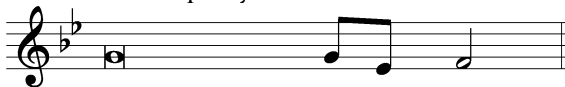
The Lord be with you.



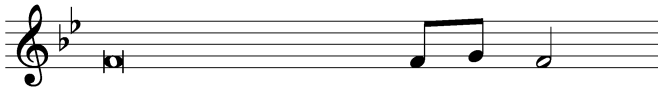
**And al - so with you.**



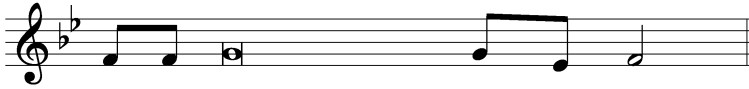
Lift up your hearts.



**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.**

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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

CW 184



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -



san - na in the high - est!

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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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.**

## Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

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

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

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*Be seated*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn

826 From God Can Nothing Move Me

*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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us 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.

**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  $\text{T}$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

*932 Sent Forth by God's Blessing*



# Take Home Questions

---

1. The believers in the nation of Israel made a choice in our first reading. What was their reasoning behind this choice they made? (Hint: see verses 17 and 18)
  - a. Reflect on the Lord's grace shown to you in the past experiences of your life. Make a list similar to the Israelites' of his works in your life.
  
2. Our second reading highlights different aspects of the life and faith of Moses. For each event in that reading, review that portion of Moses' life in Exodus 2 and 12. For what reasons were those actions of Moses so difficult given the context?
  - a. How, then, was Moses able to accomplish those actions? (Hint: what phrase repeats itself not only in this reading but also in the whole chapter?)
  
3. For what reasons is that a comfort for us as we encounter choices like these in our life?
  - a. In the Gospel reading for today, the great popularity Jesus had was coming to an end. Large groups of his disciples were now leaving. Yet Peter, speaking for the twelve, makes a bold confession of faith. Reread that confession in verses 66-69 of John 6.
  
  - b. In what ways can that confession become your own? What concrete, faith-filled, Spirit-empowered choices can you make in your life which would reflect that confession?

# News & Announcements

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**This Sunday's Bible Study:  
Foundations of the Christian Faith**  
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

## School Opening Service

Aug. 26 | 9:00 AM

Join us in asking God's blessings on our school year during the Opening School Service on Monday, Aug. 26 at 9:00 am. The entire school also gathers for worship every Wednesday morning at 8:55 am during the school year. The students and staff are encouraged when other join them at these chapel services.

## Keep our Kids Safe

School Starts on Monday. On school days, please avoid parking in the south half of the parking lot or using the south entrance to the lot during the day. The south end of the parking lot is used for school recess.

## Confirmation Classes Begin This Week

Aug. 28 | 6:30 PM

This year in our parochial school, grade 6-8 are combined, and all of these students will receive catechism instruction. Therefore, our public school catechism classes will cover those same grades. Instruction for all student will begin this week. The public school students will be meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. If we somehow missed contacting you about confirmation, talk to Pastor Plagenz or just bring your child to class on Wednesday.

## New Women's Group Starting in Fall

Sept. 9 | 6:30 PM

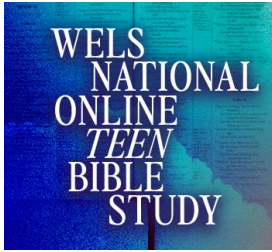
Get to know other Christian women at the new St. Paul's Women's Group that is starting up in September. The main focuses will be on spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. We also hope to learn about and to support the mission work happening in our synod. The first meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 9 in the cafeteria and should last about an hour and a half.

## Help at the Neighborhood Meal

Sept. 19 | 4:00-6:30 PM

Assist the staff at FOCUS Neighborhood Meal as they help address food insecurity in our community. About 20 volunteers are need on Thursday, Sept. 19 to serve, clean up, greet guests, or carry out other tasks. Teens can serve if accompanied by parents. See the Ministry Table for more information and to sign up.





## Online Study for Teens

Sept. 8 | 6:00 PM

It is not uncommon for teens to feel lost, alone, and unlovable. An online teen Bible study from WELS will look at the parable of the prodigal son on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 pm. Teens can join this zoom-style study on their phones and connect with other Christian teenagers. Similar studies are planned quarterly. Learn more at [wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/](https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/)

## Study the Proverbs

Sept. 4 | 7:00 PM

“Wisdom is found in those who take advice” (Proverbs 13:10b). The book of Proverbs has lots of advice on how to lead a godly life, and how to avoid the pitfalls of doing things to world’s way instead of God’s way. The Bible Book Group will be taking on this book beginning Sept. 4. This first meeting will start after the monthly Compline Service, but the group usually meets on Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We hope you can come.

## WELS Pictorial History Available for Preorder

A limited-edition book called *Christ Through Us: A Pictorial History of the Wisconsin Synod, 1850-2025*, is now available for preorder. This book is being developed as part of WELS’ upcoming 175th anniversary celebration in 2025. There is a 20% discount if you order by the end of September. The church office will take pre-orders, so everyone can save on shipping. Your order must be to the office by Sept. 29. You can also order directly from Northwestern Publishing. The book will be available in early summer 2025.

## Online Bible Class for Women

Sept 7/9

The Women’s Ministry Titus 2 Team is offering the online class: “Heirs Together of God’s Gracious Gift of Life.” This course is a study of what the Bible says about men and women and God’s design for them. This 11-week online course is offered on Saturday mornings from 8-9:30 am and Monday evenings at 7-8:30 pm, beginning September 7th/9th. Choose the time that works best for your schedule. If you cannot attend a given week, the video will be recorded so you can watch on your own. Class “seats” are limited! Register at [gf.wels.net/heirs-together/](https://gf.wels.net/heirs-together/)

## Adopt a College Student

As college classes get underway, we are still looking for people to “adopt” one of our young members who attends college away from home. The expectation is that you would send a card, text, or other communication a couple of times a month through May. If it sounds like a good fit, please contact our college ministry coordinator, Stephanie Derringer at 715-459-1926 or [collegeministry@stpaulswr.org](mailto:collegeministry@stpaulswr.org).



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	9:00 AM	<b>Opening School Service</b>
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	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Welcome Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	<b>Public School Catechism (grades 6-8)</b>
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

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 152

## Next Sunday

Theme: The Need for Followership:

Christ's Followers Obey His Law from the Heart

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Romans 9:30-10:4;

Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 4	Evening Compline Service
Sept. 4	Bible Book Group – Proverbs Study
Sept. 8	Sunday School Begins for grades 3K-5
Sept. 9	New St. Paul's Women's Group
Sept. 18	Pie Making Begins
Sept. 19	FOCUS Neighborhood Meal



Lord, to whom  
will we go? You have the  
words of eternal life.

John 6:68



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Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org)