

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



WE REJOICE IN OUR SEEKING GOD

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

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*September 1, 2019*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

The believer loves the lost like Christ. The righteous live by faith; yet how easy it is for the righteous to slip into self-righteous judgment of other sinners, forgetting the grace that has been shown them. Today Christ calls us to love the lost like he does and rejoice over every sinner that "once was lost, but now is found."

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is green, which represents the increase of joy that is experienced when one who was lost is found.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

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Hymns marked CW can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

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

# DIVINE SERVICE II

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

## WELCOME

## HYMN

*Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak | CW 561*

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

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

**Congregation (C): Amen.**

*The name of the triune  
God and the sign of the  
cross remind worshipers  
of their baptisms.*

## 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.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C:** **Amen.**

*A form of this song of praise has been part of Christian worship since the fourth century.*

## GLORY BE TO GOD

*sung to the tune in CW 133*

♪ 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.

O Lamb of God, to you we pray.

You take all human sin away.

Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;

From God's right hand, your mercy share.

You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;

The Father's glory you made known.

We by your Spirit sing again:

"All glory be to God!" Amen. ♪

## *The Word*

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### SALUTATION

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; 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.*

**FIRST LESSON**

*Hosea 3:1-5*

*Despite the adultery of his wife, Hosea was called to seek her out and love her.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

*Psalms 51a | CW p.86*

**SECOND LESSON**

*2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

*Paul urges the Corinthians to search out a man, so that he would know the comfort of God's love.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M:** Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,

**C:** **so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia.** *(Romans 15:4 NIV)*

*The congregation stands for the Gospel out of respect for the words of Jesus.*

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL - Luke 15:1-10**

*Many sinners; two parables; one God who seeks out sinners to show them his love.*

*After the Gospel, the announcement is made:*

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

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

*Be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven | CW 388*

## SERMON – The Ugliest (and Most Joy-Filled) Love Story Ever Told

*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.*

### 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. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering.*

*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

*Compassion Hymn*

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYERS**

M: Father, for giving us life and breath, talent and energy, we thank you. For income and nourishment, for honest work and opportunities to be useful, we look gratefully to you as our provider.

**C: For safety in our travels, we rejoice in the protection your angels give.**

M: Lord Jesus, through you we have the full rights of children of God. What love the Father has lavished on us through our relationship with you! We praise you for saving us and giving your life as a ransom for our sin.

**C: May our spirits revive in the rest and peace of your forgiveness.**

M: Holy Spirit, through Word and sacrament restore to us the joy of your salvation. Cause the good seed of the Word to produce sturdy faith and godly attitudes and behavior in each believer. We rejoice this day in the fellowship we enjoy in our congregation and our synod. Keep our parish and synodical leaders faithful to their tasks.

**C: Make them men of both courage and prayer.**

M: Preserve Christ-centered doctrine and practice in our fellowship at all times.

**C: Make each of us active in Christian service and supportive of our leaders.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Open our eyes to see the spiritual dangers facing those who do not yet trust you as Savior and Lord. Move us to share with them the hope of unending life we have in you.

**C: Go with us into our world, and support us in all we do, to your glory. Amen.**

## **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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## 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.**

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:

*Drawn toward the gifts of Jesus' body and blood, our hearts are lifted up in thanksgiving and praise as we anticipate the reception of the gifts that carry with them our redemption.*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

*sung to the tune in CW 538*

♪ 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. ♪

♪ Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord! ♪

## 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



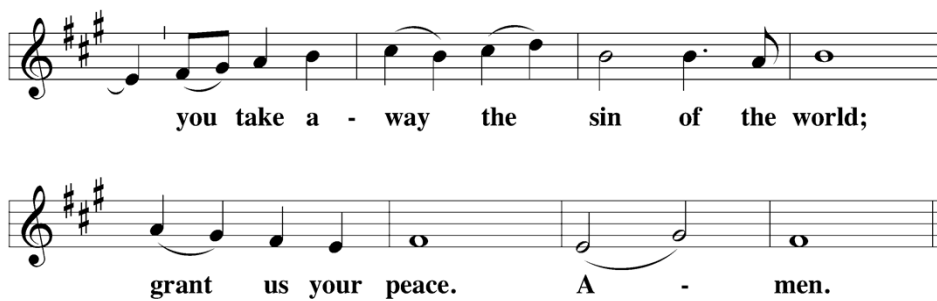
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,



*Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.*

*The communicant members of our congregation will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor prior to communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we've had an opportunity to explain and prove them from Scripture. The pastor would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God's Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*If you are in need of gluten free wafers or grape juice, please ask for directions from an usher.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | CW 310*

*Please stand.*

### SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

*sung to the tune in CW 289*

- ♪ **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.**

## 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.

*The Lord said, "So they will put my name on them, and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound | CW 379*

HAVE MERCY ON ME  
O GOD  
ACCORDING TO YOUR  
UNFAILING  
LOVE

## TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Compare these two statements: "Christians wait for a perfect opportunity to show love to others." or "Christians create as many opportunities as possible to show love to others." What's the difference between the two? Which one do you relate to more? Which one is more biblically accurate?
2. Sometimes in biblical illustrations, we can relate to only one person in the story; I don't think that's true today. Explain how you, at times, play the part of the lost; and how, at times, you play the part of the one seeking what is lost.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 5. Some believe that same man is being spoken of there as in 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. Assuming it is the same person, what stayed the same for Paul in his dealing with this man? What obviously was different? In what ways might this affect how we show love to others in our lives?
4. How could you explain the theme of Hosea to someone who is either new to Christianity or not a Christian at all?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY**

“With so many denominations and interpretations, who can say who is right?”  
and “Religion is a crutch for the weak.”

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

## **CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING**

*October 5 | 8AM-4PM*

St. Paul's is hosting CPR and First Aid training for any interested members. Our ushers and childcare workers will be participating, but anyone else is welcome to come. The cost is only \$20 including lunch. Sign up at the ushers cabinet in the back of the sanctuary or contact Al Verjinsky at [averjinsky@tds.net](mailto:averjinsky@tds.net) or 715-459-2041. (This event was rescheduled after the September calendar was published.)



## **BE A JOYFUL RINGER**

*Sept. 5 | 5:30 p.m.*

We are looking for more ringers for our handbell choir. Practices are on Thursdays at 5:30 PM and will begin September 5. A musical background is helpful. For more information, please contact Marilyn Foley at 715-697-1511.

## **LOVE TO SING PRAISES TO GOD?**

Join the choir and add special music to our worship services. If you are a soprano, bass or in-between, we would love to have you as a part of our choir. Practices begin Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the balcony. For more info, contact Kristi Perry at 715-423-6023 or [kristi\\_joy@hotmail.com](mailto:kristi_joy@hotmail.com).

## **JESUS IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH**

*Sept. 11 | 6:30-8:00PM*

One of the main messages of Matthew's gospel is how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. The book also contains Jesus' main teachings. Explore this gospel in-depth at the Bible Book Group on Wednesday nights at 6:30-8:00 PM. The first meeting is on September 11 in the Resource Center.

## **COME FOR CHAPEL**

You are invited to the school's weekly chapel services, which take place on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. Get a midweek encouragement for your faith.

## **BUILD STRONG PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS**

*Sept. 13 | 6:30-8:30PM*

Learn ways to effectively love your children in their “love language” and see what discipline in a Christian home looks like. A counselor from Christian Family Solutions will cover these topics during a **Family Night** at Northland Lutheran High School. Care and activities will be provided for the children during the presentation. Then family activities and refreshments will round out the night. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

## **GOD WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO YOU**

*Sept. 5 | 6:30 PM*

Learn what keeps us from being close to God and how God is drawing us to be close to him at the class *A People Close to God*. Both new and seasoned Christians are invited to dig deeper into the main teachings of the Bible. The class will meet on Thursdays for about 1-1/2 hours. Please sign-up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center, so we have enough materials prepared. If that day and time does not work for you, please talk to Pastor Proeber about other options (989-780-3184 or [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)).

## **YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF NEXT SUNDAY!**

*Sept. 8 | 6:00 PM*

High Schoolers, don't miss the first gathering of St. Paul's Youth (SPYs). It starts in the SPYs room in the west wing and goes from there. If you have a Christian question or topic you want to discuss about that night, text it to Pastor Proeber at 989-780-3184. (Questions and requests will be kept anonymous.) You can even bring a friend from school, from your community sports team, or even from another church to join us! Pastor Proeber and Mr. Pahl look forward to seeing you!

## **THE NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE**

*Sept. 19*

Our congregation is serving the community meal at The Neighborhood Table on Thursday, Sept. 19. We need lots of volunteers to greet people, serve food, wash dishes, and clean up. Contact Edna Haferman to volunteer (715-423-3776). Our dessert will be home-made cookies. Please bring your cookie donations to the church by noon on Wednesday, Sept. 18.



Wildcat Open at Pine Valley Golf Course – Sept. 14  
NLHS 5K Run/Walk – Sept. 21  
More info at [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org)



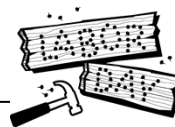
# CALENDAR

September 1-8

<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Cafeteria
	10:30 AM	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	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 AM	Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	<b>Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room</b>
	6:30 PM	Contemporary Choir in the balcony
	7:00 PM	Board of Properties in the Resource Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	5:30 PM	<b>Handbells in the Balcony</b>
	6:30 PM	<b>A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	4:30 pm	HOME Volleyball Games in the gym
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:00 PM	<b>St. Paul's Youth in the SPYs Room</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 8	Northland Sunday
Sept 15	Sunday School Begins
Sept 19	The Neighborhood Table
Sept 29	Open Forum on Call for Associate Pastor



The office is closed on Labor Day & there is no Monday night service.

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 238      Year-to-date average attendance: 242

From July 1, 2019 to August 23, 2019

Actual ministry income:      \$145,783

Actual cost of ministry:      \$170,707      Mortgage balance:      \$1,480,534



*www.stpaulswr.org*

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