

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Who We Are:
We Are All Missionaries
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025



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



Our church is named after the apostle Paul, one of the greatest missionaries in the Christian church. Following his example, we live as missionaries to the individuals God has placed in our lives. With a simple invitation to come and see, we bring others to Jesus one by one.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Tammy Paul; Musical Offering, Bob Hafermann Jr. and Tammy Paul

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

Welcome

Hymn

535 Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the vocal line, the second is the piano accompaniment, and the third is a lower vocal line. The lyrics are: "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.

O Lord God, as you have loved and sought after us, give us caring hearts to love and seek the lost. Overcome our fear, and grant us courage to share our hope of salvation with those who have no hope. Make us faithful in our daily lives so that all we say and do may glorify you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

We bring light to the darkness of the world, and peoples from everywhere come to praise the LORD.

*'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.*

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 8:26–39

Even after Jesus ascended into heaven, Philip continued to share Jesus with those near and far.

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is an isolated area.) ²⁷So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go over there and stay close to that chariot.” ³⁰Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet.

Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹The man replied, “How can I unless someone explains it to me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will talk about his generation? For his life is taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?”

³⁸He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 1:45, 46

Alleluia. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

“Come and see!” Alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:35–46

After finding the Messiah, Andrew and Philip brought those around them to Jesus.

³⁵The next day, John was standing there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned around and saw them following him, he asked, “What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹He told them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying. They stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his own brother Simon and say to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is translated “the Christ”). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

Looking at him, Jesus said, “You are Simon, son of Jonah. You will be called Cephas,” (which means “Peter”).

⁴³The next day, Jesus wanted to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”

“Come and see!” Philip told him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

743 I Hear the Savior Calling

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

Special Prayers This Week

- † For Rob & Sue Lipke who are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary
- † For Milissa Juech, the daughter of Bruce & Pat Jackson, whose cancer has returned
- † For Marla Mueller, whose brother-in-law, Bob Hofschild, passed away.
- †
- †
- †

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.

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. 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.



Musical Offering

Brothers Sisters, Let Us Gladly

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, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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

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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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 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 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 consists of seven staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves contain the first line of the hymn, the next two staves contain the second line, and the final three staves contain the third line. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

746 *I Love to Tell the Story* (sts. 1,7,3)
742 *On Galilee's High Mountain*

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.

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.

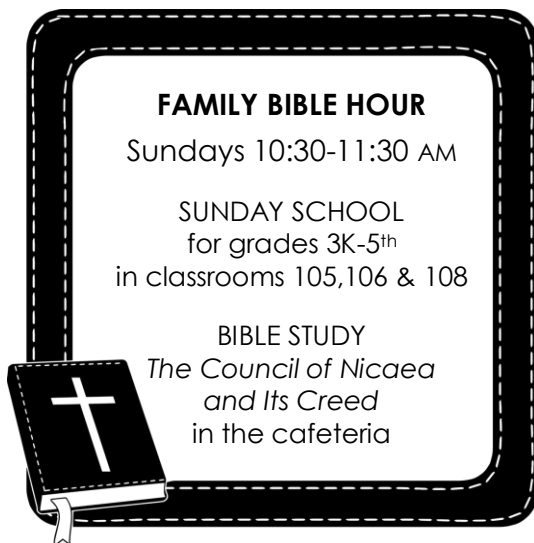
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

908 Go Forth and Preach the Gospel



Take Home Questions

Isaiah 60:1-6

1. Why do we shine as lights in a dark world (vv. 1-2)?
2. What is it that brings people from across the globe together in joy (vv. 3, 6)?

Acts 8:26-39

3. Using the Isaiah passages quoted in vv. 32-33, how would you share the good news about Jesus with someone in your own words (v. 35)?

John 1:35-46

4. How did Andrew respond to meeting and learning from Jesus (vv. 41-42)? For what reasons might Andrew have been so excited to share Jesus with his brother?
5. Dwell on your knowledge and faith in Jesus the Messiah, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” In what ways can you reflect the joy of having a Savior in your life’s priorities?
6. How did Philip respond to a negative reaction to his invitation to see Jesus?
7. What negative reactions are you afraid might happen if you invite someone to hear about Jesus? How could you respond to those reactions by imitating Philip?

Bonus

8. Read the Service Notes on page 2 of the service folder about our core value “We are all MISSIONARIES.” Envision that description in action. What would that look like for us as a congregation? What would that look like for you in your personal life?
9. Write down the name of ONE individual to whom God has enabled you to be a missionary. Share that name with someone else and ask them to help or encourage you to invite your individual to come and see Jesus.

News & Announcements

Greeters Needed

Help visitors and members alike feel at home. Serve as a greeter before the Sunday worship service. Choose a day that works for you. There is a sign-up sheet on the Ministry Table.

Choir Practices Start This Week

Sept. 8 | 6:00 pm

If you like to sing, we could use your voice in the church choir. Practices are on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the balcony. The choir sings special music at our services especially on special occasions like Reformation. Come sing praises to the Lord!

Sisters on a Mission Meets Monday

Sept. 8 | 6:30 pm

Study God's Word, build relationships with other women, and learn about missions. Sisters on a Mission meets once a month on the second Monday. This month's meeting is Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm in the Resource Center. This group is our connection to the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), which is dedicated to increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of mission outreach.

God Understands

Sept. 9 | 9:45 am

Women Walking in the Word will be starting a new study, *God Understands*, on the book of Daniel, on Tuesday, Sept. 9. All women are invited to join us in the library at 9:45. All you will need is your Bible!

Serve at the Neighborhood Meal

Oct. 2

St. Paul's is sponsoring the FOCUS Neighborhood Meal on Thursday, Oct. 2. Volunteers are needed from 4:00-6:30 pm to serve and greet people. Signup sheets can be found on the Ministry Table. Teens under age 18 may also serve with their parents' permission. All volunteers must sign a Waiver and Release Form, which can also be found on the Ministry Table.

Scrip Supports Christian Education

In August, St. Paul's scrip users earned \$400.85 in tuition. Another \$533.72 went to our Tuition Assistance Fund. You can use scrip for every day purchases or special events. Scrip is also available for Northland Lutheran High School. Learn more by visiting the scrip table after worship.

Volleyball Season Kicks Off with a Home Game

Sept. 9 | 4:30 pm

Our school's volleyball team has their first home games this Tuesday. They will be taking on St. Peter's - Scofield with the B Team game at 4:30 pm and an A Team game at 5:00. Concessions will be available. Come cheer on the Panther.



Sunday	9:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria 10:30 AM Sunday School (3K – 5th grade)
Monday	1:30 PM Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services 6:00 PM Choir Practice in the balcony 6:30 PM Sisters on a Mission in the Resource Center
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 4:30 PM HOME Volleyball Games in the gym 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:45 AM School Chapel Service 6:00 PM Bible & Brews at B’s Tap House 6:00 PM Catechism Class in room 110 6:30 PM Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM Men’s Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop 6:30 PM Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
Sunday	9:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria 10:30 am Sunday School (3K – 5 th grade)

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 203

Next Sunday

Theme: Who We Are:

We Are All about the Gospel

Readings: Romans 1:16,17

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 22 School Apparel Orders Due
- Sept. 28 Schoolchildren Singing in Church
- Oct. 2 Serving at the Neighborhood Table

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