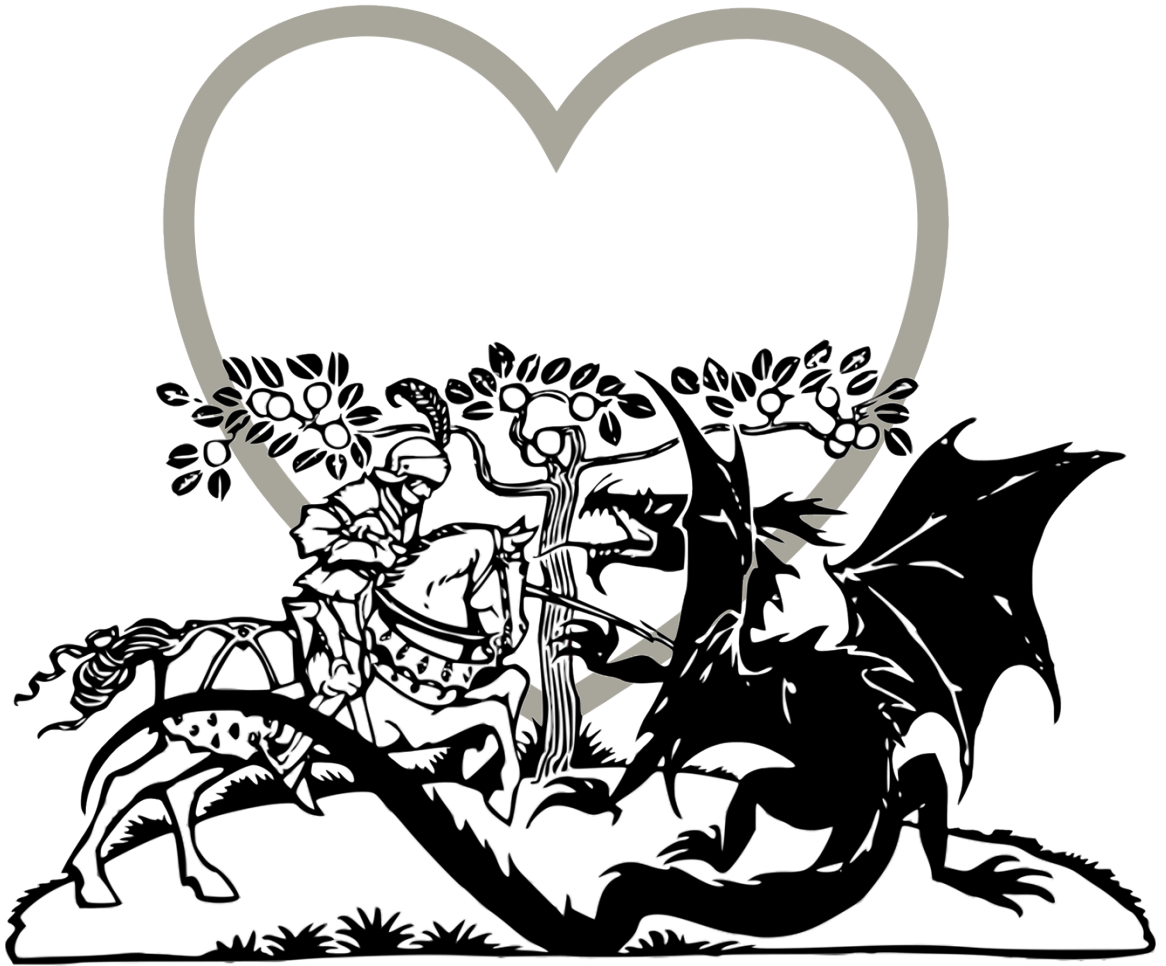


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



A BATTLE RAGES FOR YOUR HEART!

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

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*September 8, 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

Christian schools are often portrayed as places of safety and peace. But—make no mistake—Christian schools are as much a battleground as any other place in this world; because Satan is prowling like a roaring lion, even in our schools. Christian schools are a battleground between the forces of sin and the forces of grace. We equip ourselves and those of the next generations with the weapons of grace which our God provides for us in his Word.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is green, which signifies our growth in the knowledge of Christ through the Word of God.

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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.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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*Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.*

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

*We Have a Sure Prophetic Word | CW 291*

*Please stand.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*

Choir - In heavenly armor we'll enter the land;

The battle belongs to the Lord.

No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand;

The battle belongs to the Lord.

*Refrain:*

And we sing glo - ry hon - or,  
pow - er, and strength to the Lord!\_\_\_ We sing glo - ry  
hon - or pow - er and strength to the Lord!\_\_\_

Choir - When the power of darkness comes in like a flood,  
The battle belongs to the Lord.  
He'll raise up a standard, the pow'r of his blood;  
The battle belongs to the Lord.

*Refrain*

Choir - When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear;  
The battle belongs to the Lord.  
Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near;  
The battle belongs to the Lord.

*Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Lord of the Church, the battle between good and evil rages on. When we are powerless, fight for us; when we are weak, equip us with your promises; when we seek shelter from the attacks of the foe, be our mighty fortress. In all these things, point us to the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

*Proverbs 2:1-8*

*The instructions for spiritual warfare are given as a Father instructing his children.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 144 (EHV®) - Spoken Responsively*

**ALL:** **Blessed be the Lord my Rock,  
who trains my hands for battle,  
my fingers for war.**

Minister: He shows me mercy.  
He is my stronghold, my high fortress.

**Men:** **He is my deliverer and my shield,  
so I take refuge in him.**

**Women:** **He subdues peoples under me.**

Minister: Lord, what is man that you notice him,  
the son of man that you consider him?

**ALL:** **Man is like a breath.  
His days are like a passing shadow.**

**Men:** **Lord, rip open your heavens and come down.  
Touch the mountains so that they smoke.**

**Women:** **Send out lightning and scatter them.  
Shoot your arrows and rout them.**

Minister: Reach down your hand from on high.  
Rescue me and snatch me from the mighty waters,  
from the hand of foreigners whose mouths speak lies,  
who raise their right hands to a false oath.

**ALL:** **God, I will sing a new song to you.**

**Women: On the ten-stringed harp I will make music to you,**

**Men: to you who gives victory to kings,**

Minister: to you who delivers David his servant from the evil sword.

**Women: Rescue me and snatch me from the hand of foreigners  
whose mouths speak lies,  
who raise their right hands to a false oath.**

**Men: Then our sons in their youth will be like full-grown plants.**

**Women: Our daughters will be like corner pillars carved to decorate a palace.**

**ALL: Our storehouses will be filled with produce of every kind.  
Our flocks will increase by thousands,  
by tens of thousands in our countryside.**

Minster: Our oxen will pull heavy loads

**Men: There will be no breaking through our walls,  
no exile into captivity,  
no cry of distress in our city squares.**

**ALL: How blessed are the people for whom this is so.  
How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **SECOND LESSON**

*Hebrews 4:6-13*

*Rest from the battle comes through the Word of 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. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;**

**C: though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. Alleluia. (Ps 27:3)**

*Please stand.*

## **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 10:32-42*

*Jesus warns of the battles at hand and how to fight them.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

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

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You | CW 455*

## **SERMON - Preparing for the Battle**

*Please stand.*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*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.*

## **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.*



*Please stand.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Heavenly Father, you have gathered people of all ages into the communion of saints. Today we thank you especially for the gift of young people to your Church.

**C: We come before you today and ask that you keep them in your care.**

M: Protect them from the perils and temptations common to youth. Help them resist the pressure to engage in godless and immoral activity. When they become confused, show them the way. When they hurt, bind up their wounds. When they fail, restore them according to your mercy.

**C: Keep the cross of Christ before their eyes.**

M: Bless them with good friends, competent teachers, faithful ministers, caring parents, supportive homes, and life-enriching experiences. According to your wisdom, spare them from the perils of unexpected tragedy, severe illness, violent crime, a broken home, or an untimely death.

**C: Keep our children safe from every kind of harm.**

M: Be with our children as they continue to mature. Teach them the value of honest labor and faithful stewardship. Guide and direct them as they prepare for their life's vocations.

**C: Remind them that their highest joy is found in using talents and abilities in service to you.**

*Special prayers and intercession may follow.*

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

*Silent Prayer.*

M: Most of all dear, Lord, we ask you to keep this and every generation faithful to your truth. Strengthen believers through regular use of Word and sacrament.

**C: Open our mouths to share the gospel with friends and acquaintances, that each new generation may know the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Amen.**

**C: 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.**

Be seated.

HYMN

O Church Arise

1. O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; Hear the  
 2. Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, But to  
 3. Come, see the cross where love and mer - cy meet, As the  
 4. So Spir - it, come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride. Give \_\_\_

call of Christ our Cap - tain; For now the weak can say that  
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; And with the sword that makes the  
 Son of God is strick - en. Then see His foes lie crushed be -  
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, That we may run with faith to

they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en. With shield of  
 wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or. When faced with  
 neath His feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en! And as the  
 win the prize, of a ser - vant good and faith - ful. As saints of

faith and belt of Truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's lies; An ar - my  
 trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the out - come is se - cure; And Christ will  
 stone is rolled a - way, and Christ em - er - ges from the grave, This vict - 'ry  
 old still line the way, re - tell - ing tri - umphs of His grace, We hear their

bold, whose bat - tle cry is "Love!" reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
 have the prize for which He died; an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.  
 march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see Him.  
 calls and hun - ger for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

*Please stand.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

**C: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

M: Brother 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.**

*Remain standing.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus | CW 474*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NORTHLAND



**Sept. 13 – Living & Learning: Building a Strong Parent-Child Relationship** will be presented by Stacie Nagorski, a counselor with Christian Family Solutions on Friday. It begins at 6:30PM with a parent presentation, during which care and activities will be provided for children of all ages. Following this, there will be an hour of family activities and refreshments.

**Sept. 14 – The Wildcat Open** will be held at Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon. This golf tournament is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start and supports Northland's Athletics and Engineering programs. Register at [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org)

**Sept. 21 – 5K Run Walk:** Registration/check-in begins at 9AM with the race getting underway at 10AM. Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers regardless of age. The morning wraps up with lunch, awards and prizes. Register at [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org).

**Sept. 21 - Homecoming Game:** Varsity soccer game at 1:00 p.m. with an alumni soccer game following.



### Celebrating 40 Years of God's Grace!

Oct. 18 – Koiné Concert and Pig Roast

Oct. 20 – NLHS 40th Anniversary Service

# *TAKE HOME QUESTIONS*

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1. The Word of God is our greatest weapon and also our greatest source of rest. How can both of those seemingly opposite things be true?
2. Jesus speaks very strongly about the personal battles believers will have to fight. In what ways does it become so difficult to treat God as the most important thing, especially when family or close friends turn against us because of our faith?
3. Looking over the verses of Proverbs 2, list at least five other Bible verses that come to mind as you read them. If you can't think of specific verses, simply list five different truths that these verses tell you about God and his Word.
4. What part can you personally play in helping the next generations fight against the enemy? (Hint: the answer is not, "It doesn't matter" or "I don't have a part to play")

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Presentation on NLHS by Mr. Frank Van Brocklin  
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

## **YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF TONIGHT**

*Sept. 8 | 6:00PM*

Don't miss the fun and fellowship at the first gathering of St. Paul's Youth (SPYs). It starts in the SPYs room in the west wing and goes from there. 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!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY**

*Sept. 15 | 9:15-10:15AM*

Give your kids a solid foundation in Bible history and instruction in the faith that is aimed at their stage of development. Bring them to Sunday School! There are classes for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Everyone will meet in Room 106 (Mr. Melso's Math Classroom). After a joint devotion, the class will be divided by grade level.

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

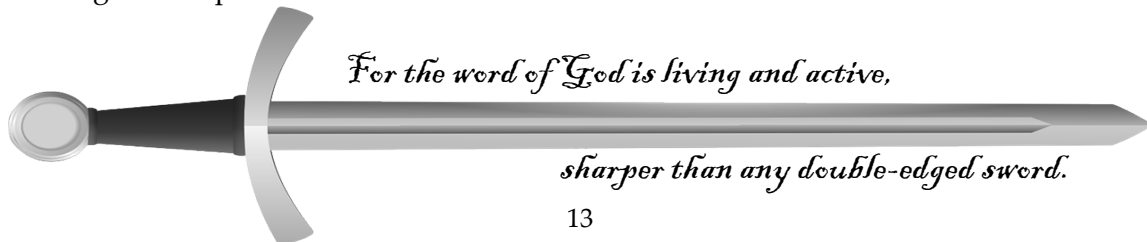
*Sept. 11 | 6:30PM*

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.



## 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.

## 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.)

## HELP AT THE FOOD PANTRY

*Sept. 30-Oct 4*

Our church family is serving at the South Wood Emerging Food Shelf (SWEPS) the week of Sept. 30. We will be bagging grocery orders from noon until 4:00PM on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday and from 4:00 until 7:00PM on Tuesday. If you can help during these hours, please contact Judy Anderson at [5janderson@charter.net](mailto:5janderson@charter.net) or 715-423-5922.

## COCA COLA GIVE

Our school recently received a check for \$64.30 from the Coca Cola Give program. The amount is based on the number codes entered on behalf of our school. You can do this on your own at [us.coca-cola.com/give](http://us.coca-cola.com/give), or you can bring the codes to the school and a volunteer will enter them for you. Codes can be found inside bottle caps and cardboard cartons of Coca Cola products. It is a way to support Christian education without spending extra money.

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 217

Year-to-date average attendance: 241

From July 1, 2019 to August 30, 2019

Actual ministry income: \$170,277

Actual cost of ministry: \$172,141

Mortgage balance:

\$1,480,534

# CALENDAR

September 8-15

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Northland Presentation in Church
	10:30 AM	Worship
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>St. Paul's Youth in the SPYs Room</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:15 AM	Board of Elders in the Bible Study Room
	5:00 PM	Board of Mission Outreach in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Board of Properties in the Resource Center
<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	Board of Lutheran Education in the Resource Center
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 AM	Chapel Service
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Bible Book Group in the Bible Study Room</b>
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir in the balcony</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:00 pm	Hafermann Singers at Atrium Care Center
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the Balcony
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Presentation by Christian Giving Counselor Jerry Ewings
	<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School for grades K-6</b>
	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Bible Study Room

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 19	The Neighborhood Table
Sept 29	Open Forum on Call for Associate Pastor
Sept 30-Oct 5	St. Paul's Serving at Food Pantry



[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

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