

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



DON'T FIGHT THOSE  
WHO HAVE THE SAME GOAL  
*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*September 26, 2021*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**



Don't Fight Those Who Have the Same Goal. The gifts of God are so rich and varied that the devil uses that very generosity of God to stir up jealousy and envy. That jealousy and envy even takes place within the Church, whether within a single congregation or across church bodies.

This plays right into the devil's hand so that Christians are not focused on the goal of winning souls for Christ; instead, they are focused on winning arguments and being right. How is this issue remedied? We look to Christ and see how he allows us to look at things in the proper light.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is green, which is the color of growth. Our faith and trust in God grow as we hear the Word. Our love for others also grows as we are called to serve them.

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<sup>1</sup> The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and 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

*Hark! The Church Proclaims Her Honor | CW 530*

*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.**

*When we confess our sins regularly and corporately (together with fellow Christians), we remind ourselves that the Church is something bigger than we are. Yet, there is also something profoundly personal about confessing our sins to the Lord.*

## 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.

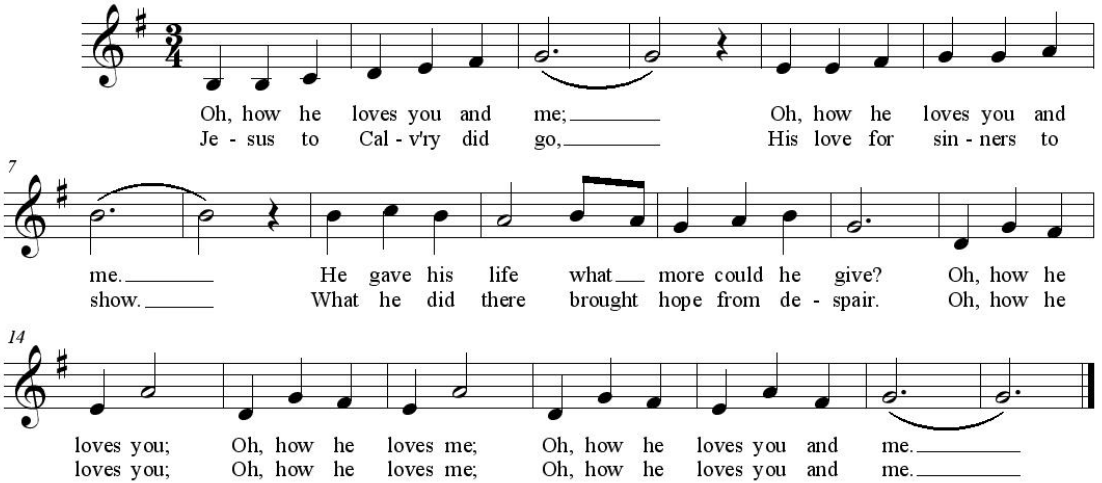
**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

C:

*Oh, How He Loves You and Me*



Oh, how he loves you and me; \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, how he loves you and  
 Je - sus to Cal - v'ry did go, \_\_\_\_\_ His love for sin - ners to

7  
 me. \_\_\_\_\_ He gave his life what \_\_\_\_\_ more could he give? Oh, how he  
 show. \_\_\_\_\_ What he did there brought hope from de - spair. Oh, how he

14  
 loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me. \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

*The Word*

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**FIRST LESSON**

*Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

*Moses responds to a question of authority.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Refrain:* ♪ Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. ♪

♪ The heavens declare the glo'ry of God;\*  
The skies proclaim the work 'of his hands.  
Their voice goes out into 'all the earth,\*  
Their words to the ends 'of the world.

*Refrain*

♪ The law of the LORD is 'perfect,\*  
Giving joy 'to the heart.  
The commands of the LORD are 'radiant,\*  
Giving light 'to the eyes.  
They are more pre'cious than gold;\*  
They are sweeter than 'honey.  
By them is your 'servant taught;\*  
In keeping them there is 'great reward.

*Even though our sinful natures and the way of the world would disagree, there is much good to be found in following all of God's laws. As this Psalm says, we are taught by them, and God blesses us through them.*

*Refrain*

♪ May the words of my mouth and the meditation 'of my heart\*  
Be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Re'deemer.

♪ 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 LESSON

James 4:7-12

*We keep our focus on God, the Lawgiver and Judge of all.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul?

C: **Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul? Alleluia!** (Matthew 16:26)

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

*Mark 9:38-50*

*Whoever is not against us is for us.*

*After the reading, 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 a special message.*

## HYMN

*If God Himself Be for Me | CW 419 (1, 4-7)*

## SERMON

*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.*

*What a joy it is to know that countless other Christians across many generations, cultures, and church affiliations have joined us in confessing their faith using these same words. We rejoice in the biblical truth of "the Holy Christian Church."*

## 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. 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: Clarinet Duet

*Please stand.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: God, you have come near to us by sending your only Son in the flesh. Draw us to you. Lift us up. Guard and protect us from every evil. Lord, may our prayers be pleasing in your sight.
- C: **You are our Rock and our Redeemer.**
- M: Pour out your Holy Spirit on all your faithful people that they may speak your Word and enlarge your church. Lord, may our prayers be pleasing in your sight.
- C: **You are our Rock and our Redeemer.**
- M: Let the word of your gospel go out into all the earth, even to the ends of the world. Bring those in darkness into your wonderful light. Lord, may our prayers be pleasing in your sight.
- C: **You are our Rock and our Redeemer.**
- M: Send your holy angels to watch over your people. Keep us from all harm and danger. Preserve us through all hardships. Keep the wicked foe far from us. Lord, may our prayers be pleasing in your sight.
- C: **You are our Rock and our Redeemer.**
- M: You promise to give your Spirit to your people and to give them peace. Lift up those who suffer with anxiety, illness or pain. With your healing Word, refresh their souls and bring joy to their hearts. Lord, may our prayers be pleasing in your sight.
- C: **You are our Rock and our Redeemer.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

- M: Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Most gracious God, work in us to act according to your will. Make us fearful of offending you, thankful for your mercies, humble under your correction, devout in your service, and repentant of our sins. Sanctify us that our whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

*In Christ There Is No East or West | CW 539*

*Please stand.*

### CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

**C: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### BLESSING

M: Brothers 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.**

*Be seated.*

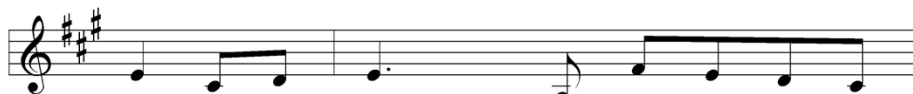


# CLOSING HYMN

May the Peace of God | CW 745



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa -  
peace which pass - es un - der - stand -



ther, And the grace of Christ the ris - en  
ing, And this grace which makes us what we



Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the  
are, And this fel - low-ship of his Com -



Spir - it Keep our hearts and minds with - in his  
mun - ion Make us one in spir - it and in



love. And to him be praise for his  
heart.



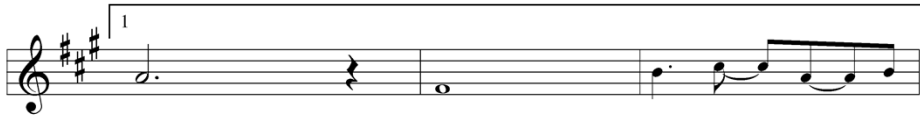
glo - rious reign From the depths of earth to the



heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the



Lamb once slain— Christ e - ter - nal, the King of



kings.



2 May this kings.

Peace

# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Both Joshua in Numbers 11 and John in Mark 9 had similar reactions to the ministry of people outside their group. Both men are corrected and encouraged to rejoice in the Lord's work in other places. In what ways do we as individuals, as a church, and as a synod fall into the same attitude of Joshua and John?
2. In Mark 9 John tried to stop the ministry of someone who wasn't following Jesus. Read the following sections and make a list of what following Jesus includes: Mark 8:34-35; 10:17-22, 28-31; 13:9,13; Luke 9:57-62. In what ways does this list help us better understand John's frustration with the man not following Jesus? How does this impact the lesson Jesus wanted John to learn?
3. Some read Jesus' words in Mark 9:43-47 and think, "Jesus doesn't actually want us to cut off parts of our body. He can't be that serious about sin." But he is. Jesus is calling for extreme measures to be taken. However, what's the "key" to understanding sin and how it is to be addressed? (Hint: read Mark 7:18-23)
4. James 4:11,12 sounds similar to Jesus' well-known words in Matthew 7, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." But just one chapter later in 5:19,20 James commends anyone who calls a sinner back from his errors. In what ways can these two sections both be correct and good for us to do?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

## **CONCERT WATCH PARTY**

*Sept. 26 | 3:00 PM*

WELS National Hymnal Week wraps up with a concert watch party. The concert will feature Luther Preparatory School (LPS) and Martin Luther College (MLC) choirs, the WELS Chamber group Canticum, and a liturgical ensemble, Trinitas. Refreshments will follow. Hope you will join us.

## **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

*October 3 & 4*

One of the things we missed most during the pandemic restrictions was being able to stand side by side as we receive the Lord's Supper. The sacrament connects us to Christ—and to one another. Matthew 26:26-27 says, "Take and eat; this is my body. . . Drink from it, all of you." This is why we gather. There is just no replacement for it. Next Sunday, we are going to celebrate as a church family and praise God for the blessings of public worship including the Lord's Supper. It's not too late to reach out to someone with a personal invitation to join us as we gather and praise God for all of his blessings. Reach out to that person today. See you next Sunday!

## **OPEN FORUM ON THE PETER PLAN**

*Oct. 3 | 9:15 AM*

In 2022, we will implement The Peter Plan, a strategy for tracking and following up with members to make sure everyone is fed with God's Word regularly. Details of the plan have been shared many times over the last two months. However, during the Family Bible Hour next Sunday, we will have an open forum so you can ask any questions you still have about The Peter Plan.

## **WANT YOUR OWN HYMNAL?**

If you would like your own copy of the new hymnal for use at home, you can sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. You can purchase a pew edition or a gift edition of the hymnal as well as the psalter and a devotional book.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT RETURNS

Oct. 31 | 4:30-6:30 PM

God willing, we will hold Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 31 from 4:30-6:30 PM. We need lots of volunteers to park their cars in our parking lot and distribute treats to neighborhood children. Wearing a costume or decorating your vehicle are optional, but make it more fun for the children. Donations of individually wrapped candies or other treats are also appreciated.

## LAST CHANCE TO SUBSCRIBE

To receive subscriptions to *Forward in Christ* or *Meditations* magazines at a discounted rate, please contact the church office by this Thursday, Sept. 30. Examples of the magazines are available across from the church mailslots.

## VALUE THE GIFT OF LIFE

October 16

Enjoy an engaging and informative day among your Christian friends at the Christian Life Resources National Convention in Jackson, WI. Topics will include the future of life issues; embryo adoption; the impact of suicide on the bereaved; stem cell research; and, Christian love and the New Beginnings home-for-mothers ministry. For more information, visit [christianliferesources.com](http://christianliferesources.com).

## HELP MAKE PIES FOR FALL SALE

Willing Workers annual Bake/Craft Sale is scheduled for November 6 & 7th. They invite you to join them at 1:30 pm in the cafeteria on Wednesday 9/29, Thursday 10/7, and/or Friday 10/15, to help us peel and prepare apples for yummy apple pies and to enjoy some fellowship. Bring along peelers and knives if you have them. If you plan to donate apples, please have them here by 9/29.

If you are canning pickles, jams and jellies, please save a few to add to the sale offerings, along with any knit or crocheted items, and woodwork or artwork articles. All proceeds from the sale go to support church projects.



**Do not speak against one another, brothers.**

**- James 4:11**



## **MISSION RALLY ON SATURDAY**

*October 2*

Learn about Campus Ministry at the Fall Mission Rally. Both men and women are welcome to attend this event, which will be held at Northland Lutheran High School. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and activities should conclude around 11:30 AM. The rally is organized by the Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). Offerings collected at the rally will support WELS Campus Ministry, mission work in Arizona and Florida, and the LWMS Home Office. If you have been collecting money in a mite box, please bring in your mite box by Sept. 26, so we can deliver to the LWMS.

## **WANT TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME?**

St. Paul's has part-time openings for Childcare Workers, an Administrative Assistant, and a Janitor. We can be flexible on hours and days of the week. These are great opportunities for college students or mature high school students to make extra money during the school year, or for a retired person to supplement their income. Contact us to see if you are a good fit: 715-421-3634 or [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org).

## **VOLUNTEER AT DIME & DOLLAR**

In June, the Dime & Dollar Thrift Store moved to Wisconsin Rapids. Since then, the store has enjoyed great success. However, there is an ongoing need for volunteers to accept donations, sort items, restock shelves, operate the cash register, and bag. As the weather turns cooler, some of the regular volunteers are either heading south for the winter. Please consider volunteering a few hours a week or several days a month. Whatever works for you! Please call the store at 715-421-2030 or stop in the store at 1351 8th St., S. to pick up a volunteer application or check with the church office for a copy and return to Jan Peronto.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Oct. 3            Open Forum on The Peter Plan
- Oct. 24          Meeting to Call a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Oct. 31          Trunk-or-Treat
- Nov. 6 & 7      Bake & Craft Sale



# CALENDAR

September 26 - October 3

- SUNDAY**      8:00 AM    Worship  
                  9:15 AM    Catechism Class in the West Wing classroom  
                  9:15 AM    Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria  
                  9:15 AM    Sunday School (grades 3K-6)  
                  10:30 AM    Worship  
                  **3:00 PM    Concert Watch Party in Church**
- MONDAY**      6:30 PM    Worship
- 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 Resource Center
- WEDNESDAY**    8:55 AM    School Chapel Service  
                  1:30 PM    Pie Making Session in the cafeteria  
                  6:30 AM    Bible Book Group in the Resource Center  
                  6:30 PM    Foundations of the Christian Faith in the cafeteria
- THURSDAY**    7:00 AM    Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
- SUNDAY**      8:00 AM    Worship  
                  9:15 AM    Catechism Class in the West Wing classroom  
                  **9:15 AM    Open Forum on The Peter Plan in church**  
                  9:15 AM    Sunday School (grades 3K-6)  
                  10:30 AM    Worship

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 186  
From July 1, 2021 to September 23, 2021  
Actual ministry income: \$ 307,287  
Actual cost of ministry: \$ 230,460  
Mortgage balance: \$1,215,461  
Organ Fund balance: \$ 29,016



**CONCERT WATCH PARTY**  
**Sept. 26 at 3PM**

The best musicians in WELS  
present arrangements of  
hymns old and new via an  
online concert.



*www.stpaulswr.org*

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*Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)*

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