

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Who We Are:
We Are All a Family of Believers
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 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 filled with individuals from different generations, backgrounds, and experiences. Yet, like a family, we are united and walk together in faith. We love, care for, and support each other, always putting others before ourselves.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek; Pre-service Music, Terry Dobratz; Offering Music, Chris Williams; Special Music by the schoolchildren in grade 3K-3rd.

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

607 Ten Thousand Reasons
The schoolchildren will sing sts. 1-2 and the refrains.
Please join on sts. 3 and the final refrain.

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 173

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.

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.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you promised, “Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Thank you for our church, where we can join with sisters and brothers to enjoy the good news and share it with others. Send your Holy Spirit among us to enlighten our knowledge, increase our love, guide our mission, and renew our zeal to carry out the ministry of the gospel here and everywhere.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the early Christian church lived together in unity, devotion, and generosity.

⁴²They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

⁴⁶Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

The humility and love of Christ fills us. We now humbly love and serve those in our family of believers.

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind.

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:3

Alleluia. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit,
but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 13:1–17

On the night before he died, Jesus powerfully demonstrates “you-first” love by washing the disciples’ feet.

¹Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.

²By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. ⁴He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷Jesus answered him, “You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand.”

⁸Peter told him, “You will never, ever, wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹“Lord, not just my feet,” Simon Peter replied, “but also my hands and my head!”

¹⁰Jesus told him, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you.” ¹¹Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. ¹⁴Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. ¹⁶Amen, Amen, I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. (EHV[®])

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

732 In Unity and Peace

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

Special Prayers This Week

† Phyllis Price is celebrating her goth birthday.
† For Damian Alexander, son of Alistair & Rebecca Whitley, who was baptized on Friday
†
†
†

Prayer of the Church

Father in heaven, you make human beings to be the crown of your creation. We are all your children, but we are all unique. You form us by your power, but in your wisdom you make us different from one another. You give us our bodies; you bestow our intelligence; you provide our family and home; you place us in your world according to your wisdom and will.

We thank you, Lord, that you have made us what we are and put us where we live.

As we share the bond of humanity, Lord, so we share the curse of sin. We confess that we are not better than our ancestors or contemporaries. Our iniquities are not less than theirs, and their fate is rightly ours. We deserve the common destiny of hell in payment for the sin we inherit and the sins we commit.

We implore you, Lord, to put aside your anger and free us from the punishment we deserve.

You sent the Son you loved. He came in a body like ours. He ate as we eat, slept as we sleep, wept as we weep, and died as we die. But he did not sin as we sin. You accepted his perfect life and innocent death as the atoning sacrifice for our sins and, when he died, you raised him to life as the assurance that you have justified us forever.

We adore you, Lord! You have forgiven our sins and restored us as your children.

We are all members of your human family, O Father, but now, by the power of the gospel and the working of your Spirit, you have made us members of your spiritual family. We who are different are now one in Christ. We who come from many generations and backgrounds are joined in one fellowship, one communion, one holy Church.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the Savior we share, in the unity of the Church, and in the hope of eternal life.

Help us face the truth that we do not always rejoice in our unity as we know we should. Too often we are unwilling to walk on the path our brothers and sisters walk. We are impatient with their perspectives, taken up with our own traditions, and insensitive to their dreams and fears. Sometimes unwittingly, but sometimes willingly, we think, speak, and act from pride and selfishness.

Forgive us, Lord, for our supposed superiority, our insensitivity, and our failure to love one another.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We walk together on one road, eternal Father, the road that leads to life with your Son. Let him walk with us now, we pray. Give us his life to imitate, his love to share, his passion to heal, and his power to succeed. When this life ends, bring us to the place where we will be free at last and sing his praises in the glories of heaven.

May all the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! 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

Stand

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.

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

731 *Oh, How Good It Is*



Take Home Questions

Acts 2:42-47

1. The early Christians devoted themselves to four things. Explain how each was important to their life of faith.
2. Describe the culture of the early Christian church. How might we emulate those qualities here at St. Paul's?

Philippians 2:1-11

3. Reread v. 1 with special focus on the "if" statements. Write "true" or "false" behind each statement depending on whether or not that statement is a reality. How then does this empower us to live out what's said in vv. 2-5?
4. Trace the path Jesus walked to win our salvation as laid out in vv. 6-11. What steps did he take out of humble love for you?

John 13:1-17

5. What would have been so surprising about Jesus washing the disciples' feet?
6. Can you come up with a modern equivalent to washing feet? What can we do in our church to humble love those around us in the same way?

Bonus

7. Read the Service Notes on page 2 of the service folder about our core value "We are all a FAMILY of believers." Envision that description in action. What would that look like for us as a congregation? For you personally within our congregation? (Be specific!)
8. Reflect on your weekly worship routine. In what practical ways can you further embrace our family of believers with what you do before, during, and after our worship service, as well as throughout the week?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed

Join us in the cafeteria at 10:30 AM

Special Offering Today

Sept. 28

We are taking a special offering today for Feeding Our Communities with United Services (FOCUS). Our congregation will be serving the community meal at FOCUS this Thursday. Your gifts will help cover the cost of the food for this meal. If you would like to give a gift, please place it in the offering plates in the Welcome Center.

Evening Compline Service on First of the Month

Oct. 1 | 6:30 pm

Our monthly evening service is this Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm. We will be following the Compline order of service found in the hymnal starting on page 225. Communion will be offered. If you haven't attended before, we invite you to take part in this special service.

Calling a Teacher

School just got underway, but it is already time to think about staffing for next year. We were able to fill our teacher vacancy this school year through an emergency call. The window for calling teachers for next school year runs October 15 through April 15. We plan to call a 1st-2nd grade teacher as soon as we are able to schedule a meeting through our district president. Watch for an announcement about that meeting coming soon.

Serving at Food Pantry

Oct. 13-17

We will be serving at the FOCUS Food Pantry the week of October 13-17. Volunteers are needed on Mon/Thurs/Fri from 11:45 to 3:45 and Tues from 3:45 to 6:45. (The pantry will be closed Wed that week.) If you can help fill grocery orders at any of those times, please contact our coordinator, Kaytlyn Peardot at kaytlyn.peardot@gmail.com or 970-413-0883.

If you cannot serve at the food pantry, please consider making a donation of non-perishable food items. There is a donation bin under the Ministry Table.



ALL Are Invited to New Bible Study Oct. 9 | 2:50-3:30 pm

Starting on Oct. 9, Mr .Van Weele will be leading a short, personal bible study intended for ALL adults and teenagers (you don't have to be a parent). The study will feature a brief devotion followed by a study on the particular devotional thought or topic. The study will be held every Thursday in church starting at 2:50 and ending by 3:30. Part of the goal of this study is to encourage school families to attend, as the study concludes just when their child is out of school. This would be a great way for church families to connect with school families, so we hope to see you there!



Open House at NLHS Next Sunday

Oct. 5 | 12:00-2:00 pm

Next Sunday, Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) is holding an Open House from noon until 2:00 pm. Whether you are a prospective parent or just want to check out the ministry at NLHS, please stop in to meet the teachers and see what our high school has to offer. No appointment is needed. NLHS is located at 2107 Tower Rd in Kronenwetter.

Mission Rally in Marathon City

Oct. 11 | 9:00-noon

Learn more about the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) at the Fall Mission Rally in Marathon City, WI on Saturday, Oct. 11. This event is for people of all ages interested in mission work. There is a \$3 registration fee, plus a freewill offering will be taken for CAMM.

If you have a mite box or would like to make a donation to missions before the rally, please submit that gift to the office by Oct. 6. Our combined gifts will be taken to the rally to support the International Missionary Wives Conference and Tools for Outreach (for home missions).

Twenties and Thirties Retreat

Nov. 14-16

This retreat is geared toward a younger crowd, people in their 20's and 30's. Enjoy a weekend of fun, playing games, relaxing, and growing closer to your friends and your Savior at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI. The cost is only \$85 per person. Learn more at www.campphillip.com.

WELS Teen Night in Rib Mountain

Oct. 12 | 3:30-6:00 pm

Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to WELS Youth Night. Section 715 in Rib Mountain has been reserved from 3:30 - 6:00 pm for axe throwing. Invite a friend for fellowship, food, and a lot of fun! Parents must sign a waiver for their teens ahead of time. The cost is \$20 at the door. A sign-up can be found at mysaintpeter.org. Questions can be directed to Pastor Kevin Schnake pastors@mysaintpeter.org, Pastor Ben Phelps pastorben@littlelionschildcare.org, or Pastor Grundmeier jgrundmeier@NLHS.org.

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship/Schoolchildren singing
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (3K – 5 th grade)
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services
	6:00 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
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
Wednesday	8:45 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:00 PM	Catechism Class in room 110
	6:30 PM	Compline Service
	7:00 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men’s Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	4:00 PM	Serving at FOCUS Neighborhood Meal
	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)
	12:00 PM	Open House at Northland Lutheran High School

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 225

Next Sunday

Theme: Who We Are: Core Focus

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6-7 Pastors’ Conference in Marathon, WI
- Oct. 6 HOME Panthers Volleyball Game
- Oct. 9 Principal’s Bible Study Begins
- Oct. 10 Fall Pops Concert at NLHS
- Oct. 11 LWMS Mission Rally in Marathon, WI
- Oct. 12 WELS Youth Night in Rib Mountain
- Oct. 13-17 Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry

MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE
BY BEING LIKE-MINDED

Philippians 2:2





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