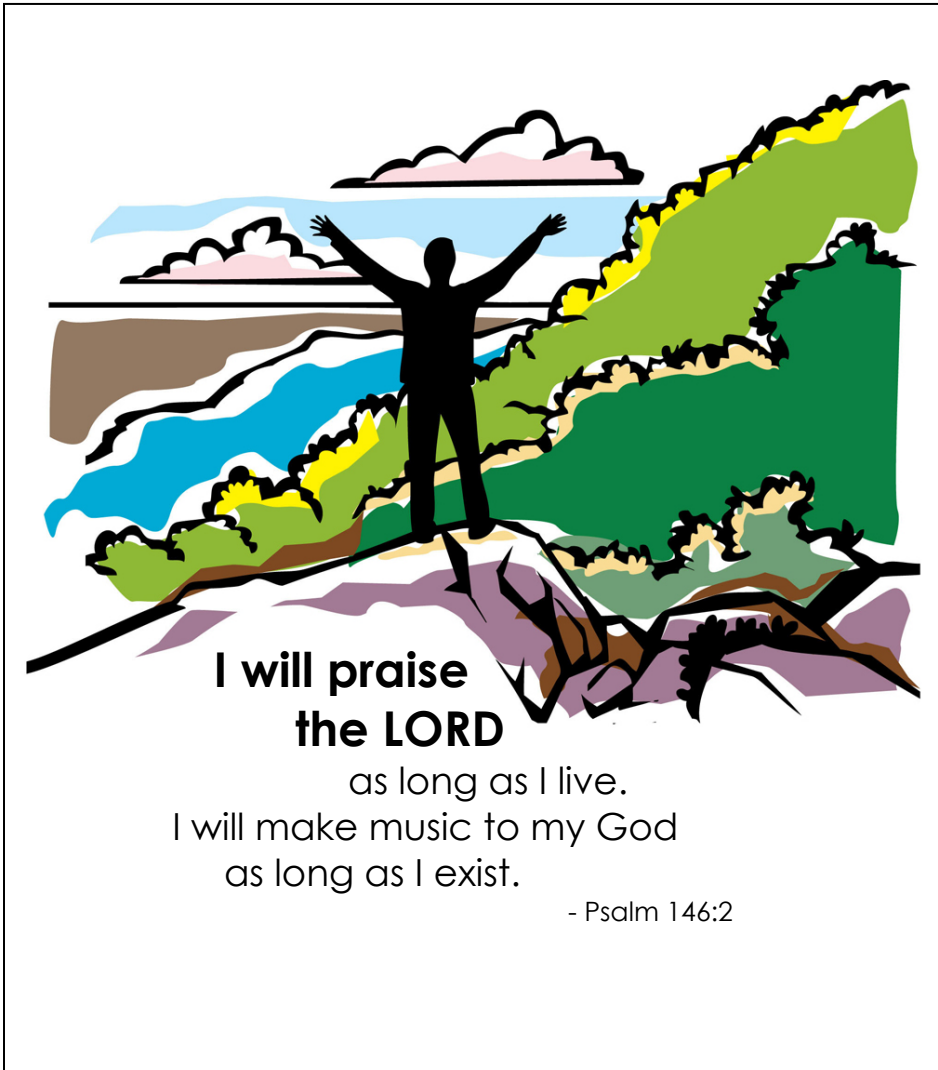


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



THE FOUR PILLARS OF ST. PAUL'S: PRAISE

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 4, 2020



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, 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 online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. There is tape on the floor of the Welcome Center to help assist you in practicing social distancing. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary. Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Offering plates and friendship registers will not be distributed.** Our offering can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. Those with smartphones can fill in the online connect card.
- † **The children's quiet activity bags have been removed.** However, children's bulletins can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



What does God call us to do, both corporately and individually? To answer that question, we are exploring the idea of core values or, as we're calling them, pillars—the things that form and drive the church known as St. Paul's Lutheran in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. The first of these pillars is Praise (or worship). Worship is the focal point of a church's and

Christian's life. Without worship, why have a church at all? While that may sound extreme, let's explore what God's Word has to say about worshiping him. God willing, you will be encouraged and empowered to continue to praise our God for the wonderful things he has done and continues to do for us!

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which symbolizes the bond of fellowship that grows among fellow Christians and between God and his people through public worship.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 11 of this service folder.

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Service of the Word and Sacrament. Words and Music: *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

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

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

The service of word and sacrament proclaims the gospel through God's Word and the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Songs of Praise the Angels Sang | CW 222

Verse 1-Pastors; 2-All; 3-Men; 4-Women; 5-Pastors; 6-All

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Public worship is often called the "Divine Service," which comes from the German word "Gottesdienst." The term developed as an acknowledgment that true worship of God is not focused on what we do, but rather on what God has done for us—namely, forgiving our sins and providing everything we need for body and life.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: **♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.** *CW p.28*
**Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love,
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
You make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
You came to live with us; you made your Father known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. ♪**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, we gather in your presence to hear your holy Word. Open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the reading and preaching of your Word, we may repent of our sins, trust in Jesus for forgiveness, and grow in grace and holiness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON - *Psalm 146:1-10*

The reasons for praising God are many.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Many of the Psalms and prayers of the Old Testament spend time recounting what God had done for his people. In a similar way, the elements of our worship all remind us of what God has done for us through Jesus.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 84 | CW p.96

Read responsively.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

M: How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD Almighty.

**C: My soul yearns, even faints,
For the courts of the LORD.**

M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
They are ever praising you.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

M: Better is one day in your courts
Than a thousand elsewhere;

**C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

M: O LORD Almighty,
Blessed are they who trust in you.

**C: 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.**

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:19-25

Worship is for praising God and encouraging others.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. God is spirit,

C: and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. Alleluia.

(John 4:24)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

Worship consists of humility and mercy, which results in praise.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above | CW 236

Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastors; 5-All

SERMON - The Confidence that Comes through Confessing Christ

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.

THE THANK OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. 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 - *Praise You in This Storm*

Remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

M: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

Silent Prayer

Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

Special Prayers and Intercession

Please stand.

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

THE PREFACE

CW p. 33

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 right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

CW p. 34

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

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.

CW p.35

C: **Amen.**

C: **♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen. ♪**

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.

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

| p. 36

C: **♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪**

M: Let us pray together.

C: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

*Let All Things Now Living | CW 260
Verse 1-Pastors; 2-All*

This hymn wonderfully recounts some of the reasons we praise our God. What a wonderful God we have! What a blessing to be able to worship him!

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 not, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Look at all the reasons God gives for his people to praise him in Psalm 146:5-9. Going through each accomplishment of the LORD, think about how he has done each thing for you in your life. If he hasn't done it for you, is there another person in your life whom God has blessed in that way?
2. What was wrong with the Pharisee in Luke 18?
 - a. In reality, whom did he worship?
 - b. In what ways do we fall into that same trap?
3. The overall theme of Hebrews is "Jesus is better." In what ways do we see that in the verses we heard from Hebrews 10?
 - a. How does that differ from the Old Testament sacrificial system?
 - b. How does that differ from the ways of any religion other than Christianity?
 - c. How does that differ from the way of our sinful hearts?
4. Finish this sentence: Praise is one of the main focuses of ministry at St. Paul's because...

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

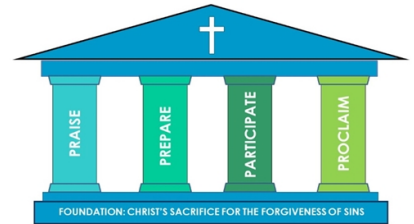
Isaiah: God Will Make All Things New (Chapters 56-66)

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

For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF ST. PAUL'S

During the Sundays in October, we'll hear some of what God has to say about how we can 1) Praise him, 2) Prepare ourselves for life by learning more about him, 3) Participate by serving as an active part of his body, and 4) Proclaim his gospel message to others. But there's so much more to be heard and discussed! Join Pastor Proeber at 6:30, every Wednesday in October, in the cafeteria to explore more deeply why these four things have been chosen as ministry focuses of St. Paul's and what God has to say about them in his Word. While not necessary for participation in this class, it will be helpful to have attended or watched the previous Sunday's worship service. Any questions? Contact Pastor Proeber.



ST. PAUL'S TAKES OVER THANKSGIVING MEAL

Our outreach team met with St. Luke's this week to discuss the handoff of the community Thanksgiving dinner. This year, it will be hosted by OUR CHURCH. Without this event, around 400 families would not get Thanksgiving dinner this year. That is why we felt it was so important to keep this going. We will only be doing carry out and delivery meals. Lots of volunteers will be needed on Thanksgiving Day for food prep help and as delivery drivers. We are also compiling a committee to help pull this off, if you want to help organize things, please contact Michelle Gear at michellemgear@gmail.com or 920-784-4643. Check your calendar to see if this will work for you, and stay tuned for more details. Maybe it will become your new Thanksgiving tradition!

MARRIAGE MOMENTS BEGIN THIS MONDAY

Oct. 5

WELS will begin sending out their Marriage Moments videos this Monday. There is still time to subscribe at wels.net. Each two-minute video is accompanied by one follow-up question. You can also find the videos on facebook.

TRUNK OR TREAT IS A GO

Oct. 31 | 5:00-7:00 PM

We receive assurance from the city that trick-or-treating will not be cancelled in Wisconsin Rapids. Therefore the Board of Mission Outreach is proceeding with Trunk-or-Treat, although scaled back for safety concerns. We will not have indoor activities or serve food. However, lots of candy donations are still needed, plus volunteers to park in the lot and distribute treats.

STUDY ON AUGSBURG CONFESSION NEXT SUNDAY

Oct. 11 | 9:15 AM

When a pastor is installed or ordained at St. Paul's, one of the public promises he makes is that all his teaching, whether from the pulpit or the classroom, will conform to two things—the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Our church gives great importance to the Confessions and specifically the Augsburg Confession, but what does this document actually say? This five-week Bible study will answer that question by examining twelve different articles of this Confession. Come and explore this historic declaration of faith which many say marked the beginning of the Lutheran Church!

VIRTUAL RUN/WALK UNDERWAY

Oct. 3-10

Northland Lutheran High School's (NLHS) annual 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser is a virtual event this year. Sign up and then simply walk, run, or ride up to a 5K anytime between Oct. 3 and Oct. 10. A t-shirt will be mailed to each participant after the event. The cost is \$20 per person or \$75 for a family with all proceeds going to NLHS's Tuition Assistance Fund. To register, go to nlhs.org and follow the link, or call NLHS at 715-359-3400.

HEAR FROM AN ABORTION SURVIVOR

Oct. 9 | 6:30 PM

When she met her birth mother in 2009, Claire found out that she survived an abortion. She will share her story during the Treasure Life event on Friday, October 9 at 6:30 PM. This fall fundraiser for WELS Lutherans for Life is an online event. Learn about the pregnancy care ministry and hear keynote speaker Claire Culwell tell her miraculous story. Watch for free from wherever you are, but you need to register. Find all the details and register at www.ALife2.com/TreasureLife or call 414-727-8176.

ST. PAUL'S SCRIP UPDATE

In September, families earned \$126.86 toward tuition and gave \$474.86 to operate the school through St. Paul's scrip program. Find out more at www.stpaulswr.org/scrip.

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
MONDAY	8:30 AM	Board of Elders in the Resource Center
	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Board of Lutheran Education in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	1:30 AM	Pie Making in the cafeteria
	5:30 PM	Board of Outreach in the Resource Center
	5:30 PM	Board of Properties in the Welcome Center
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Family Room
	6:30 PM	Four Pillars Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	6:30 PM	People Close to God in the Resource Center
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 145

From July 1, 2020 to Sept. 25, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$237,489

Actual cost of ministry: \$250,209

Mortgage balance: \$1,358,048





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