

a
GOD-LIVED
life

STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE

A Life of Hospitality

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

October 10, 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. Please also fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



The God-lived life is a life of showing God's love. Last month, we focused on letting that shine in serving others, doing things for them. In today's worship, the emphasis shifts a bit, and we look at the God-lived life as one that isn't only doing things for others but opening our lives to them.

As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared.

The liturgical color* 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.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

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* The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and the pulpit.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Heavenly Father, you give us time to use in service to others, including those not yet in the family of believers. We repent for times we have used our time selfishly and not considered how we can show hospitality to others.

C: Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**C: ♪ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. ♪ (CW467:3)**

M: Dear Savior Jesus, while we were still sinners, you died for us. You also used every moment to live perfectly for us. You involved yourself in the lives of everyone around you. At times, we admit we have failed to reflect and share that love to those around us.

C: Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**C: ♪ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. ♪ (CW467:4)**

M: O Holy Spirit, you give every person a time of grace to come to know Jesus' love. We are sorry for losing focus on the mission you have given us as your Church and for failing to consider how we can share and show your love for strangers.

C: Forgive us and live within us.

**C: ♪ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. ♪ (CW467:6)**

ABSOLUTION

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: ♪ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.**

♪ **May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r.** ♪ (CW467:1-2)

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to become one of us to cleanse us and claim us. Give us the same spirit of hospitality so that we would look on each stranger as someone who is worthy of our time and concern because of your love for them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**C: ♪ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.** ♪ (CW467:5)

Please be seated

The Word

BIBLE READING

Genesis 18:1-15

Abraham welcomed strangers into his home.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

By inviting others to his house, Matthew invited others to see Jesus.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blest Be the Tie that Binds | CW 494

SERMON

Eating with Sinners

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.

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. 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.



WELS CONNECTION VIDEO

Martin Luther College

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You became one of us. Your hospitality knew and knows no bounds.

C: **Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit so that we view all people we meet the way you do.**

M: Holy Spirit, you have turned our hearts from the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of life and an eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ. You have given us eyes to see our Savior Jesus. Give us eyes to see each person we meet as one for whom our Savior died, and one God loves dearly.

C: **Give us the words we need so that we would always speak in love.**

M: Father, you created us and continue to provide and protect us. Help us to take you at your word. Give us the courage to be hospitable to others whether in the family of believers or those who do not yet know you.

C: Let our generosity overflow to all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Accept our prayers and grant all we need, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died for our sins and was raised again.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN

This Is My Will | CW 497

Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2&3-All; 4-Song Leaders; 5-All

Bible Study

BIBLE READING

Acts 2:42-47

The lives of the early believers were hospitable through and through.

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©)

INTRODUCTION

In general, Christians are viewed negatively by mainstream pop culture while Jesus is viewed positively. Why? What would it take to change that perception?

INTO THE TEXT

1. The early Christians devoted themselves to four things. Explain how each prompted the unity they needed to reflect Jesus to their community:
 - Apostle's teachings
 - Fellowship
 - Breaking of bread
 - Prayer
2. Describe what your experience would have been if you were to visit this congregation.

APPLYING IT

1. Hospitality is literally, "love of strangers," in Greek. To love strangers means that we as a church need to be outward focused. It is easy for churches to lose that perspective and focus on inward concerns. What are ways that our church could become too inward focused? (i.e. How do we insure outward focus?)

2. The early church was “all for one and one for all!” They were generous with all of the gifts God had blessed them with. They were willing to share everything and others noticed. Come up with at least three ways our church can reflect that early Christians spirit of hospitality.

VIDEO

Please stand.

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.

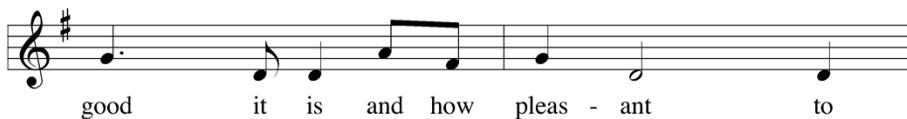
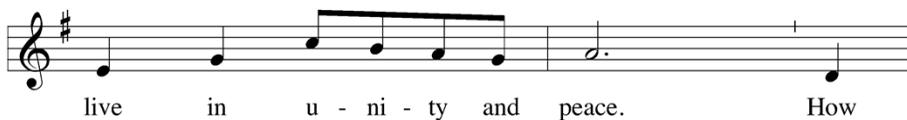
C: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

In Unity and Peace | CW 773

Refrain-All; Verses-Song Leaders; “For there is one Lord...”-All



1-3	<i>To verses</i>	<i>Last time</i>
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live to - geth - er in one Lord. Lord.

Verses

1 In the name of our Lord Je - sus Christ, a -
 2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call; be
 3 Share the love that has joined us as one; u -

gree in ev - 'ry - thing you say.
 hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa - tient.
 nite in spir - it and i - deals.

May there be no di - vi - sions a - mong you, but
 Bear with each oth - er in ways that are lov - ing; pre -
 Nev - er be ri - vals; do not be con - ceit - ed, but

be u - ni - ted in one mind.
 serve the u - ni - ty of faith. For there is
 look to oth - ers in their need.

one Lord, one faith, one

To Refrain

God of us all.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

BE A "TRUNKER"

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

We are expecting lots of children for our annual Trunk-or-Treat, so we need lots of people to distribute treats from their car trunks. Decorations and costumes are optional, but make it more fun for the children. (Some people even set up games so the children can "earn" their treats!) However, candy from a plain trunk tastes just as good. To volunteer, sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center or look for the volunteer link under the Serve tab for our website (stpaulswr.org/serve).

DONATE CANDY

If you cannot be a "trunker", please consider donating candy. If the weather is nice, we can have 400+ people pass through our parking lot, and we don't want to run out of treats! Look for a donation bin in the Welcome Center.

FALL POPS CONCERT AT NLHS

Oct. 17 | 3:00 PM

The band and choir at Northland Lutheran High School are excited to "Bring Back the Music!" with their fall pop concert. You are invited to Northland's gym on Sunday, October 17 at 3:00 PM. Bring a friend!

CALLING A TEACHER

Oct. 24 | 9:15 AM

On October 24, we will begin calling a 1st-2nd grade teacher. Currently our principal, Mr. Melso is teaching this class as well as handling his other duties. Please pray that the Lord would guide us to the person he wants to receive this call. The meeting is on a Sunday morning between the church services, so we hope you will attend.

START CRAFTING

Nov. 6 | 9:30AM - Noon

The annual Bake & Craft Sale is a month away. Your donations of hand-crafted items are appreciated. Proceeds from the sale help fund special projects in St. Paul's church, school, and childcare ministries.

CALENDAR

October 10-17

- SUNDAY** 8:00 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the West Wing classroom
 9:15 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
 10:30 AM Worship
- 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 in the Resource Center
- WEDNESDAY** 8:55 AM School Chapel Service
 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 Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Sunday School (grades 3K-6)
 10:30 AM Worship

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 191
From July 1, 2021 to October 7, 2021
Actual ministry income: \$ 349,414
Actual cost of ministry: \$ 294,451
Mortgage balance: \$1,215,461
Organ Fund balance: \$ 40,901
St. Paul's Scrip in September:
 \$477.70 earned for Tuition
 \$848.52 for School Operations



Trunk or Treat
October 31
4:30-6:30 PM

BAKE & Craft Sale
November 6
9:00-Noon





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