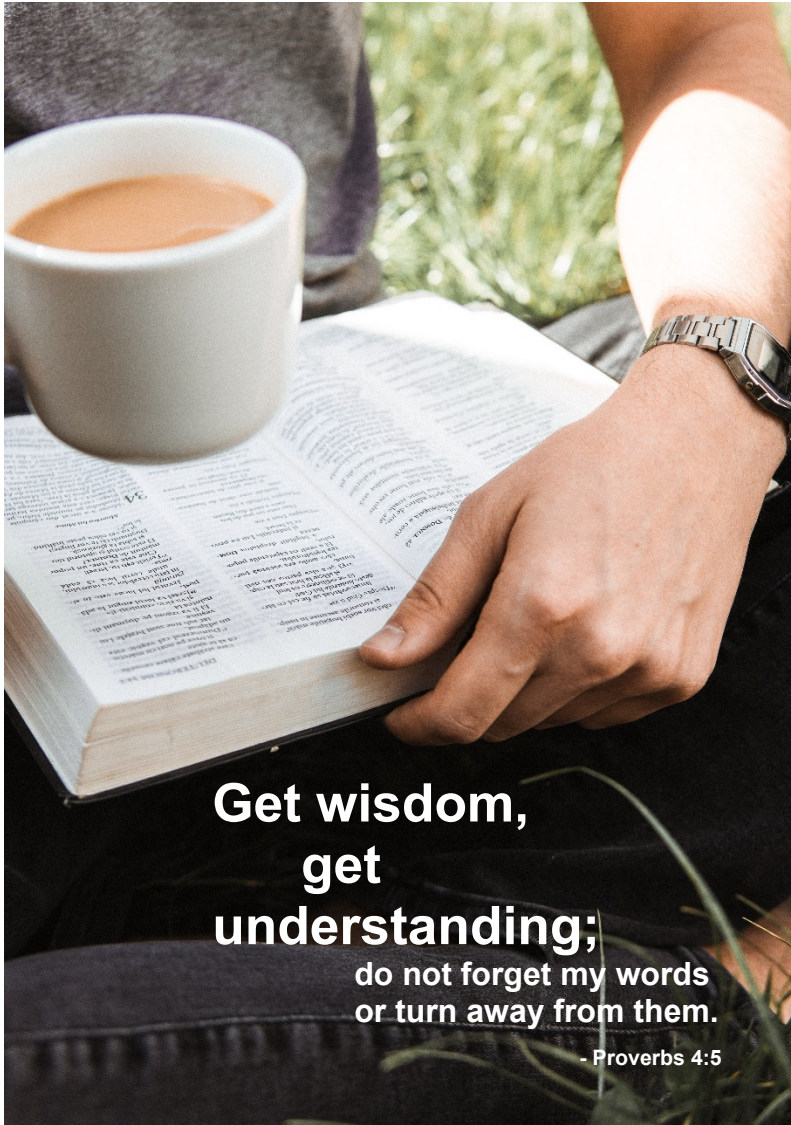


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**Get wisdom,
get
understanding;
do not forget my words
or turn away from them.**

- Proverbs 4:5

THE FOUR PILLARS OF ST. PAUL'S: PREPARE
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 11, 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.

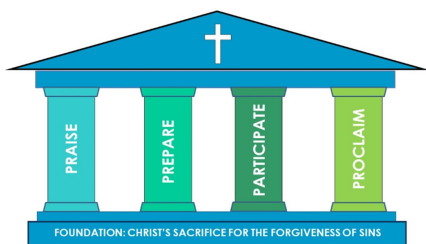
SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **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



Last week, we started to explore the idea of core values, or what we focus our ministries on here at St. Paul's. We're using pillars as a way to help visualize and remember these four areas of ministry. Last week, we looked at Praise (or public worship). This week, we look at Pillar Two—Prepare. God's Word is clear that we are to use it in our lives, whether

times are good or bad, easy or difficult. But what good is the Word if we don't know what it says or how to apply it to our lives? This is where this pillar comes in. We equip and prepare ourselves through diligent and frequent study of the Word, staying close to God from youth to the later stages of life. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for whatever comes our way, so that God might equip and help us, just as he has promised to do!

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, which symbolizes the increase of knowledge and faith that comes from constantly preparing our hearts and minds for service to God.

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

"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)." by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman. © 2011 Shout!Publishing/ APRA/ Thankyou Music PRS / Worshiptogehre.com Songs / Sixsteps Music / Said And Sone Music / ASCAP (admin. by EMIMPGPublishing.com). Used by permission. CCLI#145043

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

10,000 Reasons

Song leaders will sing the verses; please join in the chorus

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul Wor-ship His ho - ly name

4
Sing like nev - er be - fore, o my soul I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chorus, with lyrics underneath. The second staff starts with a measure rest (indicated by a '4' above the staff) and continues the melody for the second line of the chorus, also with lyrics underneath. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and a final whole note.

Song Leaders: The sun comes up It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing When the evening comes

**All: Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, o my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.**

Song Leaders: You're rich in love And You're slow to anger
Your name is great And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find

**All: Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, o my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.**

**All: Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, o my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.**

Song Leaders: And on that day When my strength is failing
The end draws near And my time has come
Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years And then forevermore
Forevermore

**All: Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, o my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.**

Song Leaders: I'll worship Your Holy name
God, I will worship
Your Holy name

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.

*One of the main ways we
prepare ourselves to face the
trials and temptations of this
world is by confessing our sins
and receiving God's forgiveness.
We can do nothing without
God's help and encouragement!*

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: *Firm Foundation*

4 Chorus

Je - sus, You're my firm foun-da - tion, I know I can stand
— se-cure. Je - sus, You're my firm foun-da - tion, I put my hope in Your ho -
- ly Word, I put my hope in Your ho - ly Word.

15 Verse (choir) (all) (choir) (all)

I have a liv - ing hope, I have a liv - ing hope, I have a fut - ure; I have a fut - ure;
Your Word is faith - ful Your Word is faith - ful, might - y with pow - er; might - y with pow - er

19 (choir) (all)

God has a plan for me - God has a plan for me of this I'm sure, of this I'm sure!
God will de - liv - er me - God will de - li - ver me of this I'm sure, of this I'm sure!

(After verse 2, repeat chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you command your people to stay connected to you through your Word. Enlighten with the wisdom of your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn that the joyous truth of the gospel may be known in every generation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 4:1-9

Being prepared means wisely clinging to God's Word.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 78 | CW p.95

Read responsively

All: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

M: O my people, hear my teaching;
Listen to the words of my mouth.

**C: I will utter things from of old,
What we have heard and what our fathers have told us.**

M: We will not hide them from our children;
We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.

All: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

M: The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob
And established the law in Israel.

**C: So the next generation would know them,
And they in turn would tell their children.**

M: Then they would put their trust in God
And would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

**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: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:8-9

Proper preparation brings peace to our lives.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts.

C: **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. Alleluia.** *(1 Peter 3:15)*

We prepare ourselves to tell others about Jesus; but we also prepare ourselves for things that happen in our lives! We do that by remembering that Jesus is holy!

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 14:23-26

Jesus prepared his disciples for what was to come.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Be seated

This is one small way that we can help prepare little ones for the things that come up in their lives.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

For the time being, please keep children with you in the pews for the Children's Message.

HYMN

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear | CW 282

Verse 1-All; 2-Song Leaders; 3-All

SERMON - CONTINUE IN THE WORD OF JESUS

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. 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

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** O Lord, you have revealed your good and gracious will to your people on earth. Forgive us for pursuing knowledge that serves only our selfish desires and for using what we have learned to exploit and hurt others. Cleanse our guilty hearts of the apathy we feel for searching out the deeper truths of your Word.
- C:** **Holy Spirit, hear our prayer that we may put self aside and rejoice in the truth that builds up.**
- M:** Heavenly Father, send the power of your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that, like the Bereans of old, we would eagerly learn of you. As the deer pants for streams of water, may we be instilled with a longing to explore the mysteries of your grace.
- C:** **Holy Spirit, increase in us the knowledge of your truth.**

M: As you sent your Son among us as the Word made flesh, so bless the efforts of schools, colleges, and seminaries to train those who proclaim your presence among us in Word and sacrament.

C: Holy Spirit, instill in us a desire to teach others the wisdom of your ways.

M: God of light, give to the Church renewed wisdom and fresh understanding that the message of your salvation may shine ever brighter in this dark age.

C: Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love so that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer

M: Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth so that at the name of Jesus every knee may bow.

C: May your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 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.

Be seated.

This hymn is one of the oldest in our hymnal, written by Clement of Alexandria around AD 200. What a wonderful treasure to have passed down which speaks to our desire to stay connected to Christ, our Shepherd.

HYMN

*Shepherd of Tender Youth | CW 515
Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastor; 5-All*

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.

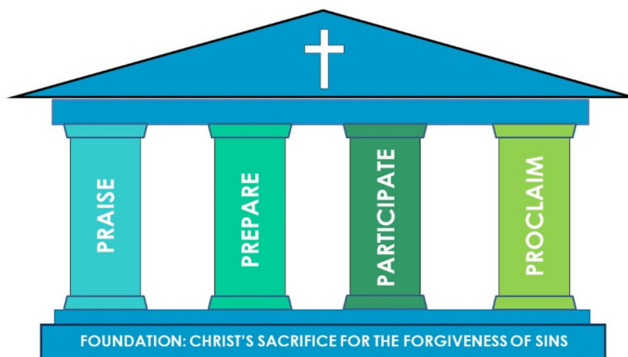
C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate | CW 279

Verse 1-Women; 2-Men; 3-All



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. King Solomon says that wisdom and understanding comes at a cost. However, in the end the rewards far outweigh the cost. How does this echo what Jesus taught? Hint: read Matthew 10:5-32 and John 15:18-25.
2. The Gospel from John 14 highlights all three persons of the trinity. How do you see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in these verses? In what ways does this bring us comfort?
3. Both John 14 and Philippians 4 encourage continued growth from previous instruction. Jesus says the Holy Spirit “will remind you of everything I have said to you.” Paul says to put into practice “whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me”. (Read Galatians 1:11-12 to find the source of Paul’s teaching.) How does this encouragement and the source of this instruction impact us? How is this still applicable today in our church and others throughout the world?
4. Finish this sentence: Prepare is one of the main focuses of ministry at St. Paul’s because...

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY **The Augsburg Confession**

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



STUDY ON AUGSBURG CONFESSION BEGINS

Oct. 11 | 9:15-10:15 AM

Our church gives great importance to 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!

BE A TRUNKER

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

Our Trunk-or-Treat event is scaled back this year with no indoor activities. However, we still need lots of people in our parking lot giving out treats from their car trunks or pickup tailgates. Decorating your vehicle or dressing in costume is optional, but it makes it more fun for the children. Sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center, or look for our online signup on our website under the Serve tab. You will be providing families in our community with a fun, safe place to trick-or-treat plus showing them that Christians and the church are not scary.

CANDY, CANDY, CANDY!

If you cannot volunteer for Trunk-or-Treat, we would love your donations of candy to supplement what our "trunkers" bring. Look for deals at local stores. You can bring your donations to the church at any time and place them in the container near the Ministry Table.

HANG A POSTER

If your workplace has an area where information on public events is shared, please hang one of our Trunk-or-Treat posters there. Posters can be found on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.



MISSION RALLY GOES VIRTUAL

October 17

The Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) is setting up a YouTube channel, so you can participate in their fall mission rally virtually. Videos of the opening & closing devotions, as well as the business meeting, will be available for viewing on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 AM. In lieu of a keynote speaker, you are encouraged to watch the mission presentation by Pastor Eric Meslo (son of John & Carole Melso) at welstasteandsee.com.

If you have a mite box, or wish to participate in the mission offering, please turn it in to the St. Paul's church office by Sunday, October 18. The mission offering will support Pastoral Studies, Joint Mission Special Projects (Asian, South Asian, African Immigrant, Sudanese, and Latin America), and the LWMS Central Office.

USE AMAZONSMILE ON AMAZON PRIME DAYS

Oct. 13-14

This Tuesday & Wednesday, you can make a difference while you shop Amazon Prime Day deals. Simply shop at smile.amazon/ch/39-088055 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to St. Paul's.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN SCHOFIELD

Oct. 17 | 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

Dr. John Boeder of Martin Luther College will lead a seminar on Christian Leadership at St. Peter's of Schofield on Saturday, October 17. (Some of you may remember Dr. Boeder as Pastor Boeder, who served here from 1996 to 1999.) He will be looking at Paul's letter Titus as well as how Stephen, Peter and Paul served, taught, and struggled. The cost is only \$10 per person, plus a free will offering for lunch. To register, please contact Mr. Jim Ellenberger by Oct. 13 at huskers9964@gmail.com or 715-409-6748.

HELP WITH PIE MAKING

Oct. 14 | 1:30 PM

Join in the fun and fellowship as the Willing Workers make apples pies this Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 1:30 PM. Extra hands are always welcome to wash, peel, and slice apples, make crusts, fill pies, and package pies for freezing. Come to the cafeteria on Wednesday.

RESERVE A PIE

The Willing Workers are only making a limited number of pies this year. Frozen take-and-bake apple pies (crumb top or double crust) are \$12 each. To reserve a pie, contact the church office.

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	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	4:30 PM	Board of Fellowship in the Welcome Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	1:30 AM	Pie Making in the cafeteria
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Four Pillars Bible Study in the cafeteria
	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 October 2, 2020
 Actual ministry income: \$252,834
 Actual cost of ministry: \$250,240
 Mortgage balance: \$1,358,048

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 24 ~ SPYs Pumpkin Carving
 Oct. 31 ~ Trunk-or-Treat
 Nov. 7 & 8 ~ Craft & Bake Sale
 Nov. 26 ~ Community Thanksgiving
 Meal Served at St. Paul's





www.stpaulswr.org

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