

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



WELS 175th Anniversary

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

October 19, 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



The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2025 under the theme "Christ Through Us." From one seminary in 1865, one world mission in 1893, and 800 congregations mostly in the Midwest as of 1965, we can now easily see how Christ has worked through his good news of salvation in Word and sacraments to move this body of believers to establish a

Scripture-based ministerial education system, world missions in 45 countries, and more than 1,200 congregations across the United States. The "Christ Through Us" theme will also inform the work of WELS in a ten-year detailed plan to proclaim our Savior's love.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Kristi Perry; Offering Music, Peter & Lauren Plagenz

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

870 O Church, Arise

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your church as we come in prayer to thank you for 175 years of blessings on WELS. Continue to speak the peace and forgiveness of Christ through us as he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

The Lord speaks his Word to our children and grandchildren through us.

¹Moses spoke as follows:

Now this is the body of commands, and these are the statutes and the ordinances that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, so you may carry them out in the land to which you are crossing over to receive as a possession, ²so that you may fear the LORD your God by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I am commanding to you, as well as to your children and grandchildren, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be long.

³Listen, O Israel, and be conscientious about doing those things, so it may go well for you and so you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. ⁴Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God. The LORD is one! ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶These words that I am commanding you today are to be on your heart. ⁷Teach them diligently to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as a sign on your wrists, and they will serve as symbols on your forehead. ⁹Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

100B All People That on Earth Do Dwell (sts.1,4)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
4 For why? The LORD our God is good; his mer - cy
LORD with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -
forth - tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice!
ly stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551. Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:18–21

God makes his appeal through us as ambassadors for Christ.

¹⁸And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:20

Alleluia. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,
inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 5:1–11

Christ calls us and grants his blessings through us.

¹One time, while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. ²He saw two boats there along the lakeshore. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Jesus got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began teaching the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵Simon answered him, “Master, we worked hard all through the night and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets were about to tear apart. ⁷They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Go away from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord.” ⁹For Peter and all those with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Have no fear. From now on you will be catching people.”

¹¹After they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

716 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

Sermon

Stand

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

Special Prayers This Week

† For Fred Camacho, who continues to struggle with cancer

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Prayer of the Church

Gracious God, the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us from sin, and the work of your Spirit in our hearts has brought us to faith. According to your promise, preserve us in faith through your Word and sacraments. Accept our humble thanks for these rich blessings, and help us to rejoice in them and use them faithfully. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the teaching and preaching ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have brought us together as a church body that we may proclaim your praise. Inspire us by your grace to let our light shine so that more people may be led to glorify you. Forgive us when we fall short of living and working together as your people. Renew in us a godly determination to serve you and one another in love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. We thank you for the faithful ministers of the gospel throughout our history who have taught your truth and proclaimed your Word. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Hear us, help us, and hold your guiding hand over us that in all our service your saving name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Lord, from Sorrows Deep I Call

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 you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following his example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

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Words of Institution

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 T 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 T 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.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

855 *The Church's One Foundation*
677 *The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord*

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



Take Home Questions

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1. Parents, evaluate your family routines and habits? How are you at putting verses 7-9 into practice? In what ways can you enhance what you're already doing?
2. If you don't have young children, in what ways can you personally help share God's Word with the next generation of believers?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

3. Put into your own words the "message of reconciliation" Paul is talking about here.
4. You have a God-given identity as an "ambassador for Christ." In what ways does that shape day to day events in your life? (Be specific!)
5. How might you dispel the devil's lies of "That's just not me" when it comes to you sharing God's appeal for reconciliation with others?

Luke 5:1-11

6. Speaking was followed by a catch. In what places do you see that progression in the lesson? In what ways does that progression still continue in work for God's kingdom?
7. In what ways do you see God's grace in calling these fishermen to be his disciples? In what ways do you see God's grace in calling you to serve him in all your various vocations?

Bonus

8. Explore the website welshhistoricalinstitute.org/175th to learn more about our synod's 175 year history.
9. Write a prayer thanking God for the 175 years of his work in our synod and asking his blessing and guidance on our future.



News & Announcements



**This Sunday's Bible Study Hour:
The Aftermath of the Council of Nicaea**
Join us in the cafeteria at 10:30 AM

Special Offering for WELS

In thanksgiving for God's blessings to and through our church body, WELS is coordinating a special offering to support the long-range goals of our synod. You can choose to give your gift to North American ministry (Home Missions, Congregational Services), international ministry (World Missions), worker training (Ministerial Education), or to the general WELS 175th Anniversary Fund to support all of these areas. To give through your offering envelopes, designate WELS 175th on your envelope. You can give online at community.wels.net/wels175th.

Learn More About WELS History

The WELS Historical Institute has a website to help you learn more about the history of our synod, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visit welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th.

Calling a Teacher

Oct. 21 | 6:00 pm

We have a meeting this Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6:00 pm. to call a 1st-2nd grade teacher for next school year. Please pray for this meeting and for our congregation as we go through the calling process. We hope you will attend on Tuesday.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Oct. 26 | 10:30 am

The Fall Congregational Meeting will held next Sunday, Oct. 26 at 10:30 am. A packet of ministry reports and updates has been placed in member mailslots. Please take time read this over before the meeting. Then, come next Sunday to hear what the Lord is doing at St. Paul's!

Check Mailslots for Offering Statement

The third quarter of the calendar year closed on September 30. A statement of your year-to-date offerings have been placed in your mailslot. Please review it to see if you are on track with your giving for the year. If you notice any data entry errors, please contact the church office, so we can make a correction.

Holiday Ministries Start Planning

Several holiday ministries have started planning and are looking for volunteers. Please take note of the dates and consider helping in one or more of these areas. Most volunteer positions are one-time commitments.



Community Thanksgiving Meal

Nov. 26-27

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 2:00 pm to help with preparations. Then on Thursday, Nov. 27, help is needed to assemble the meals, to assist people who come for their takeout meals, to deliver meals to homes and assisted living facilities, and to clean up afterwards. This work begins at 10:00 am. The delivery window closes at 1:00 pm, so you should be home in the afternoon. For more details, contact Nicole Sukow at snb@solarus.net or 715-572-4629.

Decorating for Christmas

Nov. 30

Many people are needed, whether you want to do something simple or artsy. People willing to climb ladders to reach treetops and to hang wreaths and garland are especially appreciated. The work starts at 9:00 am and continues throughout the day. Stop in when you can, or stay until the work is complete.

Christmas for Kids

Dec. 6

We are beginning to line up volunteers for this year's Christmas for Kids, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 ~ 9:00-11:45 am. We need leaders at each activity station and group guides to shepherd children between activities. We also need help for registration, set up, clean up, and lunch. A volunteer signup can be found on the Ministry Table or at www.stpaulswr.org/serve

Advent by Candlelight

Dec. 7

A core group is working on the program and planning. However, volunteers are needed for decorating, serving, set up, and clean up. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office or Sue Kulhanek at 715-213-9093.

Calling All Musicians!

Do you sing or play an instrument? We'd love to hear from you! Our congregation is putting together a list of musicians of all ages, skills, and abilities—vocalists and instrumentalists alike. Whether you've been performing for years or just enjoy making music, please let the church office know. This will help us plan for future worship services and special music opportunities. *"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." – Psalm 96:1*

Scrip Bonus Fest Continues

Every weekend through the end of October, you can earn even more with scrip. RaiseRight has 3-day bonuses of up to 23% on many brands. The bonuses apply whether you purchase St. Paul's or Northland scrip. Pad your tuition account or earn extra for our schools!

Trunk or Treat at Good Shepherd

Oct. 25 | 4:00 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is holding a Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. If you would like to help, please plan to have your vehicle in their parking lot by 3:00 pm. Your donations of extra candy would also be appreciated. You can contact Good Shepherd at 715-325-3355.

Fall Retreats at Camp Phillip

Camp Phillip near Wautoma is finishing off their fall retreat season with a Women's Quilting Retreat on Nov. 7-9 and a Twenties and Thirties Retreat on Nov. 14-16. For more information, visit campphillip.com.

Are You Crafty?

Do you bake? Maybe you knit, sew, or do woodwork. Your donations of hand-made items for the Craft & Bake Sale would be appreciated. The sale is four weeks away on Nov. 8 & 9, so now is the time to start a project or plan what you will make. Items can be dropped off at church on Friday, Nov. 7. If you have any questions, please contact Kierssa Rullman at 262-720-9626.

Become a Conversation Partner for Immigrants

You would receive training in cross-cultural conversation. Then, each week, you have online conversations with an immigrant to Brisbane, Australia. In the fall of 2026, you get to meet your conversation partner in Australia. Learn more about this opportunity at wels.net/missionjourneys

St. Paul's PTO
FALL
Craft & Bake Sale
November 8th 9:00am-12:00pm
November 9th 10:15am-12:00pm
St. Paul's Cafeteria
Apple Pie | Cookies | Breads |
Homemade Canned Goods |
Crafts | & Much more!
Treat yourself while supporting our students!
All proceeds benefit St. Paul's School
QUESTIONS OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER/DONATE?
CONTACT KIERSSA: (262) 720-9626 OR EMAIL:
KIERSSARULLMAN@GMAIL.COM

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	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
	6:00 PM	Call Meeting in church
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:45 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:00 PM	Catechism Class in room 110
	6:00 PM	Bible & Brews at B’s Tap House
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men’s Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:50 PM	Principal’s Bible Study in the church
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Fall Congregational Meeting in the church
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (3K – 5 th grade)

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 180

Next Sunday

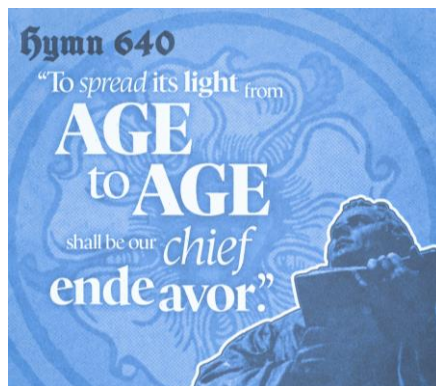
Theme: Cause > Effect: Truth > Freedom

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Galatians 5:1-6;

John 8:31-36

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 30-31 NO SCHOOL – Teachers’ Conference
- Nov. 5 Compline Service
- Nov. 8-9 Craft & Bake Sale
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 6:30 pm





www.stpaulswr.org

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