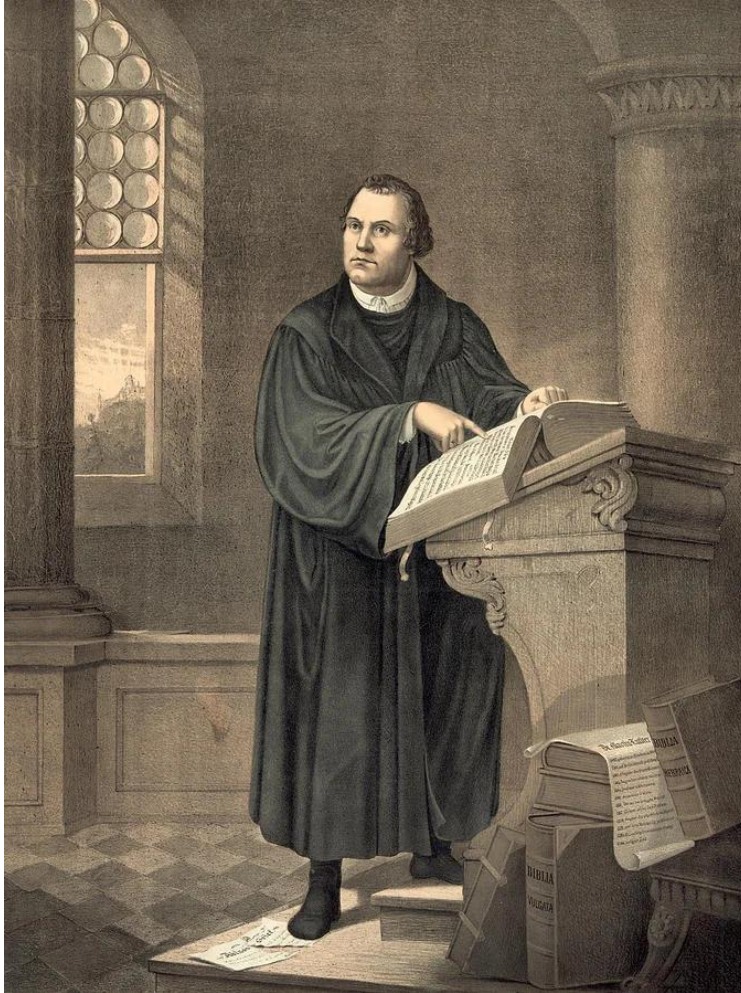


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Cause > Effect:
Truth > Freedom
Reformation Sunday

October 26, 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



Many people believe that freedom means being able to do whatever you want. Jesus teaches that is absolutely false. "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31,32). Jesus says that living however you want does not make you free. In fact, if you take that attitude toward life you will end up a slave. You will only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—"If you hold to my teaching" and therefore "know the truth." Truth is the cause that effects freedom.

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of the truth that provides freedom? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God's truth brings freedom from slavery to sinful delusions and the burden of guilt. This week we celebrate this cause and effect—the truth sets us free!

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist: Sue Kulhanek; Special Music: Church Choir, St. Paul's Lutheran School students (grades 4-8), and instrumentalists

Acknowledgements

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The Service

Welcome

Hymn

510 In Christ Alone

The students will sing sts.1-2; the congregation will join on sts. 3-4.

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

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, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness, and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

The truth of God's new covenant of grace transforms our hearts so we freely and gladly follow God's will.

³¹Yes, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers,
when I took them by the hand
and led them out of the land of Egypt.
They broke that covenant of mine,
although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.

³³But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
declares the LORD.

I will put my law in their minds,
and I will write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will each one teach his neighbor,
or each one teach his brother, saying, "Know the LORD,"
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD,
for I will forgive their guilt,
and I will remember their sins no more. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

46E If God Is for Us

The congregation will sing the refrain.

Choir - If God is for us, who can be against us?
God is our salvation, always by our side.

Refrain

If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?
God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.

Choir - God is our refuge and our strength,
an ever present aid,
and therefore, though the earth be moved,
we will not be afraid;
though hills into the seas be cast,
though foaming waters roar,
the LORD of hosts is by our side,
a refuge strong and sure. (**Refrain**)

Choir - A river flows whose streams make glad
the city of our God,
the holy dwelling of the LORD,
the place of God's abode.
Since God is in the midst of it,
our safety is secure;
the LORD of hosts is by our side,
a refuge strong and sure. (**Refrain**)

Choir - Behold the wondrous deeds of God,
who causes wars to cease,
the weapons of the strong destroyed,
God brings abiding peace.
"Be still and know that I am God,
exalted evermore;"
the LORD of hosts is by our side,
a refuge strong and sure. (**Refrain**)

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1–6

St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ.

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. ²Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³I testify again to every man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obligated to do the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law are completely separated from Christ. You have fallen from grace.

⁵Indeed, through the Spirit, we by faith are eagerly waiting for the sure hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:31–32

Alleluia. “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. You will also know the truth, **and the truth will set you free.**” Alleluia.

Gospel

John 8:31–36

The truth of the gospel sets us free.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. ³²You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³“We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

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

- † For Edna Haferman, who will celebrate her 101st birthday on Oct. 29.
- † For the family of Harvey Pierce, who passed away. His funeral is in Marshfield on Monday.
- † For our congregational meeting
- †
- †

Prayer of the Church

Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. When guilt grieves our consciences and shame squelches our confidence, use your Word to encourage and comfort our souls with the good news of your unconditional love.

Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus.

Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly.

Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses.

Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us Lord, as we pray in silence

Silent prayer

Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Hear the public prayers we have spoken with our lips and the personal prayers we offer to you in our hearts, and answer them according to your gracious will.

Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure. 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

I Am Free

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

824 *This Is the Threefold Truth* (sts. 1,4,5)



Take Home Questions

Jeremiah 31:31-34

1. Compare and contrast the new and old covenants based on this reading and what else you know about Scripture.
2. For what reasons is the new covenant better than the old covenant? (Hint: read Galatians 3:12,14 and Hebrews 9:15-22; 10:1-4,11,12)

Galatians 5:1-6

3. Define Christian freedom in your own words based on the readings from this worship service and other parts of Scripture (Romans 6:20-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1-2,19-23).
4. In what ways does Christian freedom differ from our culture's understanding of freedom?

John 8:31-36

5. Jesus spoke these words "to the Jews who had believed in him." In what ways does that serve as a warning for us?
6. The Jewish leaders thought that Abraham was their ticket to heaven. What false hopes for salvation exist today? Which ones resonate with your sinful nature?

News & Announcements

Fall Congregational Meeting Today!

Oct. 26 | 10:30 am

Be sure to stay after the service today for the Fall Congregational Meeting. All congregation members are invited! Topics include a report from the task force looking at our pastoral staff needs, building security updates, setting next year's school tuition, and election of leaders. The meeting get underway at 10:30 am. (Today's Bible study is cancelled.) Be sure to bring the packet of ministry reports that was placed in you mailslot last week.



Teacher Called

On Tuesday, we called Mrs. Sarah Burgess to serve as our 1st-2nd grade teacher beginning in the fall. She is currently serving at Leap of Faith Early Childhood Center in New Lisbon, WI. Sarah's husband, Daniel, serves as the pastor at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in Adams, WI. They have three children; the youngest of whom attends our grade school. Please keep Mrs. Burgess and her family in your prayers as she deliberates this call.

Can You Come Early Once in November?

We need people to serve as greeters during the month of November. Just put on a friendly smile and say "good morning" to people arriving for worship. There is a signup sheet on the Ministry Table. On the day you serve, show up around 8:30, put on a name tag (which can be found by the signup sheet), and station yourself near the door.

Our Congregation Is Full of Talented People

Nov. 8 & 9

Some of that talent will be on display at our annual Craft & Bake Sale on Nov. 8 & 9. Come see what everyone has produced – from jams to hand painted items, from cookies to potholders. If you are one of those talented people, we would appreciate your donations. Proceeds from the sale will be used for special projects around the school. Items can be dropped off at church on Friday, Nov. 7, or contact Kierssa Rullman (262-720-9626) to arrange another drop-off time.

Make Someone's Thanksgiving Bright

Nov. 26-27

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 2:00 pm to help with preparations for the Community Thanksgiving Meal. Then on Thursday, Nov. 27, help is needed to assemble the meals, to assist people who come to pick up their meals, to deliver meals to private 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.



FREE Books

Our school is making available, to any takers, books they no longer need. The books for elementary school readers. You are welcome to take any from the table in the Welcome Center.

Do You Love to Decorate for Christmas?

Nov. 30

Many people are needed on Saturday, Nov. 30, to put up trees, garland, and more. The work starts at 9:00 am and continues throughout the day. You can put ornaments on trees, wrap pew candles, or do clean up. We also have an outdoor nativity scene to assemble. People willing to climb ladders and do heavy lifting are appreciated. Stop in when you can, or stay until the work is complete.

Share the Christmas Story with Children

Dec. 6 | 9:00-11:45 am

Whether you can sing, do a crafts, or cook hotdogs, your help is needed for Christmas for Kids. During this half-day event, children travel from one activity station after another as they learn about Jesus's birth. 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 form can be found on the Ministry Table or at www.stpaulswr.org/serve

Slight Time Change

Dec. 7 | 2:00 pm

The planning team for Advent by Candlelight has moved up the start time of their event to 2:00 pm. This is to help ensure people driving from further away, like Marshfield, can make it home before dark. They are looking for people to help with decorating, serving, set up, and clean up. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Sue Kulhanek at 715-213-9093.

NLHS Presents “Little Women”

Nov. 14-15

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) invites you to a production of “Little Women” put on by their drama club. The story follows the lives of four sisters as they pass from childhood to womanhood. There will be two performances – on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, Nov. 15 at 3:00 pm. The cost is only \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Plan a special outing with a friend or child.

Lutheran Leadership Conference

Jan. 19-21

The WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held Jan. 19–21 in Chicago, IL. This conference offers called workers and lay members, men and women, and current and future leaders an opportunity to grow in their faith, learn new ministry strategies, and contemplate how they and their congregations can best reach out with the gospel in their communities. Learn more at <https://lutheranleadership.com>.

Calendar

October 26-November 2

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Fall Congregational Meeting in the church
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (3K – 5th 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
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers 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	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Sunday School

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 231

Next Sunday

Theme: Cause > Effect: Sainthood > Stamina

Readings: Revelation 21:1-6; Hebrews 11:32-40;

Luke 6:20-23

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 30-31 NO SCHOOL – Teachers’ Conference
- Nov. 2 All Saints Sunday
- 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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