



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

February 2021 edition

## NEW PRIVATE COMMUNION SCHEDULE

by Pastor Lucas Proeber

As we continue to progress through the reality of the pandemic, we realize that there are things we miss. We miss gathering with our families and friends; we miss the fellowship and outreach events we would have otherwise held; and, for some, the Lord's Supper has been dearly missed due to a longer-than-expected time of worshiping from home. The pastoral staff would like to provide a way to fill that third void: a new schedule for offering and receiving private communion.



While this schedule is subject to change from month to month, we will begin by offering this on Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM; Wednesdays from 2:30 PM to 4:20 PM; and Thursdays from 5:30 PM to 6:10 PM. Appointments are available in ten-minute increments. A few specifics to note:

- Private communion will only be offered in this way on weeks following communion Sundays. So, in February, the Lord's Supper will be offered in public worship on the 7th and 21st. That means the private communion schedule will fall on the 9th, 10th, and 11th, as well as on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th.
- This is meant primarily for those who are worshiping from home. However, if circumstances keep you from attending public worship on Sunday or Monday, you can certainly make use of this opportunity.
- You will have the option to receive the Supper in the sanctuary or in your vehicle beneath the canopy to the main entrance, whichever best meets your needs.
- You can sign up for an appointment in one of two ways:
  1. Fill out the Google Form online, which can be accessed on the website worship page or via the Sneak Peek leading up to a communion Sunday.
  2. If you don't use email, you can call the church office and one of the office staff will help you set up your appointment.

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## Reaching out with the love of Jesus.

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Worship  
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30AM  
Monday at 11:00AM

[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)



## MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES

Wednesdays  
Feb. 17 - Mar. 24  
4:00 & 6:30 PM

## WANT TO WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED?

### COME TO LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP!

It has been a centuries-long custom of the Christian Church to take extra time in Lent to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter. We do that through mid-week worship services. This year, along with our brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd, we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus in a special “The Places of the Passion” worship series. Through these services, we will contemplate what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Each week, we will explore the meaning, history, and spiritual inspiration associated with the location highlighted. We will learn more about the importance of each location as we grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took so that the way to heaven would be opened to us.

The topics of each week can be found below. We will follow the same schedule we used for our Advent midweek worship, with services at 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM. Please note that, for the sake of everyone’s safety, we will again forego the midweek meals, with the hope of bringing them back for Advent 2021. Lastly, if you do not attend in person, the 4:00 service will be live-streamed and archived on our website and Facebook page. May the Lord bless us as we walk with him to Calvary!

February 17 – Jerusalem (also Ash Wednesday;  
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion)  
February 24 – Bethany  
March 3 – The Mount of Olives  
March 10 – Gethsemane  
March 17 – The Courtyard  
March 24 – Pilate’s Judgment Hall †

## PRIVATE COMMUNION continued from pg 1

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

-1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV)

We encourage you to use the questions for examination that are printed in the service folder on communion Sundays. If that becomes too rote, you can read *Personal Preparation for Holy Communion* on page 156 of *Christian Worship: a Lutheran Hymnal* or meditate on Psalm 51.

- Use either communication option to offer suggestions of other times or approaches for us to consider for future months.
- If you don’t see a certain timeslot listed when you go to sign up, it’s likely because someone has already signed up for that spot.
- Finally, the sign-up sheet will close for that week at the end of the day on Monday.

We realize this all may be confusing or difficult to remember. Because of that possibility, we will identify on each month’s calendar all of the important dates and times you need to know with regard to private communion. You will find such information on the calendar that is included with this month’s newsletter.

We pray that this effort will help keep everyone in our spiritual family connected to Christ through his Supper. Be sure to reach out to Pastor Proeber, Pastor Plagenz, or Mr. Pahl with your questions and comments! †

# THE THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS BIBLE CLASS

## REFLECTIONS ON HIS CROSS AND OURS

by Pastor Plagenz

“If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” Mark 8:34. This verse is likely not one of the most well-known passages of the Bible or on people’s top 10 favorite passage list. Yet these words of Jesus have a profound impact on our lives and the lives of all Christians.

Although, it’s easy to understand why they’re not put on billboards or the first words out of our mouth when witnessing. That’s not what people, or even we sometimes, want to hear. What’s more appealing is a Christianity that’s fun and happy-go-lucky, where worship is a time of experience and entertainment, a time for self-discovery and personal fulfillment. What’s more appealing is a church that’s big, successful, or influential.

But these words of Jesus remove all of these ideas and whims. Instead, they focus us on the cross—not just a piece of jewelry but all that it is and represents. It turns us away from ourselves and to God who calls us to submission under his cross, to bear the cross he sends us

and by which he marks us as his own. This cross always and of necessity and by definition means struggle for us. We suffer under its weight that crushes and threatens to destroy us.



Yet in this cross we are called to rejoice, because it marks us as one with Christ who gave everything he had on a cross. It unmasks the counterfeit Christianity which falsely promises shallow glory. In carrying this cross we see that the path of self-denial, repentance, difficulty, and struggle is the only place where the gospel reveals its true glory and bears its fruit in our lives.

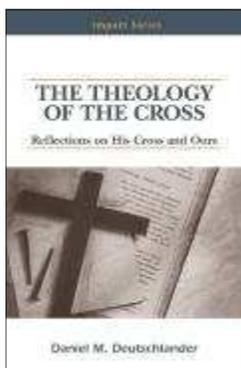
This will be the topic of our Sunday morning Bible study for eight weeks beginning February 7th, which meets Sundays at 9:15am in the cafeteria and remotely via Google Meet. The study will walk through Professor Em. Daniel Deutschlander’s book *The Theology of the Cross* which is available from Northwestern Publishing House (online.nph.net). While not required, purchasing your own copy to read along at home would be a great way to review the class discussions and go even deeper in your personal study. Please contact the church office if you need assistance with ordering a copy.

We pray that God would bless this study of his Word and the cross for the glory of his name and the strengthening of our life from him, to him, and in him! †

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:15-10:15 AM  
in the cafeteria

Join remotely on the  
phone or internet  
via Google Meet



*The Theology of the Cross*, paperback, available from Northwestern Publishing House (online.nph.net)

Kindle Edition

Available only at Amazon.com



nook Edition

Available only at BarnesandNoble.com



*The Theology of the Cross* is part of the Impact Series, which features titles on a variety of topics, including denominations, doctrine, and cultural issues. With practical applications, these books provide a greater understanding of our present-day church and faith, all while pointing to the gospel.



## SCHOOL UPDATE

by Principal John Melso

We've reached the halfway point in the school year. So far our school has not faced any shutdowns due to Covid. We are very thankful that the Lord has allowed all of our teaching to be face to face this year. Please pray that the Lord continues to bless us.

The last week in January is Christian Education Week. Frank Van Brocklin from Northland Lutheran High School will be our guest preacher on Christian Education Sunday, January 24. Due to social distancing, our book fair this year will be virtual. See below for information on how you can view books and make purchases. Since our basketball season was put on hold this year, the teachers and pastors will be hosting basketball clinics during the week for 3rd through 8th graders. As we celebrate Christian Education Sunday, we thank God for the opportunity with which he has blessed us to share the Gospel with students and families. We also thank all who support our school with their time, talents, and treasure. †

### THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS BACK!

While the Fair will be held exclusively online, we still plan on making it a fun experience for our kids. Our customized St. Paul's homepage features a fully virtual fair so you and your kids can experience the magic of the school shopping experience. Browse titles by grade, meet popular authors, and discover the comfort and joy of our fair. At the online store, you will have direct access to over 6,000 titles with family-friendly prices. Plus every dollar you spend will benefit our school directly (25% back in rewards). The book fair is open from Jan. 25 to Feb. 7. As in the past, the book fair is open to church members as well as school families. We can't wait to "see" you at the Fair!

Book Fair Link: [www.scholastic.com/bf/StPaulsEvangelicalLutheran5](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/StPaulsEvangelicalLutheran5).



Scholastic Book Fair  
Jan. 25—Feb. 7

### SPIRIT WEEK DRESS UP DAYS

Christian Education Week (January 25-29) is also Spirit Week at St. Paul's. The students are encouraged to dress according to the daily theme:

- Mon: World Cultures / Patriotic Day
- Tues: Crazy Day / Pajama Day
- Wed: Career Day / Decades Day
- Thurs: Favorite Character Day
- Fri: Sports Day / School Colors Day (green & white)

### GRADES PREK-8 SINGING "IN CHURCH SERVICE"

Students in grades PreK-8 will sing "in church" for the January 31 services. The song will be pre-recorded and replayed during both the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services, rather than having the students singing live. Since the song will be recorded during one of crazy dress-up days, the recording will be audio only.

# LOVE!

by Staff Minister Randy Pahl

It seems as if one minute we are saying or writing "Merry Christmas," and the next thing you know we are sending out greetings for Valentine's Day!



At the quarterly Voters' Meeting which was held on January 19, the Board of Elders put out a plea, to those in attendance, with regard

to members who have not been in our worship services for three or more years. This same request has appeared previously in your mail slot as well as in our monthly St. Paul's Epistle. Our prayer is that all of these souls can be contacted so that we or another Christian congregation would have the privilege of serving them with the means of

grace – God's Word and sacraments!

Behind the scenes, the Elders have been working tirelessly, even during these most difficult of times, trying to make contacts of encouragement. As I participate with them during their monthly meetings, I am reminded of God's love for all people (John 3:16 certainly comes to mind here!). Each and every one of them truly have the heart of a servant as they seek out their fellow men and women through phone calls, messages, or even personal visits per request. What a joy it is to witness them carrying out those words first spoken by Jesus in the upper room on Maundy Thursday in John 13:34, "Love one another."

A few years ago, the theme for our school year was how the love of Christ compels us, which was taken

from II Corinthians 5:14. Those words of inspiration are not only applicable to the Elders but to all of us as well. Knowing that we are imitators of God's love for us, we truly are compelled to, "Seek and save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)

And, so, as Valentine's Day approaches I would encourage all of you, first of all to thank God for loving you soooooo much that He would send His one and only Son on a search and rescue mission to live, die, and rise again so that you might enjoy eternal life and love in the mansions of heaven! Secondly, pray for and encourage our Elders in the labor of love that they do for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. And, finally, always keep in mind to carry out those beautiful words spoken by the Apostle Paul in I John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us!" †

## HYGIENE DRIVE

We are once again participating in the "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive," which begins next month. We will be collecting personal hygiene and household cleaning products from Feb. 14 to March 7. Organizations that benefit are SWEPS, the Family Center, local schools as well as those people in our area who are classified as homeless (about 3 dozen people per month).

Many people are embarrassed to ask for help especially when it involves something like personal hygiene. No one wants to be the person who is dirty and smells bad. Your donations can help restore a person's dignity.

### TAKE THE THREE WEEK CHALLENGE

- Week 1: donate paper & cleaning products
- Week 2: donate baby care, hair, and dental products
- Week 3: donate personal care & first aid items

All of your donations will stay local. Look for the donation box in the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, Feb. 14.



## SUMMER CAMP IS ON!



The Camp Phillip's staff loves Jesus, they love people, and they love creative fun. Although COVID-19 still poses challenges, Camp Phillip intends to conduct summer camps this year. Like last year, they will be operating at reduced capacity.

There are week-long and half-week camps beginning mid-June for kindergarten through 8th grade. All camps include: fun at the lake, hilarious campfires, thrilling games, creative Bible studies, delicious meals, rockin' song periods, and much more. Older children have the option of taking camps focused on special interests like art, archery, and rock-climbing. Given that many Easter celebrations were cancelled last year, this year's theme is Easter at Camp.

Registration begins Feb. 1 at noon. Given the reduced capacity, camps are expected to fill quickly. Learn more at [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com).

### NEW FAMILY CAMPING WEEK

In addition to Family Fest (the third weekend after Memorial Day) and Fall Family Camp (Labor Day weekend), Camp Phillip is now offering Family Week the first full week of July (July 5-9). There will be dinner, sing-alongs, and campfires every evening. During the day, the waterfront will be open, and there will be different program options throughout the week. Camp Phillip is located less than an hour from Wisconsin Rapids. Book your campsites now before they're snatched up! Call 920-787-3202.

## READY FOR 2021

After a successful holiday season and a thorough cleaning of the store, Dime and Dollar Thrift Store in Stevens Point is now ready for your 2021 donations. Feel free to drop off any household items or clothing at the store from 10-4 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Donations are also received by appointment on Saturday. Just call the store at 715-341-0562 to make arrangements. If you have a few small items, you can also drop them off at the church office, and a volunteer will take them to Dime & Dollar for you.

### THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please note that Dime & Dollar is currently closed on Thursdays due to lack of volunteers. They need behind-the-scenes people to receive and sort donations as well as out-front workers to help customers and cashier. If you can help on Thursdays (or any other day) give Jan Peronto a call at 715-340-2809 or email her at [jkp111310@gmail.com](mailto:jkp111310@gmail.com).

## IT'S NOT JUST YOU

Most people are feeling stressed these days. You don't have to just suck it up. There are Christians who want to help you through this difficult time. Our Stephen Ministers are trained in one-on-one confidential counseling. There is no cost for their ministry. Best of all, they will point you to Jesus as your source of strength. To learn more contact Mike Grosskreutz or Susie Dempze:

Mike: 715-315-2744 or [mgrosskreutz@tds.net](mailto:mgrosskreutz@tds.net)

Susie: 715-424-1324 or [jcranby@gmail.com](mailto:jcranby@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Through January 17, 2021*

### Current Expenses

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Inge Johnson, Charlotte Carlson

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Donna Stensberg given by Anita Simenson
- In memory of Leon Provost given by Bev Pecher and Bob & Katie Schalow

### School

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Marilyn Link

### Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Fred Camacho's mother given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Dolores Zager & Ken Fisher Jr. given by Edna & Faith Haferman

### Missions

- In memory of her sister Donna given by Janet Heister

### St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Leon Provost given by Edna & Faith Haferman

## IN THE MAILBOX

The Peronto family thanks all of you who have donated toward the recovery from a recent house fire leaving their grandson, Jacob, without a home. The family is recovering and currently renting a home until they rebuild in Port Edwards in the spring. They have been given much clothing so that initial need has been met, but with the prospect of rebuilding, monetary gifts or gift cards (scrip) are still necessary. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in Tom & Jan Peronto's mailbox. Suggestions for SCRIP would include Walmart, Home Depot, or Menards. Thank you for your generosity.



Welcome to our  
new members,  
John Dennee Jr.  
and daughter Emma.

## CATECHISM CORNER

To get a better understanding of what happened to God's perfect creation, we go back to the time shortly after the creation. Remember that God had created the angels sometime during the six days of creation. Not long after the creation, some angels revolted against God and became evil. **What does the Bible tell us about the evil angels?**

**Jude 6** And the angels who did not keep their position of authority but *left their own dwelling place behind*—God has kept them in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

**2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare *angels when they sinned* but handed them over to chains of darkness by casting them into hell, to be kept under guard for judgment...

**Matthew 25:41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels.'"

Some angels chose to disobey God and were condemned to eternal punishment in hell.

- Luther's Catechism © 2017 NPH





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February 2021 edition



LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17

Ash Wednesday Services  
at 4:00 & 6:30 PM

Pastor Lucas Proeber · 989-780-3184 · [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)  
Pastor Peter Plagenz · 920-689-3036 · [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org)