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A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!

We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!

# COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table. Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

# FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

**Worship Focus:** When we lose our keys, life comes to a halt. We need them to drive the kids to school and get to work. We need them to get into the house and to open the shed. The keys from Jesus to his church are a tremendous blessing, privilege, and necessity for us. They save from death, warn against sin, and bring immeasurable relief every day. We will use them because Jesus has Won Us Over by the Keys.

**Communion Preparation:** Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for worship and Communion are found on the inside cover of the hymnals.

#### Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

CW 560

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

### Confession

CW 188

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.

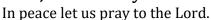
### Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

#### 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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

### Lord, Have Mercy

*CW* 190





For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.





## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Be seated

#### **First Reading**

#### Ezekiel 33:7-11

The LORD appointed Ezekiel a watchman in Israel to win over the Israelites for life with the keys. <sup>7</sup>"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

<sup>10</sup>"Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' <sup>11</sup>Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

### **Second Reading**

### Galatians 2:11–16

Paul used the keys to rebuke publicly and win people back to justification by faith.

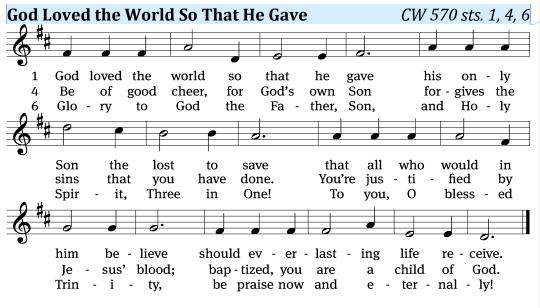
<sup>11</sup>When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

<sup>14</sup>When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

<sup>15</sup>"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles <sup>16</sup>know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

Stand



### Gospel

Matthew 18:15–20

Commented [LC1]: Leave in for all

Jesus gave his church the keys to use for winning over souls to be forgiven. <sup>15</sup>"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the

two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup>But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup>If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup>"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

### The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

## As Surely As I Live, God Said

CW 656

Matthew 18

#### Sermon

How Far Will You Go?

## 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,
8

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

[8:00 Service]

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

### **Special Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

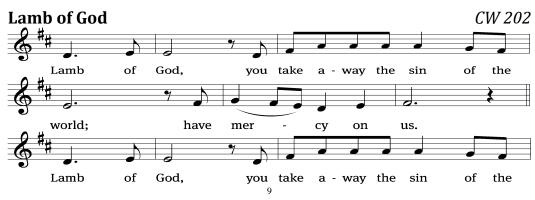
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

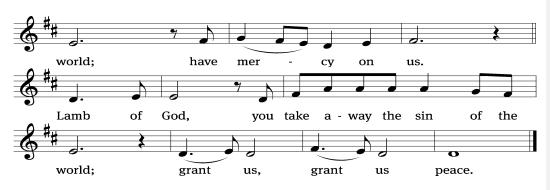
### Words of Institution

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 + 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 + 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.** 





Be seated

### Distribution

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.

## I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 670

Stand

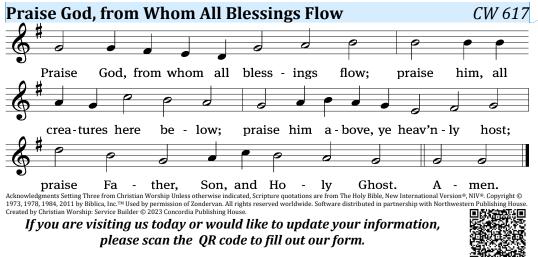
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

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

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.** 



#### SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PREACHER: Rev. Aaron Mueller

**ORGANIST:** Deb Doletzky

**MUSICIANS:** Rev. Adam Bode, Paschal Curia, Greg Johnson, Nikki Leahy, Renee Mueller, and Nick & Tanya Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD: Sandy Bolz, Stefani Leverenz, Jenny Walleser.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Greg Johnson, David Wehrmann, Richard Stoelb, Will Belitz.

10:30a.m. – Kevin Reinemann, Tim Reinemann, Jim Truttschel, Tyler Truttschel.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 8:00 a.m. Tim Klapperich, Will Belitz.

10:30 a.m. Michael Wieting, Todd Marten.



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Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

OFFERINGS 9/3 & 9/4 - \$21,250 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$700 GROWING FORWARD. ATTENDANCE: 9/3 & 9/4 : 8:00 A.M. - 154. 10:30 A.M. - 164. 6:00 P.M. - 22.

#### In our prayers this week...

1. Sunday School staff and students as those classes begin this weekend.

This Week at a Glance:		
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times	
Sunday, September 10	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship	
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour	
	11:30 a.m. Church Picnic	
Monday, September 11	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship	
Tuesday, September 12	6:00 p.m. BIC in Harvest Room	
	6:30 p.m. LCMS Study	
Wednesday, September 13	8:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study	
	9:00 a.m. Bible Study	
	9:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Music and Movement	
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism	
	6:30 p.m. Evangelism	
Thursday, September 14	6:30 p.m. Families of the Bible Bible Study in Harvest Room	
	6:30 p.m. Sunday School Staff meeting	
Sunday, September 17	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship	
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour	
	3:00 p.m. Early Childhood Expansion Open House	

### **Grow with Christ** Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

#### Family Bible Study - on September 3 we began a new Bible study on the book of Revelation. The book is encouraging, challenging, picturesque, and at times it puts you on the edge of your seat. Best of all, it points us all to Jesus to trust him and see his guiding hand in this shaky world until we joyfully shake his hand on the last day. The study is in the Harvest Room with a 9:20 am start time. There is child care available for younger children while parents and older children are in Bible study. *Today we look at chapter 1.*

- 2. **Interested in our Bible Information Class**? If you or someone you know would like to research our teachings and whether to partner in membership with us, please reach out to the pastors or staff minister. The new course begins on September 12th at 6:00 pm.
- 3. **Wednesday morning Bible** study this year is on *The Theology of the Cross.* What is that? It is a critical component of Christian discipleship. Come find out more at 9:00 am in the Harvest Room on September 13.
- 4. **Sunday School** begins on September 10 under the theme "The LORD is Our Strength"! Registration is live on our website, stpaulshowardsgrove.org. There will also be paper registration available in the hallway this weekend. If you would like to invite a friend, there are fliers in the member room. Our staff will be installed this weekend in the 8:00 service. We thank the Lord for our teachers who prepare and share God's Word with our young people: Megan Bramstedt, Bonnie Dais, Brylee Schuenemenn, Sandra Weber, Theresa Zarling, Judy Diener, Debbie Van Alstine, Will Belitz, Bill Reichardt, Danielle Damrow, Stephanie Damrow, Dawn Johnson, and Craig Schuenemann.
- 5. Parents Bible Study- As parents, it can often be difficult to find the time to be in the Word of God for personal study. Join Staff Minister Luther Curia for Families of the Bible. The study explores familiar Biblical family relationships and the challenges those families faced. Each lesson examines Scriptural truths from a biblical family circumstance and applies them to modern family life. The topics covered in the Families of the Bible study are applicable to every family at some point in time. Join us in the new Harvest Room Thursday evenings at 6:30 September 14, 21 & October 5, 12. Each Bible class session will have its own focus, so no worries if you can't make each class. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Childcare can be available. Contact Luther Curia with any questions: <u>luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org</u>; 920.287.8575.
- 6. Lutheran Churches Bible Study: There are many different Lutheran churches in our area. Are they all pretty much the same? On several Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30, starting September 12, Pastor Bode will lead a class looking at the historical relationship between the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We will consider the blessings of the fellowship we once shared, differences that led to the synods splitting in 1961, as well as current relationships and teachings. Come and grow in your appreciation of how the Lord works through his Word and rules over time and history for the good of his Church.

## **In Other News**

1. **Worship Greeters** We are seeking members willing to smile and welcome people before worship services. This is a great opportunity to get to know more of our growing congregation. If interested in more details, please see the sign-up sheet in the member room or speak with Katie Schuenemann.

2. An Open House is planned for September 17 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.. The Open House event is intended for our neighbors, community, and area WELS churches. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and guided tours.

3. Church Picnic: Come on out and enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun with your St. Paul's family today, September 10 from 11:30-2:00 p.m. There will be a Mexican themed meal, complete with a taco/nacho bar. You'll also receive 2 beverages per person (margaritas, Coronas, sangria, lemonade, water). Join in the fun: traditional yard games, BINGO with prizes (cost: \$1/card), and bounce house for the kids! Cost: Free-will offering basket. Additional beverages can be purchased (cash only).



We should have plenty of food, so join us even if you weren't able to preregister!

- 4. Now Hiring! St. Paul's is looking to fill the following position:
  - 1. AfterCare Help: At this point in time, we are still looking for first through eighth grade after-school care help for the 2023-2024 school year. Hours are Monday through Friday from 3:30-5:30 pm. Please contact Mr. Wieting if you are interested or would like more information. Job sharing is a possibility if you prefer not to commit to five days. Please strongly consider this opportunity for as of right now, Mr. Wieting is covering this commitment to the parents of St. Paul's.
- Adult Choir Coming Soon! Do you have a love of singing and a love for your Savior? 5. If so, consider joining our St. Paul's Adult Choir! It is open to all high school age

students and up. We meet Monday nights from 7:00-8:00. Our first rehearsal will be Monday, September 11. You don't have to have a solo voice or be able to read notes like a pro! We'd love to have you! Childcare is available if needed (provided by the Curia children). In order to help with music selections, please indicate ON THIS FORM (<u>https://tinvurl.com/5n8cvc9i</u> or QR code) which voice part(s) you



generally sing. If you don't know, just think: Soprano (higher female voice), Alto (lower female voice), Tenor (higher male voice), Bass (lower male voice). If you're still on the fence about joining, don't worry about filling this out. Just show up! Contact Luther Curia if you have any questions: 287-8575 or luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.

Worship Service Ushers: Thank you to those who regularly volunteer to serve as 6. ushers for our worship services. As we prepare the usher schedule for July and beyond, please consider serving for at least one month each year. A request for additional July ushers will soon be sent via Church Community Builder (CCB). Please sign up via a response to this request or by placing your name next to a vacant position on the "Usher List" in the Member Room. Please contact Will Belitz (920693-8837 or Cellular 920-946-6617) as questions arise. Thank you for serving your congregation.

- 7. **2023 WELS Convention:** From July 31-August 3, the WELS Biennial Convention was held in Saginaw, MI. Pastor Mueller was a delegate. Each week, we are sharing some highlights of the convention and updates on our church body's work:
  - 1. Mr. Jeremy Angle is the president of Northwestern Publishing House (nph.net). He reminded the delegates that NPH is here to support us with truth-filled, Christ-centered, doctrinally sound books and materials, resources for every generation for seeking God's will, leading God-pleasing lives, and learning more about God's love for us.
  - 2. Rev. Dan Sims is the director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. In fiscal year 2022-23, more than \$600,000 was utilized for disaster relief, including assistance in Haiti after the earthquake; clean-up following Hurricanes Ida and Ian; and relief to people in Ukraine by way of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church providing basic necessities like food, clothing, and medicine to members and the community. Christian Aid and Relief works with Home Missions and World Missions to implement humanitarian aid. In fiscal year 2022-23, Christian Aid and Relief granted nearly \$400,000 for aid projects, ranging from boreholes for fresh water, assistance for medical care, and vocational training. In addition, more than \$400,000 was utilized for personal relief grants, to assist individual members in times of personal crisis. Sims says, "We look at it as a means of grace ministry. In all that we do, we strive to let the light of Christ shine, connect people with God's Word, and share the good news of his saving love with people who are in crisis." Learn more at wels.net/relief.
  - 3. Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG), provided an update on the generous gifts of God's people to WELS ministry. Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO), the main source of support for WELS ministry, were \$23.33 million for 2022, 2.9 percent more 5 6 than 2021 CMO and 3.9 percent higher than projected. This is the third consecutive year in which WELS congregations offered a record total of CMO and the first year in which CMO has surpassed \$23 million. So far, 2023 CMO receipts are exceeding projections as well.
- 8. **The Lutheran Military Support Group** (LMSG) is holding a retreat for veterans and their spouses at Camp Shiloh (east of Dallas, Texas) from October 26 through 29. All the details are at https://lutheranmilitary.org/what-we-do/spiritualretreats. Questions can be directed to LMSG leader Brad Price (bprice@lutheranmilitary.org).
- 9. **New Pastor Installation:** We rejoice with our WELS brothers and sisters at Trinity in Kiel, that the Lord has sent them a second pastor to serve their growing ministry.

Pastor Isaiah Horn will be installed at Trinity (387 Cemetery Rd.) on September 10 at 1:00 p.m. Following the service, there will be a light reception.

- 10. **Some have been asking** if we are making the Garden Gym or other [non classroom] rooms in the addition available for member use. We hope to down the road, but for the time being we want to grow to understand the rooms ourselves, figure out proper care and cleaning, and then create policies and procedures for use.
- 11. October WELS Youth Night St. Paul's will be hosting another WELS Youth Night event on Saturday October 14th. This will be a fun evening for teens from all around the area to get together for an evening of fun, food, games and study in God's Word. Signup is open now for this event, please register if you plan to attend. We'd love for you to bring some friends along! This is the link to register: <u>https://forms.gle/cjG5QjGAWqVBqSaw9</u> or scan the QR code on the posters around the building.
- 12. **MLHS Fall Festival** is on Sunday, October 22nd. The Fall Concert will begin at 4:00pm in the MLHS gym. Desserts and refreshments will be available starting at 2:00pm. The silent auction bidding will be starting at 2:00pm only in person biding this year!! Baskets will be showcased on social media prior to the Festival for all to see. Winners will be announced at the concert and winning baskets can then be picked up at MLHS on October 23rd 25th. Proceeds will be put towards offsetting the cost of the Fine Arts trip to Nashville in April. Money raised will benefit MLHS STUDENTS in the MLHS Fine Arts Program! MLHS is also looking for donations of theme baskets for their silent auction. If you are interested in making a basket, more information can be found in the member room.