



**PROTECTED BY GOD'S
POWERFUL NAME**



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

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 (3K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Worship Focus: *Now ascended to God's right hand, Jesus is interceding for us. What does that sound like? Today we get to listen in as Jesus prays to the Father on our behalf. John recorded one of his prayers in chapter 17 of his Gospel. We live in a dangerous world that hates followers of Jesus and what they stand for. They murdered Stephen just as they put Jesus himself to death. So, Jesus prays that we would overcome the world, that we would be "Protected by God's Powerful Name."*

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.*

Opening Hymn [8:00, 6:00]

CW 474

I'm Thankful [10:30]

St. Paul's 3K & 4K

I'm thankful for the flowers.
I'm thankful for the trees.
I'm thankful for the birds.
I'm thankful for the bees.
I'm thankful for my teachers.
I'm thankful for my family.
I'm thankful for my friends.
Thank you, God, for all these things!
I'm thankful for the hugs you give.
I'm thankful for the things you do.
I'm thankful for the love you share.
I'm thankful that you are you.

Thank you!

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.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The First Song of Isaiah

CW 810

Refrain (sung twice at opening and closing)

Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Verse

1 There - fore you shall draw wa - ter with re - joic - ing
from the springs of sal - va - tion. And on that day you shall say, "Give
thanks to the Lord and call up - on his name."

Verse

2 Make his deeds known a-mong the peo - ples; see that they re -
mem-ber that his name is ex-alt - ed. Sing the prais-es of the Lord for
he has done great things and this is known in all the world.

Verse

3 Cry a - loud, in-hab-it - ants of Zi - on, ring out your joy, for the

Refrain

great one in the midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael.

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9, 7:2a, 51-60

Jesus protected Stephen, who spoke his powerful name, by delivering him to glory.

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

²To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵²Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—⁵³you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 5:1–6

We overcome the world by faith in the powerful name of Jesus, the Son of God.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

John 17:11b-19

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from the evil one by the power of his name.

Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

CW 446

Sermon

John 17

Lord, Keep Us Safe, We Pray

That is such a good request – So are the answers

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.

Special Prayers & 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.

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: St. Paul's invited up to Communion instructed and confirmed member 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 that happen.

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

CW 660

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.

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

CW 924

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please scan the QR code to fill out our form.***



SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Norv Kock

SERVICE ACCOMPANIST: Luke Bramstedt

COMMUNION HELPERS: 8:00 a.m. – Dave Wehrmann, Andy Sprenger.

10:30 a.m. – Steve Schueler, Will Belitz.

ALTAR GUILD: Maryann Hahn, Jean Porter, Debbie Van Alstine.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Karl Leverenz, Dan Rehbein, Justin Radue, Steve Schueler, Joe Goedeke.

10:30a.m. – Gary Fields, Jason Yancy, Matt Schueler, Shawn Sickich. 6:00 p.m. – Don Last.

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: 5/5 & 5/6 - \$13,700 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,600). \$20,120 GROWING FORWARD.

ATTENDANCE: 5/4 EXAMINATION – 117. 5/5 & 5/6 – 8:00 A.M. – 125. 9:30 A.M. – 120.

11:00 A.M. – 312. 6:00 P.M. – 25.

In our prayers this week...

1. The Lord’s great blessing of mothers.
2. Pastor Pechman accepting our call and coming with his family this summer.
3. Alison Berry, as she is hospitalized with complications in her pregnancy.

| Date | Service, Bible Study, and Meeting Times |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 12 | 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services (3K-4K Sing 10:30 Service) |
| | 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour |
| | 10:15 a.m. Garden Gym Open |
| Monday, May 13 | 10:00 a.m. Pastor Circuit Meeting at Zion |
| | 3:30 p.m. Garden Gym Open |
| | 6:00 p.m. Monday Worship |
| | 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir (last practice) |
| Wednesday, May 15 | 8:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study |
| | 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (last one of the school year) |
| | 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Play Date |
| | 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Garden Gym Open |
| | 4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | 6:30 p.m. School Board |
| | 6:30 p.m. Officers |
| Thursday, May 16 | 6:30 p.m. - 5th-8th Grade Musical |
| Saturday, May 18 | 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Youth Night |
| Sunday, May 19 | 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services (School children sing for the 10:30 Graduation Service) |
| | 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour |
| | 10:15 a.m. Garden Gym Open |
| Monday, May 20 | 3:30 p.m. Garden Gym Open |
| | 6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship |

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

1. **Adult Bible Study** - We continue a 4 week Bible study series (4/21,28; 5/12,19) delving into the fascinating journey following the footsteps of the apostle Paul in Greece. Recently, a group from St. Paul's embarked on a trip to explore the culture, geography, and history of the places he visited, and Staff Minister Luther Curia is eager to share our discoveries with you. During our trip, we traced Paul's mission work, visiting key locations such as Athens, Corinth, and Thessalonica. We learned about the rich cultural tapestry of these ancient cities and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and triumphs Paul experienced in spreading the gospel. Join us as we unravel the layers of history and delve into the significance of Paul's mission in Greece. Whether you are a seasoned Bible scholar or simply curious about this pivotal chapter in Christian history, there will be something for everyone to learn and discuss.
2. **Wednesday Bible Study** - We finish our study of 1 Thessalonians this coming Wednesday, May 15. There have been great applications for regular prayer life, faith going into action, willingness to labor out of love, and holding onto hope to endure through difficult times. Come and be encouraged as we continue through this letter that helps us stand firm in the faith.
3. **May WELS Youth Night** - St. Paul's will be hosting our next WELS Youth Night event, on Saturday, May 18th. See posters around the building for more details, and a QR Code to register. We will have a special guest speaker for this event. Pastor Bill Monday from 922 Ministries in Appleton will be presenting on LGBTQIA+ Matters. For questions about the event, contact Mike Leahy - mleahy@live.com
4. **Pastor Kock Retirement Service** - On June 2 at 9:00 am, First German in Manitowoc will have a special service and meal to honor the retirement of Norv and Kathy Kock from full-time public ministry. Kathy served for 8 years at MLHS and for 26 years overall. Pastor Kock served as MLHS President for 8 years and for 41 years overall. We praise

God for their faithful service! The meal will be at City Limits (3627 County Rd CR in Manitowoc), and tickets for that meal can be purchased at MLHS (920-682-0215) or First German (920-684-0101). Cards or correspondence may be sent to 4045 Lancer Circle, Manitowoc, WI 54220.

In Other News

1. Call Updates:

a. On May 5, Pastor Brian Pechman *accepted* the divine call to serve as our new lead pastor, with focus in the areas of outreach, integration, education, and congregational direction. Pastor Pechman and his wife Angela have 5 children ranging from mid-20s down to 8th grade. They will likely arrive mid-summer. Please keep them in your prayers!



b. On May 5, it was announced that Pastor Norv Kock has accepted the divine call to serve as our part-time principal relief teacher again for the '24-'25 school year.

c. On April 21, Greg Johnson accepted the divine call to serve full-time permanently as our Administrative Vice Principal and Student Intervention Specialist.

2. Jesus And Me (JAM) - Families with children ages 0-5 are invited to come JAM with us on June 8th from 10am-12pm! We will be looking at how we need to be

"Built on Jesus", with Him as our firm foundation and cornerstone. There will be STEM activities and crafts geared towards children ages 0-5, but the whole family is welcome! At this event we will have a Bible story about the Wise and Foolish Builders, snacks, crafts, and building STEM activities-stacking stations, a fairy garden sensory bin, a Three Little Pigs challenge, and more!! Email us at jam@stpaulshowardsgrove.org with any questions.



3. Garden Gym Hours - From April 8 through May 20, we will have open gym times in the Garden Gym for St. Paul's members and for St. Paul's school families. It will be open on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 pm, Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 pm, and Sundays from 10:15 am until after late service for families who have attended early service and Family Bible Hour. The Garden Gym is for use by children ages 8 and under with parental supervision. It is expected that all posted regulations will be followed in order to properly care for the space and for those who use it.

4. Parking Lot Repair Funding Appeal - Our Church parking lot is in need of attention and needs to be repaired and sealcoated. The Trustees have received a quote for an amount that has required us to be creative in our funding approach. We are planning on using funds from this year's budget and Scrip funds. That still leaves us with a funding need of about \$10,000. We are hoping to reach our funding goal by the end of June. If you wish to assist in funding this need or have questions, please speak with Trevor Wehrmann or Eric Eickhoff. Donations can be noted as "Parking Lot Funding".

5. The CCCW will meet on Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m..