





St. Paul's 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 (I 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: Having a garden takes a lot of patient work: the tilling, the planting, the weeding, keeping the critters away, the picking, the canning. When the produce is bad, what a waste of time and effort! The Lord put in a lot of time for his people in the Old Testament. And so many of them returned rotten fruit. Now he turns his efforts to the field among us and "The Lord Looks for Good Fruit."

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.

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

CW 595

Stand

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

Confession CW 172

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

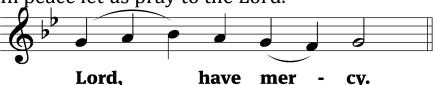
Silence for meditation and reflection

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 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

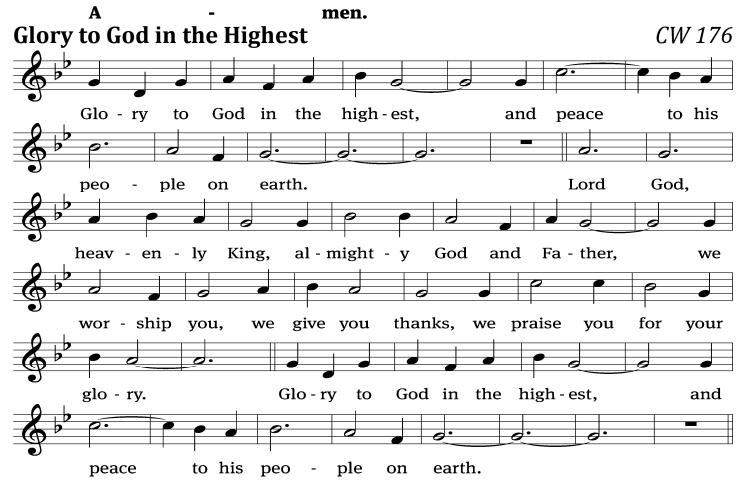


For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.







THE WORD

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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 Isaiah 5:1–7

The LORD planted a vineyard and looked for good fruit, though it yielded only rotten bloodshed.

¹I will sing for the one I love

a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard

on a fertile hillside.

²He dug it up and cleared it of stones

and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it

and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,

but it yielded only bad fruit.

³"Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,

judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard

than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,

why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you

what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,

and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,

and it will be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland,

neither pruned nor cultivated,

and briers and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds
not to rain on it."

The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AnthemI Am the Vine

Sung by St. Paul's Lutheran School Gr. 2-4

I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

As the Father loved me so I loved you. Remain in me and bear much fruit.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12-21

Though many live as enemies of the Lord and his cross, we bear fruit as we eagerly await the Savior's return from our homeland of heaven.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel *Matthew 21:33–43*

The Lord sent servants and his Son to collect fruit from the tenants; because of their violence, he would give his kingdom to others.

³³"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.

³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

" 'The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862

Sermon Isaiah

Parental Advisory – Explicit Content A song that turns sour * A people that didn't ferment

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.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

Preface CW 183

The Lord be with you.



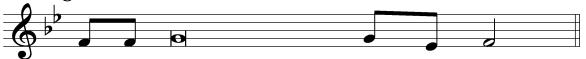
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



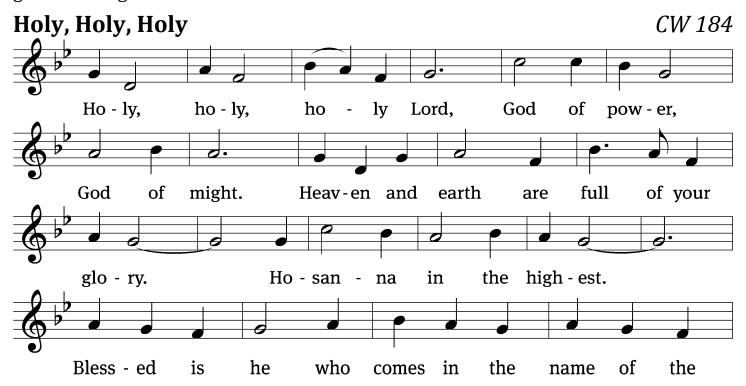
We lift them up to the Lord.

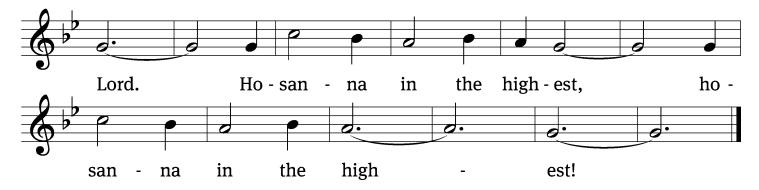
Let us give thanks to the Lord out God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:





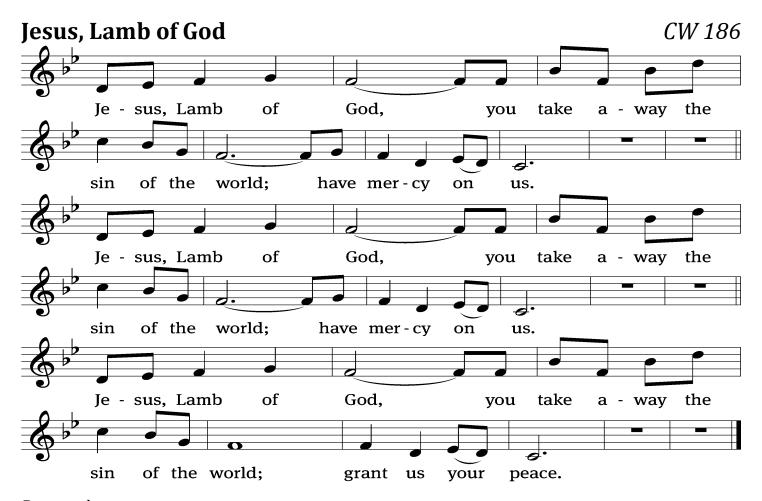
Words of Institution

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

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation

Take and Eat CW 676

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.

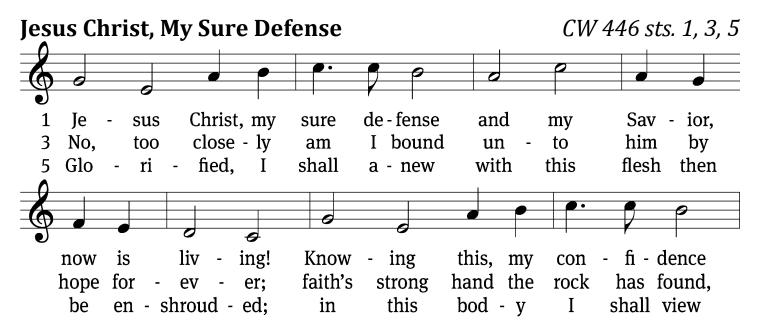
Blessing

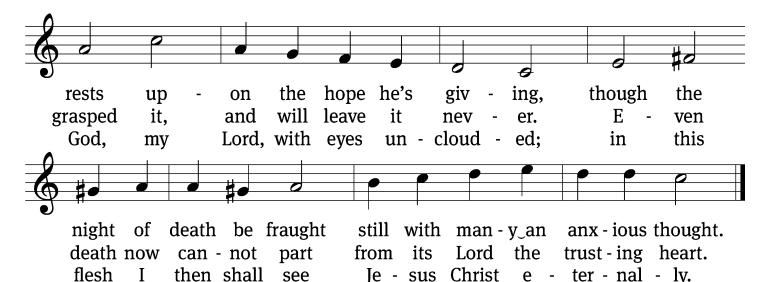
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.





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If you are visiting us today or would like to update your

information, please scan the QR code to fill out our form.

SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PREACHER: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ORGANIST: Dawn Johnson **Musician:** Nikki Leahv

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Jean Porter, Dawn Marten.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Randy Wehrmann, Jim Eick, Craig Thiel, Neil Pahl, Zach/Matthew Prem.

10:30a.m. – Brian Grimm, Tracis Krell, Nick Schmidt, Zach Theobald.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 8:00 a.m. Tim Klapperich, Mike Austreng.

10:30 a.m. Eric Vant Hul. Iim Van Alstine.

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 10/1 & 10/2 - \$22,100 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$590 GROWING FORWARD.

ATTENDANCE: 10/1 & 10/2 : 8:00 A.m. - 167. 10:30 A.m. - 109. 6:00 P.m. - 28.

In our prayers this week...

- 1. Devyn Becker and Remi Orr to be married next Saturday.
- 2. Nicole St. Germaine and Kirby Post to be married next Sunday.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, October 8	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 2nd-4th Sing Both Services
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, October 9	9:30 a.m. Pastor Circuit Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
Tuesday, October 10	6:00 p.m. BIC
	6:30 p.m. LCMS Study in Harvest Room
Wednesday, October 11	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 Room 113
Thursday, October 12	1:30 p.m. Ladies Aid
	6:30 p.m. Families of the Bible Bible Study in Harvest Room
	6:30 p.m. Sunday School Staff Meeting
Friday, October 13	6:00 p.m. Family Movie Night
Saturday, October 14	11:00 a.m. Kitchen, Commons Reserved
	Bekcer/Orr Weddings
	6:00 p.m. WELS Youth Night
Sunday, October 15	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
	K-4th Sing @ St. John-St. Peter, Cleveland
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

- 1. **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 are in Bible study. *Today we look at chapter 3.*
- 2. **Wednesday morning Bible** study is on *The Theology of the Cross.* Join us at 9:00 am in the Harvest Room!
- 3. **Sunday School** began on September 10 under the theme "The LORD is Our Strength"! A QR code labeled "Sunday School Registration" will be in the hallways again this weekend to direct your device to our registration form. If you would like to invite a friend, there are fliers in the member room.
- 4. **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 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 is available. Contact Luther Curia with any questions: luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org; 920.287.8575.
- 5. **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, 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. *Our next class is October 10.*

In Other News

1. Christmas at St. Paul's Student Registration - We are excited to once again present "Christmas at St. Paul's" this year on Sunday, December 17. Service times will be at 8:00 (1st-8th grade) & 10:30 (3K-8th grade) with activities and snacks between services in the Sunday School rooms. The services will be in our gymnasium again to provide more

seating and a larger-scale Christmas Worship event that you can invite your friends and loved ones to attend. It will be a multi-generational service, incorporating our children, St. Paul's adult choir, small groups of singers, and many instrumentalists - all presenting the most amazing and beautiful piece of our world's history: the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We truly hope that your child(ren) will be able to participate in our St. Paul's Christmas service this year!

It is very important for all child participants to submit the participation form by Monday, October 9. This allows us to have finalized service materials in time for adequate preparation. Late registration unfortunately won't be allowed. Registration can be found using the QR code.

Please forward any questions regarding the service to Luther Curia: luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org

- 2. **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.
- 3. **Divine Call** This week Pastor Bode decided to return his call to Omaha, NE. He is grateful and blessed to continue serving at St. Paul's. Thank you for your prayers as he deliberated over the past few weeks.
- 4. **Night To Shine**: Exciting News! Manitowoc Lutheran High School was recently selected to be one of the official host sites this school year for "Night To Shine" on Friday, February 9th, 2024. "Night To Shine" is a complimentary special needs prom event that occurs every year and is open to anyone living with disabilities, ages 14 and older. It's a night where those living with special needs get to be reminded of God's love for them, too! It's sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation & this year there are only 4 host sites in the entire state of Wisconsin! That being said, help is going to be needed to make this night a success. If you have a heart for individuals with special needs, are curious to know more, or would be interested in helping with this event—please contact Nathan Meitner at nmeitner@mlhslancers.org or 920-428-2010.
- 5. **Fall Family Movie Night:** The Activities committee is planning a fun activity for your family Friday, October 13!

Schedule: 6:00: Doors open; pizza is served

6:15: Movie begins (Hotel Transylvania 3, rated PG)

COST: freewill offering collection

We'll have the gym set up for the occasion, with a huge movie screen. Besides pizza, we will have a "Build Your Own Movie Snackbox Bar". For the adults, we will have Old Fashioneds and Moscow Mules.

BRING ALONG: blankets, chairs, pjs, pillows, stuffed animals Please register by OCTOBER 9 to help the committee plan for the event. Contact Luther Curia with any questions: luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org

- 6. **Worship Service Ushers:** Thank you to those who regularly volunteer to serve as ushers for our worship services. As we prepare the usher schedule, please consider serving for at least one month each year. A request for additional ushers in certain months (like July) 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 (920-693-8837 or Cellular 920-946-6617) as questions arise. Thank you for serving your congregation.
- 7. **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/spiritual-retreats. Questions can be directed to LMSG leader Brad Price (bprice@lutheranmilitary.org).
- 8. **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: https://forms.gle/cjG5QjGAWqVBqSaw9 or scan the QR code on the posters around the building.
- 9. **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 bidding 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.
- 10. **Living Nativity** We are inviting everyone to join us on October 22nd just before family Bible Hour for the Living Nativity breakfast. The menu will include egg bakes, fruit, coffee cakes and more. A free will offering will be collected. This is our only fund-raising effort for the Living Nativity. Committee leaders will be on hand to answer any questions and sign you up for the cast or crew. Don't forget to sign up for your favorite spot! We still have many spots to fill in the cast and crew areas.

If you can give us a night or two or three, please sign up. It is a fun event, and you are sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. What a wonderful way to serve.

- 11. **Missing tablecloths** Two lace tablecloths used by Ladies Aid and History Committee were stored in the Commons cabinets. Does someone know where they were moved? Please contact Pat Loersch or Carl Toepel if you have any information about the tablecloths.
- 12. **Fall LWMS Rally** The fall rally of Lutheran Women's Missionary Society will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3607 45th Street (HwyVV), Two Rivers. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the rally begins at 9 a.m. Lunch and fellowship will follow the rally. Speaker will be Pastor Mark Zondag, member of the WELS Asia One Team. For more information, see the poster on the Commons bulletin board. Offerings will be collected until Oct. 8 in the box for cash or checks located in the narthex. Checks should be made out to LWMS Shoreline Circuit.
- 13. **Shortened Pews during Worship Services** A reminder that the shortened pews are designed for those requiring movement assistance. Please reserve the shortened ends of the pews for those that need to sit in a wheelchair or store a walker and their families. Your cooperation is GREATLY appreciated.
- 14. **Open Gym Volleyball** Come check out our two new, side by side courts on October 8th from 6-8pm! Open to high school age and above, ALL skill levels, and both men and women. One court will be designated for fun, B league level play. The other will be designated for competitive, A league level play. Please contact Amanda Bode, mrsabode@gmail.com or 920-750-8437, if you are interested and/or have any questions. See you on the court!
- 15. **The Ladies Aid has played** an integral role at St. Paul's for the past 100 years (we celebrate their anniversary next Sunday). Here's a summary of their history:
 - a. On January 25, 1923 twenty women of St. Paul's met to organize the Ladies Aid. Through the past 100 years the goal has remained the same: "The purpose shall be to build the kingdom of God by
 - i. the study of the Word of God, and
 - ii. by assisting the congregation in charitable missionary and financial matters."

In early years, much attention was focused on immediate needs - caring and providing for the church, kitchen, and the old school.

The Ladies Aid has been attentive not only to material needs but also to spiritual needs. Thousands of dollars were given to mission endeavors of WELS and mission projects beyond the synod.

God has also used the Ladies aid to promote Christian fellowship among its members and sister congregations.

The Ladies Aid meets once a month on the second Thursday. Come join us. We'd love to have you!

Some of their activities and donations past and present include:

- Gifts to Apache Missions
- Central Africa Medical Mission
- Gifts to St. Paul's School
- Manitowoc Lutheran High School fundraisers
- Purchased numerous kitchen supplies, dishes, high chairs
- Lutheran Women's Missionary Society and Christian Family Solutions gifts
- Postage for Military Boxes
- Provided Meditations devotion books from Northwestern Publishing House
- Served meals for funerals, Mission fests, pot lucks, and Lenten suppers