

FOLLOW JESUS WITH YOUR OWN CROSS

SEPTEMBER 3 & 4, 2023





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 d and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God

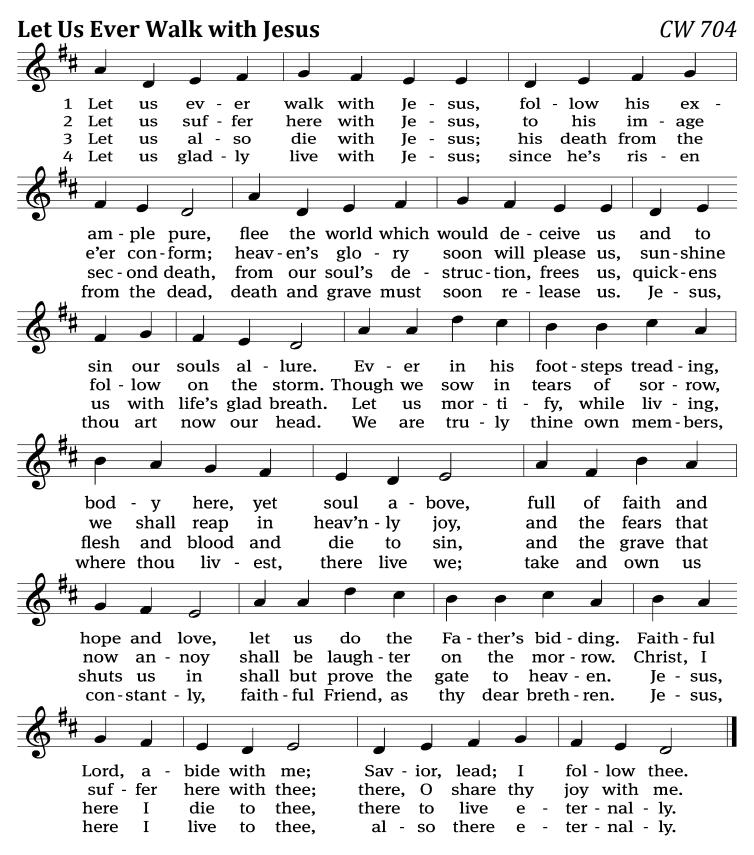
We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table. Please speak to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

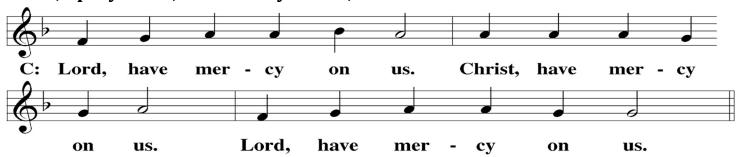
Worship Focus: Last week, Peter professed that Jesus is the Messiah. This week, Jesus unfolds what that means. It means a cross. Because of our sin, it was necessary for Jesus to suffer the cross. Only by his cross is our salvation accomplished and offered. Jesus confronts us with the reality that anyone who follows him will have a cross to carry as well: persecution, struggle, difficulty, self-denial. Yet our crosses serve to keep us ever-focused on what his cross has won for us. "Follow Jesus With Your Own Cross".



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



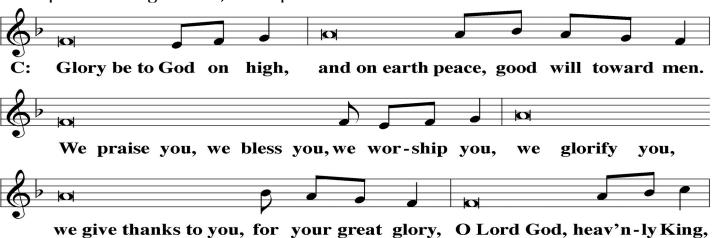
Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

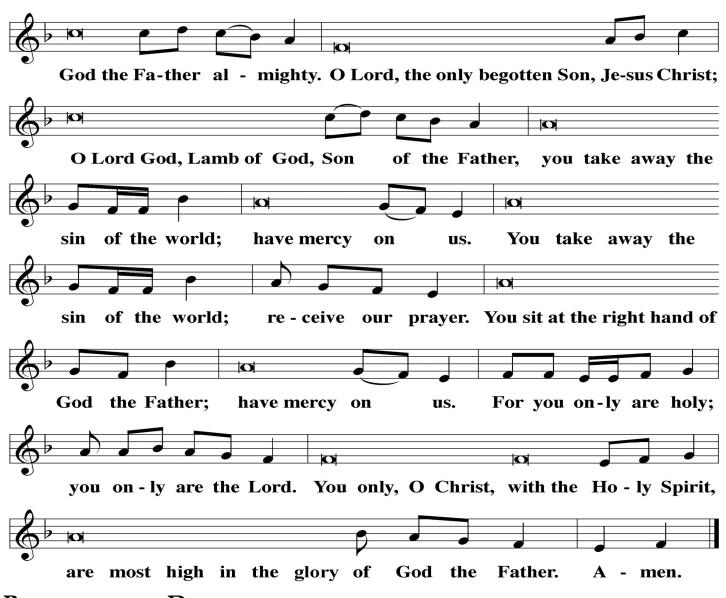


God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.



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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

Baptisms [10:30]

Emerson Marie Fiorini daughter of Dom and Lindsay Miles Robert Horst son of Nick and Kendra

First Lesson Jeremiah 15:15–21

Because Jeremiah questioned the painful cross laid on him, the LORD called him to repent and be rescued.

¹⁵LORD, you understand;

remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight,

for I bear your name,

LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them;

I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending

and my wound grievous and incurable?

You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me;

if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you a wall to this people,

a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you

but will not overcome you,

for I am with you

to rescue and save you,"

declares the LORD.

²¹"I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel."

Solo

I Have a Shelter (Based on Psalm 31)

I have a shelter in the storm, when troubles pour upon me. Though fears are rising like a flood, my soul can rest securely. O Jesus, I will hide in you, my place of peace and solace. No trial is deeper than your love that comforts all my sorrows.

I have a shelter in the storm, when all my sins accuse me. Though justice charges me with guilt, your grace will not refuse me. O Jesus, I will hide in you, who bore my condemnation. I find my refuge in your wounds, for there I find salvation.

I have a shelter in the storm, when constant winds would break me. For in my weakness I have learned your strength will not forsake me. O Jesus, I will hide in you, the One who bears my burdens. With faithful hands that cannot fail, you'll bring me home to heaven.

Second Lesson *Romans 8:18–25*

We groan under the cross as we patiently wait in the hope of freedom and glory.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Stand

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 16.



Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:21–26

Whoever wants to be Jesus' disciple must take up their cross and follow him.

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

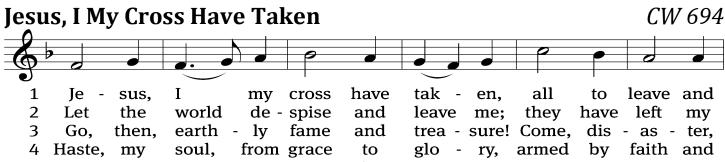
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

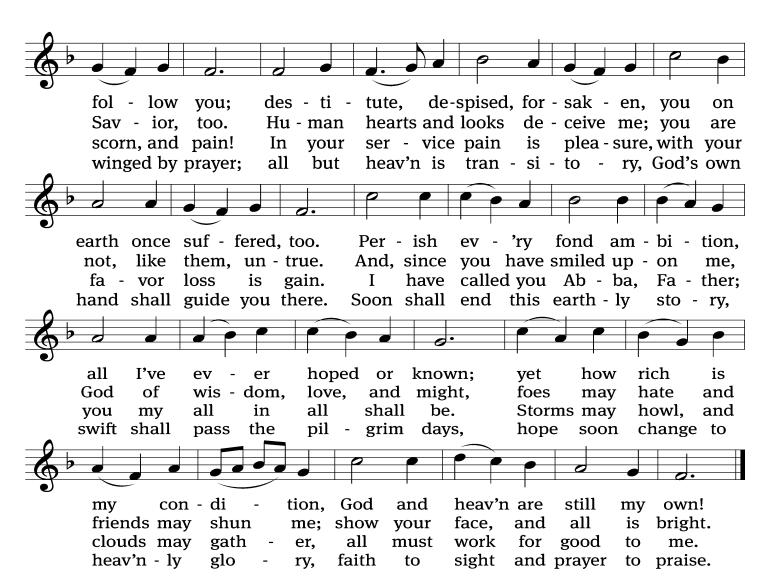
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated



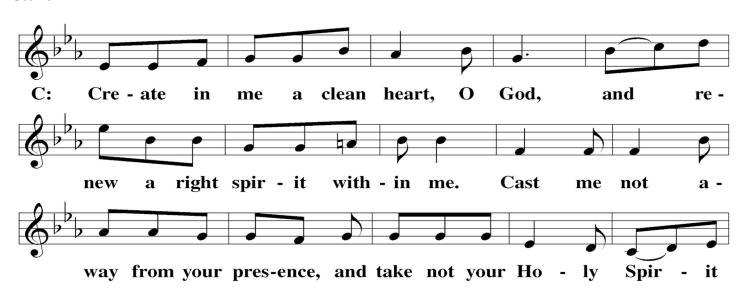


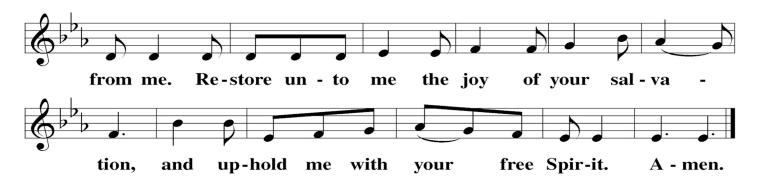
Sermon

Jeremiah 15

Bad Breath
Recognize it * Remove it

Stand





Prayer of the Church

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

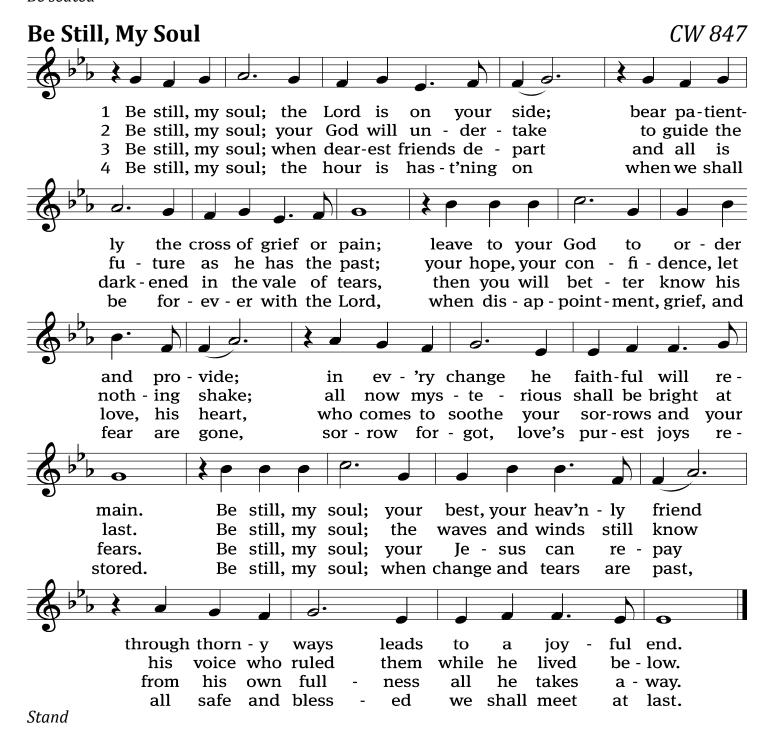
Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

Amen.

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.

Be seated



Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



Be seated



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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller Organist: Susan Phelps Musician: Sue Vant Hul

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

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Greg Johnson, David Wehrmann, Richard Steolb, Will Belitz. 10:30a.m. – Kevin Reinemann, Tim Reinemann, Jim Truttschel, Tyler Truttschel.

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: 8/27 & 8/28 - \$14,300 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$7,100 GROWING FORWARD. \$100 FAITH FOR THE FUTURE. \$600 MLHS SWEET CORN FUNDRAISER. ATTENDANCE: 8/27 & 8/28: 8:00 A.M. - 162. 10:30 A.M. - 142. 6:00 P.M. - 57. In our prayers this week...

- 1. Emerson Fiorini, daughter of Dom and Lindsay, baptized this weekend.
- 2. Miles Horst, son of Nick and Kendra, baptized this weekend.
- 3. Local public schools starting classes for the fall.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, September 3	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
	9:15 - 10:15 a.m Family Bible Hour
Monday, September 4	LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED
	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
Wednesday, September 5	8:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study
	9:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Music and Movement
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism
	6:30 p.m. Church Council
Friday, September 6	NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday, September 10	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
	11:30 a.m. Church Picnic

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

- 1. **Family Bible Study** starting September 3 we begin 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 in time will be in the Harvest Room, but on Sept. 3 we may still need to be in the sanctuary. Stay tuned! 9:20 am is our start time. There is child care available for younger children while parents and older children are in Bible study.
- 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 6.
- 4. **Sunday School** begins on September 10 under the theme "The LORD is Our Strength"! Registration is live now on our website, stpaulshowardsgrove.org. If you would like to invite a friend, there are fliers in the member room.
- 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: <a href="https://link.nih.gov/link
- 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** in September. The Building Committee and Church Council decided to move it to make sure we have ample time for all equipment to arrive and be installed and all finishing touches to be completed.

The **Open House** event is intended for our neighbors, community, and area WELS churches. We are planning on **September 17** from **3:00 - 5:00 pm.** 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 Sunday, 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!

We're looking for the best desserts out there, people. Our St. Paul's bakers never disappoint! Signup if you'd like to bring something.

SALSA COMPETITION: Do you have a salsa recipe that you think is on point? Sign up for our Salsa Competition! Your salsa can be any variety/type you like (stewed, fresh, fruit, etc.). Bring a half-gallon of your salsa to the picnic and you could win a \$50 gift card to Pacifico! More details will be shared later for those who sign up.

Cost: Free-will offering basket. Additional beverages can be purchased (cash only). Please register using the qr code or by calling the office by Monday, September 4 so that we have enough food for you.:)

Let Luther Curia know if you have any questions:

luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.

8575 or luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.

- 4. **Now Hiring!** St. Paul's is looking to fill the following position:
 - a. **Preschool Aide(s):** We are still looking to hire aides to work with our youngest lambs: 3K, 4K and Kindergarten students. Shifts are available between 6:30 AM-5:30 PM, Monday-Friday when school is in session. Positions include: providing before/after school care, assisting with classroom routines, lunch prep and recess and nap time supervision. Please contact the office to request an application and to schedule an interview.
- 5. Adult Choir Coming Soon! Do you have a love of singing and a love for your Savior? 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 (https://tinyurl.com/5n8cvc9j 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-

- 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 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 (920-693-8837 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:
 - a. In our Ministerial Education system, we are blessed to have 4 schools: 2 preparatory high schools, 1 college, and 1 seminary. This area of ministry emphasized the need to pray for more workers. The schools have been focusing on student aid, recruitment and retention of students, and updating and enhancing their campuses.
 - b. WELS Congregational Services helps to equip congregations for faithful and fruitful ministry. Areas include Congregational Counseling, Lutheran Schools, Evangelism, Worship, Discipleship, and Special Ministries. These areas of ministry have developed evangelism training, elder training, child abuse awareness training, prison ministry programs, Bible studies and ministry programs for teens and millennials, worship planning, stewardship programs, resources for women's ministries, and marriage resources for congregations.
 - c. WELS schools around the country have had upward trending enrollments post-COVID. More non-WELS families have been utilizing our schools. Resources have been developed to help maximize opportunities to share God's Word with children and families.
- 8. **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.
- 9. **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.