

CHRIST REVEALED FOR ALL NATIONS



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



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.

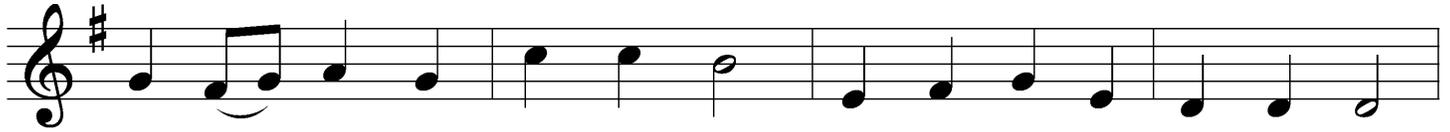


St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (3K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Worship Focus: *On Christmas, the good news of Jesus was confined mainly to the area of Bethlehem. Not long afterward, it spread to people like Simeon and Anna at the temple in Jerusalem. Yet the Lord would soon lead people from a far-off kingdom to the young Jesus. Today, we mark the beginning of the season of Epiphany, which means revealing. Throughout the season, Christ is revealed in his ministry, miracles, and message. Today, we see "Christ Revealed for All Nations".*

As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

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.

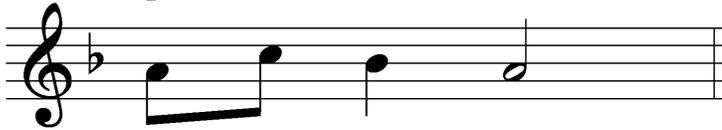
Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



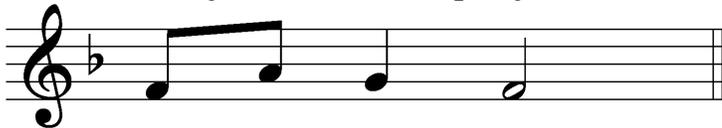
Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



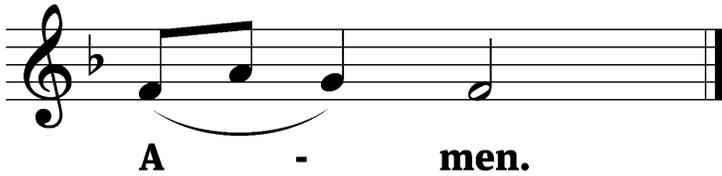
Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CW 384 sts. 1, 3



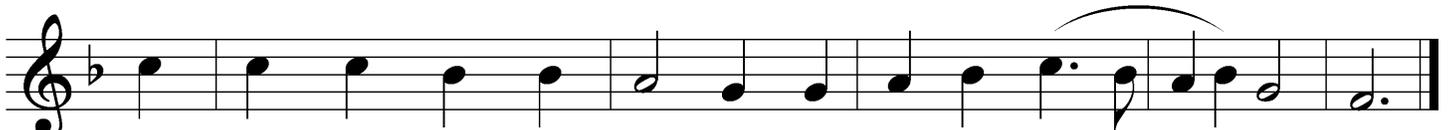
1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; 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

Numbers 24:15-17a

The Almighty God Most High revealed a Savior from a distance in a star from Jacob, a scepter out of Israel.

¹⁵Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,

¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷“I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

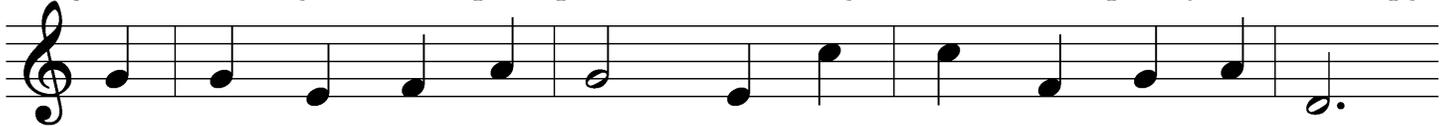
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

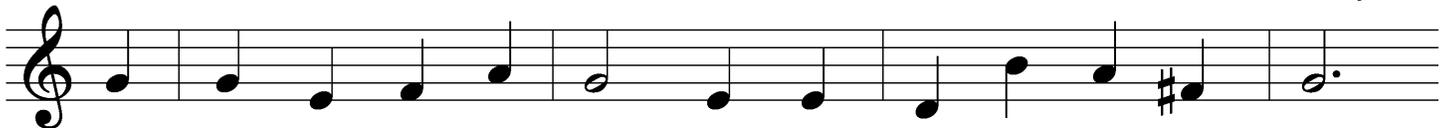
A King on High Is Reigning

Psalm 72B

The Royal Son will endure forever and reign in righteousness to the ends of the earth; distant kings will present him with gifts.



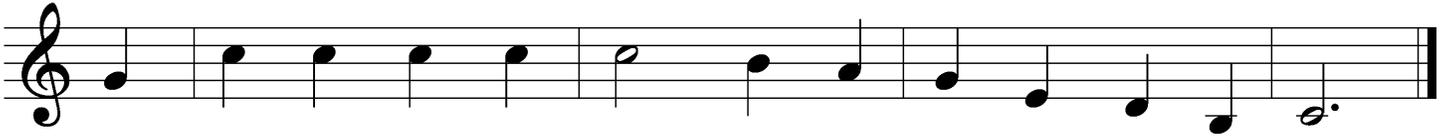
1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.
his right - eous - ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
her scep - tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov-'reign Lord of all.
for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

Second Reading

Romans 11:13–15,28–32

Through Paul's ministry, God revealed the Savior in mercy toward the disobedient, both Jews and Gentiles.

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³²For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Trio

Light of the World

Light of the world, treasure of heaven, brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky. Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness, shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.

Light of the world, from the beginning. The tragedies of time were no match for your love. From great heights of glory, you saw my story. God, you entered in and became one of us.

Refrain: Sing hallelujah! Sing hallelujah! Sing hallelujah, for the things he has done! Come and adore him, bow down before him. Sing hallelujah to the Light of the world.

Light of the world, crown in a manger born for the cross, to suffer, to save. High King of heaven, death is the poorer. We are the richer, by the price that he paid.

Refrain

Light of the world, soon will be coming. With fire in his eyes, he will ransom his own. Through clouds he will lead us straight into glory. And there he shall reign forevermore. *Refrain*

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

The Lord revealed the Savior to the wise men from the East, guiding them by a star and the Scriptures.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



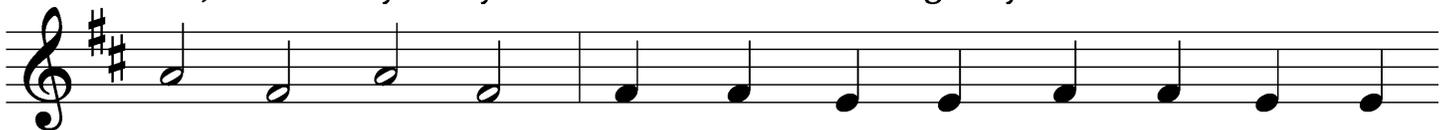
and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Sermon

Romans 11

The God of *No Regrets*

Stand

Apostles' 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

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

Arise and Shine in Splendor

CW 375



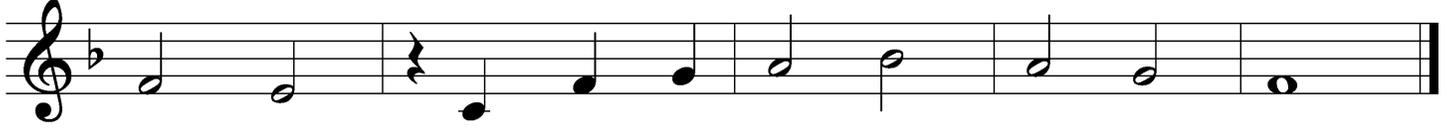
1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; let night to
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, the hea - then
3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— see, na - tions
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness when from the



day sur - ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near.
 na - tions dy - ing in hope - less gloom and night.
 gath - er yon - der from sin to be set free.
 realms of sad - ness they come from near and far.



A - bove, the day is beam - ing, in match-less beau - ty
 To you the Lord of heav - en— your life, your hope— has
 The world has heard your sto - ry; her sons come to your
 Your eyes will wake from slum - ber as peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; the glo - ry of the Lord is here.
 giv - en great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
 glo - ry, her daugh - ters haste your light to see.
 num - ber re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Stand

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

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.

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

CW 374 sts. 1-2, 5

1 The star pro-claims the King is here; but, Her - od,
2 The east - ern Ma - gi saw from far and fol - lowed
5 All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be and praise for

why this sense - less fear? For he who came from heav - en's
on his guid - ing star, and, led by light, to Light they
his e - piph - a - ny, whom with the Fa - ther we a -

throne does not de - sire an earth - ly crown.
pressed and by their gifts their God con - fessed.
dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PREACHER: Rev. Aaron Mueller

MLC PASTOR TRACK STUDENTS: Paul Wagner & Matthew Nelson

ORGANIST: Deb Doletzky

MUSICIANS: Mary Athorp, Rev. Adam & Aurora Bode, Paschal Curia, Nick & Tanya Schmidt, Emma Sprenger, and Sue Vant Hul

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Karen Beining, Sheryl Nehls.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Allen Kraemer, Trever Athorp, Ray Price, Dan Goetsch, James Bilgo.

10:30a.m. – Alan Kuether, Terry Roehrborn.

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: 12/24 & 12/25 - \$35,700 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$6,000 GROWING FORWARD. \$45 EVANGELISM DIRECTORIES. \$150 SCHOOL FUND. \$25 CAROL HOLZWART MEMORIAL. 12/31 - \$19,100 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$32,975 GROWING FORWARD. \$40 SCHOOL FUND. ATTENDANCE: 12/31: 8:00 A.M. - 165. 10:30 A.M. - 148.

In our prayers this week...

1. Maryann Hahn still has complications from lung surgery for her cancer.
2. Jacob Bilitz has come home from the hospital.
3. Paul Wagner and Matthew Nelson on their studies at MLC.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, January 7	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, January 8	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	No Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday, January 10	9:00 a.m. Bible Study
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism
	6:30 p.m. Evangelism
Thursday, January 11	1:30 p.m. Ladies Aid
Saturday, January 13	6:00 p.m. WELS Youth Night - Harvest Room
Sunday, January 14	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, January 15	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	No Adult Choir Practice

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

1. **Sunday Bible Study** - We will continue our study on the book of Revelation in the Harvest Room. This morning we will look at chapters 16 & 17.
2. **New Bible Information Class** - Our next Bible Information Class is now scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm, starting January 18 and planning to finish before Holy Week. This class is a great refresher for long-time members and a helpful introduction for those interested in exploring membership. Please speak to Pastor Bode if interested.
3. **Wednesday Bible Study** resumes January 10th. Our study is on *predestination* and *election*.
4. **Marriage Retreat** - Staff Minister Luther Curia is hosting another marriage enrichment retreat March 15-16. This year's retreat will be held on campus to make use of our new facilities and to accommodate those who aren't able to get away for a weekend. Flyers with event details and registration forms will be available soon! Feel free to contact Luther Curia with any questions: luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org

In Other News

1. **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.
2. **Axe Throwing:** The Activities committee is headed to the Longhouse Axe Bar in Sheboygan for some fellowship...and axe throwing! Hope you can come. When: Friday, January 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost: \$40 per person (includes axe throwing, gratuity, and pizza). Sign up using the QR code by Tuesday, January 16, but act quickly, because space is limited. Drop off your payment in the office or bring it along the night of the event. Bring questions to Luther Curia: 920.287.8575 or luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
3. **St. Paul's Adult Choir:** The Adult Choir will resume weekly practices Monday, January 22 at 7:00 pm. Have you ever thought about being in the choir? There's a spot for you! Join us for the second semester!
4. **St. Paul's Early Childhood Pre-Enrollment:** December 10, 2023-January 10, 2024, marks a special month set aside for just our St. Paul's church members to pre-enroll children in our 3K, 4K and Kindergarten classes for the 2024-2025 school year. All children **must** be 3, 4 or 5 by 9/1/24 and be independent in the bathroom to enroll. Space is limited and classes will potentially fill quickly. After January 10, pre-enrollment will be opened to current St. Paul's school students and then to new families who have shown interest in our program during the past year. Contact MeLissa Wieting (melissa.wieting@sphg.org or 608-617-7040) for more information or for the link to pre-enroll your child. Meeting the Early Childhood staff and tours of our facility can be arranged through the email or phone number listed above.
5. **Our next Voters' Meeting is on January 21st** starting at 11:45 am. Reports should be sent to you the prior week. This is an important meeting where new leaders for service to the congregation will be elected.
6. **WELS Webinar:** Come join us Thursday, January 18th at 7 PM in the Harvest room to participate in a webinar called Reviving Relationships Through Biblical Hospitality. The discussion will revolve around the importance of hospitality in the home, at church, and even in public. It will explore some of the challenges that keep us from reaching out to others, inviting them over, or offering them our help. There is no cost - just come and learn more about strengthening our relationships with one another and connecting with others.
7. **January WELS Youth Night** - St. Paul's will be hosting another WELS Youth Night event on Saturday January 13th. 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/BDJp96PYCtdMmzqi7> or scan the QR code on the posters around the building.
8. **Save The Date!** A women's retreat is being planned for the morning of April 20, 2024 here at St. Paul's. Registration and further details will come later, but we wanted everyone to get this exciting event on their calendars. Hope to see all of our ladies on April 20th!
9. **Youth Rally Meeting** – On Sunday February 4th after second service, we will be holding an information meeting about the 2024 WELS Youth Rally. Parents and students who are interested in learning more about the Youth Rally are encouraged to attend! Until then, you can read more about the event at <https://welsyouthrally.net/> If you have any questions about the Youth Rally, or if you are interested in going, but cannot attend the meeting – please contact Mike Leahy – mleahy@live.com – (920) 422-0771.