

# CHRIST REVEALED AS OUR STRENGTH



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



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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!

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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!

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## 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.

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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:** *When you are a caretaker for someone, it gets exhausting. Day after day there are long hours, and there are appointments week after week. This is how the people of Capernaum must have felt as they brought all their sick to Jesus so that he would heal them, including Peter's mother-in-law. It is especially when we are weary that we realize how much we need Jesus. Today, he leads us to grasp that we actually need him at all times: "Christ Revealed as Our Strength".*

## Day by Day

CW 803

*Stand*

### Invocation

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

### Confession

CW 188

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*

### Absolution

CW 188

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



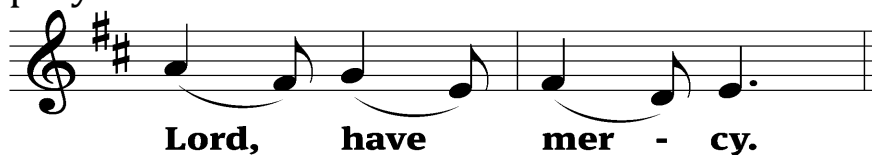
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



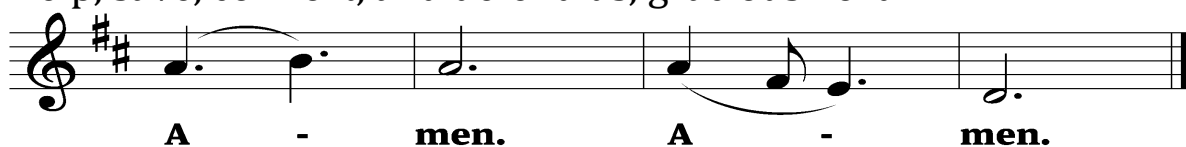
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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

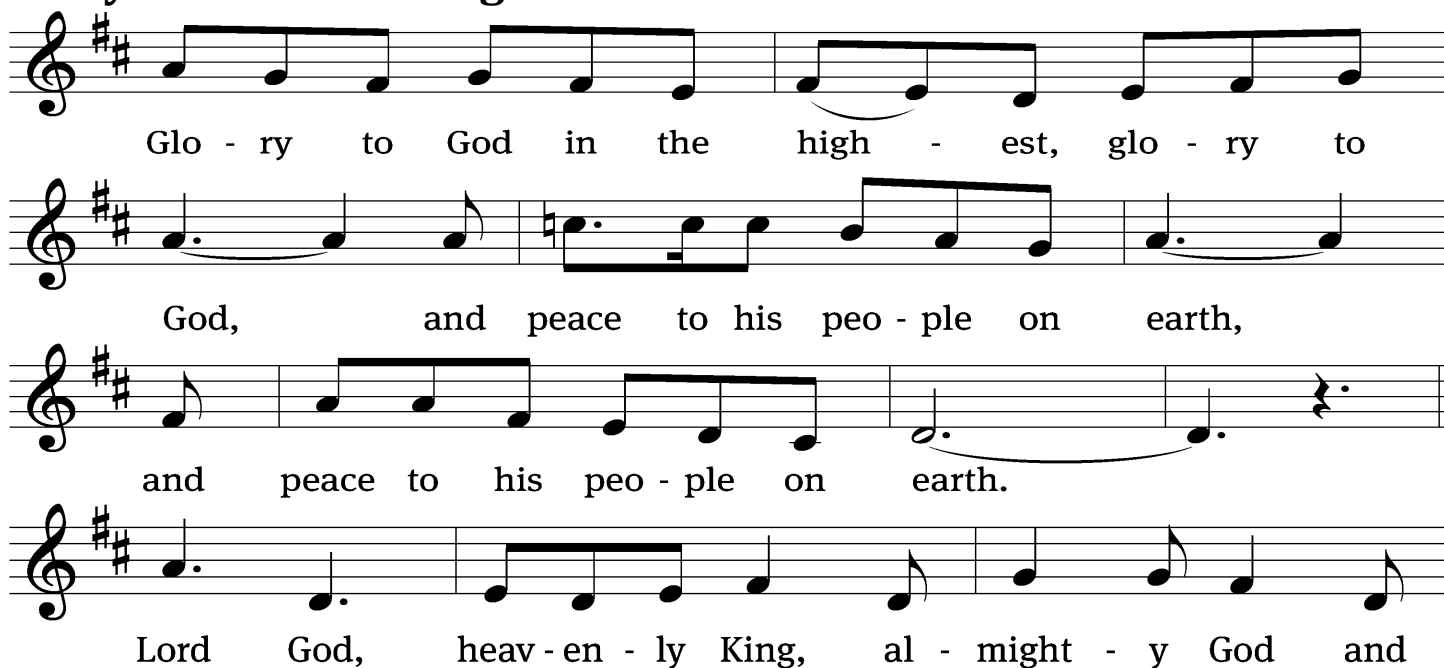


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

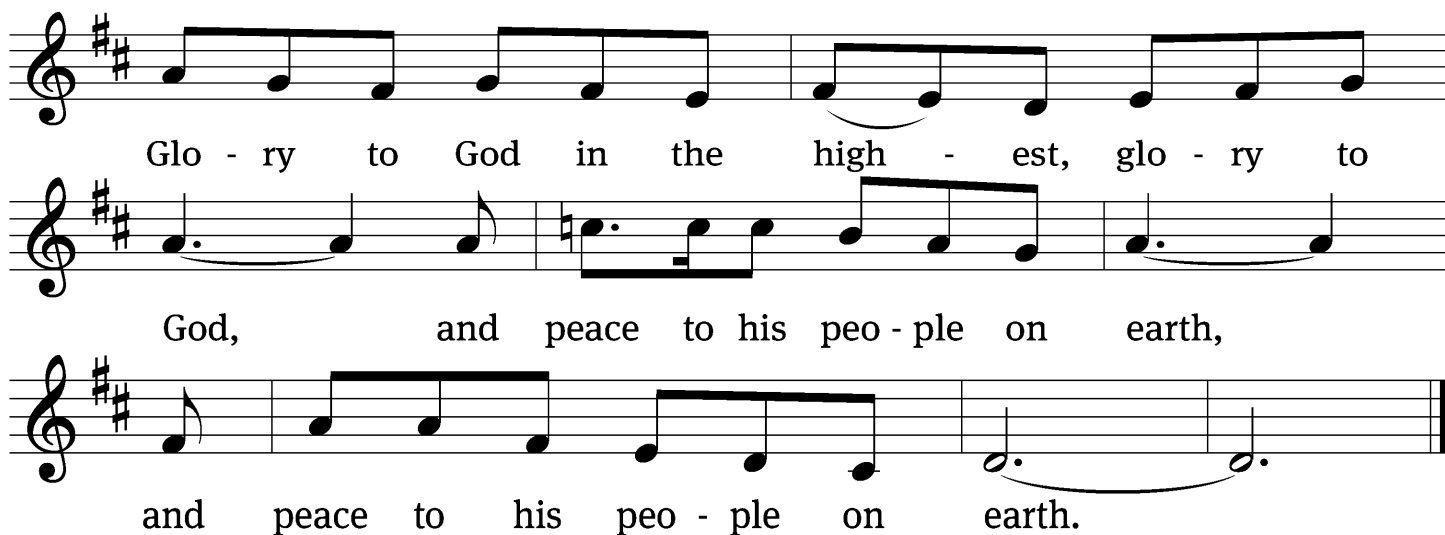


## Glory to God in the Highest

*CW 191*



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



## THE WORD

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; 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 40:27–31*

*The LORD is the everlasting God, who gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

<sup>27</sup>Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD;  
 my cause is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
 and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup>He gives strength to the weary  
 and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
<sup>31</sup>but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

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

## **Bless the Lord, O My Soul**

*Psalm 103*

*Praise the LORD, who gives strength in the forgiveness of sins, the healing of disease, and the renewal of youth.*

*Sung by Small Group*

My God is slow to anger when I go astray, bless the Lord, O my soul. For all of my betrayals he will not repay, bless the Lord, O my soul. Through mercy and compassion his great love is proved; he covers my transgressions like the snow. As far as east from west are all my sins removed, bless the Lord, O my soul.

He saved me from the pit when I had lost all hope, bless the Lord, O my soul. From endless springs of kindness all his blessings flow, bless the Lord, O my soul. Our days will fade like flowers and are quickly spent, and like the wind our years will come and go. Everlasting favor is his covenant, bless the Lord, O my soul.

Merciful and gracious is my God to me, bless the Lord, O my soul. And I will tell his goodness through eternity, bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord, you angels, all you heavenly hosts, and every living creature here below. Praise the Father, praise the Son and Holy Ghost, bless the Lord, O my soul.

## **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 5:6–11*

*Cast your anxiety on the Lord and stand firm in the faith;  
after you have suffered a little while, he will restore you and make you strong.*

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **Gospel**

*Mark 1:29–39*

*Christ gave strength to those who were weak from sickness and demon possession,  
so he could ultimately give strength through his preaching.*

<sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup>Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup>So he went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup>The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup>and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

<sup>35</sup>Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup>Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup>and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup>Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup>So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**It Is Well with My Soul**

*CW 850*

**Sermon**

*Isaiah 40*

**To the Extreme!**

Do you hear yourself? \* Have you heard him?

*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.**

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.**

## **On Eagle's Wings**

*CW 821 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3, Final Refrain*

### **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.**

# Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CW 517

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## ***SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:***

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**PREACHER:** Rev. Aaron Mueller

**ORGANIST:** Deb Doletzky

**MUSICIANS:** Addi Leverenz, Kyliegh Olson, and Tanya Schmidt

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sandra Weber, Konni Harbach, Dawn Marten.

**USHERS:** 8:00a.m.- Cory Schroeder, Clay Schroeder, Brian Stauss, Andy Sprenger, Kevin Oleck. 10:30a.m. – Jeff Plass, Todd Marten, John Marten, Dave Probst, Nathan Kracht.  
6:00 p.m. Kevin Hoppe

### ***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: 1/28 & 1/29 - \$14,400 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$1,170 GROWING**

**ATTENDANCE: 1/28 & 1/29: 8:00 A.M. – 232. 10:30 A.M. – 143. 6:00 P.M. – 262.**

<b>This Week at a Glance:</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Service, Bible Study, and Class Times</b>
<b>Sunday, February 4</b>	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Worship</b>
	<b>9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour</b>
	<b>11:45 a.m. Youth Rally Meeting - Harvest Room</b>
<b>Monday, February 5</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m. Bible Information Class</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 7</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Bible Study</b>
	<b>4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m. Council</b>
<b>Thursday, February 8</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</b>
	<b>1:30 p.m. Ladies Aid</b>
<b>Friday, February 9</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Sunday, February 11</b>	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Worship</b>
	<b>9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour</b>
<b>Monday, February 12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Pastor Circuit Meeting at Calvary</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m. Bible Information Class</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice</b>

# 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 18-19.
2. **Bible Information Class** - Our current Bible Information Class is on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm. We are very blessed to have 19 enrolled this time around!
3. **Wednesday Bible Study** resumed last week. Our study is on *predestination* and *election*. It is still a great time to jump in. Class begins at 9:00 am.
4. **Lent** - On February 14, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and a worship service with communion at 6:30 pm. This year for our Lent Wednesdays, we will follow the theme "God on Trial" and once again our area WELS pastors will rotate around to the different churches.
5. **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 are available in the member room! Register by Wednesday, February 28 either by dropping off your form in the office or online using the QR code. Feel free to contact Luther Curia with any questions:  
[luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org](mailto:luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org)



## In Other News

1. **Call Updates:** At our congregation's annual voters meeting on January 21, we called Emily Panzer to be our permanent 4K teacher. We are so thankful for her dedicated ministry in our Early Childhood wing. On January 22, our 5-6 grade teacher and athletic director, Andy Dais, received a call to Martin Luther in Oshkosh, WI, to teach 6th grade and serve as technology director. Please pray for Mrs. Panzer and Mr. Dais and encourage them both as they consider these opportunities for service in God's kingdom!
2. **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.

3. **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!
4. **Youth Rally Meeting** – On Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mleahy@live.com) – (920) 422-0771.
5. **Lenten Meals** - Thank you to the following groups that have signed up for a Lenten meal!

February 14th - Altar Guild: HOTDOGS

February 21st - Bushman Family - PULLED PORK & HOT BEEF

February 28th - Pioneers: FRENCH BREAD PIZZAS

March 6th - Teachers: BUILD YOUR OWN SUB

March 13th - Ladies Aid - SLOPPY JOES

March 20th - Youth Group – CHILI

6. **PTF Pizza Fundraiser** - The students of St. Paul's are once again selling delicious homemade pizzas! Pizzas may be purchased from any participating student between now and **February 7th**. Or, pick up an order form from the member room and return it to the office with payment by Wednesday the 7th. **Pizzas will be made and ready for pickup at the school on Saturday, February 24th**. We could also use volunteers to help make the pizzas beginning at 8am on the 24th! Contact Katie Meyer ([katieb82@hotmail.com](mailto:katieb82@hotmail.com)) or the office to sign up to help!
7. **ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS!** St. Paul's will be holding a special event for both our school families and congregation members called a Night of the Arts on Friday, March 1st! We are excited to be able to showcase a variety of student artwork, but we'd also love to display some art from the many talented artists in our congregation (watercolors, oil pastels, pyrography, glasswork, etc.) Grab



something from the past or create something new! We know you're out there and we're excited to share your work! Please sign up by scanning the QR code or contact Molly Meitner at (608)-498-7605 or [molly.meitner@stpaulshowardsgrove.org](mailto:molly.meitner@stpaulshowardsgrove.org) to learn more!

8. **Thank you** from Maryann Hahn for all the thoughts, gifts, prayers, and love after her surgery!
9. **Urgent Housing Request for MLHS:** Weekend host families are still needed! We are excited to host the East Regional WELS Band Festival on March 14-17, 2023. **Seventy-one** students from 11 WELS high schools around the country will be coming for the event. Would you have space and are you willing to host 2 or more students for 2-3 nights? (Please note that the dates are at the end of the MLHS spring break.) If you can help or have questions, please scan the QR code or go to [www.mlhslancers.org/finearts](http://www.mlhslancers.org/finearts) to sign up as a host or learn more information. Hosting students is very rewarding and helps make the event possible for these talented musicians! Thank you for considering!
10. **Pastor Mueller** will be at Martin Luther College from Wednesday through Friday this week for governing board meetings.