

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Bangor, Wisconsin

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Monday 'Repeat' Service: 7:00 p.m. (June Through August)
(Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study Resume After Labor Day)

7th Sunday After Pentecost COMMUNION July 19, 2020

Personal Preparation For Communion: Pages 10-11 & 156 (front of hymnal)

Opening Hymn - 439

Liturgy – Page 15 (abbreviated Communion Liturgy – front of hymnal)

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 41:8-10 Psalm 73:23-26

Philippians 1:3-6; John 10:22-33

The Nicene Creed – Pages 18-19 (front of hymnal)

Hymn – 461

SERMON – John 10:22-42 – THE HAND THAT HOLDS ME

Offertory – *THE OFFERING WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD*

Prayers – Lord's Prayer

THE LORD'S SUPPER – Page 23 (front of hymnal)

Distribution Hymn – 313

Closing Prayer – Benediction (Pages 24-25)

Closing Hymn - 360

THANKS FOR RESPECTING OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Bible teaches that partaking of the body and blood of Christ is a *special assurance of forgiveness to penitent believers in Christ*. It is also an expression of *our oneness in the doctrines we teach and believe*. Christ wants us to administer this blessed sacrament responsibly. **For that reason, we practice "close" communion. If you are not a communicant member of St. Paul's or another WELS congregation we ask that you speak with our pastor to learn more about our Biblical teachings before partaking of communion with us.** Pamphlets explaining our communion practice according to Holy Scripture are available in the narthex. Communicant members will please fill out a card in the pew and hand it to an usher on the way up.

COMMUNION PROCEDURES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Following the Lord's Prayer, the Pastor will move to the table at the foot of the altar steps for the "Words of Institution" (page 23) and "O Christ, Lamb of God." The ushers will line up communicants **from both sides of the church** in the center aisle (**3 on each side**) directing one side to the right to stand in front of the front pew and the other side to the left. Disposable cups will be used. When the pastor says, "Depart in peace," communicants will return to

their pews using the outside aisles, depositing the disposable cups in the receptacles provided. When communion is completed, the Pastor will return to the altar for the closing prayer and benediction.

"PREACH THE GOSPEL!"

Over the chancel of our seminary chapel the words were inscribed in the Greek language of the New Testament – "*Preach The Gospel*" (κηρύξατε τὸ εὐαγγέλιον). These words from the 16th chapter of *St. Mark* were a reminder in every daily chapel service of what we were training to do.

It is all too easy for those called to the work of preaching and teaching God's Word to take an airborne flight into the everlasting "busyness" of "running" the church as they say. It may seem more relevant to run off to every trendy workshop out there than to drill into the hard wood of sermon preparation. To be sure, the work of the church at large needs attention, especially mission work and worker training. The larger fellowship of the church and ministry needs to be cultivated. We ought not be arrogant little islands obsessed only with our own little fiefdoms. There are many things worthy of our attention in the local congregation and in the church at large.

But the statement of our Lutheran Confessions still holds true: "Nothing so attracts people to the church like good preaching." The apostles noted their own calling "to prayer and the ministry of the word" (*Acts 6:4*). Without it, as Luther put it, you get sermons that wouldn't attract a dog from behind a warm stove, a melancholy clatter of words rather than the green pastures and still waters of the word. God's people, whether they always appreciate it or not, need the preaching and teaching of law and gospel – the clear proclamation that the wages of sin is death, and that the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is the joyful proclamation that God Himself set foot in our world to live and die and rise for us, to reclaim us as His own.

In Herman Melville's novel, *Moby Dick*, as Captain Ahab hunts down the great white whale, everyone is running around doing a million things on board ship, many of them important things and needed things. But one guy is just standing there on a perch which the sailors called the pulpit. He seems to do very little. But he's not lazy. He's the harpooner. They all know, and he knows, that if he wears himself out with a million other things, he will not be ready – he will not be able – to fire his harpoon accurately when the time comes. The harpooner needs to wait quietly, to concentrate, to be ready to fire.

In a similar way, a pastor needs to be constantly in prayer and the word of God. Any pastor will tell you how easy it is to hurry and scurry, to hustle and bustle, and to let "the one thing needful" fall by the wayside. To feed the flock nourishing spiritual food rather than junk food, he needs to labor and wrestle in the secret place, in prayer and the Holy Scriptures – for his own soul and the souls of his people. What's the thing those airline attendants tell

you to do if the emergency oxygen masks drop from the ceiling? First put your own mask on, and then assist the person next to you. If you are passed out yourself, you are no good to anyone else. So it is with the study of God's word – a task more intense than it may seem. Rip the word "office" from the pastor's door and inscribe the word "study."

THIS WEEK:

Today - Communion in Both Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 - **Quarterly Voters Meeting on Main Floor: 1:00 p.m.**
 Mon. - 'Repeat' Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.
 Wed. - **Voters Meet on Main Floor For Call Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**
 Fri. - **Pastor & Mrs. Hefti leave for vacation – Return Wed. July 29**
 Next Sun. Pastor Paul Stuebs will conduct services

WELCOME! into our fellowship: Mrs. Kimberly Duve, who has finished her teaching Call at St. Paul in Tomah. Mr. & Mrs. Duve live in Onalaska.

IN MEMORY of Della Berg, \$500.00 has been given to the General Fund and \$500.00 has been given to the School Renovation Fund.

IN GRATITUDE TO GOD for the help and comfort of her friend, Jan Langrehr, Lucille Hesselberg has given \$100.00 to the School Renovation Fund.

PASTOR & MRS. HEFTI will be visiting family from Friday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 29. **Pastor Paul Stuebs will conduct services here on July 26-27.** If there is an urgent need, pastor can be contacted at (608) 792-8356.

MAY THE LORD COMFORT the family of Leonard Thielker, brother of Ruth Elsen and Russel Thielker. Leonard passed away this past Wednesday at the age of 63. Graveside services are scheduled for this coming Wednesday.

CALL MEETING OF THE VOTERS

Thanks to all those who participated in the PRE-Call meeting this past Wednesday. Recognizing that the pastoral ministry is not a "job" or a "hiring," but a Divine Call from the Holy Spirit through the congregation of believers, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the process. The actual Call meeting will be a **Voters** Meeting, not a congregational meeting. **THIS CALL MEETING BY THE VOTERS WILL BE HELD THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 7:00 P.M. ON THE MAIN FLOOR.** Either District President Jensen or Circuit Pastor Schultz will lead the voters in calling from a list of candidates prepared by the District President.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PASS THE WORD that St. Paul's continues to live stream services for **those who may not yet be ready or able to attend in-person worship.** We understand concerns about recent "spikes" of the virus, and respect the different choices our members make. Do not hesitate to wear a mask to church **if you so wish.** Along with sanitizing between services and common sense distancing, we want **those who choose to attend services** to feel as safe as possible.

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$268,607.61
Received Last Week:	\$9,331.85	Received To Date:	\$248,979.75

(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)

Attendance Last Week: 1st – 89 2nd – 44 Mon. 45 Total: 178

Nursing homes and hospitals are still restricting regular access at this time. For the safety of everyone and for the protection of our shut-ins, usual pastoral visits will be delayed. **In urgent circumstances, do not hesitate to phone the pastor (486-2754) and he will be happy to minister to you on a personal basis.**

7/19/20 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost