

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)

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost COMMUNION July 5, 2020

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

Opening Hymn - 226

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

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:5-6 Psalm 17:15
Ephesians 1:15-19; John 9:13-25

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

Hymn – 379

SERMON – John 9:13-41 – “WAS BLIND AND NOW I SEE”

Offertory – *THE OFFERING WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD*

Prayers – Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution Hymn – 419

Closing Prayer – Benediction (Pages 24-25)

Closing Hymn - 619

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.

KINGDOM COMFORT

The bumper sticker said: “No matter who the president is, Jesus is King.”

Amid polarized opinions, that's a comforting reminder in any generation.

Jesus once said to a Roman governor: “My kingdom is not of this world.”

Maybe it's a challenge for us Americans to identify with Jesus as our King. After all, we don't have kings. None of us have ever lived under a king. Each July 4th we celebrate and give thanks that we live in a republic, a representative sort of democracy with an uneasy balance of power—judicial, legislative and executive. We declared our independence from kings long ago and our constitution guards against any one man having absolute power—the very thing a king has in a genuine monarchy. *Any* form of government is only as good as the king or the citizens in charge.

We Americans are a pretty independent bunch. We have been raised with the right not only to disagree publicly with the powers that be, but to poke fun at them without fear of reprisal. The late-night comedians would be hard up for monologues if they didn't have presidents and politicians to make fun of.

So why would we Americans today find comfort in having Jesus as our King?

Maybe it's because we all long for the kind of king this world has never had. King David was a man after God's own heart—but he was still a disappointment to himself and his people in his darker hours. King Arthur with his Camelot remains only a myth.

But what if there were a king—a man with absolute power—who was not corrupted by that power? What if there was a king who used His power not for Himself but for the good of His people? What if there was a king who would ultimately triumph over all that is dark and evil and set things right? What if there was a king whose promises were not political propaganda but unflinchingly fulfilled? What if this king actually loved us?

There is such a King—the King of kings. And, thank God, His kingdom is not of this world. Jesus did not try to Christianize the governments of Herod, Pilate and Caesar, nor did He counsel the oppressed masses to rise up and throw off their chains. He refused to set up one more political opposition camp in the marketplace of this world's kingdoms. We just haven't been paying attention in our own lifetimes if we have failed to notice that neither the left nor the right has made the kingdom of God arrive by way of lobbyists, politicians or the ballot box. The empires of old—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon,

Persia, Greece, Rome—the kings, queens, dictators and tyrants of every age—they're all gone to dust. Christ remains, ruling in human hearts through the gospel of His pardon—a kingdom that can neither be invaded nor conquered. And where Jesus rules, then even in the saddest places and darkest chapters of history, no matter who the president is, Jesus is King!

THIS WEEK:

Today - Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. (Communion)
 Mon. - 'Repeat' Worship: 7:00 p.m. (Communion)
 Tues. - WELS Grief Support at St. John's, Barre Mills: 7:00 p.m.
 Sat. - Mikayla Horstman / Ross Caygill Wedding: 2:00 p.m.

COPIES OF OUR SHUT-IN LIST for July are on the table in the street-level entry. Many cannot be visited at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please keep them in your prayers, and where possible, perhaps give them a call of encouragement.

7/5/20 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

IN MEMORY of Les Erickson, \$170.00 has been donated to St. Paul's.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE & CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

School calendar for 2020-2021 was approved (tentative due to Covid-19). First day of school at St. Paul's is set for **Tues. Sept. 8** (day after Labor Day). Last day of school is set for Fri. May 28 (Friday before Memorial Day). Graduation is set for Thurs. May 27. **School fees** were adjusted for the new school year and will be included in information to be sent out to the parents. **Faculty Meeting** is scheduled for July 28 at church. **An altar committee** is underway with rotating groups to prepare communion set-up, altar cloths, banners, hymn boards and large-print hymnals, etc. **The Pastoral Call process** will be reviewed. See details below. **Regular Quarterly Voters Meeting** will be Sun. July 19, 1:00 p.m. on main floor.

CONGREGATIONAL PRE-CALL MEETING

A congregational Pre-Call meeting will be held on the main floor of the church on **Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.** This Pre-Call meeting is open to all of our members, men and women. **The purpose of the meeting** is for the District President, Pastor Mike Jensen, **to hold a Bible study** on the Divine Call, **then to receive input** from the members on the needs of the congregation going forward **so he can proceed to formulate a Call list of men for a future Call meeting.** 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. (As is often customary, in order not to inhibit free conversation, your current pastor will intentionally not attend this congregational meeting.) **The actual Call meeting** will be a **Voters** Meeting, not a congregational meeting. It will be scheduled by mutual agreement of our leaders and the District President and/or the Circuit pastors who may act on his behalf.

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$248,710.75
Received Last Week:	\$6,632.14	Received To Date:	\$233,577.90
(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)			
Attendance Last Week:	1st – 97	2nd – 42	Mon. 34
			Total: 173