

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)
(Sun. School & Sun. Bible Study Tentatively Resume After Labor Day)

8th Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2020

Personal Prayers For Worship: Pages 10-11 & 134-139 (front of hymnal)

Opening Hymn - 235

Liturgy – Page 38 (front of hymnal)

Scripture Lessons: Ezekiel 18:25-32 Psalm 51:15-17
2 Corinthians 7:6-10 Matthew 9:10-13

(Please note responses after Epistle & Gospel Lessons – Page 40)

Hymn – 304

SERMON – Matthew 9:10-13 –

WHAT BEING SORRY FOR MY SINS INVOLVES

The Apostles' Creed – Page 41 (front of hymnal)

The Offering Will Be Brought Forward

Prayers - Lord's Prayer – Benediction

Closing Hymn – 397

WELCOME!

Whether you are here in person or following us on live stream during these days of COVID-19, we pray that you are blessed as you hear God's Word today. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register in the narthex. To learn more about the Bible's teachings or about becoming a member, contact the pastor (486-2754). LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available in the narthex. Services are telecast downstairs for those with restless children.

GUEST PREACHER

Today's preacher is a familiar face to our members here at St. Paul's. Pastor Paul Stuebs and his wife, Carol, who also serves us occasionally as a guest organist, are spending their retirement in Viroqua and are members of English Lutheran Church. Pastor Stuebs is the son of the late Pastor Arden Stuebs who served here at St. Paul's from 1946-1961. We thank Pastor Stuebs for his message from the Word of God today. Pastor & Mrs. Hefti are visiting family on the other side of the state and plan to return later on Wed.

In case there is an urgent need to contact Pastor Hefti, he may be reached at (608) 792-8356.

NOTE ON ALUMINUM CAN DROP OFFS AT SCHOOL

There is a **temporary halt on can drop offs** at St. Paul's School. A new protocol and schedule will be set up when the new school opens. Thanks!

SWEET SORROW

Shakespeare's Juliet says to Romeo: "Parting is such sweet sorrow." English teachers might call that an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

But life is full of seeming contradictions which are not so contradictory. We talk about "bitter sweet moments," or a "deafening silence," or "an open secret," or a "tragic comedy."

There is a sweet sorrow laced in the lines of today's epistle lesson from *2 Corinthians*. Paul says: "Godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death."

What kind of sorrow can be sweet? What sort of sadness brings gladness? What brand of grief leads to relief? Is such a thing possible? Jesus told His disciples: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

If Christ's own congratulations rests on the heads of believers whose mourning paves the path to their comfort, then it must be so.

Can you think of some past pain or problem in your life that became a path to blessings you could not have predicted? Have you taken the time to listen to some white-haired veteran of the cross? Did it surprise you that she talks about a nearly unbearable burden she once endured, some dark valley through which God led her years ago. In the way she tells it, can you hear a joyful peace that runs deep like a river in its well-worn channel?

Is there something like this in your own story, some unspeakable sorrow that became strangely sweet because it made you run into the arms of God in a way that otherwise might never have happened?

This is especially true when it comes to repentance. If people are no longer troubled by their sins, if they no longer wonder what might happen to them if they die, if they no longer consider the wrath and punishment of God, then the Church has no reason to exist, it serves no useful purpose. If people no longer see that they need saving from their sins, then what is the purpose of Christmas, Good Friday and Easter? Why should the Son of God have stepped on to this planet in the first place? That is why Martin Luther used to say that when God wants to make us glad, He begins by making us sad.

Through the law God gives us to see ourselves for what we have been and what we have done, and what we are. Through the gospel, God gives us to

see that only Christ can save us and that Jesus has done just that by His atoning life, death and resurrection. He has wiped out our sins and given us back to God as His dear children. How sweet is that!

THIS WEEK:

Today - Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Mon. - 'Repeat' Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.
Wed. - **Pastor & Mrs. Hefti Return Wednesday evening**
- Building Committee Meets: 7:00 p.m.
Next Sun. Communion in Both Services

A DIVINE CALL was extended by our voters this past Wednesday evening to **Pastor Jacob Haag** of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan to serve as the next pastor of St. Paul's, Bangor. Pastor Haag is 32 years old, married, with a one-year old child. Please keep Pastor Haag in your prayers as he weighs the Call where he is currently serving and the Call which we have now extended. **The voters also extended a Call to retired Pastor Steven Olson of Onalaska to be the vacancy pastor as of Pastor Hefti's retirement. Please keep him in your prayers also as he deliberates.**

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed today in memory of Trevor Manke, and Leonard & LaVone Manke, and Glen & Carol Proeber by Mr. & Mrs. Todd (Gwen) Manke and children.

IN MEMORY of Les Erickson, \$530.00 has been given to the General Fund and \$300.00 to the School Renovation Fund.

PASTOR & MRS. HEFTI are visiting family from Friday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 29. We thank Pastor Stuebs for filling in this weekend.

NOTES FROM QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

Mrs. Penny Adickes will be installed as our 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher at the start of both services on August 23. **First day of school at St. Paul's is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 8. Thanks were expressed** to all those who have given of their time, talent and treasure to keep things running at church during the pandemic in recent months, and to so many who have been working hard under the guidance of our building committee on the school renovation. **A nominating committee** which will meet in November was approved in advance (Ron Anderson, Gary Horstman, Greg Scriver). **In accordance with traditional good order**, Pastor Hefti requested and received from the voters a peaceful release from his Divine Call at St. Paul's as of his retirement at the end of September.

(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)
Attendance Last Week: 1st – 84 2nd – 57 Mon. 52 Total: 193

IN THE NARTHEX – New edition of *Meditations* (take one for a shut-in ☺)
Various reports from Quarterly Meeting

7/26/20 8th Sunday After Pentecost

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$278,556.04
Received Last Week:	\$8,427.67	Received To Date:	\$257,407.42