

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)

9th Sunday After Pentecost COMMUNION August 2, 2020

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

Opening Hymn - 243

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

Scripture Readings: Genesis 21:1-5 Psalm 130:6-8
James 5:7-11; John 11:1-16

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

Hymn – 414

SERMON – John 11:1-16 – THE DELAYS OF LOVE

Offertory – *THE OFFERING WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD*

Prayers – Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution Hymn – 310

Closing Prayer – Benediction (Pages 24-25)

Closing Hymn - 318

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.

SOME SLIGHT CHANGES TO COMMUNION PROCEDURES TODAY

Following the Lord's Prayer, the Pastor will stand behind 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 (ONLY 3 ON EACH SIDE – PLEASE NOTE MARKINGS ON THE FLOOR FOR DISTANCING) directing one side to the right to stand in front of the front pew and the other side to the left. When the pastor says "Take eat," take a disposable cup with the wafer from the table in front of you. When the pastor says "Take drink," take the wine in the disposable cup from the table in front of you. When the pastor says, "Depart in peace," return to your pew 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.

WAITING FOR GOD

So the rain finally ceased. The waters slowly receded. Noah waited. The total time on the ark for Noah and his family came to 1 year and 10 days.

The configuration of the ark was such that Noah had no clear view of things – what was out there or where he was going. There was only the steady rocking and bobbing of the ark upon the surface of the deep beneath a gray sky. Would the sun ever shine again? Would the boat ever stop moving? Would God ever open the door He had shut?

On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the bottom of the ark scraped the mountain ranges of Ararat, and somewhere in that mountain range, perhaps on some plateau, it came to rest. Noah waited.

Perhaps you remember. In a touching scene Noah sends forth his feathered friends to get some idea of what's going on out there. First the raven – a scavenger bird – flying back and forth – resting on the slimy high spots and feeding on rotting remains. It does not return to the ark. The dove is more finicky about what it eats and where it sets its dainty little foot. It returns to Noah in the ark. Seven more days pass and Noah sends forth the dove again. The hours tick by – and in the evening – the dove flutters back through the window – with a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak – life – something growing – the promise of new life. How Noah must have danced all over that ark, waving that olive leaf!

It would have been easy for Noah to go charging out of the ark on his own, to spring forth from that cramped, smelly boat which by now must have seemed a prison. But Noah trusts that God shall remember him.

It is a mark of faith to trust that God will come to us – when we feel locked in and cannot see where life is taking us - waiting for wars to end, for prodigal children to come home, for pandemics to end, for life to resume.

Noah trusts that God will come. And God does. And Noah builds an altar. He gives thanks to God beneath the rainbow of God's promises. And where does the rainbow appear? Always in the clouds – in the darkest places of our lives – preaching to us that we still have a Father who loves us – that we are not mere gamblers in some game of chance. We are still a people who live by the mercies of God. We are a people who know where we have come from and where we are going, and in whose hand we are held, the hand of Him who bore in our stead the just judgments of God not on

Mount Ararat but on Mount Calvary. He who sits upon the rainbow circled throne in the book of the *Revelation*, still hears our cries for help and our hymns of thanks amid every storm: "All around us lightning flashes, give us hearts set free from fright, down upon the world's confusion, cast Thine everlasting light."

THIS WEEK:

Today - Communion in Both Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Mon. - 'Repeat' Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.
Tues. - WELS Grief Support at St. John's, Barre Mills: 7:00 p.m.
- **Luther Conference of Delegates: Tues. 7:30 p.m.**
[Note time of meeting has changed from Wed. Aug. 12]
Wed. - **Education Committee Meets Downstairs: 6:00 p.m.**
- **Church Council Meets Downstairs: 7:00 p.m.**
Thurs. - *Faculty Meeting Downstairs: 10:00 a.m.*

CALL DELIBERATION – Please keep Pastor Jacob Haag of Redeemer Lutheran, Ann Arbor, Michigan in your prayers as he deliberates our Call to be the next pastor of St. Paul's.

PASTOR STEVEN OLSON ACCEPTS CALL TO SERVE AS VACANCY PASTOR

July 30, 2020

Dear Members at St. Paul's,

You have called me to serve you as a vacancy pastor as needed after Pastor Hefti retires after September 27, 2020. This is a high privilege, a distinct honor, and a humbling opportunity. Sharing the means of grace with God's people – even in this limited way as a vacancy pastor – is a great responsibility and the joy of every parish pastor. With all of this in mind, I humbly accept the call to serve as your vacancy pastor from September 27 – December 31, 2020. Should you need to contact me for any reason prior to the beginning of my duties among you, please call me at 706-339-5886.

May God richly bless you all.

Serving you in Christ,

Steven O Olson

Pastor Steven O. Olson

VOLUNTEERS! We have been told by the contractor that we can bring things back into the classrooms on August 22-23. Able-bodied help will be very much appreciated!

MASK MANDATE – This past Thursday, Gov. Evers issued a mask mandate for all public spaces along with 6 feet distancing guidelines. We are making free masks available at the door, or you may use your own. The speaker in a religious gathering is not required to wear a mask, but must practice distancing. With that in mind, we will offer some adjusted instructions about communion today.

IN MEMORY of Erma Schroeder, \$100.00 has been given to the St. Paul's School Renovation Fund by her family.

IN THE NARTHEX – New edition of *Meditations* (take one for a shut-in ☺)

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!

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$288,504.47
Received Last Week:	\$5,894.39	Received To Date:	\$263,301.81
(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)			
Attendance Last Week:	1st – 78	2nd – 28	Mon. 27 Total: 133

8/2/20 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost