

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 October 4)

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost August 23, 2020

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

Opening Hymn – 230

Installation of Mrs. Penny Adickes as Teacher of Gr. 1-2 (1st & 2nd Services)

Liturgy – Page 15 (front of hymnal)

Scripture Lessons: Proverbs 3:5-10; Psalm 103:1-5;
2 Corinthians 9:6-8; John 12:1-11

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Apostles' Creed – Page 19 (front of hymnal)

Hymn – 488

SERMON – John 12:1-11 - SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

Offertory – The Offering Will Be Brought Forward

Prayers - Lord's Prayer – Benediction

Closing Hymn – 469

CASTING BREAD UPON THE WATERS

"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters," wrote King Solomon in *Ecclesiastes 11*.

It has a beautiful ring to it. But what does it mean? Tossing a loaf of bread into the Mississippi would seem an odd and pointless thing to do!

Solomon is actually talking about an act of commerce or trade, of shipping "bread," that is, grain, over the waters to distant lands.

The Bible tells us that Solomon had a fleet of trading ships. Once every year it returned carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons. From the Red Sea port of Ezion Geber his ships sailed to Arabia and perhaps to India.

So the merchant casts his bread upon the water. He sends forth his trading fleet with a profit in mind. "After many days you will find it again," is how Solomon explains it.

But there are risks to this commercial adventure. The ship may never reach its destination. Storms at sea may destroy the costly cargo. Once in port, economic conditions may reduce the anticipated profits. The merchant could lose his shirt. Business men understand such risks.

With their time, talent and treasure, Christians engage in the same adventure of faith, running the risk that the investment of their selves and substance may bear fruit or not.

Christian charity, acts of love, what we do out of love for Christ and because of what Christ has done for us, whether helping our family, our neighbor, whether supporting the work of the gospel here at home or on the other side of the world, building a school to pass the torch of the faith to another generation...we are not given to know what God will do with it all.

There is always a risk involved. "You do not know what disaster may come upon the land," says Solomon. In a time of pandemics, unemployment, economic uncertainties, moral and spiritual breakdowns, we can identify.

We have no way of knowing whether failure or success awaits our best efforts, whether our offerings in the plate will be appreciated or taken for granted, whether our preaching of the gospel will meet with faith or rejection, whether the meager coins of countless pious widows will make an eternal difference, or whether anyone will "return the favor" in our own time of spiritual need – whether the ship will come back across the waters to us.

Who knows, after investing years and tears in raising a child, whether the child will keep the faith and faithfully pass it on to his own children, or sell his spiritual birthright for a mess of worldly pottage?

Who knows whether the offering you put in the plate today will result in another soul being snatched from the jaws of eternal death?

Humanly speaking, who can tell? That is the risk and adventure of casting our bread upon the waters.

But God's promises stand firm, that somehow, whether we see it here or hereafter, "After many days you will find it again," or as St. Paul once put it: "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

THIS WEEK:

Today - Installation of Mrs. Penny Adickes at Start of Both Services
 Mon. - **'Repeat' Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.**
 Wed. - Building Committee: 7:00 p.m.\
 Fri. - **Volunteers at School to Reload Classrooms: 3 – 6 p.m.**
 Sat. - **Volunteers at School to Reload Classrooms: 8:30 a.m.**
 Next Sun. **School Registration & Open House: 9:15 – 11:30 a.m.**
Volunteers at School IF still needed: 12:30 p.m.

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed today in memory of Lonnie Carrier by
 Jim & Vicki Whalen.

CALL MEETING OF THE VOTERS – Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 p.m.
 on the main floor of the church.

AS WE DID OUR BEST TO GET THE WORD OUT this week, the reloading of the Classrooms was delayed till next weekend. See times above.

MRS. PENNY ADICKES will be installed as our 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher at the start of both services on today. **A box for welcoming cards is available in the entryway of the church. We pray that God will bless Mrs. Adickes' labors among us.**

SCHOOL REGISTRATION is available online again, and also **AT THIS TIME WE STILL PLAN AN OPEN HOUSE** for our renovated school next Sunday, Aug. 30, 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. at which any and all in our community are welcome.

FALL SCHEDULE

[Please note certain delays as we ease into the new school year schedule with an abundance of caution and loving concern for all.]

Installation of Mrs. Penny Adickes	TODAY	8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid	Delayed Until Further Notice	
Choir Rehearsal	Delayed Until Further Notice	
Registration & Open House at School	Sun. Aug. 30	9:15 – 11:30 a.m.
Final Mon. Evening 'Repeat' Service	Mon. Aug. 31	7:00 p.m.
First Day of School at St. Paul's	Tues. Sept. 8	8:00 a.m.
Opening Service at the Church	Tues. Sept. 8	8:30 a.m.
Public School 7 th & 8 th Gr. Confirmation	Wed. Sept. 9	3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

To enroll in Grades 5-6 Public School Bible History starting OCTOBER 7, call Mr. Larson: 486-4192

Sun. School Staff with Mr. Duve Downstairs	Sun. Sept, 27	9:15 – 9:45
Sunday School (Delayed Until Oct.)	Sun. Oct. 4	9:10 – 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study (Delayed Until Oct.)	Sun. Oct. 4	9:15 – 9:40 a.m.
Midweek Bible Hour (Delayed Until Oct.)	Tues. Oct. 6	7:00 p.m.
Midweek Bible Hour (Delayed Until Oct.)	Wed. Oct. 7	9:00 a.m.

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$318,349.76
Received Last Week:	\$7,145.85	Received To Date:	\$289,131.85
(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)			
Attendance Last Week:	1st – 87	2nd – 46	Mon. 57
			Total: 190

8/23/20 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost