

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Bangor, Wisconsin

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

(Sunday School & Sunday Bible Hour Resume October 4)

16th Sunday After Pentecost COMMUNION September 20, 2020

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

Opening Hymn - 250

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

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 65:17-19; Psalm 73:23-26
2 Corinthians 5:1-7; John 14:1-6

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

Hymn – 417

SERMON – John 14:1-14 – *HOMEWARD BOUND*

Offertory – *THE OFFERING WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD*

Prayers – Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution Hymn – 312

Closing Prayer – Benediction (Pages 24-25)

Closing Hymn - 451

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.

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR CURRENT COMMUNION PROCEDURES

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.

ETERNAL LONGINGS

One writer asked, "Where do words like 'immortal' come from?"

There are similar questions. Why is it murder to kill a man and not a cow or a cat? Why would we not throw out the lifeless body of a loved one with the Monday morning trash?

Instinctively, even the ancient heathen civilizations based their beliefs on something better and beyond the broken existence we now have. The pyramids still stand as evidence of man's quest for some sort of immortality.

If this instinct or natural knowledge is present among those who do not know Christ, then how infinitely more certain is the hope of those who know that Jesus has redeemed us to God by His blood and has defeated death by His resurrection?

The church father Augustine once prayed: "O God, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." What a neat and comforting thing! God made you and me not just for the here and now but for the hereafter. He engineered us with eternal genetics. What a rebuke to the small-souled evolutionist who sees himself, his wife and children as accidental blobs of genetic goo, as descendants of slimy reptiles and tree-climbing apes.

Human beings are unique. All other creatures fit their circumstances. Nothing in fish or ducks or dogs soars beyond their environment. "Foxes have holes," said Jesus, "and the birds of the air have nests." But He who had not where to lay His head, who became poor that we might become eternally rich, who gave up the glory of His world to make that glory ours – He has created us with immortal longings that can only be satisfied when we are brought to faith in His living and doing and dying and rising for us.

Holy Scripture promises that we shall rise up to hold death in holy contempt. We shall shout in victory over the grave. Knowing and believing this today, we shall stand firm. We shall let no heartache of this life move us. We shall give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. We shall hold to His word that nothing we do for Him shall ever be for nothing. We shall, in the words of the old poet, John Donne, triumphantly mock the last enemy:

Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so,
For, those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me...
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more, Death thou shalt die!

PLEASE REMEMBER Pastor Kyle Bitter of St. John's, Wauwatosa in your prayers as he deliberates the Call our congregation has extended to him to be our next pastor.

NEW USHER SCHEDULE available in the narthex today.

THIS WEEK:

Today - Communion in Both Services
 Wed. - Public School Confirmation Class Downstairs: 3:30 p.m.
 Next Sun. **Harvest-Mission & Pastor's Final Service: 8 & 10 a.m.**
 Mr. Duve Meets Downstairs With Sun. School Staff: 9:15
Retirement Open House at School: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Attendance Last Sunday:	1 st – 105	2 nd – 89	Total: 194
	9/20/20	Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost	

VACANCY PASTOR

As our congregation waits for a pastor to accept our Call, Pastor Steve Olson has accepted our Call to serve as vacancy pastor **starting on September 28 until the end of this calendar year as needed.** If you need personal pastoral care, Pastor Olson invites you to contact him at **706-339-5886.** Pastor Olson will also check the parsonage answering machine every so often: **486-2754.** His email address is **pastorstevenolson@gmail.com** Pastor Olson resides in retirement in Onalaska. After September 27th, Pastor & Mrs. Hefti will be living, for the present, at 4063A 117th Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 **PLEASE NOTE:** Any emails directed to Pastor Hefti personally should go to **rwhefti@gmail.com** The new pastor will also have access to the church email at **pastor@stpaulsbangor.com**

God has blessed Luther with the opportunity in helping Martin Luther College train future called workers. MLC will be sending us two student teachers, one female and one male, to start student teaching on October 19th. Luther is currently looking for two host families to house the student teachers. There are reimbursement opportunities from MLC while hosting a student teacher. Also, MLC has already agreed to have both student teachers tested for Covid-19 before sending them to Luther High School. If you are interested in hosting a student teacher, please contact Principal Engelbrecht at Luther at 608-783-5435 ext. 1140 or by email at engejon@luther.k12.wi.us. He is willing to answer any questions.

FALL SCHEDULE

Ladies Aid	Delayed Until Further Notice
Choir Rehearsal	Delayed Until Further Notice
Public School 7 th & 8 th Gr. Confirmation	Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.
To enroll in Grades 5-6 Public School Bible History	
starting OCTOBER 7, 3:30 p.m. on Main Floor, call Mr. Larson: 486-4192	
Sun. School Staff with Mr. Duve Downstairs	Sun. Sept. 27 9:15 – 9:45
Harvest-Mission & Pastor Hefti's Final Service	Sun. Sept. 27 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Retirement Open House at St. Paul's School:	Sun. Sept. 27 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Pastor Olson Conducts Services	Sun. Oct. 4 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Starts	Sun. Oct. 4 9:10 – 9:50 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study Starts (<u>Downstairs</u>)	Sun. Oct. 4 9:15 – 9:40 a.m.
(A Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians)	
Midweek Bible Hour Starts (<u>Downstairs</u>)	Tues. Oct. 6 7:00 p.m.
(A Survey of the Minor Prophets)	
Midweek Bible Hour Starts (<u>Downstairs</u>)	Wed. Oct. 7 9:00 a.m.
(A Survey of the Minor Prophets)	
Education Committee at School	Wed. Oct. 7 6:00 p.m.
Church Council at School	Wed. Oct. 7 7:00 p.m.
Quarterly Voters Meeting at Church	Sun. Oct. 18 1:00 p.m.

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$358,143.48
Received Last Week:	\$7,368.10	Received To Date:	\$318,516.45
(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)			