

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Bangor, Wisconsin

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

FINAL Monday 'Repeat' Service – August 31 – 7:00 p.m.
(Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study Resume October 4)

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 13, 2020

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

Opening Hymn – 398

Liturgy – Page 15 (front of hymnal)

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 15:19-21; Psalm 41:7-9;
 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; John 13:18-32

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Apostles' Creed – Page 19 (front of hymnal)

Hymn – 385

SERMON – John 13:18-38 - A TALE OF TWO DISCIPLES

Offertory – The Offering Will Be Brought Forward

Prayers - Lord's Prayer – Benediction

Closing Hymn – 382

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 also telecast downstairs for those with restless children.

"WHODUNIT?"

It's terrible English grammar, of course, but a good crime novel or movie is often called a "Whodunit." We even spoof those corny old movie scenes where the detective assembles everyone in the parlor or the library of the mansion after a murder and announces: "The murderer is someone in this room!" And as the background music plays a few tense notes – all of them - from the maid to the butler, from the millionaire playboy to the crusty old matriarch of the clan, stare at each other with beady eyes wondering "Whodunit?" And what hooks our interest, of course, is that *any* of them *could* be the murderer.

There's a genuine "whodunit" being asked in the upper room where Jesus and the twelve apostles recline for the Passover meal.

There's nothing corny or funny about it when Jesus drops a bombshell as they are eating: "Amen, Amen, I tell you: One of you will betray Me."

They all want to know "whodunit?" The sacred text says: "His disciples were looking at each other, uncertain which of them He meant."

Peter elbows John to find out which one He was talking about. "Whodunit?" Who sold out? Who went over to the other side?

For all the faults and failings of the disciples, it speaks well for them that they are all at a loss to know which one of them Jesus means.

Each in turn around the Passover table that night could have looked at the others and asked: "Is it you...is it you...or you?" There is a little Pharisee in each of us which sees the other fellow as far more likely to sell out than ourselves.

But they understand the doctrine of original sin. Each of them understands he has it in him to sell out – to betray Christ.

In sober moments when we are alone, when the Holy Spirit holds up the mirror of the law and shows us what we are really like, we have to admit that there is no sin alien to any human heart. Individual temperament may shield me from much – some sins I am inclined to and others I have no mind to. But my house too is built of sticks and thatched with straw. I have as much dynamite in my basement as my notorious neighbor has in his.

The human heart, as it is by nature, apart from the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, apart from faith in Christ, is deceitful above all things – fooling even ourselves – and desperately wicked, says the prophet Jeremiah. This sinful nature which clings to my bones lies to me. It calls evil good and good evil. It rationalizes away sin with a hymnal in its hand. The other Gospels tell us that each of the disciples asked in turn: "Is it I?" "Whodunit?" Judas? Yes. You and I? Sadly so, each in our own way.

But where does that leave us? Happily in the nail-pierced hands of One who *did* for us and died for us and rose for us. "Whodunit?" Who bore our burdens, carried out sorrows, paid our debt, covered our shame, became our Friend, breathed into our dead hearts the breath of a new life? "Whodunit?"

There is only One who could. Christ did! And you and I – we are off the hook.

THIS WEEK:

Today - Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

- Mon. - **First Day of School at St. Paul's School: 8:00 a.m.**
(Doors open at 7:45 p.m. PARENTS TRANSPORT)
Opening Service at Church: 8:30 a.m.
- Tues. - **First Day of Preschool at St. Paul's School: 8:00 a.m.**
- Scrip Orders Due
- Wed. - Public School Confirmation Class Downstairs: 3:30 p.m.
- Diorama Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
- Council Walk-Through at Parsonage: 6:00 p.m.
- **Budget Committee Meets Downstairs: 7:00 p.m.**
- Next Sun. Communion in Both Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

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

NEW USHER SCHEDULE available in the narthex today.

THANKS! to all the volunteers who have assisted during the school renovation. On Registration Sunday, August 30, we rededicated our renovated school to the glory of the Triune God and the teaching of Christ's lambs. **Our school reopens for classes tomorrow. An open house at the school will be held on September 27th from 1 -4 p.m. in connection with Pastor & Mrs. Hefti's retirement.**

SEEKING PART-TIME CUSTODIAN: St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Onalaska, Wisconsin has an immediate opening for a part-time custodian to help with cleaning and other custodial duties. Hours are flexible and especially needed for after school 3:30-6:30 pm Monday through Friday. Interested applicants may contact Operations Manager, Lydia Walter at 608-783-2552, ext. 233 for more information.

FALL SCHEDULE

Ladies Aid	Delayed Until Further Notice
Choir Rehearsal	Delayed Until Further Notice
* First Day of School at St. Paul's	Mon. Sept. 14 8:00 a.m.
Opening Service at the Church	Mon. Sept. 14 8:30 a.m.
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, 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.
(A Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians)	
Midweek Bible Hour (Delayed Until Oct.)	Tues. Oct. 6 7:00 p.m.
(A Survey of the Minor Prophets)	
Midweek Bible Hour (Delayed Until Oct.)	Wed. Oct. 7 9:00 a.m.
(A Survey of the Minor Prophets)	

2020 Weekly Budget:	\$9,948.43	Budget To Date:	\$348,195.05
Received Last Week:	\$7,006.47	Received To Date:	\$311,148.35
(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)			
Attendance Last Sunday:	1st – 92	2nd – 71	Total: 163

9/13/20 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost