

# **St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church**

**Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

**401 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.**

**Bangor, WI 54614**

[www.stpaulsbangor.com](http://www.stpaulsbangor.com)

**Vacancy Pastor Steven Olson      Cell: 706-339-5886 - Parsonage: 486-2754**  
**Email: [pastorstevenolson@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevenolson@gmail.com)**

**Principal: Mr. Richard Bakken, Jr.      School: 486-2641**  
**Email: [dbakken@stpaulsbangor.com](mailto:dbakken@stpaulsbangor.com)**

**Luther High School – 783-5435**

**Thanksgiving**

**November 26, 2020**

## **Invocation**

P: We praise and worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: ☐ We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!**

**In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:**

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;**

**We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

P: We praise the Triune God for providing all that we need for both our physical and our spiritual life. Amen.

**C: ☐ We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.**

**Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;**

**When perils o'take us, you will not forsake us,**

**And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.**

P: We join the saints and angels in heaven to praise God for all the blessings we enjoy now and eternally for his own sake. Amen.

**C: ☐ With voices united our praises we offer;**

**To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.**

**Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.**

**To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!**

## **The Confession of Sins & Absolution**

P: Let us confess to our Father in heaven our sins of greed and selfishness which have often led us to complain about life instead of giving thanks to God for blessings that escape our view.

**C: O Lord, be merciful to me for I have sinned. I have taken the blessings you have given to me for granted. I have been jealous of the blessings that others enjoy and have hoarded the blessings you have given me. I have forgotten that everything I have comes from you and belongs to you. Forgive me for Jesus' sake. And give me a thankful heart.**

P: Our Lord Jesus washed your sins away on the cross. He announced to the whole world that we are at peace with God because he has risen from the dead proving to us that our sins are forgiven. Therefore, it is my privilege to say to you: "I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

P: Let us pray: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

**Deuteronomy 28:1-10**

**God promises to bless his people!**

If you fully obey the voice of the Lord your God by carefully carrying out all his commandments that I am giving you today, then the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> All of the following blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you listen to the voice of the Lord your God:

<sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the fields.

<sup>4</sup> You will be blessed in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your soil, and in the fruit of your animals: the calves of your cattle and the lambs of your flock.

<sup>5</sup> You will be blessed in your basket and in your kneading trough.

<sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in, and you will be blessed when you go out.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you. From one direction they will come out against you, but they will flee from you in seven directions.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will command a blessing on you in your storehouses and in regard to every action of your hand, and he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord will establish you as his holy people, just as he swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and you walk in his ways.

<sup>10</sup> Then all the people of the earth will see that the name of the Lord has been proclaimed over you, and they will fear you.

## 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

### The Lord expects the gospel to inspire generosity.

<sup>8</sup> I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

<sup>10</sup> And I am giving advice in this matter because it is going to be helpful for you. Last year, you were not only the first to take action, but also the first to be willing. <sup>11</sup> Now bring the work to completion too, so that your eagerness to start may be matched by your completing it with what you have. <sup>12</sup> For if the eagerness is there, a gift is acceptable according to what someone has, not according to what he does not have.

<sup>13</sup> Certainly, our goal is not that others take it easy while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. <sup>14</sup> At the present time, your abundance will provide what they lack, in order that their abundance will also provide what you lack—in this way there will be equality. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

### The Confession of Faith

**I believe that God made me and every creature and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

**I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all**

**that I need to keep my body and life, and by defending me against all danger and guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

**All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.**

### The Sermon Hymn: # 613

*“Come, You Thankful People, Come”*

THANKSGIVING

## 613 Come, You Thankful People, Come



1 Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of  
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his  
3 For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal



har - vest - home. All be safe - ly gath - ered in  
praise to yield; Wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown,  
har - vest home, From his field shall in that day  
har - vest - home; Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God our mak - er  
Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade and  
All of - fens - es purge a - way, Give his an - gels  
Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for - ev - er



shall pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied. Come to  
then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear. Lord of  
charge at last In the fire the weeds to cast, But the  
pu - ri - fied, In your gar - ner to a - bide. Come with



God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest - home.  
har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.  
fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
all your an - gels, come; Raise the glo - rious har - vest - home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.  
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR (77 77 D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

## The Sermon: John 6:22-27

<sup>22</sup> The next day, the crowd that stayed on the other side of the sea noticed that only one boat<sup>[b]</sup> was there. They also knew that Jesus had not stepped into the boat with his disciples, but they had gone away without him. <sup>23</sup> Other boats from Tiberias came to shore near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks. <sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: You are not looking for me because you saw the miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

### “Prioritize Thanksgiving”

1. Temporal blessings
2. Eternal blessings

## The Offering

### The Thanksgiving Litany

P: We give you thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the gift of your Son, our **Lord Jesus Christ**, who gave himself into death that we might have life with you forever.

C:☐ (# 64) **Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven.  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears he comes Here to serve in sadness,  
That with him in heav’n’s fair homes We may reign in gladness.**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the gift of your **Word**, through which we have found peace, comfort, conviction, assurance and hope.

C:☐ (# 279) **O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise you for the radiance That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the priceless gift of **faith** by which we have been made your children and heirs of your kingdom.

C:☐ (# 402) **My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away; Oh, let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the gift of life and health and abundance of our **earthly blessings**.

C:☐ (# 614) **Sing to the Lord of harvest; Sing songs of love and praise.  
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.  
By him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.**

**God makes the clouds rain goodness; The deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness; The valleys laugh and sing  
God fills them with his fullness, All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the richness and healing of your **comfort** when our hearts are heavy, and the cross overwhelms us.

C:☐ (# 473) **Savior, I follow on, Guided by thee,  
Seeing not yet the hand That leadeth me.  
Hushed be my heart and still; Fear I no further ill.  
Only to meet thy will My will shall be.**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the **victory** you have given our fellow believers who now live with you in glory.

C:☐ (# 551) **For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
All who their faith before the world confessed,**

**Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
You, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight  
And in the darkness drear their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the **growth of your Kingdom** in all the earth, to the glory of your name and the salvation of precious souls.

C:☐ **(# 559) Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,  
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,  
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,  
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.**

P: We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the **blessing of being Americans**. We thank you for good government and especially for our soldiers who put their lives on the line to preserve our freedom.

C:☐ **(# 619) God bless our native land! Firm may she ever stand  
Through storm and night! When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave, Do thou our country save  
By thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise To God above the skies;  
On him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye, To thee aloud we cry,  
God save the state!**

P: For **all** these and countless other blessings to body and soul which are new to us every morning, we unite our hearts and voices in songs of praise and thanks:

C:☐ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

## **The Benediction**

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

# Thankful & Blessed



*I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart.*

*I will tell about all your wonderful deeds.*

*-Psalm 9:1*

## Giving thanks for ministry work in East Asia

WELS World Missions is thankful for the many blessings God has showered on work in East Asia. Here are some quick facts:

- 209 students are studying at Asia Lutheran Seminary
- About 38 Asia Lutheran Seminary graduates work full-time in public ministry
- In 2019, 109 people were baptized in East Asia
- There are 20 congregations comprised of 55 different groups in East Asia
- Eight WELS missionaries serve on the East Asia missions team

Although Missions has to limit details due to security concerns in this region of the world, information about this mission work is available at [wels.net/eastasia](http://wels.net/eastasia). And, don't forget to follow WELS Missions on Facebook at [fb.com/WELSMissions](https://fb.com/WELSMissions).

## Sign up today for Marriage Moments

Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly email. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your email at [welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments](http://welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments).

## WELS Family Devotions

Get your family into God's Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at [wels.net/family-devotions](http://wels.net/family-devotions).

## WELS Together e-newsletter

Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Go to [wels.net/together](http://wels.net/together) to read more and subscribe today.

## Connecting WELS members

Connection is more important now than ever. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways for members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at [facebook.com/welslutherans](https://facebook.com/welslutherans), [twitter.com/welstweets](https://twitter.com/welstweets), [instagram.com/welslutherans](https://instagram.com/welslutherans), and [vimeo.com/wels](https://vimeo.com/wels).