GREATEST NEEDS

A GIFT FOR THE WORLD

Second Sunday in Lent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

March 5, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

God of the universe, I am in need of salvation. I am a sinner who deserves nothing good from you, and I often convince myself I can earn your favor. Open my eyes to your Son, the Savior of the world. Lift my heart with the promise that I—even I—am forgiven in him. Help me raise up my voice today to sing your praises for your gracious gift of salvation in Christ. In his name I pray. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



HOLY COMMUNION

Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons, it is our practice that only those who are members of St. Paul's or of a congregation within our fellowship join us at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning how you can partake of Holy Communion with us in the future, the pastor would be pleased to speak with you after the service.

DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that serves to praise God for his glory and highlight the celebration of Holy Communion.

CHOIR Seek Ye First

please stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

(short musical intro)

- All glory be to God on high!
 Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
 We praise you for your peace and grace,
 Your favor toward our fallen race.
- Our grateful thanks to you we bring, For your great glory, heav'nly King, For all, O Father, you have done Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.

The Word

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

be seated

FIRST LESSON Genesis 12:1-8

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father's house and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land until he came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in the land at that time.

⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁹Abram pulled out from there and kept traveling toward the Negev.

SECOND LESSON

¹What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? ²If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. ³For what does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

⁴Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. ⁵But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness.

¹³Indeed, the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not given to Abraham or his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness that is by faith. ¹⁴To be sure, if people are heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. ¹⁵For law brings wrath. (Where there is no law, there is no transgression.) ¹⁶For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham's descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."

VERSE OF THE DAYPhilippians 2:8b

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

please stand

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

¹There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him."

³Jesus replied, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹"How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰"You are the teacher of Israel," Jesus answered, "and you do not know these things? ¹¹Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

After the Gospel:

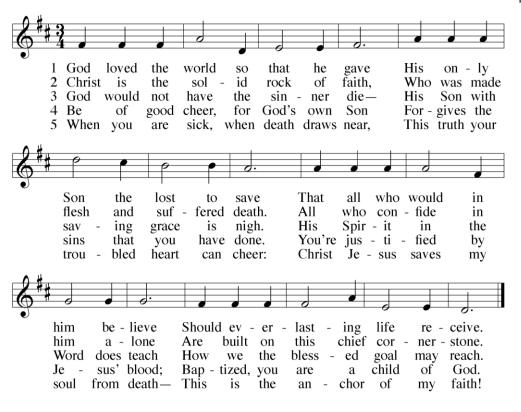
M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

be seated



HYMN OF THE DAY



6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

SERMON Genesis 12:1-8

Blessed by God's Promises

please stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

be seated

OFFERING

"Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The presiding minister will speak the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

please stand

The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.156 in the hymnal for preparation.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(short musical intro)

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,

Lord God of hosts on high, And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

C: By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

M: Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



be seated

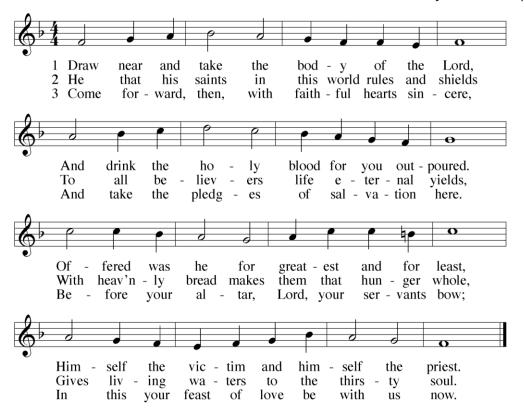
DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).

Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.

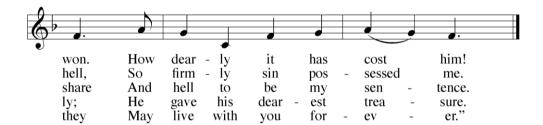
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | 309



DISTRIBUTION HYMN





- 6 The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother, And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother. No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me—
 I am your rock and castle.
 Your ransom I myself will be;
 For you I strive and wrestle.
 For I am yours, your friend divine,
 And evermore you shall be mine;
 The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "The foe shall shed my precious blood, Me of my life bereaving.
 All this I suffer for your good;
 Be steadfast and believing.
 Life shall from death the vict'ry win;
 My innocence shall bear your sin,
 And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to my Father I depart,
 The Holy Spirit sending
 And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
 My help to you extending.
 He will a source of comfort be,
 Teach you to know and follow me,
 And in all truth will guide you.

10 "What I on earth have lived and taught
Be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws
Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.
This final word I leave you."



as needed



- 6 Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me. Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me. Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
 And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
 That we are thankful for your grace
 And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.
- 8 For your consoling supper, Lord,
 Be praised throughout all ages!
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it rages.
 Grant that this sacrament may be
 A blessed comfort unto me
 When living and when dying.

please stand

SONG OF SIMEON

(short musical intro)

- O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assured:

 For I have seen your promised
 Incarnate, saving Word—
 A Light that will enlighten
 All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
 The brilliant, crowning glory
 Of those in Israel!
- All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever three in one;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

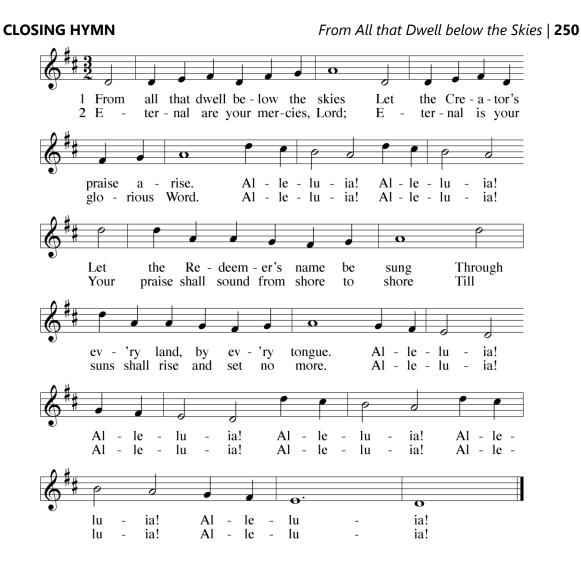
M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

be seated



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK...STUDY

Our midweek study is *How to Study the Bible*. This study is a tool to help Christians meditate on God's Word. In this meditation is defined as a combination of Bible study and prayer. The class members are taught to use Luther's four strands and are given an opportunity to develop their own personal Bible reading plans.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES CONTINUE

Our Wednesday Lenten services continue this week at 7:00 pm. The overall theme for the 2023 Lenten services is "His Final Steps." The series ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus' resolute final steps to the cross and three days later, his first steps from the tomb.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES?

If you notice that your name or the name of a family member is not being mentioned for birthday and anniversary prayers on Sunday, it means we don't have them in our church management system. Feel free to email the dates to Pastor Groth (pastor@stpaulsbangor.com) or to our church secretary, Shelly Lafky (churchoffice@stpaulsbangor.com). Also, fear not! We do technically pray "for all those with..." birthdays and anniversaries, and the Lord knows. :)

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you'd like to contribute flowers for the church altar for worship services, there's a signup in the lobby on the bulletin board. Also, if you'd like to have the reason/memorial for the flowers in the New and Announcements, send Pastor Groth an email and he'll make sure to include it.

GRIEF SUPPORT

If you or someone you know is grieving, you are invited to our next Grief Support meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 pm. We meet at St. John's Lutheran in Barre Mills. Please come for comfort and encouragement from God's Word and from God's people. Our topic for discussion next week will be "Coping with My Emotions."

NEW CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMNAL

The Council would like to thank the New Hymnal Committee for their year and a half of diligent, thoughtful and thorough analysis in coming up with a recommendation concerning our synod's new Christian Worship hymnal. This hymnal was released at the end of 2021. The Committee consisted of Pastor Groth, Brian Berg, Harriet Langrehr, Mark Larson, Brad Gollnik, Penny Adickes and Sam Lindemann.

Based upon that committee's recommendation, the council has approved proceeding with the purchase of new hymnals. Implementation will be gradual, and the introduction will start this September. Some people like to purchase their own hymnals for home. While the congregation will be providing all hymnals necessary for worship, if you or anyone you know wish to purchase a hymnal yourself, please notify Pastor Groth, and we will order the hymnal for you. The total cost for the new hymnals and all supporting materials will be approximately \$9,000. Currently we have about \$225 in the New Hymnal Fund, and the Ladies Aid has expressed an interest in contributing to the cost. In the past, memorials and special donations have covered much of the hymnal cost. We anticipate this will again be the case, and any special donations or memorials designated to the new hymnals will be appreciated.

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS FROM MLC

To assist you in your Holy Week observance this year, Martin Luther College is once again providing a set of devotions as a gift to you: 7 + 1 Words from the Heart of God. In these devotions, you'll ponder Christ's seven words from the cross—plus an additional Easter word. As Jesus suffers, what are his thoughts bent toward? What is he most concerned about? What is he personally experiencing? His own words give us a glimpse into the heart of the omnipotent God himself, who somehow feels sorrow and suffering as he defeats sorrow and suffering. Some of Jesus' words are somber. Some are sublime. Others signify victory. And all of them matter. You can read these devotions online or request them to be sent to your personal email on a daily basis, Palm Sunday to Easter, April 2-9. In the email, you'll receive the written devotion and the link to the author's audio recording. https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/

CHURCH BASEMENT UPDATE

This summer our church basement will be updated. The update includes new carpet, updated kitchen cabinets and appliances, and updated technology for Bible studies and streaming. We will also be replacing the carpet in the sanctuary with new red carpet. Everything is tentatively planned to begin the week of June 5. The funding for the updates is coming from a generous bequest designated for capital improvements. God be praised for his blessings to our church!

BAND FEST HOSTS REALLY NEEDED!

Luther High School hosts the WELS National Band Festival March 17-19. We need host families to house the over 100 visiting students March 16-19. Please consider hosting and contact Mr. Witte for more info at wittjona@luther.k12.wi.us. Thank you!

LUTHERAN PIONEERS

Lutheran Pioneers is helping youth build their lives around Christ. Beginning with a solid foundation, the program aims to strengthen future generations and leaders with truth and wisdom through outdoor activities, creative projects, and group adventures. The skills that boys and girls learn in the Pioneers prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow—while they build a strong Christian community around them.

We are currently gauging interest in starting a Lutheran Pioneers program here at St. Paul's. If you and your child are interested in joining a Pioneers program, please contact Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com.

For more information on the programs, visit lutheranpioneers.org and lgp.org.

WELS TASTE OF MISSIONS

Registration for Taste of Missions 2023 is now open! You can join in person or online for a day of fellowship with our WELS home and world missionaries and volunteers from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis. There will be multiple opportunities for fellowship, a worship service to commission new home and world missionaries, displays from our various mission fields, and activities for the whole family! Inperson attendees can sample ethnic dishes from various countries where WELS conducts mission work as missionaries present on their experience and answer questions about life in a mission field. For those attending the event virtually, everything will be livestreamed for your participation. You can witness the commissioning worship service, hear our speakers from home and world mission fields, and try the ethnic recipes that will be shared online. View the full list of activities for the day and register at tasteofmissions.com. Registration is \$15 per person, with children 13 and under attending for free. Those attending in person will receive food tickets to sample ethnic cuisine and can purchase additional food from the food trucks. Or attend virtually for free! Sign up today at tasteofmissions.com/register.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2022 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$100,827.00 Received Last Week: \$9,682.15 Rec'd to Date: \$70,632.19

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 123 Live Stream Peak: 21 10:00 am: 110 Total: 254

Sunday Bible Study: 45 Sunday School: 5 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 26

Wednesday Lenten Service: 103 Live Stream: 15 Total: 118

CALENDAR

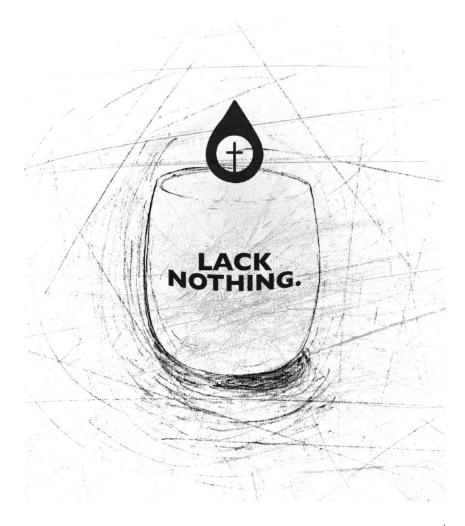
TODAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship with Communion Sunday School Bible Study Worship with Communion
MONDAY	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Basics Class Choir Practice
TUESDAY	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Mornings with Mommy Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Bible Study (same as Tues.) Lenten Service Church Council & Education Committee Meeting
SATURDAY	3:30 pm	Accreditation Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship PACE Meeting

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding MinisterPastor Brock GrothAccompanistHarriet Langrehr

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608-486-2754 stpaulsbangor.com

401 16th Ave. N, Bangor, WI 54614

