

# **HIS FIRST STEPS**

**LED OUTSIDE HIS TOMB**

The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI**

---

*April 9, 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**

Triumphant Lord, today I praise you for conquering sin and death for me. Lead me to leave my doubt behind in the empty tomb and to trust in your victory over all of my enemies. Guide me to follow your steps out of the tomb that first Easter Sunday, and bless me as I walk in the truth of eternal life everyday thanks to you. In your exalted 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.



# THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

---

*"Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)*

## CHOIR

*Christ the Lord Is Risen*

*please stand*

## INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

M: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## EASTER DIALOGUE

M: This is the day the Lord has made.

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Psalm 118:24*

M: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.

**C: The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.**

*Exodus 15:1-2*

M: I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Psalm 118:24*

M: The Lord's right hand is majestic in power.  
The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.

**C: In the greatness of his majesty  
he threw down those who opposed him.**

*Exodus 15:6-7*

M: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*1 Corinthians 15:35-37*

M: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

**C: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

M: I myself will see him with my own eyes – I, and not another.

**C: How my heart yearns within me!**

*Job 19:25-27*

M: He is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Upon the hill the cross now stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb. As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

**C: Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.**

M: Upon this your sincere confession, by Jesus Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life. The Lord is righteous and gracious!

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

---

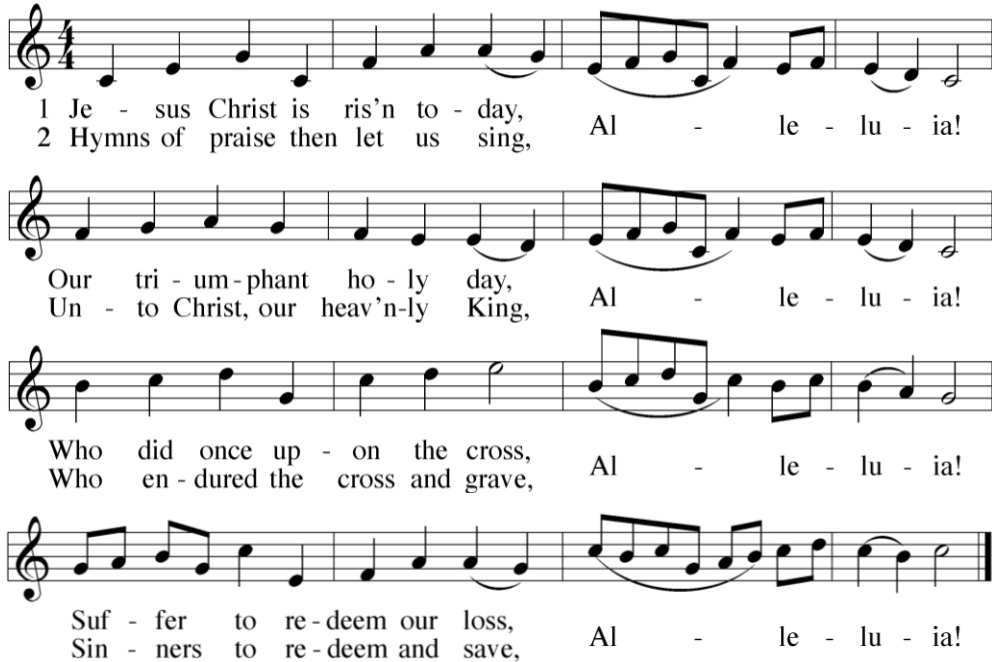
## *Prayer and Praise*

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## HYMN

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* | 157 (1,2)

*(short musical intro)*



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly King,

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who en - dured the cross and grave,

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sin - ners to re - deem and save,

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.



C: A - men.

*be seated*

---

# *The Word*

## **FIRST LESSON**

*Jonah 2:2-9*

<sup>2</sup>He said the following:

In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From the belly of the grave I cried out,  
and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup>You threw me into the depths,  
into the heart of the seas.

The currents swept around me.

All your breakers and your waves swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, "I have been driven away from your sight.

Nevertheless, I will once again look toward your holy temple."

<sup>5</sup>Waters engulfed me so that I was near death.

The deep surrounded me.

Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down.

The earth locked me behind its bars forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God.

<sup>7</sup>When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD.

My prayer came to you, to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup>Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the mercy that is theirs.

<sup>9</sup>But I, with a shout of thanksgiving, will indeed sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed, I will certainly pay in full.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!



*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;  
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;  
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;  
 4 God has pro - claimed his gra - cious gift;  
 5 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God;

*Refrain*

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
 Life e - ter - nal for all who be - lieve.  
 Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

## SECOND LESSON

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, I am going to call your attention to the gospel that I preached to you. You received it, and you took your stand on it. <sup>2</sup>You are also being saved by that gospel that was expressed in the words I preached to you, if you keep your hold on it—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,  
<sup>4</sup>that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,  
<sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

<sup>6</sup>After that he appeared to over five hundred brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, he appeared also to me, the stillborn child, so to speak. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted God's church. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not ineffective. On the contrary, I worked more than all of them (and yet it wasn't my doing, but it was the grace of God, which was with me, that did it). <sup>11</sup>So whether it is I or they, that is what we preach, and that is what you believed.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Psalms 118:24*

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.**





*please stand*

## **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 28:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup>Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!"

<sup>8</sup>They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

*be seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.*





1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
 2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
 3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
 4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.  
 The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
 And death, hell, and Sa - tan he van-quished, his foes.  
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts his ban - ner on high;  
 For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;  
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,



And earth, sea, and moun - tain the prais - es pro - long.  
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
 He lives, yes, he lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.  
 Who now sits in glo - ry and ev - er shall reign.

## SERMON

John 20:11-18

**His First Steps Led Outside His Tomb**

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him."

<sup>14</sup>After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and replied in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means, "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup>Jesus told her, "Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.' "

<sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" She also told them the things he said to her.

*please stand*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*be seated*

## **OFFERING**

*"Bring the complete tithe to the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Just test me in this, says the LORD of Armies. See whether I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour down blessing on you, until there is more than enough" (Malachi 3:10).*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*incorporating I Know that My Redeemer Lives | 152 (1-6)*

*(short musical intro)*

**All: (sing) I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head!**

**M:** We praise you, O God, for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In him is life. We thank you that as he lives, so we have been given new life also. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to live as your children for your glory. Pour your grace on your church, that its witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ may be clear and bold. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(no musical intro)*

**All: (sing) He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.**

M: Like the disciples, O Lord, sometimes we are almost afraid to believe the news that Christ is alive, and that we have life in him. Fears and doubts threaten to overcome us. Strengthen us by your Word. Encourage us by the daily return to the new life we have in our Baptism. Nourish us by the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus in the Lord's Supper, that our doubts may be banished and our fears eased. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**All: (sing) He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.**

M: God of all grace, your care for us knows no bounds. When we mourn, you comfort us. When we suffer, you strengthen us. When we are ill, you heal us and help us endure. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**All: (sing) He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with his eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

M: Lord of life and death, we give you thanks for all who have gone before us in the faith. On this day of resurrection, we give you thanks for the promise that for those who trust in you, death is but a doorway to eternal life. Give us a faith that trusts in you in the hour of our death. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**All: (sing) He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**All:** *(sing)* **He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end.  
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

*please stand*

## **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.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*I Know that My Redeemer Lives* | **152** (7,8)

*(short musical intro)*

**He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

*be seated*

# *NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

## **BREAK YOUR FAST AT ST. PAUL'S TODAY**

This morning we'll be having an Easter Breakfast beginning at 7:30 am and ending at 9:00 am. Freewill donations will be accepted at the breakfast to help cover the cost of the meal.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who helped in the planning, preparation, and activities for the Easter Egg Hunt yesterday! We pray the Lord will use all of your work to connect more families to the eternal gospel of our risen Savior.

## **BAKE SALE THANK YOU**

Thank you also to all who helped out with the bake sale last week, whether it was prep, baking, buying, and/or eating! The proceeds will help continue to fund our PACE activities.

## **ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL**

If you or someone you know would be interested in Christian education for their child(ren) in grades PreK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year, our school is currently accepting applications for enrollment. You can find information about our school and an online application form on our website. Please also contact Pastor Groth to set up a tour.

## **LWMS SPRING RALLY**

I have been invited to be the guest speaker at the LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 15, at Christ Ev. Lutheran Church in Burr Oak. Registration begins at 12:30 pm with the program at 1:00 pm. Having been a missionary in Asia, I will talk about what I learned as a missionary, using John 4 as an outline of the barriers, struggles, fears, blessings and fruits that come from being one of God's messengers in this world and across cultures. My talk will aim, not only to give insight into two specific Asian cultures and the gospel work being done, but also for those attending, to consider my message to their own lives as missionaries for the Lord. Come learn from Jesus himself, (and from my own blunders) how God powerfully works through his Word and his people. A light luncheon will be served following the business meeting. If you plan to attend, please contact Sue Kapanke by Saturday, April 8, at 608-486-2170.



## **MAKING DECISIONS – MIDWEEK STUDY**

Our midweek study is called *Christian Decision Making*. Christians sometimes have difficulty deciding what to do. This Bible study leads us to trust God's love and to be confident that he will guide our steps. Lessons explore scriptural principles and examine people in the Bible who have made wise or foolish decisions. The study includes lessons on: *What Shall I Do? Absolute Right or Wrong; Decisions and Adiaphora; I Would Like to Know the Future; God's Word Builds Maturity, which Enables Us to Make God-pleasing Decisions; Be Willing to Follow Where God Leads; Don't Fear When Unclear; Freedom, Not a Blueprint*. Midweek study is each Tuesday at 7:00 pm and Wednesday morning at 9:00 am.

## **THE BIG KNIGHT**

Join Luther High School on Saturday, April 22, 2023, for the annual Big Knight dinner auction at Celebrations on the River in French Island, WI. The Big Knight is an annual fundraiser supporting Luther High. This event is a dinner auction with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the students of Luther High. All who attend get to experience a packed silent auction followed by an elegant dinner and an incredible live auction. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with registration and the silent auction, followed by dinner and live auction. Register at [bidpal.net/bigknight23](https://bidpal.net/bigknight23).

## **SCRAP 'N CRAFT**

New Life Resource Center's 2023 Spring Scrap-N-Craft Fundraiser will be April 29 at Mt. Calvary Grace School in La Crosse. For registration and other info, see the sheets printed in the narthex.

## **LWMS CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT**

This summer's LWMS Convention in La Crosse will feature service projects for the attendees at local congregations. Along with the service projects sponsored by WELS congregations in Winona, Onalaska, Mt. Calvary-La Crosse, Holmen as well as the Good Steward and Luther High School service projects, our St. Paul's Ladies Aid service project idea to support the La Crosse Area Veterans Mentor Program was approved. Working closely with Thom Downer, executive director, we will host 10 LWMS Convention participants who will help us organize spiritual support materials to give to veteran mentors in their work with other veterans. If interested in helping our Ladies Aid set up this project, please speak with Ruth Elsen or Susan Kapanke.

## **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! In-person 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](https://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](https://tasteofmissions.com/register).

## **FLOURISH WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Last year, 125 women from 26 WELS churches joined together at St. John's in Lewiston, MN, for the 2022 Flourish Retreat. We are excited to invite you to Flourish 2023, which focuses on how women are specially "Planted by God." The day's sessions will dig deep into biblical themes like strong roots, healthy growth, pruning, producing fruit, and other life lessons from the garden. Registration begins May 1st! Early Bird cost (\$20) runs from May 1st - July 31st. Regular registration cost (\$25) runs from August 1st - August 14th. Visit [flourishretreat.lewistonlutherans.org](https://flourishretreat.lewistonlutherans.org) for more.

## **OFFERING SUMMARY** (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00	Budget to Date: \$156,842.00
Received Last Week: \$9,456.81	Rec'd to Date: \$114,824.24

## **LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

8:00 am: 261    Live Stream Peak: 23    10:00 am: 177    Total: 461  
Sunday Bible Study: --    Sunday School: 13    Tues./Wed. Bible Study: --

# CALENDAR

TODAY	6:30 am	Easter Worship
	7:30 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:00 am	Easter Worship
MONDAY	5:30 pm	Bible Basics Class
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	5:30 pm	Education Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	11:15 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

---

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Presiding Minister**  
**Accompanist**  
**Instrumentalists**

Pastor Brock Groth  
Harriet Langrehr  
Josh Stratman  
Isaac Parr

---

## Copyright Information

Scripture quotations cited from *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™* (EHV™) copyright © 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. [www.wartburgproject.org](http://www.wartburgproject.org)  
Liturgy and lectionary listings from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.



WiFi: SPLC\_Guest  
Password: gracealone

---

**608-486-2754**

**401 16th Ave. N, Bangor, WI 54614**

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