THE CHURCH God WE WANTS

A CHURCH THAT TAKES UP ITS CROSSES

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

September 3, 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

Lord Jesus, you endured the cross as part of God's plan to save me. Forgive me today for the times I fail to take up my cross and follow you. Focus me today on the life that truly matters, my eternal life in heaven, and strengthen me for a life of continually taking up my cross out of love and devotion to you above all things, even my earthly wellbeing. In your 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.

SETTING ONE p.154

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

OPENING HYMN

702 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677, abr.; (st. 3): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695 Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the — Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O LORD, you understand.

Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger.

Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy,

the delight of my heart,

because I bear your name,

O LORD God of Armies.

 $^{\rm 17}{\rm I}$ did not sit with the band of partygoers,

nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.

You filled me with indignation.

continued...

¹⁸Why is my pain unending? Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal? Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me, like a source of water that a person can't depend on? ¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says. If you repent, I will take you back, so that you may stand before me. If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless, you will be my spokesman. They must turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people. They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, because I am with you to save you and to rescue you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked, and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that

is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 8:34

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL *Matthew 16:21–26*

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY



Je - sus, my cross have to leave and 2 the world de - spise leave me: they have left my Let and 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter, and

4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion, not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me, fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther; hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; God of wis - dom, love. and might, you my all in all shall be. swift shall pass the pil - grim days,

yet how rich is foes may hate and Storms may howl, and hope soon change to



con - di tion, God and heav'n are still my my own! friends may shun me; show vour face. and all bright. is clouds may gath all must work for good me. er, to heav'n - ly glo faith to sight and prayer to praise. rv,

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Text and tune: Public domain **SERMON** *Matthew 16:21–26*

The Divine Job Description

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 truly 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

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The pastor speaks the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

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.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

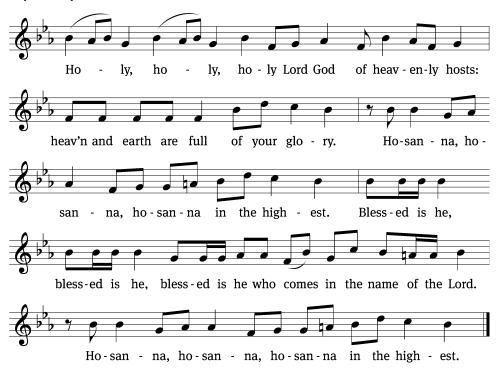


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

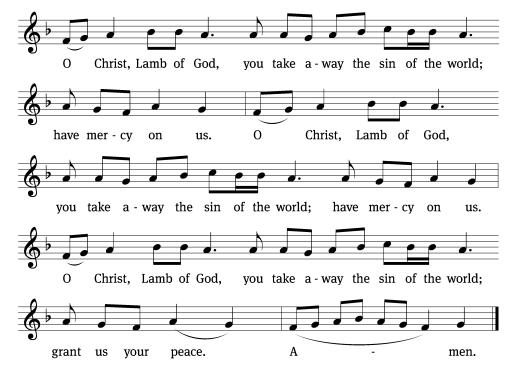
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



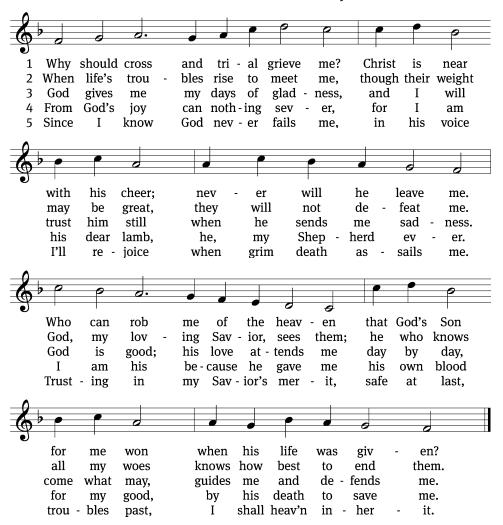
Be seated

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.

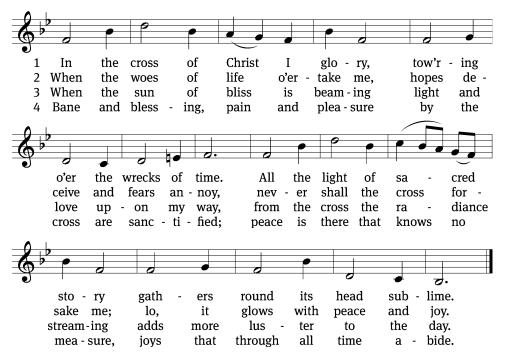
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

831 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (st. 4): tr. Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; (st. 5): tr. Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945
Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676. Text (st. 4): © 2004 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House; (st. 5): © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel, admin.

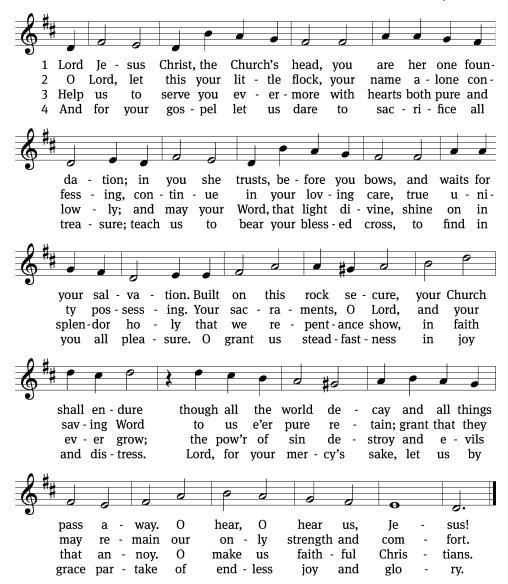
DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867 Text and tune: Public domain



DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr. Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924 Text and tune: Public domain

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

Be seated



CLOSING HYMN

704 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



- 1 Let us ev er walk with Je sus, fol low his ex -
- 2 Let us suf fer here with Je sus, to his im age 3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the
- 3 Let us al so die with Je sus; his death from the 4 Let us glad ly live with Je sus; since he's ris en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to e'er con-form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun-shine sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc-tion, frees us, quick-ens from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus.



sin our souls al - lure. his foot - steps tread - ing, Ev - er in fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row, us with life's glad breath. mor - ti - fv, while liv - ing. Let us thou art now our head. tru - ly thine own mem-bers, We are



bod - y here, vet soul a - bove, we shall reap heav'n - ly in joy, flesh and blood and die to sin, where thou liv - est. there live we:

full of faith and and the fears that and the grave that take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful now an - nov shall be laugh-ter on the mor-row. Christ, I shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus, shuts us in con-stant - ly, faith-ful Friend, as thy dear breth-ren. Ie - sus.



Lord, a - bide with me; suf - fer here with thee; here I die to thee, here I live to thee, Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee. there, O share thy joy with me. there to live e - ter - nal - ly. al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who gave a comment, card or gift for my 60 years as a Church Organist. I thank the Ladies Aid for all they did including refreshments, cupcakes and the beautiful plaque of the Church. It was much appreciated. Thanks again. --Harriet Langrehr

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

Choir practice will begin on Monday, September 11, at 7:00 pm at church. If you enjoy singing, please join us as we sing God's praises. We will be working with the new hymnal and preparing for upcoming festivals and holiday services. Any questions call Brian Berg at 608-486-4049.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY RETURNING SOON

Our Sunday morning Bible study and Sunday School will start back up the week after Labor Day on Sunday, September 10. Our first midweek studies will be September 12 and 13.

HELP BUILD UP SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is one of the main ministries our church offers to Christian families for the biblical instruction of their children. Sunday School lessons allow children to become familiar with Bible stories and create a deeper understanding of Scripture and of God's plan of salvation. It also helps develop the godly habit of attending Bible study on Sunday mornings beyond 8th grade. Parents can grow, too, as adult Bible study takes place at the same time.

The Lord blessed us with an increase in Sunday School attendance last year, but we're looking to continue to build off of last year and build up our numbers so more families are in God's Word together on Sundays. So we'd love to see you there when Sunday School and Bible study start back up on September 10. And bring a friend!

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-CONFIRMATION

If you have a child in the public school in grade 5 or 6, we will be having pre-confirmation studies on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm starting on September 13 (same time as confirmation class). The class will be led by Mr. Mark Larson. Please notify Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com of your interest in enrolling your child.

MIDWEEK STUDY – THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our first midweek Bible study this fall will be on one of the most interesting books of Scripture: Revelation. Chapter by chapter the author cuts a pathway through each vision and prophecy of Revelation until he reaches the clearing where we behold a new heaven and a new earth. The 12 Lessons include: The Purpose, Outline and Interpretation of the Book; The Letters to the Seven Churches; God's Rule of the World; The Seven Seals; God's Judgment of the World; The Church Secure and Glorified; The Devil and His Helpers Appear; The Seven Bowls of Wrath; The Downfall of the Devil's Allies; The Millennium; The New Heaven and the New Earth; and Review. Join me as we dive into the imagery and meaning of Christ our Savior in the book of Revelation.

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Our next Bible Basics class (also called Bible Information Class or the new member class) will be on Mondays at 6:00 pm starting Monday, October 2. If interested in attending, please contact Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com.

SCRIP

St. Paul's gets money when you purchase gift cards through the Scrip program. The gift cards can be used for things you already purchase all the time from common stores (Hansen's, Walmart, Home Depot, etc.). The percentage of your purchases that St. Paul's receives varies depending on the store.

If you would like to purchase gift cards through Scrip, use the order forms found in the church lobby or at the school. Return the order form to the Scrip box at church by the 15th of each month. The cards will come in the mail and be distributed to you.

Or, if you're tech savvy, you can simply use the RaiseRight app and do everything from your phone. Your gift cards then are automatically added to the app and you can use the barcode that shows on your phone to make your purchases. Our school's enrollment code for the app can be found on a piece of paper next to the Scrip box at church or in the school office.

You can designate a specific family or the credit will go to the general fee assistance fund. Families will then be able to use the credit that was built up over the year (July 1 - June 30) and can choose to apply that credit towards next school year's tuition.

Thank you for considering helping out our ministry using Scrip!

RECOVERY IN CHRIST OFFERS HOPE IN JESUS

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays (the next meeting is 9/10), 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library), and Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m. at Coulee Recovery Center at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St.). To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

PART-TIME FOOD SERVICE JOB OPENING

Luther High School is accepting applications for a part-time food service worker. The person would be responsible in assisting the food service manager with the hot lunch program. Duties include food preparation, food service, and kitchen clean-up. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. during the school year. Interested candidates should contact Luther High School Principal Phil Punzel at punzphil@luther.k12.wi.us for a job description.

COULEE REGION OWLS

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 noon for a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. The program will be Jeff Essig, the new Manager of Good Steward, giving us a presentation about how Good Steward operates and who receives their profits. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering.

MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

The 7th annual Men of His Word Conference (Theme: MAN UP: in a man down world) will be held at the Rochester Civic Center in downtown Rochester on October 28, 2023. Please go online at www.menofhisword.org to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc. Join for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word!

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$392,105.00 Received Last Week: \$8,504.50 Rec'd to Date: \$277,582.14

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 134 Live Stream Peak: 21 10:00 am: 61 Monday: 33 Total: 249

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am 10:00 am	Worship with Communion Worship with Communion
TUESDAY	8:00 am 10:00 am	Pre-K First Day of School Mornings with Mommy
WEDNESDAY	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Education Committee Meeting Church Council Meeting
THURSDAY	6:00 pm	Accreditation Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship PACE Meeting

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding MinisterPastor Brock GrothAccompanistIrene Bakken

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