



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

January 2-3, 2020



St. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St Paul's Mission Statement: "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to support each other with God's Word and sacraments, share Christ with our community and the world, and serve others in Christian love."

Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

Today we enter into the season of Epiphany and celebrate the Festival of Epiphany. During Christmas we witnessed the Christ Child born into our world to save us from our sins. Today, on Epiphany, we are reminded that this Savior is for everyone. The story of the Gentile Magi coming to worship Jesus highlights this truth. As we worship today, we'll thank God that Jesus came to save us. We'll also ask God to move us through our worship to share the Savior with others.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Shane Krause

Musicians: Annaliese, Jacob, and Katherine Bruns, Lori Ehlke, Zach Johnson, Lori Ehlke, Andy Wehausen, Wendy Schibbelhut

© 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Lyrics and music printed in today's service folder and viewed on the screens are used by permission through CCLI #1906774 and OneLicense A-715642. "What Child Is This" traditional, arr. by Chris Tomlin

Service of Word and Sacrament

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: CW 82, verses 1,2,5

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem,
In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding Guest,
In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do
Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be
At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Pastor: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: *(spoken)* And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts.
Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

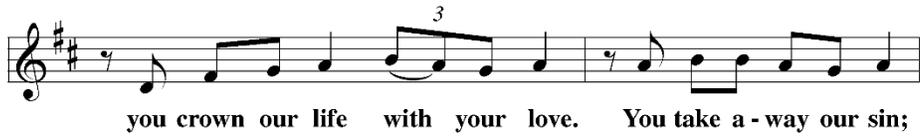
P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



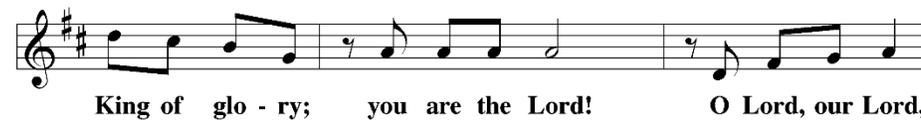
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 3:2-12

The Lord has made the Savior known to the world for whom he came. And he wants us to play a part in telling others about him.

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: CW 84, verses 1-2

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made
And endless praises crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi worship their infant Savior.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



SERMON HYMN: CW 83

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your followers be.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

SERMON LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

SERMON

STAND

NICENE CREED

C 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.

GATHER THE THANKOFFERING

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!



1. Online giving – visit our website, www.stpaulsonalaska.org and click “Give.”
2. Text giving – text the amount you wish to give starting with the dollar sign to [608-371-6891](tel:608-371-6891).
3. If you prefer to mail your offering envelope, please send to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, P.O Box 128, Onalaska, WI 54650

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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."

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



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Christ, Lamb of God". It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the fifth staff.

DISTRUBITON

SPECIAL MUSIC: "What Child Is This"

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: CW 79

"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.
O David's Son of Jacob's race,
My Bridegroom and my King of grace,
For you my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy, great and glorious,
O victorious prince of graces,
Filling all the heav'nly places.

O highest joy by mortals won,
True Son of God and Mary's Son,
The highborn King of ages!
In your blest body let me be,
E'en as the branch is in the tree,
Your life my life supplying.
Sighing, crying
For the savor of your favor
Resting never till I rest in you forever.

O mighty Father, in your Son
You loved me ere you had begun
This ancient world's foundation.
Your Son has made a friend of me,
And when in spirit him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this!
He is living, to me giving
Life forever;
Nothing me from him can sever.

Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend,
Are Lord, beginning without end,
The first and last, eternal!
And you at length—O glorious grace—
Will take me to that holy place,
The home of joys supernal.
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me,
Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
Lord, I look for your returning.

Lift up the voice and strike the string,
Let all glad sounds of music ring
In God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way,
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day
Till trav'ling days are ended.
Sing out, ring out
Triumph glorious, O victorious
Chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

THANKSGIVING



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended; oh, be now extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us; his love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving, to God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us;
With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Week at St. Paul's: January 3, 2021

❖ Baptism—Elliot Kemp

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Please sign-up for in-person worship so we are able to keep our sanctuary safe and comfortable for all who wish to worship. You can sign-up by going to our website: www.stpaulsonalaska.org/. You will be able to see how many people have signed up for each service.

Online Worship Options

The most current worship service can be watched on the St. Paul's [website](#). All other Livestreamed services are archived and can be watched on our [Youtube channel](#). Search St Paul's Onalaska on Youtube.

Worship Times

Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays at 8:00 am, 9:15 am (gym), and 10:30 am

Sunday 8:00 am will be livestreamed.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR YOUR JANUARY CALENDAR

- **Call Meeting** - A Call Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 pm. We will be calling for a 2nd grade teacher.
- **Congregational Voters' Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 24 at 11:45 am. This meeting will pertain to the Building Project. Agenda items include:
 - 1) Site plan approval
 - 2) Fund appeal approval
 - 3) Fund appeal services provider
 - 4) Approval to contract construction management service

CARING CHRISTIANS MENTAL HEALTH

Caring Christians will meet at First Lutheran in La Crosse on Monday, January 4 at 6:30 pm. The topic will be Seasonal Disorder.

FUN RUN

The Outreach Team at St. Paul's is looking for some people in our congregation with organizational skills and/or experience with running events to help us plan a "Fun Run" event in the next year. Please contact Pastor Olson at dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org if you'd like to help with planning.

LUTHER HIGH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Luther High School has two employment opportunities available. They are hiring for a part-time Food Service Director and a full-time Custodian. For information visit lutherhigh.org or contact the Luther High school office.

GRATEFUL AND GROWING PRESENTATIONS

Thanks to all who completed a congregational response sheet! The Building and Finance Committee have been reviewing them and will be updating the congregation on the next steps in the coming weeks. There's still time to fill out a response sheet if you haven't done so. To find the video presentation and a link to the online response sheet go to www.stpaulsonalaska.org and scroll down the home page.

GOOD STEWARD EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In order to operate efficiently and with good organization, Good Steward Resale Shop employs Store Coordinators. This paid position requires leadership, organizational skills, the ability to communicate and train others, and the exercising of good judgment. It also requires some physical exertion, including lifting up to 50 pounds. The work will amount to about 24 hours per week, including Saturdays. The Store Coordinator must be committed to the Biblical principle, "Serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13).

Interested parties may obtain a job description with necessary qualifications and an application form at Good Steward Resale Shop. You may also obtain a job description and application form by calling 608.784.5035 or by writing to: Wise Managers, Inc. 400 West Avenue South La Crosse, WI 54601. Applications should be returned by January 24, 2020.

To St. Paul's Church Members,

I hope and pray that this letter finds you well and preparing for the celebration of our Savior's birth. What a joyous time of the year to give thanks and praise for all the blessings God provides to us.

The year of 2020 has certainly been a year that has tested our patience, endurance, health, and for many, our finances. Through good times and bad times, we should always turn to God's word for healing, direction, and thanks. God's Word is filled with promises from our Creator to provide and deliver. The Bible is the ultimate source for truth and God is faithful to fulfill all His promises. God says in Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

God has surely blessed our congregation here at St. Paul's Church and School with many called workers and staff. Pastors to keep us in the Word, teachers to guide our children down God's path of life, talented musicians to beautify our services, office administrators to organize and keep the church and school operating, and maintenance staff to help maintain the buildings and grounds. During these months of COVID 19, all of these people have worked extra hard at their positions and have worked more hours than required to make sure we were able to keep our doors open to those comfortable coming to school and church. Also, making sure those not comfortable, were provided online materials, webinars, zoom meetings, and livestream services.

The Council recognizes this and would like to set up a new line item titled "Staff Support Fund." This fund will be there for when unplanned items come up when one or more of our staff need assistance. For instance, when a called worker needs assistance with moving or go through unexpected hardship or health issues. As a council, we would like to start this by offering the congregation this line item so that we can give a nice big "THANK YOU" to our Pastors, Teachers, and Staff for all the extra work they have been doing. If you are so inclined to do so, you can send or drop a check into the church office and mark it as "Staff Support Fund." Once we have a fund built up, we will put something together for our paid staff to not only tell them thank you but to show our appreciation for what they all do.

God's Blessings,

Tim Scriver
Chairman of the Adult Discipleship

January Bible Study Options

During the winter months, we will continue to offer a number of weekday Bible study options both via zoom and in-person. These classes would be a great way to stay connected with others and give encouragement for your faith during the long days of winter. Below are the different options of new and current classes. **If you are attending the Starting Point Class or one of the Zoom classes, please make sure to sign up at the church website under the Grow tab.**

Starting Point Mondays 5:00 pm on Zoom and 6:30 pm In-Person

Our winter Starting Point class will start **January 11**. Pastor Ehlke will be leading a zoom class at 5:00 pm and an in-person class in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm on Mondays. Starting Point is a great class for those new to the Christian faith and also a great review of the main teachings of the Bible that will answer many of the questions we have about God and about our faith. It also serves as our class for those interested in joining St. Paul's. If you plan on attending, please sign up on our website or contact Pastor Ehlke: behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Classes at 6:30 pm

Pastor Olson will be leading our Wednesday 6:30 pm Zoom class starting on **January 6**. The class will be based on the book *10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe*, and we'll look at common misconceptions that some Christians hold onto. There's no need to purchase or have the book to attend. Please sign up on our website, and you'll receive the zoom information via email from Pastor Olson.

Saturday Men's Bible Classes at 8:00 am (In-person at Kwik Trip)

Steve Loehr leads our Saturday men's Bible class at the Kwik Trip just a few blocks north of St. Paul's. The topic will be the book of Jeremiah.

Monday Women's Bible Classes at 4:00 pm (Zoom and In-person)

Wendy Schibbelhut leads our Monday 4:00 pm Women's Bible Class. The topic will be Job. If you would like to attend this class via zoom, please sign up on our website and Wendy will get in touch with you.

Thursday Women's Bible Classes at 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Jan Westerman leads our Thursday 6:30 am class. The topic will be the book of Mark. If you would like to attend this class, please sign up on our website and Jan will get in touch with you.

WORSHIP WITH OUR CARE OF GOD'S WEALTH

The total offerings were \$39,228 (\$24,723 needed to meet budget).

The amount given to date is \$656,518

(12/27/2020) The amount needed to date is \$642,794

PASTORAL CONTACTS:

Pastor Brett Ehlke (608) 799.2717

behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org

Pastor Shane Krause (608) 217.5660

skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org

Pastor Dan Olson (608) 797.5793

dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org