



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

July 8-11, 2021



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.

This summer's worship series is entitled "Postcards from Paul." We'll be examining accounts from the three missionary journeys which he made around the Mediterranean world, and we'll rejoice in the way that the Lord's Word was shared and how it grew into saving faith in the hearts of many.

Why is the gospel such a threat? Today we want to think past persecution to simply understand the emotions that are connected with the message that Paul and that we have been given to share. How does our culture today view this message, and can we continue to live it and proclaim it without curtailing the truth and without angering those who hear it?

Theme:

Thessalonica-Proclaiming the Message Under Persecution

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Dan Olson

Thursday Organist: Wendy Schibbelhut

Thursday Singer: Danielle Fetcenko

Sunday Organist: Wendy Schibbelhut

Sunday Singers: Amy, Cole, and Landon Bryant; Andrea, Jack, Luke Schmeling

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BELLS AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Proclaim his salvation day after day.

Congregation: Declare his glory among all nations, his marvelous deeds among all the peoples. (*1 Chronicles 16:23-24*)

ALL: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

OPENING HYMN: CW 415

"Be Still My Soul"

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
Then you will better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND SONG OF CONFESSION:

CW 482, "Forgive Us Lord"

P: Gracious Lord, we come before you now confessing our sins. Through your Word you have revealed to us again and again the unsearchable riches of Christ, but again and again we have failed to recognize how richly we have been blessed.

Singers:

*Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,
While of your richer gifts we're unaware.*

P: We have often failed to fully appreciate all you have done for us in Christ, and therefore we have failed to share the message of your love and grace with others as we should. Forgive us for the dullness of our faith and love for you.

Singer and Congregation:

**Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ, your Son, and for each human face
That shows your message ever new and near.**

P: So often we have overlooked the needs of those who live near us and have shown so little concern for those who are far away. There is always so much more we could do to bring others the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds.
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs.**

P: Gracious Lord, we confess that we are in dire need of your Spirit's help, as we daily take up our crosses and follow you. We need a heart that loves you more, a faith that trusts you more, a life that reflects more clearly the vast riches of your love.

**Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.
Let thankful days in loving labor spent
Reflect the truly Christlike life and light.**

ABSOLUTION

P: Now in Christ Jesus, we, who once were far away, have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He came and preached peace to us who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (*Ephesians 2:13, 17-18*)

Our almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake has forgiven you all your sins. 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.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE:

“May the Peoples Praise You”

Singer:

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ.

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life.

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.

Singer and Congregation:

**All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known.**

**May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word.**

**May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.**

**This our holy privilege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue
Your church proclaims.**

**May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.**

Singer:

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name.

Singer and Congregation:

**May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.**

**May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and have sent your messengers to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near. Grant that by the witness of your Church many may be brought into your kingdom and worship you, the only true God; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Jeremiah 38:1-13

Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehukal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people when he said, ²“This is what the LORD says: ‘Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague, but whoever goes over to the Babylonians will live. They will escape with their lives; they will live.’ ³And this is what the LORD says: ‘This city will certainly be given into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, who will capture it.’”

⁴Then the officials said to the king, “This man should be put to death. He is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them. This man is not seeking the good of these people but their ruin.”

⁵“He is in your hands,” King Zedekiah answered. “The king can do nothing to oppose you.”

⁶So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

⁷But Ebed-Melek, a Cushite, an official in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate, ⁸Ebed-Melek went out of the palace and said to him, ⁹"My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have thrown him into a cistern, where he will starve to death when there is no longer any bread in the city."

¹⁰Then the king commanded Ebed-Melek the Cushite, "Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."

¹¹So Ebed-Melek took the men with him and went to a room under the treasury in the palace. He took some old rags and worn-out clothes from there and let them down with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. ¹²Ebed-Melek the Cushite said to Jeremiah, "Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to pad the ropes." Jeremiah did so, ¹³and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 9:18-27

¹⁸Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

¹⁹They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

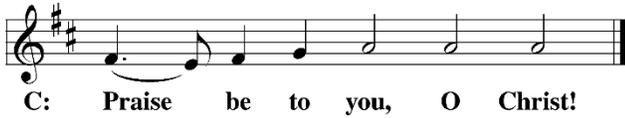
²⁰"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

²¹Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²²And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

²³Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 465

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition,
All I've ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me;
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
You are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—
Show your face, and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In your service pain is pleasure;
With your favor loss is gain.
I have called you Abba, Father!
You my all in all shall be.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer.
All but heav'n is transitory;
God's own hand shall guide you there.
Soon shall end this earthly story;
Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

SERMON LESSON:

Acts 17:1-9

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. ⁴Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." ⁸When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

Thessalonica-Proclaiming the Message Under Persecution

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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

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

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.

BE SEATED

BLESSING

P: The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;
The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;
The joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“O Church, Arise”

Singers:

*O church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong*

*In the strength that God has given,
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.*

Singers and Congregation:

**Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.**

**Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.**

**So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Week at St. Paul's: July 11, 2021

Prayers

- † Baptisms—Nova Jean Sprehn, daughter of Daniel and Shannon (7/8); Daniel William Kufahl, son of Theodore and Iryna (7/11)
- † Outreach at the La Crosse County Fair
- † Comfort—family of former member, Laurine Solberg. Laurine passed away July 3. Funeral will be held at St. Paul's in Bangor on Monday, July 12. Visitation at 10:00 am and funeral at 11:00 am.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE

Our Adult Bible Study is based on our summer sermon series. We are looking at the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys. We encourage parents with kids in middle school and high school to attend Bible study with their kids. Let Pastor Ehlke know if you have any questions.

Schedule:

Sunday School (PreK-6th Grade) and Childcare (younger than PreK):

9:20-10:15 am - School Classrooms

1st Sunday Bible Study: 9:30-10:15 am - Fellowship Hall

2nd Sunday Bible Study: 10:30-11:15 am - Fellowship Hall

Childcare (through 4th grade): 10:20-11:15 am - Gym/Grace Room

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday, July 18 we will be holding the 9:15 am service outside in the green space near the playground. Please bring your own chairs.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING ON SUNDAY, JULY 18

St. Paul's annual voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18, beginning around 11:45 am (after the late morning service). Among other business items, our boards will report information on their past and projected future ministry efforts, and a Grateful and Growing building project update will be given.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – LA CROSSE COUNTY FAIR BOOTH

All the WELS churches in the area join together in occupying a booth at the La Crosse County Fair. St. Paul's day to run the booth will be Friday, July 16th from 11:00 am-10:00 pm. We are looking for about 2-3 helpers per time slot to help run the booth. Your duties will be smiling, greeting people, handing out school supplies and in general, being the face of our WELS churches.

We are also looking for donations of new school supplies (backpacks, crayons, pencils, rulers, glue, folders/binders, etc) which you can bring to the church at any time before July 16th. If you'd like to sign up for a section of time that day, you can sign up on the online form [here](#), or in the church lobby.

WELS NIGHT AT THE LUMBER YARD

This year's WELS Night at the Loggers will take place on Sunday, July 25. Game time is at 5:05 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at lutherhigh.org, in the Mission Advancement office at Luther, Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00-11:00 am, or at the box office the day of the game. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Sherry at 608.783.5435 ext. 1134.

OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC

On Sunday, August 15, we will be combining our 9:15 and 10:30 am worship services into one outdoor service at 10:00 am. After the 10:00 am service, we'll be having our church/neighborhood picnic with food, games, and a lot of fun. If you're interested in helping out with either serving or games or in any other way, please contact Tim Scriver: timjscriver@gmail.com. We definitely could use some help that weekend!

CREATION MUSEUM AND ARK ENCOUNTER

English Lutheran Church in Viroqua will be chartering a bus to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in October. Information can be found on the table in the Church lobby. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Rob Williams. You can email him at robdwil7366@yahoo.com.

TEEN GROUP CANOE OUTING!!!!

High School-Aged, Teens! Get ready for a float down the Black River on Sunday, July 18! We'll leave from the church parking lot around noon and make our way to North Bend to connect with our canoe outfitter. We'll float from the Melrose Boating landing back to North Bend. It's about a five hour float. Plan to arrive back at the church parking lot around 7:00 pm. Bring your swimsuit and your sunscreen! **Please RSVP to Pastor Krause by Sunday, July 11. 608.217.5660, skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org**

PANTHER PROWL FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK

St. Paul's will be hosting a Panther Prowl 5K family fun run/walk on Saturday, August 14. Registration begins at 7:30 am and the race at 8:00 am. The run/walk will begin and end in the St. Paul's parking lot. After the run/walk we will have refreshments and fellowship.

The first 50 participants to register will receive a free Panther Prowl t-shirt. The proceeds from the run/walk will go to the Central Africa Medical Mission(CAMM). More information will be available on CAMM, the run/walk, and how to register, at the Panther Prowl webpage available soon at stpaulsonalaska.org or pick up a brochure/registration form on the table in the church lobby.

FLOURISH WOMEN'S RETREAT

A women's retreat will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church and School Saturday, August 28, from 9:00 am until 1:30 pm. More information is available at this [link](#) or pick up a flyer in the church lobby. Cost is \$10 and attendees must pre-register by Monday, August 23. To register go to: <http://flourishretreat.lewistonlutherans.org>.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church/school office will be open Tuesday thru Thursday, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm now through August 2. Please send weekly announcements to the office one week prior to the desired posting date. We will only be checking phone messages during office hours. In case of an emergency, please contact one of the pastors using their cell phone numbers listed below.

PASTORAL CONTACTS:

Pastor Brett Ehlke (608) 799.2717

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Pastor Shane Krause (608) 217.5660

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