



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

November 21, 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.

In a world of chaos and confusion, we struggle to see God's plan and purpose. This Sunday, we'll remember that we do have a King whose greatness is not found in giving us comfortable lives in this world but a King who has saved us and has given our lives purpose and meaning.

Theme: A King Who Gives Purpose and Life

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Brett Ehlke

Musicians: 7th and 8th Grade Junior Choir, and the Bryant, Ehlke, and Mueller moms and kids

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BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING SONG:

“Jesus Is Lord”

Junior Choir:

‘Jesus is Lord’ – the cry that echoes through creation:
Resplendent power, eternal Word, our Rock,
The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this living Bread.

Jesus is Lord – whose voice sustains the stars and planets,
Yet in His wisdom laid aside His crown,
Jesus the Man, who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,
Became a curse to bring salvation’s plan.

Jesus is Lord – the tomb is gloriously empty,
Not even death could crush this King of love.
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we’re forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

Choir and Congregation:

**‘Jesus is Lord’ – a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns, and every knee bows low.
Then every eye and every heart will see His glory,
The Judge of all will take His children home.**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: *(spoken)* Amen.

P: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

C: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Singers and Congregation:

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as they matchless king through all eternity.**

P: "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness." (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.**

**Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.**

P: We have come to worship our King, but if we examine our life and our human nature, we find ourselves unworthy to stand in his presence. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: 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, Christ the King, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**Crown him the Lord of love—Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.**

P: Christ, our King has won your forgiveness through His death and resurrection. In his stead and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us praise our King for the new life he gives us.

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

"May the Peoples Praise You"

Singers:

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.

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.

Singers and Congregation:

**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.**

Singers:

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.

Singers 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.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 18:33-37

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Singers:

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

Singers and Congregation:

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died.**

**Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings.**

**And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.**

**And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint**

**By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me.**

**Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings.
Praise forever to the King of Kings.**

SERMON LESSON:

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Theme: A King Who Gives Purpose and Life

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased us for God. From every tribe and language and people and nation, you have called us into your kingdom and have made us priests to serve you, our God and Father. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We give thanks to you, O Christ our Shepherd-King, because you have searched for us and found us. Lead us to the green pastures and quiet waters of your saving love, so that we may enjoy peace and comfort for our souls. Heal our hearts when they are broken with sin and guilt. Strengthen us when we are weak. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Come with your mighty power to break and defeat every evil plan and purpose of the devil, of the ungodly influences and ideas of the world, and of our own sinful nature. Use your power to calm the unrest among nations and peoples so that your kingdom may spread and grow. Strengthen our confidence in knowing that your kingdom will never be destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O Christ our King, you have supremacy over all. You will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity. You have destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Reign in our hearts that we may serve you more faithfully and speak more boldly to others of your saving love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Special prayers.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: Amen.

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.

GATHER THE THANKOFFERING

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry! If you would like to make an electronic gift, these options are available for your convenience:

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



OFFERING SONG:

“Beautiful Savior”

Singers:

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love thee, Truly I’d serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

Singers and Congregation:

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be thine!**

BLESSING

P: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.
(I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

“Almost Home”

Singers:

Don't drop a single anchor, we're almost home
Through every toil and danger, we're almost home
How many pilgrim saints have before us gone?
No stopping now, we're almost home.

Singers and Congregation:

**That promised land is callin', we're almost home
And not a tear shall fall then, we're almost home
Make ready now your souls for that Kingdom come
No turning back, we're almost home.**

**Almost home, we're almost home
So press on toward that blessed shore
Oh, praise the Lord, we're almost home.**

**This journey ours together, we're almost home
Unto that great forever, we're almost home
What song anew we'll sing 'round that happy throne
Come faint of heart, we're almost home.**

**Almost home, we're almost home
So press on toward that blessed shore
Oh, praise the Lord, we're almost home.**

**This life is just a vapor, we're almost home
That sun is settin' yonder, we're almost home
Take courage, for this darkness shall break to dawn
Oh, lift your eyes, we're almost home.**

**Almost home, we're almost home
So press on toward that blessed shore
Oh, praise the Lord, we're almost home.**

**Almost home, we're almost home
So press on toward that blessed shore
Oh, praise the Lord, we're almost home.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Week at St. Paul's: November 21, 2021

Prayers

- † **Baptisms**—Torin Lee Hauser, son of Rustin and Jaclyn (11/18); Ruby Grace Holzhausen, daughter of Kyle and Nicole (11/19); Arabella Rose Christopherson, daughter of Caleb and Cassandra (11/24)
- † **Comfort**—Kim Berg and Kay Radichel and family at the death of their mother, Marion Radichel (11/16/2021)
- † **Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal**

CALL MEETING

A Call meeting will be held Monday, November 22 at 6:30 pm to replace 3K teacher, Betty Van Loon and Kindergarten teacher, Heide Mueller. Both teachers will be retiring at the end of the school year. We thank these ladies for faithfully and lovingly teaching our students the Word of God here at St. Paul's.

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 6:30 pm

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25, 9:00 am

Wednesday Midweek Advent Services

December 1, 8, & 15, 2:00 pm & 6:30 pm

**Please note, no Thursday evening services will be held during the month of December.*

Advent suppers will be served prior to each midweek service beginning at 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

The Sunday/Wednesday morning Bible studies will begin a new topic starting November 28. We'll be starting a study on the first 12 chapters of Isaiah with a special focus on the prophecies about Jesus that we hear during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Class meets at 9:20 and 10:20 am on Sundays and Wednesdays at 9:00 am.

All men are invited for an hour of Bible study and fellowship every Saturday at 8:00 am at the Kwik Trip just north of church on Sandlake Rd. Starting December 4, our men's group will be studying the Augsburg Confession and what it means to boldly confess and stand on God's Word in a world of doubt and confusion. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Steve Loehr: sloehr@kwiktrip.com.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Christmas choir practices have started and are being held on **Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm**. We'd love to have a large group of singers for this--anyone high school age and up is encouraged to join in on the fun! It's okay if you can't make it every time. Please contact Wendy Schibbelhut with any questions:

wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org.

LIVE NATIVITY OPENING NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What a fun and meaningful way to start out the Advent season with your family! Make Christmas memories while proclaiming the birth of our Savior to thousands of people at the Rotary Lights in Riverside Park! Check out the sign-up link below for more information and to sign-up. Opening Night is Friday, November 26th.

Sign-up sheets are available in the church lobby or click on the links below.

All Congregation Nights: [Friday, November 26](#) and [Saturday, December 25](#)

St. Paul's weekend, [December 4 & 5](#)

USHERS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

We could use some help ushering for Thanksgiving, Wednesday Advent, and Christmas services. If interested, you can sign-up on the schedule sheet in the back of church or talk to Jerry Schwartz (jerryups@charter.net).

HELP DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Sanctuary Christmas decorating will take place **on Sunday, November 28, after the late service** (we'll start around 11:45 am). Teens, we can especially use your help, but all are welcome to join the fun. A pizza lunch will be provided for all who stick around to help. Thank you!

FOOD BASKET VOLUNTEERS AT RIVERSIDE PARK

The Food Basket in Onalaska shares Christ's love by feeding people in need in the Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, Galesville, Trempealeau and French Island communities. Volunteers are needed to collect food from the drivers as vehicles enter the park. Please dress for warmth as you'll be outside. Go to this [link](#) to sign up. Thank you in advance for your help!

ONALASKA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

The 11th Annual Onalaska Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, November 25 at the Onalaska Armory. This year the dinner will be back to in-person dining, delivery, and carry-outs. Go to this [website](#) on November 1 to volunteer or to give a donation.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Calling all children grades 3K through 5th grade for a morning of Christmas activities to celebrate the Savior's birth. We will do crafts, make snacks, play games, and sing songs. Tell your friends as all are welcome to attend. We will meet here at church on Saturday December 11, from 9:00 am until noon. Registration starts at 8:45 am. Please fill out the registration for you child(ren) at this [link](#) or pick up a form in the church lobby. We are also looking for volunteers. Go to this [link](#) to sign up. Contact Kiri Dorn kiricooney18@gmail.com or Amanda Dostal ajdostal916@gmail.com with any other questions.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Ladies, St Paul's Advent by Candlelight will be held Sunday, November 28 from 6:00-7:30 pm. This year's theme is "Crafting Up a Christ-Filled Christmas." All women of the congregation as well as female family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend this special evening of delicious desserts, decorative table viewing, songs, readings, and prayer. There is no charge for the event. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning November 7 in the church lobby to host a table or attend. Any questions, contact Carrie Wehausen at cjwehausen@gmail.com or call/text @ 507-459-7288. (Childcare will also be available upon request)

WOMEN IN CHRIST MEETING

Women in Christ will meet on Monday, November 22 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

ST. PAUL'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are still looking to hire people for the following positions: Food Service Director and assistant, and 2 afternoon Surround Care positions (3:00-6:00 pm). Applications are available in the school office. *Questions? Contact Benjamin Bain (bbain@stpaulsonalaska.org or 608-783-4822 ext. 222).*

LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL FINISH THE WORK CAMPAIGN

Go to this [link](#) for an update on Luther's Finish the Work campaign. Copies are also available in the church lobby.

PIANOS AVAILABLE

The Luther High School Music Department is looking to find new homes for several gently used acoustic and digital pianos. If you are interested in adopting a piano, there is no cost, please contact Paul Adickes at adicpaul@luther.k12.wi.us for more information.

2021-22 Ministry Plan Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings Report:

- The budgeted offerings (anticipated) 10/1 through 10/31 were \$135,795 (\$27,159 per week).
- The actual offerings 10/1 through 10/31 were \$99,862 (average of \$19,972 per week).
- This number includes \$23,729 of e-giving for the month.

- The budgeted offerings (anticipated) 7/1/2021 through 10/31/2021 were \$488,862 (\$27,159 per week).
- The actual offerings 7/1/2021 through 10/31/2021 were \$406,735 (average of \$22,596 per week).

As of 10/31 our offerings were \$82,127 below anticipated offerings.

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



Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal Update

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School has been blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of our members, past and present. Throughout the years, we have remained focused on our mission to make disciples – **reaching out** to those who do not know Jesus and **nurturing** the faith of those who already confess Jesus as Lord. For St. Paul's to do our best at making disciples now and in the future requires bold action to update and expand our facilities. The prayerful vision is to expand our campus to fully support all aspects of our congregational and school ministry. Our building project will provide better functionality, increased flexibility, and more capacity that will allow for our growing ministry.

We are excited by the 159 members who have responded to our **Grateful and Growing** Building Fund Appeal. The overall response to-date has exceeded **\$1.5 million** in kickoff gifts and pledges. To everyone who has responded, **THANK YOU!**

We are excited about the possibility of surpassing the \$2 million mark. Please help us! If you have not yet done so, please return your appeal response form to the church office. If you prefer, you may provide your appeal response online by visiting our church website. If you did not receive, or need another appeal packet, please contact the church office at 608-783-2552.

**“The body of Christ, joined together, grows and builds itself up in love,
as each part does its work.”** Ephesians 3:16

**We have asked St. Paul’s members to share their words of support for
our *Grateful and Growing* Building.
The statement below comes from Daniel Leach.**

Why is St. Paul’s an important part of your life? How has the congregation helped you and your family grow in faith?

St Paul’s has helped grow our family’s faith through the work of the Holy Spirit with Jesus and bible-focused teaching, in church, bible studies and school.

Share your enthusiasm for the proposed building expansion project. Why is the building expansion project important for the church’s mission and ministry? What about this project excites you the most?

This building idea has been getting kicked around for some time now! The time to act is now! The combination of increasing the school capacity and replacing and refreshing some of the well worn part of the facilities is needed. God has placed a challenge in front of us....and blessed us beyond measure to accomplish his challenge.

Share any additional thoughts as to why you will be generous in your financial support of our Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal.

I believe growth in our church will help spread God’s love for us all.