



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

October 7-10, 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.

As we begin a building fund appeal for Grateful and Growing, for three weeks in October, we'll be looking at the book of Nehemiah who returned to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city. As we look ahead to the future and consider a building project, we'll be reminded of why we would undertake such a project: to have more opportunities to share Christ with our community and to build God's kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Theme:

Building God's Kingdom: A Call to Action

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Shane Krause

Organist: Wendy Schibbelhut (Thursday), Joleen Stratman (Sunday)

Singers: 7th and 8th grade students from St. Paul's Lutheran School (10:30 service)

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Service of the Word

BELLS

OPENING HYMN: CW 528

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

The students in grades 7 & 8 will sing the first two verses of this hymn in the 10:30 service. The congregation will join on verses 3 & 4.

Christ is our cornerstone; on him alone we build.
With his true saints alone the courts of heav’n are filled.
On his great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring!
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim in joyful song,
Both loud and long, that glorious name.

Here, gracious God, do now and evermore draw near;
Accept each faithful vow and all your children hear,
And more and more on those who pray
Each holy day your blessing pour.

Here may we gain from heav’n the grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n, be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest
To endless rest are called away!

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE: CW 372, verse 1 & 3

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains
White in his blood most precious till not a spot remains.

I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine.
His right hand me embraces; I in his arms recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes his name abroad is poured.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Heavenly Father, you have called us from many races and tongues to be witnesses of the Good News of your Son to every nation, tribe, language and people. Help us to share your precious Gospel with all who have not heard of your great love for them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Our goal at St. Paul’s is the same goal which the Apostle Paul expresses in this lesson: to reach more and more people with God’s grace, so that they may believe. That is why we speak! Everything we do at St. Paul’s must be a means toward achieving that goal: sharing God’s grace.

¹³ It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

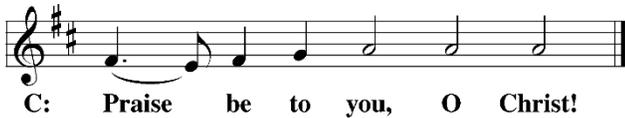
GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 28:18-20

Our Lord has given us a Great Commission. May this direct everything we do at St. Paul's!

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 538

"The Church's One Foundation"

**The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.**

**The Church shall never perish. Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
Against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.**

**Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.**

SERMON LESSON:

Nehemiah 1:1-4,10-11, 2:1-5, 11-12, 17-18

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kisleb in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

¹⁰“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ²so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, ³but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

⁴The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

¹¹I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹²I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

¹⁷Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” ¹⁸I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Building God's Kingdom: A Call to Action

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.
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

P: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings you have given: for your Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and grow, for occasions to serve and be served, and for the fellowship we enjoy.

C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

P: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you graciously call us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

P: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through your Word and sacraments give us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to become all things to all people so that by all possible means you might save some.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

P: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

P: Father, hear us as we join to pray:

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: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: The Lord says, "Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations." Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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.



CLOSING HYMN: CW 542

"Dear Lord, to Thy Dear Servants Give"

Dear Lord, to your true servants give
The grace to you alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,
They go to share your living Word,
The gospel message to proclaim
That all may know your saving name.

They gladly go at your command
To spread your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong
To heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
And mighty is your arm to save.

When all their labor seems in vain,
Revive their sinking hopes again;
And when success crowns what they do,
Oh, keep them humble, Lord, and true
Until before your judgment seat
They lay their trophies at your feet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Week at St. Paul's: October 10, 2021

Prayers

- † **Surgery—Arlene Logging (10/15)**
- † **Comfort for the family of Linda Germann at the death of her mother, Marlene Harwick**
- † **Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal**

NEW WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for a Bible study using the Time of Grace book *Tough Questions, Reasoned Answers* by Dr. Paul Kelm. Discover how to respond to such tough questions as these: *How can a loving God allow evil? Isn't it judgmental to tell others their beliefs are wrong? Aren't all religions basically the same?*

This women's Bible study will meet Monday evenings (except the 4th Monday of every month) at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Class has started, but it is not too late to join. Please contact Wendy Schibbelhut at wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org if you have questions or if you'd like to purchase a book for the class.

NEW HYMNAL COMING SOON!

Have questions? [Here is the link for the informational videos prepared by the hymnal committee.](#)

In addition to a hymn sing video, WELS congregational services has also put together a beautiful **concert video** featuring LPS and MLC choirs, the WELS Chamber group *Canticum*, and a liturgical ensemble, *Trinitas*. [Here is the link for both the concert and the hymn sing.](#)

A sign-up sheet is located by the hymnal display in the church lobby for anyone wishing to purchase a hymnal for home use.

The St. Paul's board of elders has approved the purchase of new hymnals and resources for our congregation; please check out the St. Paul's wish list or contact Wendy Schibbelhut for more information.

FREEWILL OFFERING FOR PASTOR SEELOW'S FAMILY

Last month the Lord called home to heaven one of our Wisconsin Synod's pastors, Nate Seelow. Pastor Seelow served at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Pastor Seelow and Pastor Krause served together at Mt. Olive. Nate leaves behind his wife Megan and their four children: Judah (7), Ezra (5), Hadassah (4), and Hosea (1). To show our Christian love and concern we will be gathering a freewill offering to support the Seelow family. An offering box will be located in the church entryway until Sunday, October 17. *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* (Galatians 6:10)

ENVELOPES 2022

We will be ordering envelopes for 2022 soon. More and more people have been using our e-giving options. If you haven't used your envelopes for 2021, you will not receive envelopes for 2022. If you did use them this year and would no longer like to receive physical envelopes in 2022, please contact the office by October 18:

lpeters@stpaulsonalaska.org.

WELS CAMPUS MINISTRY

For any college students living in the area, WELS Campus Ministry La Crosse meets every Wednesday night at 8:30 in the Campus Ministry House (1530 Main St., La Crosse). Join us for Bible study, snacks and fun! You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram (WELS Campus Ministry La Crosse).

FORWARD IN CHRIST

The printer for *Forward in Christ* informed us this week that their printing of the October issue was delayed because of paper shortages and challenges with their workforce. The issue is currently scheduled to be mailed in early October.

To make sure you receive the valuable content of the magazine as soon as possible despite this challenge, Northwestern Publishing House and the *Forward in Christ* team are making the digital issue for October available for everyone. Simply click this [link](#), and you will be able to access the issue:

UPCOMING MLC CONCERT

The choir will be performing a sacred concert at St. Paul's on Friday evening, October 15, at 7:30 pm. Two choir members are also members of our congregation: Grace Bain and Cameron Schroeder.

We are looking for host families for this 65-member choir. If you are able to help, please contact Wendy Schibbelhut, or look for a sign-up on the member information table in the church lobby.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY FALL RALLY

The Fall Winona Circuit LWMS Rally, Preparing, Planning, Proclaiming!, will be hosted by St. Paul's on Saturday, October 16. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Out of love for those in attendance, masks are suggested, but not required. Online streaming will be available at stpaulsonalaska.org.

HELP NEEDED FOR PROP REPAIR NIGHTS

Prop repair for the Live Nativity will be held from 6:30-9:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays through October 18 at the Rotary Building (27 Market St, entrance is located at the center of the building). Any time you can spare is appreciated. **Questions?** Call George Italiano (608-317-0271).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AS A GREETER

We are looking for people who can smile and make people feel welcome as they walk into church for any one of our worship services as a greeter. You would be up once every 6 weeks for the worship service time of your choice. If you'd be willing to serve in this way, please contact Pastor Olson (dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to hire:

- **Food Service Director**—this position requires approximately 20 hours/week during the school year, and some hours during summer months. A job description is available upon request in the church/school office. Requirements for Employment: Minimum high school diploma and a minimum one year experience with school nutrition programs (could be volunteering with our hot lunch program).
- **Food Service Assistant position**—approximately 11:00 am - 1:00 pm each school day. Duties include: set up, serve, clean up of lunch, and manage the serving and ordering of lunch when the Food Service Director is unavailable.

- **2 afternoon Surround Care positions (3:00-6:00 pm)**—actual hours depend on family requests. The job will be to provide care for students ages 3 and up in the Surround Care room.

Applications are available in the school office. Resumes will be accepted in place of an application.
Questions? Contact Benjamin Bain (bbain@stpaulsonalaska.org or 608-783-4822 ext. 222)

FALL SCRAP-N-CRAFT FUNDRAISER

Fall Scrap-N-Craft event will be held on Saturday, October 16, from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm in the gymnasium at Mt. Calvary School in La Crosse. Go to this [link](#) for more information. The menu may be viewed at this [link](#). Registration forms and menus are also available in the church lobby. This event is sponsored by New Life Resource Center.

LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRODUCTION

Luther High School proudly presents “The Phantom Tollbooth” on Sunday, October 17, at 2:00 pm and Monday, October 18, at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. Tickets are available online and at the door: \$5 adults and \$3 students.

LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL FALL CONCERT

On Sunday, October 24 at 2:00 pm the Luther High School Music Department will present their Fall Concert. The concert will feature all of Luther’s vocal and instrumental ensembles, as well as the Lancer and Sabre bands. The concert is free and open to the public.

MEN OF HIS WORD FALL CONFERENCE

Men of His Word Conference will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN on Saturday, October 23. Registration forms are available in the church lobby. **The Saturday Morning Men’s Bible Study group will be providing 10 “scholarships” to pay for the registration fee. Please call Steve Loehr at 608-792-3464 to register.**

REFORMATION RALLY

La Crosse Area Reformation Rally will be held in the chapel at Luther High School on Sunday, October 31, at 2:00 pm. A fellowship hour will follow the service.

PASTORAL CONTACTS:

<i>Pastor Brett Ehlke</i>	<i>(608) 799.2717</i>	behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org
<i>Pastor Shane Krause</i>	<i>(608) 217.5660</i>	skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org
<i>Pastor Dan Olson</i>	<i>(608) 797.5793</i>	dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org

***Please see backside of announcements for the
Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal Update***



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School



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.

Stay tuned! In the weeks ahead, you will be receiving more information about our ***Grateful and Growing*** Building Fund Appeal. Next Sunday, October 17, we will be sharing more about the appeal. Join us at our worship services, where we will pray for God's blessings on our proposed building project, and share more information about the appeal.

We are seeking the names and addresses of friends of our congregation you believe would be willing to support our ***Grateful and Growing*** Building Fund Appeal. Our friends may include former members who have moved away, grown children, relatives of present members, community members, etc. We wish to provide all our friends an opportunity to participate in our Building Fund Appeal. **Please provide their names and addresses to the church office at [608-783-2552](tel:608-783-2552) or info@stpaulsonalaska.org.**

We will mail an appeal packet from the office or we can provide the packet to you if you wish to include a personal note.

Your prayers for a successful appeal are important. Together, we lift up the following prayer:

Make us one in you, O God.

Through the power of your Spirit, give us unity of purpose, and oneness of Vision.

Give us grateful hearts, O God.

Help us see and appreciate the many and varied gifts with which you have blessed us.

Help us grow in love, O God.

Let us build up the Body of Christ as we move into the future together,

Your holy people, walking in the Light of Christ.

-Amen.