



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

October 31, 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.

Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! On October 31, 1517—504 years ago—a Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In an effort to reform the church of his day, Luther sparked a movement that would rise up into a spiritual revolution against the earthly church. The 95 points which he nailed to the door were doctrinal points in which the church had fallen away from the Word of God. He pointed out that the church's sole responsibility is to remain faithful to the Word of God—something which the church during his time had forgotten.

Today, in our celebration of the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church, we emphasize the true Church's unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. Jesus promised to pour out his Spirit on the Church that we might be God's mouthpiece even before kings. Today the Church prays that the Lord give us the strength to be faithful and the peace of knowing our lives are safe in his hands.

Theme: "Here We Stand"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Shane Krause

Organist: Tricia Bain

Brass: Greg Baures, Kristy Gilbertson, Zach Johnson, Jonathan Witte

Singers: St. Paul's Choir and director, Dan Lefebvre

Divine Service I ©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. "Built on the Rock" Hal H. Hopson. "The Church's One Foundation" Dan Forrest.

BELLS AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Congregation: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

P: Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

P: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

C: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P: Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime.

C: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his saints. Glory be to God on high!

HYMN: CW 529

"Built on the Rock"

Choir:

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

Choir:

Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

Choir and Congregation:

**We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.**

Choir:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Jubilate Deo!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Heavenly Father, you have given us indescribable riches in your Word. But we have failed to appreciate your Word as we should. We haven't read or learned it like we could have and so we can be so easily deceived. Forgive us and keep us strong in your Word.

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
And to destroy what he has done.**

P: Dear Savior Jesus, we admit that by our sinful nature we lack complete confidence in the power of your Word. We easily give way to doubt or fail to fully trust that you speak with power in your Word. Forgive us and make your power known.

**Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.**

P: O Holy Spirit, give us and all believers unity in your word. Teach us to discern what is true and what is deception. Forgive us for not taking seriously your warnings about false teachers. Give us and all believers wisdom and unity through your Word and grant us your peace.

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.**

P: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from sin's curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at his throne,
Saved by his grace through faith alone.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your Word. Protect and comfort us in all temptations. Defend us against our enemies. Give to the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Revelation 14:6,7

Jesus promises that his Word of salvation will be proclaimed until the end of time.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 13:5-11

Jesus will give us strength to confess our faith even in times of trouble.

⁵Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹“You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 538

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Choir and Congregation:

**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.**

Choir:

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.

Choir:

Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore 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.

Choir and Congregation:

**Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

Choir:

Amen, Amen!

SERMON LESSON:

Daniel 3:16-28

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Theme: "Here We Stand"

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.

PRAYER FOR REFORMATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord God, you are our fortress and strength. Keep us aware of the devil's attacks on our faith. Preserve all young believers in this deceitful world. Help us realize that the strength to fight the devil comes only from you.

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That has us now o'ertaken.

The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

P: Lord God, we praise you this day for preserving your Word. We have been blessed to hear that our eternal rescue comes only through your Son Jesus, and not in any way from us. We know that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for us and that he still fights for us.

**With might of ours can naught be done;
Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one
Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord.
And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.**

P: Lord God, we thank you raising up faithful servants of your Word, who have correctly handled the Word of truth and led hungry souls to Jesus, the Bread of Life. We praise you today for your servant Martin Luther, for the gifts you gave him to understand correctly and communicate clearly your Word. We thank you for others who came before and after him who also valued your pure Word so that today we could hear you speak to us.

**The Word they still shall let remain,
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will -- Hate, steal, hurt, or kill --
Though all may be gone,
Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!**

P: Accept our praise for your mercy, your free forgiveness, and your promises, all in your Word. Keep us from being deceived by any other voice except yours.

Special prayers.

P: And now hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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

The usher will bring the thankoffering to the altar.

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



THE SACRAMENT

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.

G (spoken) Amen.

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. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Reformation Song" sung by soloist.

O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,
In thanksgiving bow before you.
Here with your body and your blood you nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy!
May your body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And your blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Your holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to you could bind us;
May this feast of that remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, your love and kindness did move you;
Let your supper move us to love you.
All our debt you have paid;
Peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us his grace and favor
To please him with our behavior
And live together here in love and union,
Cherishing our blest communion. O Lord, have mercy!
Let not your good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded he make us.
Give your Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity. O Lord, have mercy!

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: *(spoken)* **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.



This Week at St. Paul's: October 31, 2021

Prayers

- † *Retirement from the teaching ministry at the end of the current school year—Heide Mueller, kindergarten teacher here at St. Paul's*
- † *Brad Schaper, teacher at Luther High, returned a Call to teach at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School*
- † *Grateful and Growing Building Fund Appeal*

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.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES

Starting Sunday, October 31 (and Wednesday, November 3), we'll be doing a 4 week video based Bible study called "Here We Stand." We will take a look at the Reformation and the blessings God has given us through people like Martin Luther who stood for the truth of God's Word. Sunday Bible study times are 9:20 am and 10:20 am. Wednesday Bible study is held at 9:00 am.

Thursday morning women's Bible study will start a new study on the book of Ruth November 4. This is a zoom study and is held at 6:30 am. Please contact Jan Westerman at jkwesterman1@yahoo.com and she will send you the link to the study.

NEW HYMNALS

If you ordered a new hymnal for home use, they are ready to be picked up! Please look for your hymnal in the church lobby, labeled with your name and the amount due. Write checks out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. If you leave cash, please place in an envelope labeled with your name.

We hope to begin using new hymnals in the church the first Sunday in Advent. Please check St. Paul's wishlist or contact Wendy Schibbelhut or one of the pastors if you are interested in donating a gift of money towards our new hymnal project.

CARING CHRISTIANS MENTAL HEALTH

Caring Christians Mental Health will meet at First Lutheran in La Crosse on Monday, November 1 at 6:30 pm. The topic will be: Isolation.

FALL PROJECT DAY

You're invited to our Fall Project Day on Saturday, November 13th starting at 8:00 am. Bring a friend and enjoy some fellowship and fresh air as we clean up the grounds and prepare for winter. We'll be raking leaves, cleaning gutters, washing windows, trimming bushes, and more! Coffee and treats provided. Come join the fun!

EVANGELISM VISITING TEAM

Do you have a heart for evangelism? We are looking for people to meet no more than once a month for one hour to discuss new contacts to our congregation. Depending on the case, we will reach out to them with a phone call or email. Contact Pastor Olson for more details.

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).

LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come join the fun in Riverside Park as we set up the Live Nativity on Saturday, November 6 & 13 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Please come for any amount of time you can spare.

Join area WELS members at the Live Nativity in Riverside Park to help tell the story of Christ's birth.

Click on this [link](#) to watch a video about the Live Nativity.

Click on this [link](#) to see a description of the characters needed.

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

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

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

Tree cutting for the Live Nativity will take place on Saturday, November 13th at 10:00 am at the Bowman Tree Farm (4169 Barrell Rd. Sparta). We need about 20 people to help cut down and transport trees from there to Riverside Park. Please indicate whether or not you can bring a chainsaw, truck, or trailer. Make sure to sign up so you can be notified of any changes. Call/text Maria @ 608-397-4810 with any questions or to sign up. You can also sign up at the event on our LIVE NATIVITY RIVERSIDE- DIORAMA Facebook page! Thank you so much for all your help!

WEDNESDAY ADVENT DINNERS

We are bringing back Advent dinners this year (December 1, 8, 15 at 5:00 pm). We'd like to have an idea of how many people plan to come. If you think you'll be coming, please sign up in the next few weeks here:

<https://forms.gle/a14DUZP8wenkT4H98> or sign up on the sheet in the entryway. If you do sign up and aren't able to make it, that's perfectly fine. If you don't sign up and decide to come, that's fine too. We just want to get a feel for how many people to prepare for. Thanks!

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 sign up or to give a donation.

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)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Luther High School is looking to hire a Maintenance Custodian Assistant. A complete job description is located in the church lobby.

First Lutheran in La Crescent is looking for a church secretary. This is a part-time position, between 20 and 30 hours a week. Please contact Tony Breeser (507-894-4054 or breeser@acegroup.cc) for a job description and more details.

TREASURER'S REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021

[Click](#) on this link to view the July-September Treasurer's Report.

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.

Commitment Sunday is in two weeks! Please prayerfully consider how God is leading you to respond to our **Grateful and Growing** Building Fund Appeal. By November 14, we ask everyone to return their appeal response form. If you prefer, you may provide your appeal response online by visiting our church website.

Ultimately, your gift is a gift to God. It is a gift of love in response to all the ways in which God has blessed you. Ask yourself, "What do you treasure about St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School?" and then prayerfully consider how God is leading you to respond.

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17