



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1201 Main Street, Onalaska
608.783.2552 stpaulsonalaska.org

September 2-5, 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.

They are calling it "The Great Resignation." More people have quit their jobs in the past several months than at another other time in history. Many of those people are looking for something more fulfilling. On a weekend like Labor Day, we want to consider what the Bible says about work. King Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes shares his wisdom on the topic of work. He covers the dangers and the blessings of work, from materialism and dissatisfaction in the workplace to the importance of finding satisfaction and joy in all our labors.

Theme:

Labor Day: Reflecting on God's Gift of Work

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Preacher: Pastor Dan Olson

Liturgist: Pastor Shane Krause

Organist: Tricia Bain

Singers and Instrumentalists: (Thurs.) Danielle Fetcenko; (Sun.) Ben, Grace, and Tricia Bain

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Service of Word and Sacrament

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: CW 492

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, honors all our human race,
You our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity; heal our wrongs and help our need.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion; bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure; stem our selfish greed for gain.

Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,
Weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

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

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

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



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

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



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C: A - men.

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



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



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



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

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON:

2 Thessalonians 3:6-16

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

¹⁴Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard them as an enemy but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best—
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav’n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

SERMON LESSON:

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

⁸ If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. ⁹ The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields.

¹⁰ Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

¹¹ As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹² The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.
¹⁵ Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.
¹⁶ This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?
¹⁷ All their days they eat in darkness,
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Sermon Theme:
Labor Day—Reflecting on God's Gift of Work

STAND

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GATHER THE THANKOFFERING

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 PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

STAND

LORD’S PRAYER

G: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



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

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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.

C: (spoken) Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

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

DISTRIBUTION

SPECIAL MUSIC:

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: CW 318

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

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

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

STAND

THANKSGIVING



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



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



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



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

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



C: A - men.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
 The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



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

Singers:

*For the cause of Christ the King
We give our lives, an offering
'Til all the earth resounds
With ceaseless praise to the Son.*

*For the cause of Christ we go
With joy to reap, with faith to sow
As many see
And many put their trust in the Son.*

*Christ we proclaim
The Name above every name
For all creation, every nation
God's salvation through the Son!*

Singers and Congregation:

**For the King once lifted high
To cries of rage, of crucify!
Endured the cross
As every sin was laid on the Son.**

**To the King who conquered death
To free the poor and the oppressed
For lasting peace
For life and liberty in the Son.**

**Christ we proclaim
The Name above every name
For all creation, every nation
God's salvation through the Son!**

**Let it be my life's refrain
To live is Christ, to die is gain
Deny myself, take up my cross
And follow the Son.**

**Let it be my life's refrain
To live is Christ, to die is gain
Deny myself, take up my cross
And follow the Son.**

**Christ we proclaim
The Name above every name
For all creation, every nation
God's salvation through the Son!**

Christ we proclaim
The Name above every name
For all creation, every nation
God's salvation through the Son!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Week at St. Paul's: September 5, 2021

Prayers

- † Comfort—for Ivadell Krause and family at the death of her husband, Herbert (9/1)*
- † Terminal Cancer diagnosis—Deb Tooley's father*
- † Covid Diagnosis--Jeff and Janet Gilbertson's extended family in Ohio and Florida*
- † Healing—for Dorann Mahnke's father who was in a car accident last week*
- † Hospitalized—Diane Muller's brother-in-law, Gordy Korthals*
- † Afghanistan*

NO BIBLE STUDY, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE

No Sunday school classes or Bible studies will be held today, Sunday September 5. Classes will resume September 12.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

One of the things we missed most during the pandemic was being able to worship together. Psalm 26:8 says, "I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells." This is why we gather. There is just no replacement for it.

Starting September 12, we'll have four weeks of worship where we focus on the blessings of coming together as a congregation to worship and do ministry. If you've stayed away from in-person worship, consider these services to be an additional encouragement to come back and to enjoy the blessings of a church family where we gather around God's Word and Sacraments. If you know someone who hasn't been to in-person worship for some time, consider reaching out to them and extending an invitation. For those concerned about large groups of people, consider our Thursday night 6:30 pm worship service. There is always ample room in that service.

Click on this [link](#) to watch an overview of "God's People Gather."

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited that in person Sunday School will be a part of our St. Paul's ministry once again. The fall semester of Sunday School is set to begin on Sunday, September 12. Sunday School classes will run from 9:15 am to 10:15 am (in between our early and late Sunday services). Classrooms will exist for Grades PreK-K, Grades 1-3, and Grades 4-6. We will also be offering "Sunday School of All" for our children with special needs a couple times a month. (More specific details to come.) Questions? Speak with Pastor Krause, skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org, 608-217-5660.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES



Looking to attend a Bible study this fall? Go to this [link](#) to see the line-up of studies. Printed copies are available in the church lobby.

BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW

To check out a video with all our different Bible studies, click here: [Bible Studies](#).

SMALL GROUPS STARTING UP

Pastor Ehke is working to form some small group Bible studies starting in October. If you're interested in getting connected with a small group, head to our website and click on the Small Group Bible Study link:

www.stpaulsonalaska.org.

NEW HYMNAL PREVIEW

Our synod has been working for many years on producing a new hymnal, due to be released this fall. Just because it is *new*, this doesn't mean that we will lose our favorite hymns and liturgies--the hymnal committee reports that over 400 of our existing hymns are included in the new hymnal--especially all the hymns that were reported to have had frequent usage in our congregations.



Along with retaining the old favorites, the committee has included over 200 new hymns. Some are modern hymns with strong Biblical texts; some are traditional hymns set to new, more singable melodies. It seems that the committee has put together an awesome new resource to help enhance worship in our congregations.



Look for a display in the church narthex with more information about the new hymnal. Here also is a link that answers questions and gives more information about our new hymnal: <https://www.christianworship.com/preview/introduction>.

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.

TEEN HELPERS NEEDED FOR BIBLE CLASS HOUR CHILD CARE

Teens, we are in need of your help! St. Paul's needs child-care for our young children during our adult Bible class hours on Sunday mornings. Our two Bible class times slots run 9:20-10:10 am and 10:10-11:00 am. If you can help, please contact Pastor Krause by call or text, 608-217-5660.

INTERIM CUSTODIAL HELP NEEDED

St. Paul's is currently short staffed in our custodial department. We are looking for volunteers while we seek to fill that role. If you would be available to help for a little while in the afternoon, please click [here](#) to sign up or call the office. All help is greatly appreciated in this time of transition. Thank you for your consideration.

DOMESTIC ABUSE ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Michelle Markgraf from Kingdom Workers came this last year and gave a presentation on Domestic Abuse. She also talked about the importance of a congregation having an advocacy program (volunteers, mainly women, who are trained and available to talk with victims of domestic abuse). Currently there are two people in our church who recently started training to get this program started. Talk with Pastor Olson if you would be interested in being a volunteer.

CARING CHRISTIANS MENTAL HEALTH

Caring Christians Mental Health will meet at First Lutheran in La Crosse on Monday, September 6 at 6:30 at pm. The topic will be: Indifference and Apathy.

GRIEF SUPPORT

We meet next on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 pm at St. John's in Barre Mills. If you, or someone you know is grieving, please come for comfort from God's word and for encouragement from fellow believers in Jesus. Our topic for discussion will be, "What to expect from people as we grieve."

LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY

Do you have a heart to serve those in jail with the gospel? The greatest enemy they are fighting is guilt and we have the answer in Jesus. If you would like to be involved in this ministry please contact Pastor Olson. He is in contact with the jail chaplain in Lacrosse. There will be training involved.

KIDS PRAISE

KIDS Praise is a great program for children birth-5 years old. Each week we join in singing, playing, dancing, and praising with your child. Kids Praise is a free program offered Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am during the school year from September-May. This program lasts for 45 minutes and all are welcome to attend.

SCRIP

Starting Sunday, September 12, Scrip will be sold again on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:15 am and 10:15 -10:30 am at the scrip table near the church office.

SCRIP will also be sold on Wednesday mornings at school from 7:30 to 7:50 am. The SCRIP table will be set up by the gym. If you are coming in to purchase SCRIP, ***please enter through the gym doors only***. Contact Katy Miller with any questions about scrip at kmiller@stpaulsonalaska.org.

PICKLEBALL

Come and play pickleball every Monday night at 6:30 pm in the gym. Beginners are welcome to attend! We will be playing on Labor Day (September 6).

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. On-line registration is now OPEN!! You may register at this [link](#) or mail the "2021 Mail-in Registration Form" with a \$50 check by October 17th (becomes \$60 for late registration from October 18 - October 23). **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.**

PASTORAL CONTACTS:

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