

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

TODAY (Jan 10) **WORSHIP (HC) & Sun. School**.....8:00 am
TODAY (Jan 10) Food Pantry Collection
TODAY (Jan 10) Teen's/20's Bible Class7:15 pm
TUES (Jan 12) Pastor Circuit Meeting-at Weyauwega..... 10:00 am
TUES (Jan 12) Council Meeting6:30 pm
WED (Jan 13) Joint Council Meeting at St. Peter's7:30 pm
THUR (Jan 14) **WORSHIP**6:30 pm
NEXT SUN (Jan 17) **WORSHIP & Sun School** (Life Sunday)8:00 am
NEXT SUN (Jan 17) Voter's Meeting following worship service

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: *If you happen to see the following members this week, wish them a "Happy Birthday"* **Jan 12** - Virginia Gordee, Madyson Brandt **Jan 14** – Dorothy Luedtke

OFFERINGS - The plate offerings for January 3rd and New Year's Day was \$1,125.00. The Vanco online offerings for week ending January 2, 2021 were \$559.27. TOTAL \$1684.27

JANUARY 17 - Next Sunday we will be celebrating a Life Sunday at both churches. The Life Sunday commemorates the legalization of abortion in our country because of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision. Life Sunday is used to inform people of the sanctity and importance God places on each life. Subjects involved in Life Sundays include more than just abortion. It may also include subjects like chastity, care of disabled as well as the elderly, euthanasia, medical ethics, end of life decisions, quality of life and much more. There will be no special presentation this year due to the concerns about COVID-19.

VOTER'S MEETING – will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2021 immediately after the 8AM service.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - The congregation will practice social distancing (six foot spacing between family groupings). The only pews to be used are the ones marked with the blue tape (every other pew). Masks should be worn during the singing of hymns and when unable to keep six feet from others (entering and leaving the church).

COMMUNION - Holy Communion will be offered in the pews with the pastor bringing the elements to each row. After use, the disposal cups should be placed in the zip lock bags and members can dispose of them in the garbage cans provided in the entry for that purpose. *Please take a moment to register for communion in the binder in the entryway.*



"Making Friends for Eternity"

Est.1859

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
Rev. Paul Ibisch, Pastor St Paul Office Phone 920-779-6777
Pastor Ibisch Cell Phone 920-878-3001

Baptism of our Lord January 10, 2021

TODAY'S WORSHIP - The prophet Isaiah uses the term Israel to describe three different identities. Israel was often used to describe the physical "tribes of Jacob." However "Israel" in our reading today refers to ultimate descendant of Jacob, the promised Messiah, who would redeem not only the physical descendants of Jacob, but also the Gentiles. Believers in the Messiah, both of Jewish and non-Jewish background would become a spiritual "Israel." Children of Abraham by faith. Jesus was a true descendant of the patriarchs and a true descendant of the line of David. He came as the King of all things and yet humbly submitted to all things that God expects of us. This included an earthly baptism by John. Jesus did all things perfectly for us to which God gives his seal of approval, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Welcome to our Guests—

We're glad you joined us today! If you have any needs or questions during your visit with us this morning, let us try to help. Just ask an usher or the person next to you.

The liturgy and hymns will be shown on the large screen in the front of the church and the readings are printed in the bulletin.

Today, we will use **The Common Service**

Today's hymns: **#500, 556 (verses 1, 2&4), 313 and 84 (verses 1, 4&5)**

Today we will sing **Psalm 2, pg 65**

The restrooms are located downstairs, just past the fellowship hall. There is also television & viewing area in the foyer near there with seating if your little one needs a break or you need to be close to the restrooms. Before you leave today, please take a moment to sign our guest registry in the entryway & visit again soon!

BELLS AND WELCOME

ORDER OF WORSHIP: *The Common Service with Holy Communion, pg 15 in the red hymnals.*

TODAY'S HYMNS: #500, 556 (verses 1, 2&4), 313 and 84 (verses 1, 4&5)

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 2, pg 65

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by Pastor*)



Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



+ GOD'S WORD +

THE FIRST LESSON: – Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you islands;

hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD called me;

from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me into a polished arrow

and concealed me in his quiver.

³He said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

HYMN OF THE DAY # 556 "Rise, Shine, You People"

THE MESSAGE TODAY: *Based: Acts 16:25-34*

"Be Ready When People Ask Questions"

1. Consistent Christian Witness
2. Large and Small Opportunities

OFFERINGS - Offering baskets will be kept in the entry area and will not be passed during the service.

THE SACRAMENT- ON SCREEN

DIST. HYMN: #313 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

(as many verses as are needed for the distribution of Holy Communion)

Dear Guests, in keeping with the Lord's own instructions in his Word, this congregation practices "Close Communion." The Lord teaches us that partaking in the sacrament is, among other things, an outward way of expressing our unity in a common confession of faith. We ask our guests today, who are not members of this congregation or another WELS or ELS church, that you please speak with our pastor before communing. Christ calls on us to first establish our oneness in faith through time in His Word together so that we can openly and honestly express it in the sacrament.

THE SONG OF SIMEON, on screen

PRAYER AND BLESSING, on screen

CLOSING HYMN: # 84 (verses 1, 4&5) "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
 Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand,
 and my reward is with my God.”

⁵ And now the LORD says—
 he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
 to bring Jacob back to him
 and gather Israel to himself,
 for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD
 and my God has been my strength—

⁶ he says:
 “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
 to restore the tribes of Jacob
 and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
 I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
 that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 2 (*Sing in Unison*)

SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:25-34 (sermon text)

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

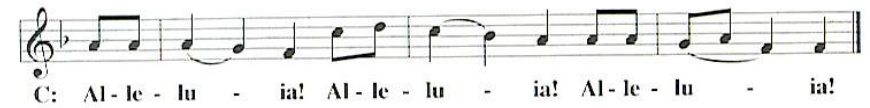
²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal

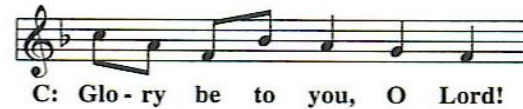
before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
 Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)

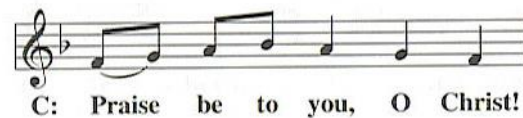


GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:4-11



⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”



NICENE CREED

God's Word for This Week

“Why did Jesus need to be baptized? I thought baptism was for sinners?” That’s a common question among Christians. It doesn’t make sense that our perfectly sinless Savior would need to be baptized, yet he was. Why? Because Jesus had come to be our perfect substitute, and he is revealed as such in his baptism. God laid on him the sin of the world. (See John 1:29.) Even from birth, he endured the effects of our sin. Jesus wasn’t a sinner himself, but he was carrying our sin, pain, and sorrow. (See Isaiah 53:4.) He needed the assurance of God’s love and forgiveness, just as if he were a sinner himself. Jesus received those promises in baptism, just like we do.

First Lesson – Isaiah 49:1-6

Which person of the Trinity is speaking through the prophet Isaiah in these verses?

Jesus.

True or false: Jesus felt frustration in his job as Savior.

True. The Savior voices his frustration in verse 4. Sometimes he felt like he had “labored to no purpose” and that he had “spent (his) strength in vain and for nothing.” Yet Jesus persevered in his role as our perfect substitute.

What task has been given to Jesus?

Not only to “bring Jacob back to (God) and gather Israel” (i.e., Jewish Christians) but also to be “a light for the Gentiles” (non-Jews) that they might be brought to faith. (See John 10:16.)

Second Lesson – Acts 16:25-34

How does the Holy Spirit work the faith that Paul encouraged the jailer to have in verse 31?

God works faith through the hearing of the gospel promises. (See Romans 10:17.) In this particular instance, those promises were proclaimed in word and in the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Who was baptized that evening?

The jailer’s whole household was baptized. We may assume that his household included both adults and children.

Gospel – Mark 1:4-11

What was the purpose of the baptism given by John?

The purpose was the same as the baptism we have today: it’s “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4).

If Jesus was sinless, why was he baptized?

Though Jesus did not have any personal sin, in his role as Savior he was carrying the sins of the world. He had come to be our perfect substitute. He very much desired the promises of God that baptism gives sinners.

Which three special people were present at the baptism of Jesus?

The Holy Trinity (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) was present at Jesus’ baptism. In the same way, the Holy Trinity was present at our baptisms, as we are baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).