

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

TODAY (Feb 16) **WORSHIP & Sunday School**..... 8:00 am
TODAY (Feb 16) **Winter Social (Cancelled)**
MON (Feb 17) Bible Class..... 10:00 am
MON (Feb 17) Choir & Confirmation Class..... 6:00 pm
THUR (Feb 20) Teen & 20 Something Bible Class..... 7:00 pm
NEXT SUN (Feb 23) **WORSHIP (HC) & Sunday School** 8:00 am

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: *If you happen to see the following members this week, wish them a "Happy Birthday"* **Feb 16** – Peter Gubbels **Feb 19** - Chris Mihna **Feb 21** – Jeffrey Thompson **Feb 22** – Cindy Williams



Please pray for June Magadanz and her family as she recovers from a recent fall. She is recovering at ThedaCare Hospital, Neenah.

ASH WEDNESDAY – The Women's Fellowship will be serving a soup supper on Feb 26 starting at 5 PM. Worship is at 6 PM. Pastor Ibsch will be leading the service that evening. Please come and enjoy some delicious soup and fellowship!

CLEANING DAY – Women's Fellowship is organizing a cleaning day on Sat. February 29 to clean the church after our painting project. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the entryway so they know who to expect. They will start at 9 AM and pizza will be served for lunch.

LENT FELLOWSHIPS/GUEST SPEAKERS – Signup sheets are on the counter for providing food for the remaining 5 Lenten services. Below are the groups serving each week and the guest speaker for that week. Fellowship will be following each service. Please help as you are able.

Date	Serving	Guest Pastor
March 4	Choir & Finance Committee	Rev. Brad Ragner, Messiah, Shiocton
March 11	Council	Rev. Joel Lillo, St. Paul, Stephenville
March 18	Congregation	Rev. Paul Zittlow, Guest Preacher
March 25	Church (Council) providing meat & buns	Rev. Tristan Paustian, Bethlehem, Hortonville
April 1	Congregation	Rev. Peter Kesting, Zion, Readfield



“Making Friends for Eternity”

Est. 1859

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

6th Sunday after Epiphany February 16, 2020

TODAY'S WORSHIP - The Savior's Sermon: Live a holy life! Jesus came to free us from sin. He did not come to free us to sin. The commands in the lessons today remind us just how holy our God is, and their dire warnings remind us just how holy he wants us to be. After examining our lives, we must despair, but the Verse of the Day reminds us to flee to Christ who has the words of life. Then the Prayer of the Day asks that we might be given the grace to both know and do what pleases him.

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.

We use the red hymnals entitled, ***Christian Worship***. In the front portion of our hymnals you will find outlines for different services. Today, we will use **Service of the Word on page 38**.

When you see the word "Hymn" turn to the back portion of the hymnal where you will find songs of praise which are marked with their titles and a large number instead of page numbers. Today's hymns: **586, 286, 471, and 369 verse 4**.

The Psalms we use are found in the front of the hymnal just past the orders of service. Today we will sing **Psalm 119a** in unison. It is found on **page 109**.

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 Service of the Word, page 38 in the front of the red hymnals.*

TODAY'S HYMNS: 586, 286, 471, and 369 verse 4

Psalm of the Day: Ps. 119a page 109 (*Sing in Unison*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by Pastor*)



Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



+ **GOD'S WORD** +

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

³¹ "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

PRAISE BE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

HYMN OF THE DAY: #286 "*The Law Commands and Makes Us Know*"

THE MESSAGE TODAY: *Based on Matthew 5:21-37*

"GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY"

1. What God condemns
2. What we can do about it?

After the Sermon rise for "The Apostles' Creed" printed on page 41 in the front of the hymnal.

THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORDS PRAYER

HYMN #471 "*Renew Me, O Eternal Light*"

PRAYER AND BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: #369 vs 4 "*Beautiful Savior*"

¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 119a, pg. 109 (Sing in unison)

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 2:6-13

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—
¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. (John 6:68)

SING VERSE OF THE DAY RESPONSE ON PAGE 40

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5: 21-37 (sermon text)

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

God's Word for This Week

People love to judge themselves—especially when it comes to moral issues—because they naturally come out looking rather good. They might be willing to admit that they're not perfect, but they quickly add: "Nobody's perfect!" Of course, that's not true. Our God is perfect, holy, and just. He never sins, and in his holy Word, God makes it clear that he holds us to the same perfect standard, even as his perfect will also saves us from our sin through the gospel of his "secret wisdom." In the gospel and lessons, we see how Jesus reveals his perfect Word and will.

First Lesson – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

What "offer" does the Lord give to his Old Testament people through Moses?

He offers them the choice between obeying or disobeying his perfect Word and will.

What promise does he make if they choose to obey him? What promise does he make if they disobey him?

The Lord promises great blessing to his people if they follow the dictates of his Word, and he promises ultimate destruction if they disregard his Word and will.

True or false: God's blessings are something we earn.

False. We can't earn blessings that God naturally, willingly, and graciously grants in Christ. His point in these verses is to show us the natural consequences of either obeying or disobeying his Word. When we obey God's Word, we can't help but be blessed. When we disobey God's Word, it naturally results in destruction.

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 2:6-13

What has Paul previously called the message of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18), and what does he call it here?

Paul called the message of the cross "foolishness" because we and the people of this world don't naturally understand the truth of the gospel. In these verses, Paul also explains that the gospel is God's "secret wisdom," since the message of God's gracious salvation in Christ is perfectly and divinely wise.

What's the only way someone can come to know and understand the "secret wisdom" of the gospel?

Someone can only come to understand and believe the truth of the gospel through the working of the Holy Spirit, who miraculously reveals these hidden truths. (See 2:10.)

Gospel – Matthew 5:21-37

What is Jesus doing with the law that the Lord had given to his Old Testament people through Moses?

Jesus is taking the divine law into his hands and explaining it spiritually. Sinful human beings naturally have a shallow and corrupted understanding of what God created us to be and what he now demands of sinners. Jesus teaches us that the fulfillment of the law is more difficult than simple, outward actions.

What is the ultimate purpose of God's law for sinners like us?

The ultimate purpose of God's law for sinners is to make us conscious of our sin and desperate need for a perfect Savior from sin. The message of the gospel then graciously and perfectly supplies our need by proclaiming that Jesus has done everything to save us from our wickedness.