

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you see the following members this week please wish them a “Happy Birthday!” **July 17**–Judith Haas; **July 18**–Loren Schuelke; **July 19**–Eugene Magadan; **July 21**–Abby Nelson.



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

TODAY (July 15) WORSHIP	9:00 am
MON (July 16) EVENING WORSHIP	6:30 pm
THURS (July 19) Teen Bible Class	7:00 pm
NEXT SUN (July 22) WORSHIP (HC)	9:00 am
NEXT MONDAY (July 23) EVENING WORSHIP (HC)	6:30 pm

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

July 8 Plate Offerings	\$1,837.25
Weekly Electronic Offerings	159.00
Total Offerings this past week =	\$1,996.75

OFFERINGS RECVD YTD (27 wks)	\$63,109.71
AMOUNT NEEDED YTD =	\$61,938.00
YTD SURPLUS =	\$1,171.71
AMOUNT NEEDED EACH WEEK:	\$2,294.00
TOTAL FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS =	\$4570.00

IN WORSHIP
Sun, July 8 - 54
(No Mon service)
Total: 54



PAINTING PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2019!

With past memorials & special offerings received to date, we are pleased to announce that we have enough to cover the painting of the chancel (very front of church). The work will begin shortly after Christmas in the month of January. As the project date nears we will make sure we still have enough to cover our regular operating expenses before this project begins. Sincere thanks to everyone giving both toward our operating fund and as you are able to these special projects. It promises to be a nice improvement to our sanctuary that will glorify the Savior we worship here!

TIMBERRATTLERS OUTING: Today's the last day to sign up for our TimberRattlers outing--See more info and sign-up sheet in the entryway (Date: Fri, Aug 3rd; Cost: \$9; 7:05 pm game; fireworks (Sign up by July 15--Thank you!))



“Making Friends for Eternity”

Est. 1859

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
PASTOR WILLIAM A FINN ☩ OFFICE PHONE: 779-6777 ☩ CELL PHONE: 538-1567

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 15, 2018

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by answering a simple question, “**Who is God?**” That’s the point of the Bible—it’s God’s desire to reveal himself to people. We don’t have to guess about him, make things up about him, or change him at our own whim. He’s God and we’re blessed in this: he simply reveals himself to us. In addition Paul uses the phrase “***In Christ***” to describe *us*. Who is God? What has he done for us? Why is this place special and why should I praise him? Those are good questions. God has answers for us in his Word today. God bless the sermon series beginning today from Ephesians (*Sun, July 15 thru Sun, Sept 2*)

- Wk 1 – Praise God for all His Grace, **in Christ** (Eph 1:3-14)
- Wk 2 – We are recipients of His Grace, **in Christ** (Eph 2:13-22)
- Wk 3 – Revealing His grace to others, **in Christ** (Eph 3:1-16)
- Wk 4 – We live changed lives, **in Christ** (Eph 4:17-24)
- Wk 5 – Forgiving One Another, **in Christ** (Eph 4:30-5:2)
- Wk 6 – God’s Will for our lives, **in Christ** (Eph 5:15-20)
- Wk 7 – Saying “I Do,” **in Christ** (Eph 5:21-31)
- Wk 8 – Fighting for our Life, **in Christ** (Eph 6:10-20)

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We’re so glad you could join us today! Our restrooms may be found downstairs just beyond the fellowship hall. There is also a television screen in that area showing the service live for those who may need some quiet time with their children. Listening devices for the hearing impaired may be found on the counter in the entryway. If you have any questions during the service, an usher can help you, or feel free to ask the person sitting next to you. *Please sign our guest book in the entryway before you leave & visit again soon!*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BELLS & WELCOME BY PASTOR

OPENING HYMN: #221:1-2 “*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*”

**Blessed Jesus, at your Word
We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Thanks be to you, O Lord, that from my conversion, you have poured out rich physical and spiritual blessings on me.

People: Your mercies are new every morning!

Pastor: Though I was sinful from birth, you sanctified me through and through;

People: When I continue to sin; you continue to show mercy.

Pastor: When I have wandered away; you continued to reach out to me through your Word.

People: When, by nature, I refused to come; you drew me to yourself by your grace and power.

Pastor: Thank you dear Father, for your steadfast love to me in Christ.

People: With long-suffering you and kindness you led us from the path of sin to participation in your kingdom.

Pastor: Your kindness surpasses our guiltiness!

People: We sinned, but you overlooked it, for Jesus' sake!

Pastor: How many millions are hardened in their sin; how many are kept from knowing the forgiveness of their sins.

People: But your grace has come to us;

HYMN: #221:3-4 “*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*”

**Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your word may trust,
Confident of our salvation.
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder.**

Pastor: Dear people of God, in Christ Jesus our sins are atoned for; Because of the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are forgiven citizens of heaven!

ALL: Set apart for the praise of his glory, we will live for him who has set us free!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by the Pastor*)

"Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy spirit, help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

C: Amen (*Spoken*)

+ THE WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Amos 7:10-15 - *God knew his Word would be rejected by unfaithful Israel, nevertheless, in mercy he still sends it out through the prophet Amos.* Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹For this is what Amos is saying: “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.” ¹²Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³Don’t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.” ¹⁴Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 78, page 95 (*Sing in Unison*)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: MARK 6:7-13 - *Jesus sends out his disciples with simple instructions but extraordinary power in his Word.* Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. ⁸These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



THE APOSTLES' CREED, page 41

HYMN OF THE DAY: "In Christ Alone" (*Printed on Insert*)

SERMON SERIES ON EPHESIANS: "IN CHRIST"

TODAY: Introduction & Opening verses - Ephesians 1:1-14 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

**THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH,
THE LORD'S PRAYER, pages 42-43.**

HYMN: #530 "Hark! The Church Proclaims Her Honor"

PRAYER AND BLESSING, pp.43-44

CLOSING HYMN: #329 "Lord, Dismiss us With Your Blessing"

In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



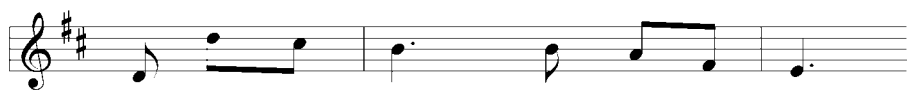
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



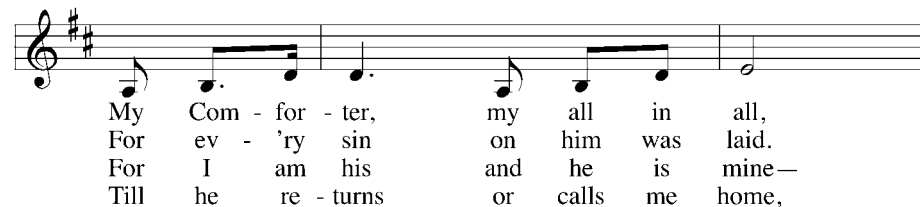
Firm through the fier - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;



My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,



Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



This christological hymn summarizes the sacrificial, earthly life of our Savior and the glory that is now his forever and ours through faith.

Tune: IN CHRIST ALONE (88 88 D)
 Text, Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.
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Walking through Ephesians together...

We're going through select portions of Ephesians in the sermon each week. Here are some thought questions & conversation starters to help you grow as you talk about your faith during the week.

Scripture for memorization & meditation:

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." ~ Eph. 1:2

Questions for personal study...

- † *Atheists say there is no god. Polytheists say there are many gods (Hindus, Buddhists, Mormons, etc). Monotheists say there is one god. Do you know an atheist or polytheist? Pray for that person each day for the next week (At least!).*
- † *"God has blessed us in Christ." Your greatest blessing is this: you are in Christ! Each morning and evening this week thank God for blessings that are NOT physical blessings.*

- † That we believe is *"to the praise of his glory."* We're here to make God look good by the way we live so others get a glimpse of our Maker through us - ask each other about how to live "to the praise of his glory" this week.

Questions for discussion:

- † Unbelieving Ephesians believed in a spiritual world; they just didn't know Jesus. Acts 19:18-20 tells us that after many of them became believers, they burned books the devil was using to mislead them. If Christians were to do that today what titles might end up in the pile?
- † Paul identifies himself as the author. Name three things you know about Paul. If you're having a hard time, scan your Bible in Acts 8-9 (*Note: Paul's name before his conversion was "Saul"*)
- † Paul begins his letter by answering the basic question: "Who is God?" Individually prepare your answer (think for a minute about it) and then share your answers together.
- † Draw a simple cross on paper. Then around it add symbols & images that describe vv.7-9.
- † When Adam and Eve fell, they hid from God in disgrace, putting distance between themselves and God. How does sin still have that effect on us today?
- † Instead of punishing sinners, God punished his Son, Jesus in our place. God accepted the payment Jesus made for our sins on the cross. **vv.4-12** outline God's plan, through the Son, to bring the world of sinners back to himself. **vv.13-14** describe the Spirit's role in that same work. Work together to make job descriptions for **1.)** the Father, **2.)** the Son **3.)** Holy Spirit based on these verses
- † Election / Predestination confuse people who begin with the assumption that we deserve anything from God. They conclude, *"It's not fair that some are lost."* No, none of us deserve *anything* from God. That we receive *anything* is *grace*. Election (*that God chooses believers to be his own*) is not a doctrine to be figured out; it's meant to comfort us. Discuss the comfort from knowing that as a believer in Jesus I can also know God was already thinking about me & chose me for his own before time!

- † *Redemption (v.7)* is a word that can be understood easily in connection to the story of the exodus of the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. They were slaves; God set them free. How were you and I slaves? How did God set us free? What price did God pay to set us free from sin and death?
- † Why would God go to the lengths he did to save us through his Son? Find all the answers you can from these verses (Hint: It ain't because we're so lovely or deserving! That's paganism!)

Tips for parents with young children this week...

Monday - Teach your kids this word: *grace*. Explain how God's love for them is undeserved. Maybe use the story of the Lost Son to illustrate this concept (Luke 15:11-32)

Tuesday - Ask your kids to tell you what they remember about grace.

Wednesday - God does not love us because we're so good. He loves us because *"God is love"* (1 John 4:8) He declares us lovely by faith--and not faith in ourselves--but faith in Jesus our perfect Savior. Explain to your kids how you love them. It's not based on how good we are but because we're family. That's maybe the closest we can get to understanding God's love toward us in Christ.

Thursday - God is eternal. Have some fun with that; if your children are old enough, ask: *If you could ask God how old he was, what would he say?* Trick question--He doesn't have time!" (*Jokes on you*) We have time. Birthday time. Toddler years. Teen years. Middle age. Senior years. Death day.

Friday - Talk with your kids about blessings. List them. It's easy to get stuck thinking about problems, but when you start to write them down, there's always A LOT to thank God for. Especially have your kids work hard to come up with spiritual blessings, not just physical ones.

Saturday - Use the St Paul Church app or go to our webpage to answer some of the kid's questions there. stpauldale.com (Click on Youth Ministry to find "**123 kid's bible questions**")

Sunday - Spend some time praying with your children before or after church. Explain that you go to church to learn more about God, to help welcome other children, and to have fun with their friends. After church ask about things they saw or remember hearing from their time with their Savior that day.