

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

TODAY (Oct 18) **WORSHIP & Sun. School**..... 8:00 am
TODAY (Oct 18) **WORSHIP** 6:30 pm
TODAY (Oct 18) Teen's/20's Bible Class 7:15 pm
THURS (Oct 22) **WORSHIP (HC)**..... 6:30 pm
FRI (Oct 23) Foundations of our Faith Bible Class-Facebook 10:00 am
NEXT SUN (Oct 25) **WORSHIP (HC) & Sun. School** 8:00 am
NEXT SUN (Oct 25) **WORSHIP (HC)**..... 6:30 pm

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: *If you happen to see the following members this week, wish them a "Happy Birthday"* Oct 19 – Hailey Kehl Oct 20 – Kaden Herbst Oct 21 – Terry Ploense Oct 23 – Tracy Hauk, Chad Grunwald, Mackenzi Grunwald, Summer Koerner

OFFERINGS - The plate offerings for Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 were \$2,841.00. The online offerings for week ending Oct 3 was \$325.00 and the week ending Oct. 10 was \$700.00. TOTAL \$3,866.00

TRUNK & TREAT cancelled - The Town of Dale has decided to allow Halloween trick and treating, no parade. St Paul has decided to **NOT** host Trunk & Treat this year due to COVID concerns. Look for Trunk & Treat to be back in 2021.

DOOR OFFERINGS – Thank you for everyone who contributed to the LWMS (Lutheran Womens Mission Society) and the Central African Medical Mission (CAMM) door offerings the past few weeks.

WEDDING – If you had seen the poster for Rebecca Finn and Gregory Fletcher's wedding in the entryway inviting the congregation to the ceremony, we have been notified of a change. The wedding will now be **only family and relatives** because of the virus and Gov Evers announcement.

LARGE PRINT SERVICE BINDERS – We now have available 2 binders containing a large print version of each Sunday's service. Each contains the liturgy for the week, psalm, hymns and any special prayers as printed in the hymnal. Please feel free to use these if you need this service. Please return the binders to the entryway after the service so they can be redone for the next week.



Making Friends for Eternity™

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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

Commitment Sunday October 15 & 18, 2020

TODAY'S WORSHIP - In the first lesson, the Lord gives his people every advantage to produce fruits of faith. To his great disappointment, he finds only the rotten fruits of injustice and unrighteousness. The Lord turned his vineyard back into a wasteland. Where the good news of salvation is despised, the judgment of God is not far behind. In the lesson from the gospels, Jesus tells the story of wicked tenants. It is a picture of the Lord's incredible patience with those who abuse their responsibilities toward God and His Church. Those who reject and despise Jesus, the "owner's son," will be destroyed, and God will give the kingdom to those who will produce fruits of faith. Sadly, people who have been blessed by God to have the good news of the Savior, discard the Gospel for the sake of their own pleasure and material goods. They lose sight of the purpose and goal for their lives. God seeks commitment from his people and will richly reward those who do not lose sight of the genuine prize God has reserved for his own.

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 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: parts of **Service of the Word, page 38.** Much of the liturgy will consist of favorite hymns of members.

All the elements of the service should be on our large screen television. You are welcome to use our hymnals if you prefer.

Today's hymns: **379, 303 verse 1, 391 verse 1, 411 verse 1, 446, 256, "Jesus Loves Me This I Know," 417, 579 and 332.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken by Pastor)*



Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through 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 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

² He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³ "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

HYMN OF THE DAY #417 "I'm But a Stranger Here"

THE MESSAGE TODAY: *Based on:* Philippians 3:12-21

"Eyes on the Prize"

1. How much do you want it?
2. Who is our hero?

After the Sermon - The Apostle's Creed

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

COMMITMENT HYMN: #579 "Lift High the Cross"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORDS PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: #332 "Go My Children, with My Blessing"

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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). Additional seating is available in the balcony (only blue taped pews), in the entry and in the fellowship area of the basement. Masks should be worn during the singing of hymns and when unable to keep six feet from others (entering and leaving the church).

EVENING SERVICES – Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. They are by **reservation only** and limited to a maximum of 14 members and held in the Bible Study room. Call or text the church office 920-779-6777 or email st.paullutherandale@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”

⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:12-21 (sermon text)

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus

Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12 cf. RSV)

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:33-43

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

God's Word for This Week

First Lesson – Isaiah 5:1-7

In this song from Isaiah, what do the vineyard, vines, and grapes represent?

The vineyard represents God's chosen people, the house of Israel—his Church. The vines are the men and women of Judah, dearly loved by God. The grapes are the fruits of faith—in this case, the rotten fruit of injustice and unrighteousness.

As the annals of history record, what resulted because the Lord's chosen nation bitterly disappointed him?

God sent his punishment in full measure upon his chosen people, not only through the Babylonian captivity but also in the ultimate overthrow of the Jewish nation in the year 70 A.D. Let us take heed, for the Lord likewise searches the hearts of his people today for fruits of righteousness.

Second Lesson – Philippians 3:12-21

Explain in verse 13 the comparison of the Christian life to that of a runner in a race.

Near the end of a race, a runner forgets what is behind him, leans forward toward the finish line, exerting himself to the utmost, straining every fiber in his body to win the prize. Just so, the Christian forgets all the disappointments and bad experiences of the past and instead valiantly strives on, with eyes fixed firmly on the finish line, the victory circle, the consummation of all his hopes and dreams, the heavenly prize—which goes beyond all human understanding.

What are the distinguishing characteristics of those who live as “enemies of the cross”?

They deny the power and efficacy of the cross. They live to gratify their human appetites and desires. The things they glory in and are proud of are in reality carnal and shameful. For such people, any show of sanctity is really nothing but hypocrisy.

Upon Christ's return, what will our bodies be like in heaven someday?

Our lowly, frail, vile, earthly bodies will be transformed into the likeness of Christ's glorious body—holy, perfect, and beautiful in every way. Our new bodies will forever be incapable of experiencing any more sin, sorrow, stress, or sickness.

Gospel – Matthew 21:33-43

How do you see the graciousness and patience of God in this parable?

God kept sending his servants, the prophets, to the people of Israel—even when they were ignored or abused.

What was the tenants' ultimate display of wickedness? Of which important event in history does this remind you?

Not only did the tenants fail to respect the landlord's son, in their devilish hatred, but they also killed him. This, of course, played itself out on Good Friday when the chief priests, elders, scribes, and Pharisees hardened their hearts against Jesus, put him to death, and brought damnation down upon their own heads.

Verse 41 indicates that the vineyard was rented to “other tenants.” Who were they?

The vineyard with its fruit, that is, the kingdom of God with all its riches of mercy and love was taken from the Jews and given to the Gentiles, who have since enjoyed its blessings and produced abundant fruit.