# CHRIST REVEALED THROUGH AMBASSADORS







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come to

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!

We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!

## COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table. Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

## FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (3K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

**Worship Focus:** As Jesus Christ went about his ministry, he not only called people like Peter and John, Philip and Nathanael to follow him. He also called them to go and call other followers. Every Christian is to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his light. We have the words from the Lord, the good news of the kingdom of God, the message of reconciliation, the powerful proclamation that has turned thousands from destruction to salvation. It is our mission from him to bring this to others. Today, we see "Christ Revealed through Ambassadors".

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun CW 380				
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	1			
1 Je - sus shall reign v	wher - e'er	the sun	does its suc-	
<b>.</b>	less prayer	be made	and end - less	
	of ev -	'ry tongue	dwell on his	
1				
0	wher - e'er	he reigns:	the pris-'ners	
5 Let ev-'ry crea - t	ture rise	and bring	wor - ship and	
	•			
ces - sive jour - neys	run;	his king-dom	stretch from	
prais - es crown his	head;	his name like	sweet per -	
love with sweet - est	song,	and in - fant	voic - es	
	chains,		a .	
1, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
hon - or to our	King;	an - gels de	- scend with	
		<i>•</i>		
			0	
shore to shore ti	ill moons sha	all wax and wa	ane no more.	
fume shall rise wi	ith ev-'ry	y morn - ing sa	ac - ri - fice.	
	•		on his name.	
<b>▲</b>	nd all wh		ant are blest.	
songs a - gain, ar	nd earth re	e - peat the lo	ud a - men.	

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

## Confession

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. I am bowed down and brought very low; I groan in anguish of heart. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me. Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior. (selected verses from Psalm 38) Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. In Jesus you have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. *(Ephesians 2:4-5 & 1:7)* 

## We have been brought from death to life. Sin shall not be our master, because we are not under law, but under grace. (*Romans 6:13-14*)

### Song of Praise Join the cantor in singing.

Lord, I Need You

Lord I come, I con – fess. Bow-ing here, I find my rest. With-out you, I fall a - part. You're the one that guides my heart. Lord, I **.** need you, oh, I need you. Ev-ery hour I need you. My one de-fense, my Oh God, how I need Where sin runs righ-teous ness: vou. found your grace is more Where grace is is where you deep, are. Where you are, Lord I am free. Hol-i - ness is Christ in me. Lord, I need you, oh, I need you. Ev-ery hour I need you. My Oh God, how I need one de-fense, my righ-teous ness: So you. teach my song to rise to you when temp-ta-tion comes my\_\_\_\_ 4



## THE WORD

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Be seated

## Baptism [10:30 am]

## **First Reading**

## Landon James Kakuk

Jonah 3:1–5,10

Jonah went to the large city of Nineveh as the LORD's ambassador, and they repented. <sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## My Soul Will Wait Led by Soloist

ALL: Refrain

As they serve him, Christ's ambassadors find rest and salvation in the LORD.

Soloist: When the enemy surrounds, and my heart grows faint within, when the darkness overwhelms and my fears are pressing in, I will trust in you, O Lord, in the silence I will wait. I will stand upon your Word.

*Refrain: Soloist:* You're my solid rock and my salvation, my steadfast hope that won't be shaken, my would will wait, my soul will wait for you.

Soloist: You're my stronghold and my shield, in the midst of every threat. Though the wicked never yield, they will vanish like a breath. Yes, I know the outcome's sure. Satan's evil plans will fail. In your power I'm secure.

You're my so - lid rock and my sal - va-tion, my stead-fast hope that 2 won't be sha-ken, my soul will\_ wait, my soul will wait for you. Ι re-fuge and You're my com-fort when feel for - sa-ken, my my 2 foun - da-tion, my soul will\_ wait, mv will soul wait for you. sure Soloist: This is love I can't explain, this is mercy unreserved. Through your sacrifice so great I have peace that's undeserved. For the battle has been won, and I fear no shame or loss. Now the sting of death is gone. ALL: Refrain

Psalm 62A

## **Second Reading**

## 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Christ made Paul and the apostles his ambassadors, committing to them the ministry of reconciliation.

<sup>14</sup>For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## Anthem

## Ambassadors for Christ

Sung by St. Paul's Luther School Gr. 5-8

If anyone is in Christ, then he is a new creation; the old has passed away and all things are made new. The ministry of our Christ, one of reconciliation, making peace with God the Father and with all our brethren, too.

*Refrain:* We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, and called to be God's sons, to declare his holy Kingdom, that his will on earth be done. Be reconciled to God and let us commit our hearts and minds; ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the Savior of all mankind.

As fellow workers with him, it's the day of our salvation; so let us not receive the grace of God in vain. With purity and with love, let us serve our Lord and Master; as we press towards his Kingdom, let us never be ashamed. *Refrain* 

God said he's dwelling with us, and he's walking with his people; he promised he would guide and lead the path we've trod. And now he's dwelling in us, and we are his sons and daughters; for we are the holy temple of the ever-living God. *Refrain* 

Stand

## Gospel

#### Mark 1:14–20

As Jesus proclaimed repentance and the good news, he called fishermen to do the same on his behalf.

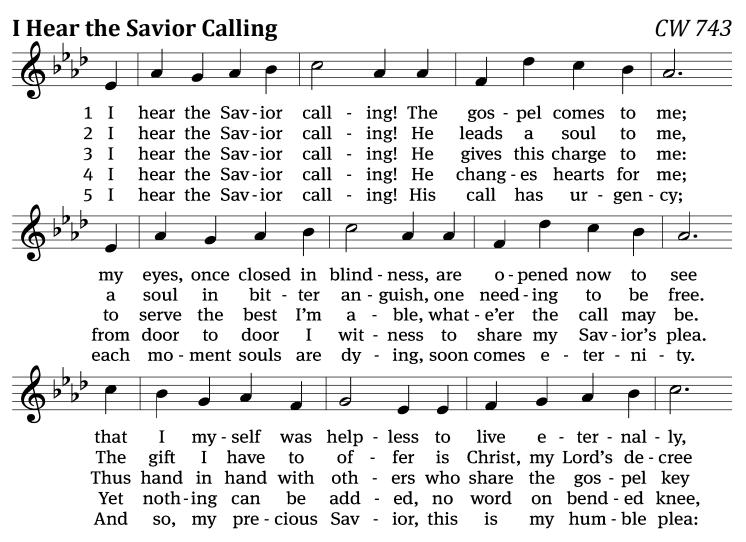
<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

#### The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated





#### Sermon

## 2 Corinthians 5

#### **Stop the Tension!**

#### A record broken \* A reconciliation ministry \* A regal appeal

#### Stand

**Apostles'** Creed I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Be seated

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

## Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

### Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

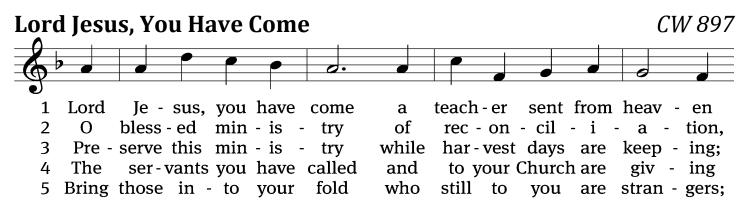
Special intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

### Silent prayer

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

## Amen.



and by both word and deed	God's truth to us have giv - en.
that shows the way to God	and brings to us sal - va - tion!
and since the fields are ripe	and hands are few for reap - ing,
pre - serve in doc-trine pure	and ho - li - ness of liv - ing.
guard those who are with - in	a - gainst of-fense and dan - gers.
You wise - ly have or - dained	
Lord, by your gos - pel pure	you bless and keep your fold,
send work-ers forth, O Lord, Your Spir-it fill their hearts	the sheaves to gath - er in
Your Spir - it fill their hearts Press on - ward with your Word	and charge their words with pow'r; till pas - tor and his fold
$\wedge$	thi pas - toi and his toid
that we, your flock, may kno	w the truth that sets us free.
you call, en - light - en, kee	
that not a soul be los	
	ak, O give them in that hour!
, , , _	ist, your glo - ry shall be - hold.

## Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Blessing

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. Amen.



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## *If you are visiting us today or would like to update your information, please scan the QR code to fill out our form.*



SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PREACHER: Rev. Aaron Mueller

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller

**MUSICIANS:** Rev. Adam Bode, Tori Engel, Stan Grzonka, Nikki Leahy, Nathan Meitner, Nick Schmidt, Sue Vant Hul, and Jim Van Alstine

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Karen Beining.

**USHERS**: 8:00a.m.- Allen Kraemer, Trever Athorp, Ray Price, Dan Goetsch. 10:30a.m. – Alan Kuether, Terry Roehrborn, James Van Alstine, Justin Kiecker. 6:00 p.m. Jeremy Nesemann, Johnathan Dergantz.

Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.



OFFERINGS: 1/14 & 1/15 - \$11,500 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200). \$1,580 GROWING FORWARD. \$700 FAITH FOR THE FUTURE.

ATTENDANCE: 1/14 & 1/15: 8:00 A.M. - 166. 10:30 A.M. - 135. 6:00 P.M. - 11.

#### In our prayers this week...

- 1. Tom and Debbie Ehrenberg celebrating 50 years of marriage!
- 2. Landon James Kakuk on his baptism.

This Week at a Glance:		
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times	
Sunday, January 21	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 5th-8th Sing Both Services	
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour	
	11:45 a.m. Annual Voters Meeting	
Monday, January 22	4:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting	
	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship	
	6:00 p.m. Bible Information Class	
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Resumes	
Wednesday, January 24	9:00 a.m. Bible Study	
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism	
Thursday, January 25	6:00 p.m. Early Childhood Event - One Winter's Night	
Friday, January 26	NO SCHOOL - OFFICE CLOSED	
Saturday, January 27	8:30 a.m. Leadership Training	
Sunday, January 28	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship	
	2nd-4th Sing Both Services	
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour	
Monday, January 29	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship	
	6:00 p.m. Bible Information Class	
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	

#### **Grow with Christ**

#### Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

- 1. **Sunday Bible Study** We will continue our study on the book of Revelation in the Harvest Room. This morning we will look at chapter 18.
- 2. New Bible Information Class Our new Bible Information Class is on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm and it started last week. This class is a great refresher for long-time members and a helpful introduction for those interested in exploring membership. Please speak to Pastor Bode or Pastor Mueller if interested.
- 3. Wednesday Bible Study resumed last week. Our study is on *predestination* and *election*. It is still a great time to jump in. Class begins at 9:00 am.
- 4. **Marriage Retreat -** Staff Minister Luther Curia is hosting another marriage enrichment retreat March 15-16. This year's retreat will be held on campus to make use of our new facilities and to accommodate those who aren't able to get away for a weekend. Flyers with event details and registration forms will be available soon! Feel free to contact Luther Curia with any questions: <u>luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org</u>

#### In Other News

- 1. Worship Service Ushers: Thank you to those who regularly volunteer to serve as ushers for our worship services. As we prepare the usher schedule, please consider serving for at least one month each year. A request for additional ushers in certain months (like July) will soon be sent via Church Community Builder (CCB). Please sign up via a response to this request or by placing your name next to a vacant position on the "Usher List" in the Member Room. Please contact Will Belitz (920-693-8837 or Cellular 920-946-6617) as questions arise. Thank you for serving your congregation.
- 2. St. Paul's Adult Choir: The Adult Choir will resume weekly practices Monday, January 22 at 7:00 pm. Have you ever thought about being in the choir? There's a spot for you! Join us for the second semester!
- 3. **3K, 4K and Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment:** After pre-enrolling 30 of our own St. Paul's children during December and January, we've opened pre-enrollment up to current St. Paul's Lutheran School families. From January 12-February 9 anyone currently enrolled in the school can share their enrollment intentions for the upcoming school year. The enrollment link is available to everyone by contacting MeLissa Wieting at 608-617-7040 or melissa.wieting@sphg.org.
- 4. Voters' Meeting is TODAY, January 21st starting at 11:45 am. Reports were emailed this past week. This is an important meeting where new leaders for service to the congregation will be elected. Those of you who request printed copies of the Church Newsletter will find a printed copy of the Annual Report in your mailbox.
- 5. **Save The Date!** A women's retreat is being planned for the morning of April 20, 2024 here at St. Paul's. Registration and further details will come later, but we wanted everyone to get this exciting event on their calendars. Hope to see all of our ladies on April 20th!
- 6. Youth Rally Meeting On Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> after second service, we will be holding an information meeting about the 2024 WELS Youth Rally. Parents and students who are interested in learning more about the Youth Rally are encouraged to attend! Until then, you can read more about the event at <a href="https://welsyouthrally.net/">https://welsyouthrally.net/</a> If you have any questions about the Youth Rally, or if you are interested in going, but cannot attend the meeting please contact Mike Leahy mleahy@live.com (920) 422-0771.
- 7. JAM Jesus And Me- Event Coming Soon! Families with children ages 0-5 are invited to come JAM with us on February 3rd from 10am-12pm! We will be "Stuck on Jesus" and looking at God's Word in Romans 8:39, "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." There will be STEM activities and crafts geared towards children ages 0-5, but the whole family is welcome! At this event we will have a Bible story, snacks, valentine crafts, and sticky STEM activities-magnets, slime, tape, sensory bins, and more! Email us at jam@stpaulshowardsgrove.org with any questions.



- 8. Lenten Meals Would you or a group of people be willing to sign-up to make a meal for this upcoming Lenten season? If so, please contact Erin Radue in the office to sign-up. Thanks!
- 9. **PTF Pizza Fundraiser** The students of St. Paul's are once again selling delicious homemade pizzas! Pizzas may be purchased from any participating school family between now and **February 7th.** Or, pick up an order form from the member room and return it to the office with payment by the Wednesday the 7th. **Pizzas will**

**be made and ready for pickup at the school on Saturday, February 24th.** Contact Katie Meyer with any questions: <u>katieb82@hotmail.com</u>.

- 10. January Church Newsletter was sent out this past week. Those of you who request printed copies can find your copy in your mailbox.
- 11. Northern Wisconsin District President Joel Zank Updates from Pastors' Conference this week: see below.

#### WELS School Statistics

- WELS Early Childhood Ministries now serve nearly 12,000 students.
- Lutheran Elementary Schools are now serving 28,081 students (~500 students more than the 2022-23 school year) – the most in the last 20 years. 17.4% of the students we serve are from unchurched or non-Christian homes.
- WELS 28 Area Lutheran High Schools service 6,779 students (~360 students more than the 2022-23 school year).
- There are 3,059 called workers in WELS schools Pre-K 12.
- The NWD has 53 Early Childhood Ministries, serving 1,799 students. We have 44 Lutheran Elementary Schools, serving 4,659 students (134 students more than the 2022-23 school year). We have 3 Area Lutheran High Schools, serving 1,330 students. (Total: 7,605 students served.) Thanks be to God for the opportunities we have to reach so many souls with the gospel of Christ!

#### Pastoral Call Vacancies

	Synod	NW District
Totals	164	24
Parish	146	23
Retirement Calls	5	
Foreign Mission	2	
Prof./Teaching	3	1
Other	8	

The "Easter Call Hiatus" for pastor calls will run from Saturday, March 23, 2024 (Palm Sunday weekend) through Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Call meetings for pastors may resume on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

#### **Teacher Call Vacancies**

	NW District
October 15, 2023 – 1/15/24	58 (including 3 principal vacancies)
Accepted as of 1/15/24	25 (including 1 principal call)
School Vacancies Remaining as of 1/15/24	33 (including 2 principal vacancies)