

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin
November 16/19, 2023

The Second Last Sunday of the Church Year



Opening Hymn **508** *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near* **1 – 4**

Confession and Absolution **page 184**

Introit — Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,

for no one living is righteous before you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you;

my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Zephaniah 1:7–16

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at

night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia **page 190**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and

he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn **508** *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near* **5 – 7**

Sermon **“A Firm Foundation”**

Offertory **page 192**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Offering *(Please fill in the friendship register found at the end of each pew.
Offering plates are in the narthex.)*

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament **page 194**

For our guests desiring the Lord’s Supper...

Holy Communion is the eating and drinking of Christ’s crucified and risen body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, for strength for this life, and for the assurance of everlasting life with Him. It is a miraculous gift full of grace.

The Bible also teaches that anyone who receives the Lord’s Supper who does not believe or has not been taught our Lord’s teaching, or who is unrepentant, receives Christ’s body and blood to his or her harm. Out of love for you, we kindly ask you to speak to one of our pastors before communing if you are not a member of an LCMS congregation.

Distribution Hymns **618** **621** **628** **631**

Benediction**Closing Hymn 548** *Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious*

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because Thou didst arise and hast opened paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory of the resurrection story.

Thou hast died for my transgression, all my sins on Thee were laid;
 Thou hast won for me salvation, on the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise and shall meet Thee in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

For the joy Thine advent gave me, for Thy holy, precious Word;
 For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, for Thy blest Communion board;
 For Thy death, the bitter scorn, for Thy resurrection morn,
 Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, and in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

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Acknowledgments

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Serving the Lord in Worship

Pastors Rev. Timothy J. Shoup Rev. Mark R. Palmer
Organist Mrs. Louise Reisler

Prayers

In Need of Healing . . . *Jon Baker, Bonnie Buss, Bruce Heling,
 Linda Herrmann, Ron Kohn, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Tom Kriehn,
 Joyce Moeller, Sue Nohr, Theresa Runge, Marlene Schmidt,
 Dalton Schmidt, Aurelia Steinbach, Tracy Sundstrom, Marilyn Tessmann,
 Mark Welch, and Jacob Worthington.*



Announcements

Worship Schedule This Week . . . This week we will have Thanksgiving services on Wednesday at 7:00pm and on Thursday at 9:00am. Please note that there will be **no Thursday evening worship service on Thanksgiving Day.**

Pastoral Call Process Updates

As a member of St. Paul, you are welcome and encouraged to participate in the initial work of the call process by completing the Pastoral Expectations Questionnaire. The questionnaire asks you to rank nine pastoral skills or traits according to what you think is most important for our congregation in our next associate pastor. The questionnaire will provide information for the call committee to formulate a description of what we pray the Lord will provide in our next associate pastor.

Please fill out a hard copy of the questionnaire which may be found in the narthex or church office, or use the QR code on the back page of the bulletin, or go to the St. Paul website and complete the survey on line. On the website, go to the Resources tab, then to the All Things St. Paul tab, then click the Associate Pastor Expectations Questionnaire. Please turn in your hard copy or submit your online questionnaire by Sunday, December 10.

Director of Church Ministry – DCM

At the October 24 Quarterly Voters' Meeting, our congregation elected to expand our ministry by calling a part-time DCM to begin in early 2024. The DCM's purpose will be to support and help expand the gospel ministry at St. Paul by assisting our pastors with coordinating events, visiting shut-ins and members in need as assigned, teaching Bible class, helping lead evangelism, and facilitating communication with our members and the community. Candidates for this position will have a corresponding earned degree from a Concordia University. If you would like more information, or know of a possible candidate for this called position, please contact Al Kohn or one of our pastors by this year's end.

The Lutheran Hour . . . "Loving Mercy" (Matthew 25:34-40)

Will those who do good things be saved? Or, will those who are saved...do good things? Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy says those who love Christ also love showing mercy to others. Tune in next Sunday at 7:30am to WTCH/960 AM, WRVM/102.7 FM at 10:00am, or go to lutheranhour.org.

Attendance — November 9/12, 2023

Thursday	11/9	7:00pm	80
Sunday	11/12	8:00am	186
		10:15am	<u>252</u>
		Total	518
		Livestream Views	148

New Books in the Church Library . . . St. Paul Mission Circle has donated books to the church library in the memory of members who have gone to their eternal rest:

Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge — in memory of Doris Buchholz, *When Faith Is Forbidden: 40 Days on the Frontlines with Persecuted Christians* — in memory of Shirley Kopitske, and *Take Courage: Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times* by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison in memory of Dorothy Krull. Check out the library for numerous great reads all year round.

A Word from Your Wolf River Principal . . . It has been 402 years since the country celebrated a feast for Thanksgiving for surviving the struggles the colonists endured, but it wasn't until George Washington that a day of thanksgiving and prayer was to be observed acknowledging all that the Almighty God has done for us was proclaimed on November 26, 1789. As Christians, every day is a celebration! We celebrate with thanksgiving at the beautiful creation around us, at the time spent with friends and family, and the forgiveness received from our Lord and Savior. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this week, take a moment and say a prayer of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has given you. For me, I am thankful for each of you and all you continue to do for Wolf River. Have a blessed Thanksgiving! *Mrs. Kosmerchock*

Thank you . . . The WRLHS auction was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who baked, donated to, and attended the auction. We surpassed our goal, and everyone who came had a great time and more than enough to eat! We are already preparing for next year's auction, which will be held on November 16, 2024.

Uncle Mike's Kringles . . . Wolf River Lutheran High students will be selling Uncle Mike's Kringles again this year from November 16 – 30. Call the office at 715-745-2400 if you would like to place an order.

WRLHS Open House . . . will be held on Tuesday, November 28 from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Events and Opportunities This Week

- Sunday 11/19** 8:00am Worship — Holy Communion
9:00am Fellowship (P.T.L.)
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School
10:15am Worship — Holy Communion
- Monday 11/20** 7:30am Strong Bodies
6:30pm Board of Evangelism/Online Ministry
6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Tuesday 11/21** 7:00am Bible Study
8:00am Quilting
- Wednesday 11/22** *No School – Thanksgiving Break*
1:30pm Meadowview
4:00pm Food Pantry
6:00pm Choir
7:00pm Thanksgiving Worship
- Thursday 11/23** *Thanksgiving Day*
9:00am Thanksgiving Worship
NO 7:00pm Worship
- Friday 11/24**
- Saturday 11/25**
- Sunday 11/26** 8:00am Worship
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School
10:15am Worship



SCRIP SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

Nov. 22 Sandy Staszak **Nov. 26** Barb Swiecichowski Peggy Buchholz



Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor
Mr. Aaron M. Landgrave, Principal
Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Music Director
Mrs. Robin Reep, Youth Director
Church Office 715-758-8559 School Office 715-758-8532
240 E. Green Bay Street, Bonduel, Wisconsin 54107
Website: www.stpaulbonduel.com