

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: (507) 835-2647

Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm Email: stpaulwa@hickorytech.net

Mission Statement

“Empowered by God’s Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people.”

Vision Statement

“We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”

SUNDAY MORNINGS (JUNE - AUGUST)

- ✚ Divine Service w/Holy Communion: 9:00 a.m.
(Also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
 - 10:15 – 11:15 am Sunday School (Will resume in September)
 - 10:30 am Adult Bible Study and Coffee Hour

Pastor: Rev. Bob Lund (Vacancy Pastor)

Mobile Phone: (651) 324-9229


Email: bltpbj@yahoo.com



@stpaulwaseca

www.stpaulwaseca.org

ANNOUNCEMENT'S:

-  **WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!** If you are a visitor, we look forward to visiting with you today and in the near future. Please write your name, address, and phone number in our visitor's book located at the back of church at the visitor's desk. We invite you to fellowship, coffee & treats following the worship service. Adult Bible Study begins at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.
- **Individual or Family Pastoral Care:** Please remember that Private devotion and Holy Communion are available for individuals or couples that are homebound, at greater risk for COVID, or in times of emergency. Call the church office at 507-835-2647 to schedule an appointment when needed.
- **Live Streaming on Facebook** for the 9:00 worship service for your convenience.
- Please join us **today** after service for a **Bible Study** led by Immanuel Mueller.
- **Reminder to those who are Caring for Brothers and Sisters in Christ**
- **Ladies:** We'd like to invite you to our Women's Bible Study. We are beginning a new video series, The Path to the Cross: Embracing Obedience and Sacrifice. These videos are by Ray VanderLaan and Focus on the Family. The first lesson is "The Way of the Essenes." About 150 years before the birth of Jesus, some of God's people, the Essenes, established a community in the Judean Wilderness, near Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We will see why this group of God's people went in to the desert to live and the role they played in God's story of redemption. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month; in July that will be July 19th from 9:30 -10:45am. We meet at the north end of the basement. The west door by the elevator will be open. Join us for study and fellowship.
- Cotta Guild will meet Thursday July 13th, at 1:00 pm in the parish hall. Pastor Lund will have a devotion. Judie Waters' circle will serve. Our service project is to bring school supplies for the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center. All women are welcome to join us.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving and recovery:** Jacob Williams, Aimee Sibilrud
- **Medical Procedure:** Karen Thompson waiting for available kidney
- **Illness:** Cindy Kuschel
- **Treatment:** Tim Andree (friend of Matt Klinger), Dixie Flitter (sister of Shirley Bluhm) Randy Gehring (brother-in-law to Denise Duffy), Debbie Pehrson, Terry George (Fiancé of Linda Larson), Kirsten Tharp (sister to Denise Duffy)
- **Those who are sick and/or in need and wish to remain unnamed.**
- **All the service men & women who are serving in the military:** Noah Berg, Matthew Gilmore, Jacob Lemmen, Aaron & Sarah Lenz, Jason Paschall, David Reinsbach, John Thompson
- **Waseca Circuit Missionaries:** Rev. Edward Naumann & Rev. Dr. Stephen Oliver (Taiwan) & John Wolff (Kenya)
- **FOR THE CALL COMMITTEE AND THE CALL PROCESS,** may God lead us to the Pastor that he has already chosen for us to call.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prisoners of Hope

July 9, 2023

AS WE GATHER



“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.” When we hear these words of the prophet Zechariah in the season of Advent, we are evermore ready to rejoice, especially as Christmas approaches. But to hear these words now in the middle of summer may strike us as a little more challenging. The pressures and doldrums of daily life can wear away momentary joys. In fact, the call to rejoice can seem pointless echoing against the hard walls of a prison of our own making. No matter how many Christmases we have celebrated, like the apostle Paul, we may continue to feel trapped by our unrelenting sinfulness. True joy comes only as we receive the comforting words of our Lord, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Herein is the goal of Christmas. Here today by means of the Word of God and the receiving of His body and blood, God gives you faith to believe and to receive eternal salvation. By God’s Word, even today “it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” For here is where true joy is found.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Romans 7:15; Matthew 11:28*

Pastor: With the apostle Paul today we admit, “I do not understand my own actions.

People: **For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”**

Pastor: At the invitation of God our Savior, let us bring our weariness and burdens to Him, that His forgiveness may rescue us and restore to us the joy of His salvation.

People: **For if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" [LSB 368]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, as the holy angels called the world to rejoice when You first sent Your only-begotten Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, so help us to rejoice today in the comfort of the deliverance He brought when He gave His life to the world on the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Zechariah 9:9–12*

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: *Romans 7:14–25a* (Release from the law of sin)

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL AND VERSE *Romans 11:33, 36; Matthew 11:28*

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

People: To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia. Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

People: and I will give you rest. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 11:25–30* (The Father revealed in the Son)

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father

except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Gloria

“Glory be to God on high!” This is now our joyful cry.

Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and favor for new birth.

You we praise and glorify, Worship You, O Lord most high.

Gracious Father, heav’nly King, To Your name alone we sing:

Praise the glory of Your name, Now and evermore the same!

Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, Sole-begotten, holy One,
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true man for us to die,
Lamb of God, You take away, This world’s sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone, Are most high, O God the Son,
And the Father, God above. Praise we now Your glorious love.

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SERMON

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come again 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O God of grace, God of glory....Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Cause the joy....mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Take My Life and Let It Be" (p. 784 verses 1,2,3 &6)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" (p. 352 verses 1 & 2)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD Matthew 26:26–28;

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ....

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST 1 Cor. 11:26; Rev. 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember Your passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER Our Father who art in heaven....

PAX DOMINI:

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" (*p. 352 verses 3 & 4*)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" [LSB 358]

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem" [LSB 361]

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" [LSB 374]

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, we rejoice greatly that You have come to us as our King, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. With thankful hearts we hold to the great hope of the eternal joys in the day of the resurrection of all flesh and our eternal home. To You be all the praise and glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" [LSB 363]

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: July 9th – 16th, 2023

Sunday (9th):

9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion (Facebook Live and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study (Led by Immanuel Mueller) and Coffee hour

Monday (10th):

9:00 am Prayer Team
6:00 pm CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday (11th):

6:00 pm **ELDER MEETING**
6:00 pm **STEWARDSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday (12th):

7:00 pm Contemporary Ensemble

Thursday (13th):

6:00 a.m. Bible Breakfast at Jonnie Bean
1:00 pm Cotta Guild

Friday (14th):

Saturday (15th):

Sunday (16th):

9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/Communion (Facebook Live and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study (Led by Bill Kuschel) and Coffee hour

SERVING THE LORD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE:

THIS WEEK: July 9th, 2023:

ORGANIST: Matt Groskreutz

ACOLYTE: Alex Bethke

ELDER/DEACON: Bob Roemhildt & Gary Hein/Kraig Deling

RADIO MONITOR: Ron Wood

FACEBOOK: Cindy Gilmore

READER: Doug Draeger

NEXT WEEK: July 16th, 2023:

ORGANIST: Cindy Wood

ACOLYTE: Alexa Welander

RADIO MONITOR: Kathy Flogstad

FACEBOOK: Geri Kuschel

READER: Rhonda Christianson

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS

Worship Attendance on:

Sunday June 25th: 88 Bible Study: 31 Sunday School: 0

Sunday July 2nd: 94 Bible Study: 30 Sunday School: 0

Sunday June 25th General Fund (in person & Direct Deposit): \$1,695.00

Improvement Fund: \$100.00 **Other:** Decorating Fund: \$128.75

Radio Broadcast: Memory of Stan Rosenau: \$ 60.00

Undesignated memorial fund for Stan Rosenau: \$60.00

Sunday July 2nd General Fund (in person & Direct Deposit): \$3364.00

Improvement Fund: \$145.00

***** Needed each week to make budget: \$ 3,000.00 *****

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

"Gloria in excelsis Deo" is Latin for "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many-a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.

4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS

358 358

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,

It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

The first five stanzas declare the joyful words of the angel proclaiming the wondrous news of Jesus' birth. The remaining stanzas declare the response of the shepherds and the meaning of the Savior's birth for all the world.

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, Love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

----*German*

- 1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.
- 2 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Hirten erst kundgemacht,
 Durch der Engel Halleluja
 Tönt es laut von fern und nah:

**Christ, der Retter, ist da,
Christ, der Retter, ist da!**

**3 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt.**

The text below, known to some in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is an alternate wording of stanza 1.

**1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar,
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.**