

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- † Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- † We love families! Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children’s bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

TODAY’S THEME:
PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR

Worship Participants

- Liturgist**..... Pastor Jacob Hoff
- Preacher**..... Pastor Brian Adams
- Organist** Mrs. Karen Pautz
- Violinists** Mrs. Kristal Young and Miss Noelle Young

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD
Christian Worship pg. 38

PRESERVICE MUSIC..... **“Carol of the Bells”**
“What Child Is This?”

THE OPENING HYMN **“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel**
Christian Worship #23



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, O Day - spring from on high, And cheer us by your
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Please Stand

THE INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e-

ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

Please be Seated

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”



THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....Psalm 89

Christian Worship pg. 98

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;*
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

Psalm continues on next page

**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.**

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone *

THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (*Mathew 1:23*)

Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be Seated

THE HYMN OF THE DAY....."Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Christian Worship #35

Accompanied by Mrs. Kristal Young
and Miss Noelle Young



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

Hymn continued on next page



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

THE SERMON Luke 1:26-38

Please Stand

THE 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.

Please be Seated

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



Please be Seated

CLOSING HYMN "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Christian Worship #24



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree: A
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, "Most
 Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
 soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." Most
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, "Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

POST SERVICE MUSIC "Joy to the World"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend’s altar flowers are given by The McKee Family – Larry, Vanessa & Savanha, “just because”!

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES: The 2018 Offering Envelopes are in the hallway outside of the Bible classroom. If you contribute electronically and do not need a set of envelopes, please let the office know.

NO JANUARY 1st WORSHIP SERVICE: Please note, there will be no worship service on Monday, January 1st.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: We are in the season of Advent. “Advent” is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Christian Church uses to remember the “coming” of Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time. The focus of this Sunday’s service is:

Advent 4: The Promised Virgin Birth of Christ

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent 4 – December 24: 9:00 am

Christmas Eve – December 24: 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight – December 24: 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - December 25: 10:00 am

Christmas 1 – December 31: 9:00 am

New Year’s Eve – December 31: 6:30 pm

GREETERS: Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year! Please let Cory in the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We need additional greeters for all services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form in the Greeter bin on the narthex counter by the end of December.

BUDGET UPDATE: Through November we are 26% below our budgeted General Fund contributions. This amount excludes the 2017 Summer Appeal as that was needed to try and close the 2016 Budget shortfall. The budgeted shortfalls have significantly reduced our General Fund cash balance and raised the likelihood of drawing on our line of credit. Prayerfully consider your Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasures) so that we can continue to complete and expand the Mission of St. Paul’s.

	Month of November				November Year-to-Date			
	Actual *	Budget	Variance	%	Actual *	Budget	Variance	%
				Variance				Variance
General Fund	42,560	51,115	(8,555)	-17%	209,258	281,135	(71,877)	-26%
	Actual *	Prior Year	Variance	%				
	209,258	208417	841	0%				

* Excludes 2017 Summer Special Appeal

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The Christmas season is full swing. One of the ways we celebrate God's gift of Jesus is by giving gifts ourselves. This year we would like to gather "gifts" to send to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Bank. The Food Bank is run to assist married students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These students work part-time jobs around their classes, intensive studying, and preparation. We would love to help them out as they try and make ends meet to provide for their families while preparing to tell the next generation about Jesus. From now until the end of December you can bring in your "gifts" and place them by the designated table in the main school hallway. Following is a list of most needed items:

- Rice, Flour & Sugar
- Pasta Sauce & Canned Tomato Products
- Laundry Detergent & Paper Towels
- Macaroni & Cheese & Pasta
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Cold Cereal & Oatmeal
- Baby Food
- Toilet Paper

SCHOOL FURNACE REPLACED: One of the 20+ year old furnaces in the school decided it didn't want to heat the classrooms any more. Based on the age of the old furnace and the work needed, it was decided to replace the furnace. The cost was just over \$3500. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to one of the council members.

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER? If you answered yes, did you know you have grant money and Choice dollars that can be used at St. Paul's? We can show you how you can help St. Paul's by using grant money and directing your Choice dollars. If you're not a member and would like to still be able to help, you can still get grant money by signing up to be an associate member. On January 7th and 8th between services, Stacy, our congregational advocate for Thrivent will have a table set up for questions. Also, Stacy and Thrivent will be holding some informational meetings for you to come and hear how to use grants, help you sign up to be an associate member and help on directing Choice dollars. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM in the Bible Study room. Dinner will be provided. Feel free to come to one of the informational meetings to see how you can help. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Boldt at (262) 470-7253.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible Camp will be held July 9-13, 2018! Registration will begin in late spring.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER: The Early Childhood Enrichment Center is now accepting registration for the 2018-2019 school year. In order to enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2018. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan and Mrs. Nancy Willms at (414) 421-1833. Enrollment opportunities will be opened to the community after February 1, 2018.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: We are studying the topic: "Idols We Never Knew We Had." A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess. Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say "Definitely not! I don't bow down to idols!" But sometimes we do worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. Our upcoming study will bring to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God's guidance and power we'll get help to avoid worshiping these false gods. Please come and join us. We begin at 8:00am. Breakfast is also served. Below is our schedule:

Idols We Never Knew We Had:

- Technology – January 13, 2018
- Politics – February 10, 2018
- Family – February 24, 2018
- Religion – March 10, 2018

USHERS NEEDED: We have re-organized our crews and have open spots where we could really use ushers! Please prayerfully consider becoming an usher for your church – your help is greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP: We are in need of volunteers to help with supervision of our Youth Group events. We typically meet one Sunday evening a month for a few hours. If you are able to help, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR: Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: January 11th & 25th, February 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, April 12th & 26th and May 10th & 24th. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information. There are also extra copies on the narthex counter to pass along to a friend!

CREATION MUSEUM TOUR: Friends of Wisco are invited to attend a special bus tour to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Ky., June 7-10, 2018, hosted by WLHS president Pastor Ken Fisher and WLHS Foundation executive director Kristine Metzger. We expect the trip to fill up fast, so consider making this an early Christmas present to your spouse, yourself, or a family member! Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Cost and registration details can be found at www.wlhs.org/creationtour.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24)

- 9:00 AM** – sign up to be a greeter!
- 6:30 PM** – sign up to be a greeter!
- 10:00 PM** – Larry & Lucille Ellenberger

GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

- 10:00 AM** – Lyle & Christie Timm

GREETERS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE (December 31)

- 9:00 AM** – sign up to be a greeter!
- 6:30 PM** – Don & Marge Gebert

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24)

9:00 AM – TEAM #8 – Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha
6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow
10:00 PM – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Nolan Romeis, Randy Raduenz, Luke Raduenz

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

10:00 AM – TEAM #3 – Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Todd Grunze, Frank Krajewski

USHERS FOR NEW YEAR’S EVE (December 31)

9:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser
6:30 PM – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Nolan Romeis, Randy Raduenz, Luke Raduenz

USHERS FOR JANUARY

8:00 AM – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Philip Becker
10:30 AM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski
6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

Dec 20-26 – TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer
Dec 27-Jan 2 – TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Dec 24: Merry Christmas!
Dec 31: Happy New Year!

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24

Worship Service9:00 AM
NO Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Information Class
Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight..... 10:00 PM

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship..... 10:00 AM

Tuesday, December 26

No PSCIC

Wednesday, December 27

Men’s Open Gym 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 31

Worship Service9:00 AM
NO Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Information Class
New Year’s Eve Worship 6:30 PM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 101, Communed – 89
10:30 AM – 88, Communed – 64
6:30 PM – 29, Communed – 26
Total Attendance – 218
Total Communed – 179
Children’s Christmas Service – 585
Sunday Bible Class – 19, Sunday School – 16
Bible Information Class – 2