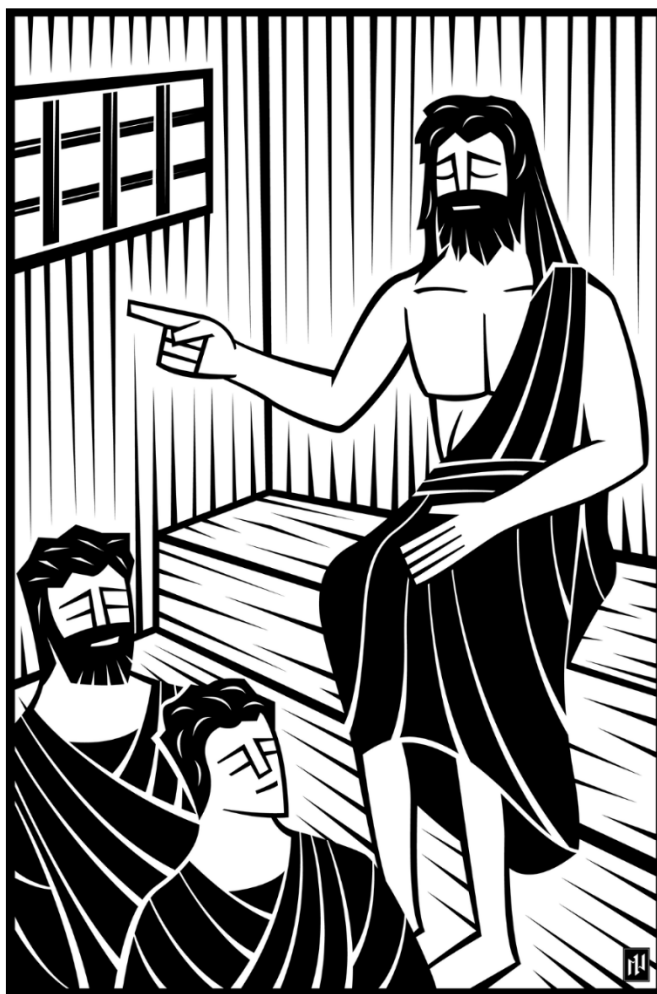

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
FRANKLIN, WISCONSIN



December 14 & 15, 2025

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.
- †* Our congregation stands at various times throughout the service. If your mobility is limited, please do not feel that you have to stand. You are welcome to remain seated!
- †* We love families! Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus!
- †* 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!

Worship Participants

Liturgist and Preacher Pastor Brian Adams
Organist Ms. Laura Rodrigue

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Christian Worship pg. 38

THE OPENING HYMN "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

Christian Worship (21) #315



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y_a year
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

5 Crush 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 And, when you shall come again
as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
freely ransomed by your grace.

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.**

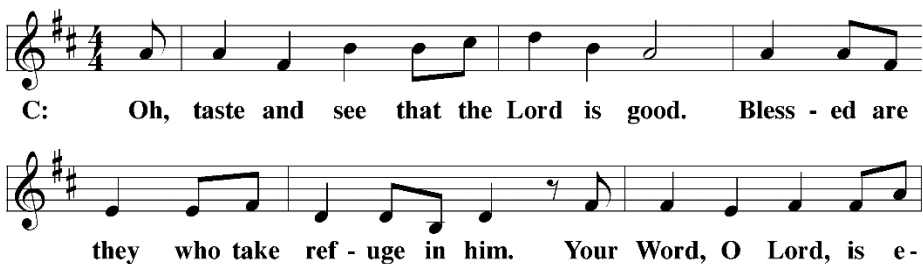
P: God, our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

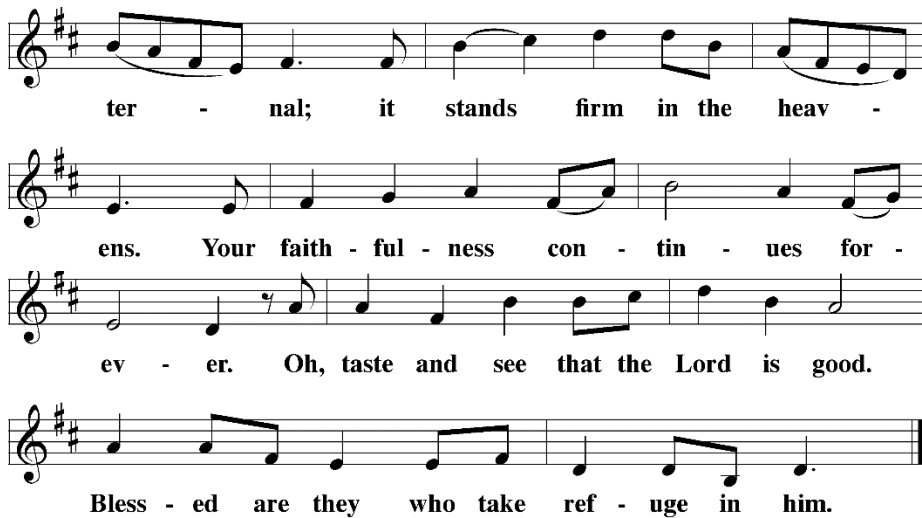
P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; 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 Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

¹The desert and the parched land will
be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and
blossom.

Like the crocus, ²it will burst into
bloom;

it will rejoice greatly and shout for
joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be
opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

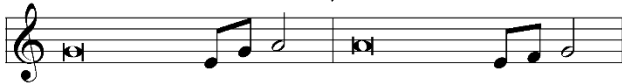
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*

in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*

the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,*

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast*

and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.*

He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

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

THE SECOND LESSON..... James 5:7-11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON.....Matthew 11:2-11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be Seated



THE HYMN OF THE DAY **“Arise, O Christian People”**
Christian Worship (21) #310



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
 best; cast out what would of - fend him, this
 high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
 side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.
 prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

THE SERMON **Matthew 11:2-11**

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.

Please be Seated

CONGREGATION HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Christian Worship (21) #358



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Please Stand

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 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

Christian Worship (21) #313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE: Our annual Mary & Martha Cookie Sale is taking place this weekend December 14th & 15th. Cookies will be sold before and after the service. Each box is \$10.00. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

3K & 4K CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our 3K & 4K classes invite everyone to their Christmas program this Friday, December 19th at 11:00 AM in church.

K-8 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE: The Children's Christmas service for Kindergarten – Grade 8 is next Sunday, December 21st at 4:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend!

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS: There will be no Public School Confirmation Class on Monday, December 22nd or Monday, December 29th. Class will resume on Monday, January 5th.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE: During the upcoming holiday season there are many opportunities for worship! Please join us!

3K & 4K Christmas Program – Friday, December 19th at 11:00 AM

Worship Service – Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 AM

Children’s Christmas Service (K5-Grade 8) – Sunday, December 21st at 4:30 PM

*No Monday evening Worship on December 22nd

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Wednesday, December 24th at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Wednesday, December 24th at 10:00 PM

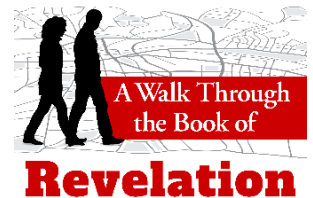
Christmas Day Service – Thursday, December 25th at 10:00 AM

Worship Service – Sunday, December 28th at 9:00 AM

*No Monday evening Worship on December 29th

*No evening New Year’s Eve Worship

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: The book of Revelation is one of the most fascinating—and often most misunderstood—books in the Bible. Many begin studying it only to feel confused or overwhelmed by its vivid and complex visions. What if you could take a guided tour through its pages to better understand and appreciate its meaning and message? Join us Sundays at 8:00 a.m. for **“A Walk Through the Book of Revelation.”** Together, we’ll explore John’s visions, uncover key insights, and discover the hope and truth revealed in this remarkable book. We look forward to seeing you there!



CLASSROOM WISH LISTS: Years ago we had a Christmas tree in our school lobby full of "wishes" for our classrooms, but now our tree is digital! If you would like to grant a classroom wish, please scan the QR Code on the poster in the narthex. If you’d like to donate without shopping online, there are blank envelopes on the narthex counter for your use. Thank you for your support of our school!

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible Camp will be held June 22-26, 2026. More details to come in spring.

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND SPECIAL APPEAL: We are profoundly grateful for your ongoing and generous voluntary support. We have collected \$10,020.00 toward our current budget shortfall. Thank you for your sacrifice, your commitment to our shared mission, and your faithfulness. If you have any questions or comments regarding the fiscal responsibility of our congregation and community, please speak with Pastor Adams or any member of your elected council. In Christ, Your Council

WLHS JOB OPENING - DEAN OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE: This position will begin on July 1, 2026. The Dean of Residential Life provides strategic leadership for the residential community, promoting students' physical, academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development while ensuring the effective operation and upkeep of Honey Creek Hall. The Dean of Residential Life coordinates with the dormitory supervisors, student families, and various departments and administrators of the school regarding the needs of the students and the residential program. This position may require night and/or weekend hours. Experience in multicultural settings is preferred. For more information or to submit a resume, contact hr@wlhs.org.

WLHS "IN THE IMAGE" FASHION SHOW: Limited tickets are now available for the annual "In the Image" fashion show on January 18, 2026 in the WLHS Atrium from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The event, which celebrates women of all ages, presents fashions from a variety of vendors modeled by WLHS students. The show's culminating activity is awarding the Sharon A. Schoeneck ('79) In the Image Scholarship to a junior female student who has achieved academic success and demonstrated community and volunteer service. The tickets cost \$10 for front row seats and \$5 for general admission. Visit wlhs.org/image.

SERVING AT ST. PAUL'S THIS WEEK

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

- 9:00 AM** TEAM #3 – Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Todd Grunze, Frank Krajewski, Adrian Boldt
TEAM #6 – Walter Falkowski, Jacob Marciniak, Kevin Swanson, Tim Karol, Troy Nemitz
- 6:30 PM** TEAM #7 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

USHERS FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE (DEC 21)

4:30 PM TEAM #5 – Randy LaPorte, Tom Spitzer, Gary Eickhorst
TEAM #6 – Walter Falkowski, Jacob Marciniak, Kevin Swanson, Tim Karol,
Troy Nemitz

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 10-16: TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer, Sharon Boushon
Dec. 17-23: TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer, Sharon Boushon

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

December 14: Set-up – Don Druml & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Beverly Garves
December 21: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Kevin & Debbie Swanson

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 14

Mary & Martha Cookie Sale *Before & After Service*
Adult Bible Study 8:00 AM
Worship Service 9:00 AM

Monday, December 15

Mary & Martha Cookie Sale *Before & After Service*
Public School Confirmation Class 5:00 PM
Lutheran Girl Pioneers 6:00 PM
Worship Service 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 16

Women’s Bible Study 9:00 AM

Friday, December 19

3K & 4K Christmas Program 11:00 AM
Half Day of School Noon Dismissal

Sunday, December 21

Adult Bible Study 8:00 AM
Worship Service with Communion 9:00 AM
K-8 Children’s Christmas Service 4:30 PM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance:

9:00 AM – 126, Communed – 97

6:30 PM – 37, Communed – 29

Total Attendance – 163

Total Communed – 126

Midweek Advent Services:

3:30 PM – 145, 6:30 PM – 27

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

6881 S. 51st Street
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132
www.stpaulsfranklin.org



"Reaching out to the people of the world through Worship and Education by Living and Sharing the Gospel of Christ."

To our visitors ~ We welcome you in the name of Jesus, the Son of God and our Savior, who died on the cross and was raised in victory on Easter Sunday by the power of God the Father. We are happy to have you here today, and we invite you to come again. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of Christians bound together by a common confession of faith. We would be happy to share our faith with you.

Pastor Brian Adams
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Office phone: (414) 421-1178
Cell phone: (414) 416-4710
E-mail: badams@stpaulsfranklin.org

Principal Nathan Schulmeister
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Racine, Wisconsin 53405
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Cell/home phone: (920) 284-2404
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Email: office@stpaulsfranklin.org

Church/School/Preschool Office Email: office@stpaulsfranklin.org

Telephone Numbers

Church Office—(414) 421-1178

School Office—(414) 421-1930



**Sign our
Friendship Register
on your mobile device
using the code to
the left.**

Our staff is ready to serve you. If you have questions, are ill, have spiritual needs, or are interested in church membership or our school, please feel free to contact the Pastor or the Principal.

**For online giving
scan the code to the
right on your mobile
device.**

