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**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
FRANKLIN, WISCONSIN



December 28, 2025

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**W**elcome! 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  
**Pianist** ..... Miss Lauren Roedel

# OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

## SERVICE OF THE WORD - *Christian Worship* pg. 38

### THE OPENING HYMN ..... "The People Who Walked in Darkness"

*Christian Worship (21) #382*



1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en to  
2 For God has en - larged the na - tion and pros - pered the  
3 The yoke of de - spair and bond - age, the chains and the  
4 For us now a child is giv - en, for all the de -  
5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth and



see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the  
fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with the  
slave - mas - ter's rod are shat - tered and scat - tered like  
spised and for - lorn. The rule of com - pas - sion shall  
mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will ac -



land of the shad - ow rise to a star shin - ing bright.  
har - vest of vic - t'ry, gift from a boun - ti - ful hand.  
dust in a wind - storm loosed by the jus - tice of God.  
rest on his shoul - der. God's own Mes - si - ah is born.  
com - plish its pur - pose: jus - tice shall reign with - out end.



*Refrain*  
His name is Won - der - ful, Coun - sel - or, Al - might - y God,



Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace. Won - der - ful, Coun - sel - or,



Al - might - y God, Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace.

*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.

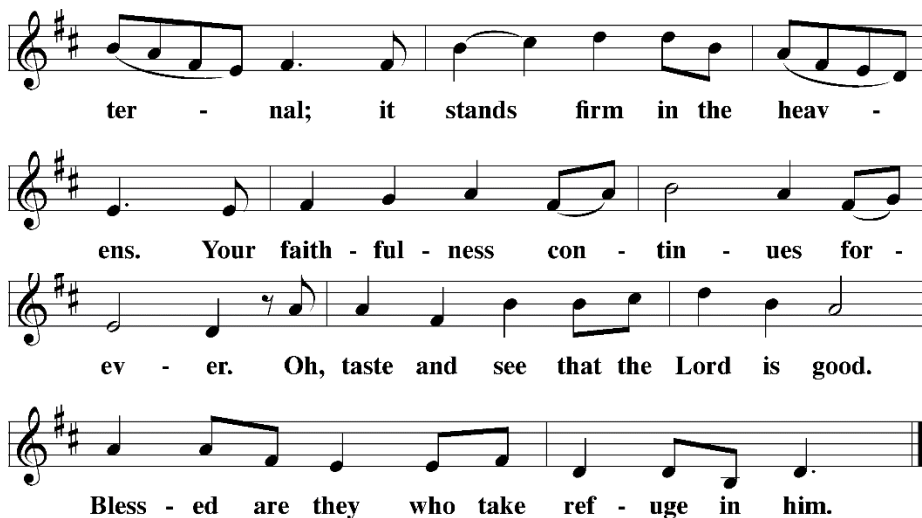
**OH, TASTE AND SEE**



**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.

Almighty God, put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**THE WORD**

**THE FIRST LESSON** ..... **Isaiah 63:7-9**

*The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.*

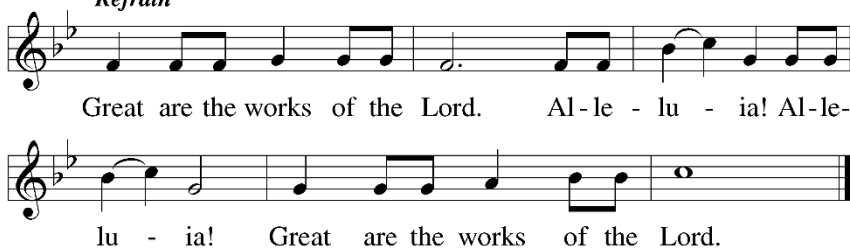
7 I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,  
 the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
 according to all the LORD has done for us—  
 yes, the many good things  
 he has done for Israel,  
 according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

8 He said, “Surely they are my people,  
 children who will be true to me”;  
 and so he became their Savior.

9 In all their distress he too was distressed,  
 and the angel of his presence saved them.  
 In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
 he lifted them up and carried them  
 all the days of old.

**THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....Psalm 2**  
*Christian Worship pg. 65*

*Refrain*



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone* \*



Why do the nations conspire\*  
 and the peoples plot in vain?

*Psalm continues on next page*

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
gather together against the LORD\*  
and against his Anointed One.

*Refrain*

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-  
lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone* \*

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;\*  
the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*  
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”

**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 GOSPEL LESSON.....Matthew 2:13-23**

*God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.*

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup>and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup>and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (quarter). A slur is placed under the first two notes, C4 and D4. The lyrics 'C: Praise be to you, O Christ!' are written below the staff, with the 'C:' indicating the starting note.

*Please be Seated*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ..... "What Child Is This"

*Christian Worship (21) #344*



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the  
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

THE SERMON ..... Galatians 4:4-7

"What Child is This?"

*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*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN ..... "Let All Together Praise Our God"

*Christian Worship (21) #355*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies  
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who  
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.  
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—  
a great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me  
to help me in my need,  
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
to God our thanks we pay,  
to God our thanks we pay.

*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*

*In his love and mercy*  
**HE REDEEMED THEM**  
*he lifted them up and carried them*  
**ALL THE DAYS OF OLD**

**CLOSING HYMN** ..... **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**  
*Christian Worship (21) #337*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts— sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

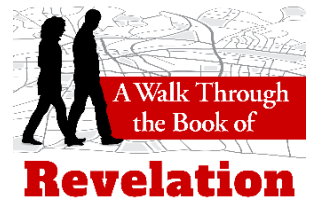
**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The 2026 offering envelopes for adults and children (ages 4 and up) are available in the west hallway of church. If you do not see a set with your name on it, please contact the office.

**NO MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP/CLASS:** Reminder that there is no Monday evening worship or Public School Confirmation class tomorrow, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Both will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CALL RECEIVED – HEATHER SCHMIDT:** Dear Members of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, This past Thursday, I received a call to teach 5th grade at West Side Christian in Middleton, Wisconsin. I am now blessed and challenged with the opportunity to consider where I might best serve the Lord with my talents and abilities - whether it be here at St. Paul’s or at West Side Christian. I humbly ask for your continued prayers as I deliberate the divine call that has been extended to me as well as my current call here at St. Paul’s. Receiving an additional divine call is always a humbling experience. I encourage you to contact me with your thoughts, comments, and guidance concerning both ministries and how I can best serve. In His Service, Heather Schmidt

**SOUTH SIDE MINISTRIES UPDATE:** Members of St. Paul’s, I want to thank you for your generosity to the St. Peters Food Pantry (South Side Ministries). Over the years St. Paul’s has sponsored Church and School Food Drives, Monetary Donations, and Clothing Donations. But I want to pass on a special thanks in the matter of clothing donations. The clothing donations from St. Paul’s have been consistently of very high quality and well received by the people who frequent the pantry. The clothing that the St. Peters food pantry receives from St. Paul’s makes up a majority of the clothes we are able to put out for the community. Weather permitting, I try put out clothes even on non-pantry weekends and will continue to do so. All this is to say thank you for your patience. All your donations are greatly appreciated, especially the clothing. Thank You and God’s Blessings, Mike Rohleder, St. Peter’s Food Pantry Coordinator.

**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!

**FINANCIAL UPDATE AND SPECIAL APPEAL:** We are profoundly grateful for your ongoing and generous voluntary support. We have collected \$11,071.00 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 "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](https://wlhs.org/image).

**ULTIMATE VIP KON II KNUEPPEL EXPERIENCE:** A special, WLHS pre-auction item will be going up for bidding on January 5 and closing on January 6. You and three guests, plus Kon II's parents Kon and Chari Knueppel, will fly on a private jet provided by Jet OUT from Milwaukee, WI to Charlotte, NC on February 20, 2026 to watch Kon II and the Charlotte Hornets play the Cleveland Cavaliers. Dinner, game tickets, and all transportation is included. Learn more and sign up for bidding by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/6efempba>.

**WLC DISCOVERY DAY:** High School and Homeschooled students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday, January 19. By attending our special visit event, you'll have a great opportunity to tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, your admissions counselor, and have lunch on us. Reserve your place today! Register today: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call 414.443.8811 or email [admissions@wlc.edu](mailto:admissions@wlc.edu).

## 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 JANUARY

- 9:00 AM** TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Brandon Wirtz, Larry Stujenske, Craig Gebert, Pete Kosovich  
A/V – Gary Boldt
- 6:30 PM** TEAM #5 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

### ALTAR GUILD

- December 24-30: TEAM #4 – Sarah Carabacan, Denise Johnson, Colleen Qualmann  
Dec. 30-Jan. 6: TEAM #4 – Sarah Carabacan, Denise Johnson, Colleen Qualmann

### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

- December 28: Set-up – John & Jean Terek, Clean-up – Carl & Carolyn Streeter  
January 4: Set-up – Colleen Qualmann, Clean-up – Andy & Chris Backus

## THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 28

- Adult Bible Class ..... 8:00 AM  
Worship Service ..... 9:00 AM

### Monday, December 29

No School / No Confirmation Class / No Worship

### Tuesday, December 30

No School – Christmas Break

**Wednesday, December 31**

No School / No Worship

**Thursday, January 1**

No School – Christmas Break

**Friday, January 2**

No School – Christmas Break

**Sunday, January 4**

Adult Bible Class .....8:00 AM

Worship Service with Communion.....9:00 AM

**Statistics – Last Week**

Attendance:

9:00 AM – 123, Communed – 105

Children’s Christmas Service – 370

Christmas Eve Candlelight 4:30 PM – 375

Christmas Eve Candlelight 10:00 PM – 85

Christmas Day 10:00 AM – 91

# 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**  
6831 S. 51st Street  
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132  
Office phone: (414) 421-1178  
Cell phone: (414) 416-4710  
E-mail: badams@stpaulsfranklin.org

**Principal Nathan Schulmeister**  
938 Oregon Street  
Racine, Wisconsin 53405  
Office phone: (414) 421-1930  
Cell/home phone: (920) 284-2404  
Email: nschulmeister@stpaulsfranklin.org

## School Staff & Email Contact

**Mr. Nathan Schulmeister** (Principal, Grades 7-8)  
Email: nschulmeister@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mr. Lyle Timm** (Part-time Grades 7-8)  
Email: ltimm@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mr. Chad Clough** (Grade 6)  
Email: cclough@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Heather Pagel** (Grade 5)  
Email: hpagel@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Ms. Heather Schmidt** (Grades 3-4)  
Email: hschmidt@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Kristine Riel** (Grades 1-2)  
Email: kriel@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Rachel Manske** (Kindergarten)  
Email: rmanske@stpaulsfranklin.org

**Mrs. Tammy Smukowski** (4K Teacher)  
Email: tsmukowski@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Mary Tripoli** (3K Teacher)  
Email: mtripoli@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Carla Zoric** (4K Assistant)  
Email: czoric@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Ashley Soule** (3K Assistant)  
Email: asoule@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Deby Tosic** (Extended Learning)  
Email: dtosic@stpaulsfranklin.org  
**Mrs. Cory Braun** (Office)  
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.

