

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ

Weekly Announcements

February 1, 2026



St. Paul's

OCONOMOWOC

splco.org

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066 | 262-567-5001 | www.splco.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Contribution Statements

If you have an email address on file in the church database, you should have received your 2025 contribution statement via email. Those who don't have an email address on file can pick up their statement from the box in the narthex. They are filed alphabetically. Statements are sent to those who contributed more than \$250 in 2025. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the church office.

Sisters in Service

So ladies, we are one month into 2026 and we're wondering how those resolutions you made for new year are going for you so far. Did you resolve to attend the Sisters in Service meetings regularly and to bring a friend with you? We certainly hope that you did! Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 5th, at 5:30pm. Please join us as we officially launch the fun, food and fellowship of Sisters in Service into 2026. You won't want to miss it!



Seasonal Handbell Choir Returns!

We are holding another seasonal handbell choir for winter! Rehearsals will be February 10th and 17th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the music room, and we will play for the 8am service on February 22nd. Open to all, whether experienced or new ringers. Music reading ability is preferred but not required. If interested, contact Allison Mackie at allison.mackie@splco.org to register. Please register by February 1st.

Help Us Share the Story of St. Paul's

One of the greatest blessings of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School is our families. Time and time again, new families tell us they chose St. Paul's because *someone they trusted* shared their experience. Your voice truly matters.

If you're active on social media, one simple way to help spread the word is by following and engaging with our official pages:

- St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School on Facebook
- @stpaulsoconomowoc on Instagram
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center on LinkedIn

When you see a post from our administrators or staff, please consider sharing the post or leaving a comment. These small actions make a big difference—comments and shares help our message reach more families in our community who may be searching for a Christ-centered school home. Scripture reminds us of the importance of sharing the good things God is doing: *"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe."* (Psalm 107:2)

Thank you for being ambassadors for St. Paul's. Together, we can share the good things God is doing here and invite others to be part of our school family.

VOTERS' MEETING AGENDA



St. Paul's Mission:

"Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ"

Voters' Meeting

February 1, 2026

Noon in the Sanctuary

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Approval of Agenda & Minutes from Previous Voters' Meeting
4. Old Business
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation of the Slate of 2026 Synodical Candidates for Approval
 - b. Presentation of the Lay Voter for 2026 LCMS Presidential Election
6. Reports
 - a. Pastor's Parish Report
 - b. Board of Elders Report
 - i. Mission Outreach Committees
 1. Lord's Cupboard & Lord's Lambs
 - c. Board of Education Report
 - d. Board of Operations Report
 - e. Treasurer's Report
7. Adjournment – Next Regularly Scheduled Voters' Meeting – May 17, 2026
8. Closing Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Food Bags

If you or anyone you know would like an Easter Food bag, please fill out the form that is on the Lord's Cupboard bulletin board that is outside of the Fellowship Hall. The form is yellow. You can drop the form off to the church office or take a photo of it and email it to lordscupboard@splco.org or put it in the offering plate. Please have the form filled out and returned by March 9th. The food bags will be given out during the Lord's Cupboard distribution on March 16th. Thank you!

LWML Mission Minute Update

We are nearing the end of the 2024-2026 biennium Mission Grant goal for the SWD LWML. In June we will set a Mite Goal for the next two years. We still have three remaining grants to fund totaling \$40,548 before the June Convention. Please remember to feed your Mite Boxes and pray for the remaining recipients of the Grants.

LWML meets on **Tuesday, February 3rd**, at **6pm** in **Room 219**. Everyone is welcome!

YOUNG ADULTS & YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION

St. Paul's Young Adults (SPLCO YA)

We provide opportunities at St. Paul's for young adults (18 – 30ish) to be together in community together and build one another up.

Upcoming SPLCO YA Events

- The young adults are encouraged to attend the **Biblical Finance for Young Adults**, on Wednesdays, led by Dale Stratil.



Join Our
Contact List!

St. Paul's Youth Group

- February 1 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- February 8 ALL YOUTH BOWLING
- February 15 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- February 22 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm

Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

February 1 - 8, 2026

Son of God, Eternal Savior

In the face of dangers—physical or spiritual—our natural inclination is “do it ourselves.” That’s often a mistake in physical danger; it’s an eternal disaster in spiritual matters. Thus, we are best to read Jesus’ “Beatitudes” (Mt 5.1-12) less as a prescription for us than a description of Him. Indeed, to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” (Mic 6.8) is, Scripturally, not a matter of our doing, but God’s doing, for the gift of God is that Jesus Christ is our “wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’.” (1 Cor 1.30-31)

Order Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Christ-Centered Theme: Jesus Christ alone is the source of true life and truth and grace.

Verse: Psalm 51:1-2 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm: Psalm 15 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

Catechism: Confession and the Office of the Keys: What is Confession? What sins should we confess? Which are these?

<p><i>What is Confession?</i> Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.</p>	Kindergarten +
<p><i>What sins should we confess?</i> Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.</p>	1 st grade+
<p><i>Which are these?</i> Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife of worker? Have you been disobedient, unfair, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?</p>	3 rd grade+

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Son of God, Eternal Savior

Day	Bible Stories for Families with Young Children	Readings for Adults & Older Children	
Sun.	Samson: Judges 4-5	Psalm 110, 66, 23	Matt 5.1-12
Mon.	The Lord Makes Samson Strong: Judges 15-16	Psalm 62, 72, 8	Jl 2:1-32
Tue.	Ruth Goes Home with Naomi: Ruth 1-2	Psalm 13, 36, 5	Jl 3:1-21
Wed.	A Blessing for Ruth: Ruth 2-4	Psalm 96, 132, 134	Am 1:1-2:16
Thur.	Hannah’s Prayer: 1 Samuel 1-2	Psalm 116, 26, 130	Am 3:1-15
Fri.	God’s Promise: 1 Samuel 2	Psalm 85, 25, 40	Am 4:1-5:27
Sat.	Sunday’s Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 61, 138, 98	Am 6:1-14

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul’s

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS – Mike Hamilton—knee replacement surgery; Roger Fisher; Barb Star; Dorothy Duchow—rehab; Kathy Mueller; Delaney Heffern; Art Schuck; John Wickersham; Joyce Anderson; Carol Lenz—hospice; Tammy Frazier—cancer; Bob Bratz; Ian McMillan; Joanne Kullman; Carol Fellin—cancer care; Jim Braatz; Ruth Polcha; Nancy Wolter; Don Meyer—cancer; Ann Duggan; Jim Duggan; Marilyn Marohn; Sally Eubanks; Dick Allen; Truman Seifert—acute myeloid leukemia; Carolyn Nagel—lung cancer; Don Schmitt; Karen Meyer—cancer; Stan Kuehl; Marian Faltersack; Michael Stollenwerk; Marilyn Runyard; Linda Leidel; Lucille Campbell—cancer treatment

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Lisa (nee Rhodee) Liarokis – breast cancer; Layla Pelnar (Lynn's granddaughter)—thyroid cancer; Bob Duchow (Dorothy's son); Sue Malone (Dan & Brenda Maynard's friend)—brain cancer; daughter of Bill & Sarah Mertens; Janice Mulvaney Krueger—lung cancer; Della—Diana Radtke's sister; Lauri; Dana—recent cancer diagnosis; Daniel (Bill Merten's brother); Curt Duchow (Dorothy's son)—mantle cell lymphoma; Rhonda—breast cancer; JoyAnn; Dan Faltersack—COPD; Jeff—stage four colon cancer; Jeff—non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Missy (Sheila Ram's niece)—breast cancer; Dawn—lung cancer; Jim (Jackie Meyer's dad)

Other: Kelly—health issues; Dennis & Sue Duffy (Erin Eberhardt’s parents)—health issues; Kandy Heckendorf; Gary Barborich; Dean Wilcox (Tina Gartzke’s brother); Joe Rohde (Sue Beles’ brother)—healing; Mark—heart attack; Beth Dowhen; Todd (Sandy Raben-Roger’s cousin)—blood clots; Dorothy—Alzheimer’s; Patricia Eberhardt (Chad’s mom); Paul; Bob; George; Paul; Doug—CCL; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan’s son)—MS; Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Madelynn Matthews—Air Force; Trevor Thiel—Alaska (Fort JBER); Joe; Sam Duggan; Justin Michener; Zach Howard; Theresa; Phil Preston; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke; Jacob; Brian; Randy; Kyle; Jake; Jeff; Matt; Brad; Ben; Mike & Rob

Those serving God as missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and family; Daniel & Marie Lowitz (Dominican Republic); Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer; Rev. Ted Krey, Deaconess, Tirzah Krey in the Dominican Republic; all seminary students in the Dominican Republic, and all other pastors and missionaries in Latin America

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; Sam—a young man struggling to make good choices; those struggling with addiction; Jennifer; Brian; David

Birthday: Ryan Edwards – 15th – February 1st

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
Hymn of the Week: Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Hymns: 728, 578 (563, 411, 580) 825

February 8, 2026

The Difference Between Confidence and Showing Off (Pastor O’Donnell)

The “natural person,” who does not have the Holy Spirit, rejects Christ’s teaching on good works and true repentance (See Mt 5.13-20; Mt 6.1-4; Isa 58.3-9) because they reject Christ and focus on perceived contradictions. But he who has the Holy Spirit, the truly “Spiritual person” who has “the mind of Christ,” has “spiritual discernment” of God’s Word (See 1 Cor 2.1-16) and knows the difference between letting God’s light shine and showing off.)

God's Little Learners at Work and Play!

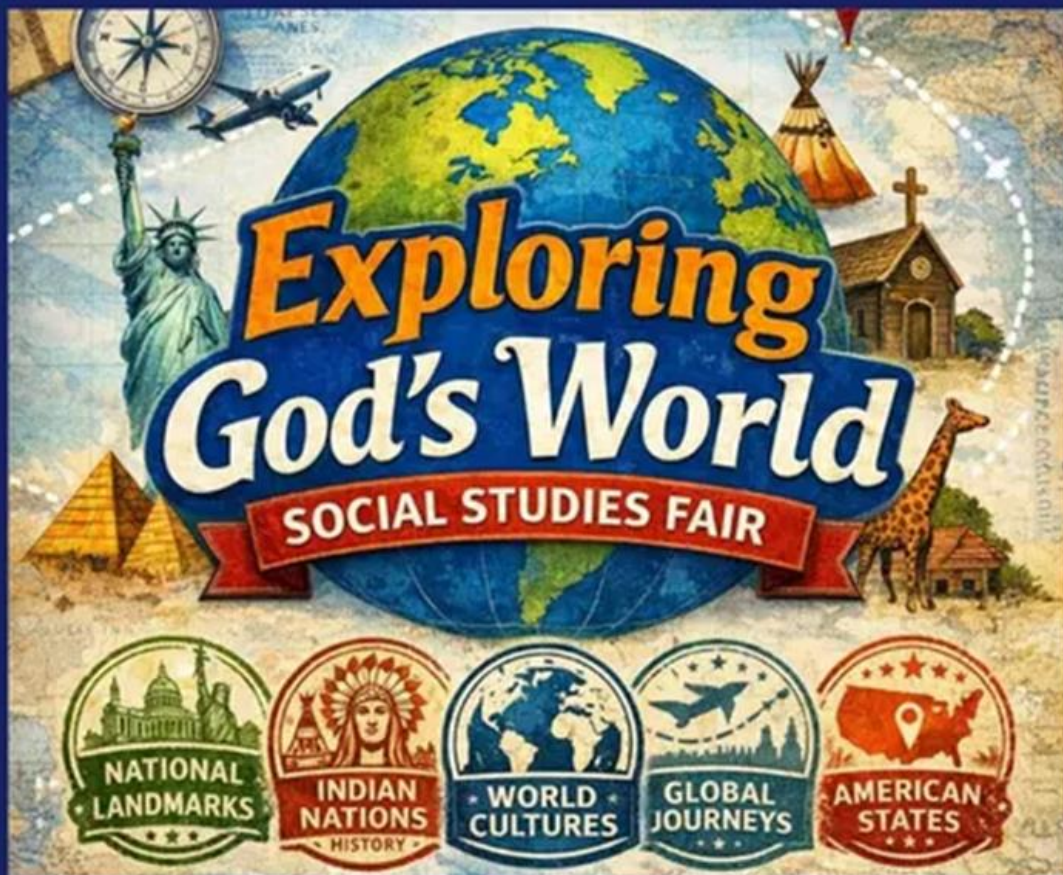
In 4K, students do a variety of play-based learning, project-based learning, and hand-on learning. By getting to learn in a variety of ways, students develop many skills that they will take with them as they grow older. Some of these skills are cognitive skills, motor skills, communication skills, social skills, emotional and self-regulation skills, creativity and executive functioning skills.

One of the ways 4K gets to practice role-playing real world experiences is in the dramatic play center. This center changes usually every month or two. This play center started off as a pumpkin patch and is now a gingerbread house. Students can come and go to this play center. During this time, students can do imaginary play to buy something, shop for something, eat something, bake something, and so much more. These times of learning also remind students that while they are playing with one another, they get the special opportunity to share God's love with one another.



Another way students learn is by getting to experience classroom transformations. For our Christmas party, 4K got to travel on the Polar Express! The classroom got transformed into a train station. Each student got to decorate their own train conductor hat to wear on the train. They then got their train ticket punched so they were all set to board the Polar Express. Once they boarded the train, hot cocoa and popcorn was ready for them to eat. On the Polar Express, the class watched a short movie. Lastly, each student got to take home a souvenir from their trip on the Polar Express.





Join Us For an Open House
February 11th | 5:30-6:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran School
CHRIST IN ALL THINGS

210 E Pleasant Street Oconomowoc, WI
www.splco.org

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY February 2	Lord's Cupboard & Lord's Lambs Drive-Thru & Meal	Parking Lot	5:30 pm
TUESDAY February 3	LWML St. Luke Small Group Bible Study	Room 219 Room 201	6:00 pm 6:30 pm
WEDNESDAY February 4	Biblical Finance for Young Adults Learning Christian Meditation	Room 135 Room 219	6:30 pm 6:30 pm
THURSDAY February 5	Sisters in Service Praise Team Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall Church	5:30 pm 6:30 pm
SATURDAY February 7	Women of Joy Bible Study Divine Worship	Whelan's Church	8:00 am 5:00 pm
SUNDAY February 8	Divine Worship Public School Confirmation Sunday School Life Application Bible Study Divine Worship All Youth Bowling	Church Meet in F.H. Meet in F.H. Fellowship Hall Church Meet in Lobby	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30am 11:45 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Life Application Bible Study

Sunday: 9:15 am – Fellowship Hall
262-567-5001

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:15 am - Gym
February 1, 2026

Wise Men Worship

Bible Truth: Jesus is God.
Matthew 2

Women of Joy

Saturday (1st & 3rd) - 8:00 am
Whelan's

Journeymen

Saturday (1st & 3rd) - 8:00 am
Maxim's

NEXT WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Readings	Is 58.3-9a	1 Cor 2.1-16	Matt 5.13-20
Acolytes	TBD	Jackson Etzel	TBD
Altar Guild	Jackie Meyer	Jackie Smith	Stacey Balistreri
Elders	Dave Meyer	Pat Smith	Ryan Schneider
Greeters	Margie Hertneky Char Binney	Duane & Sharon Peterson Bruce & Mary Bojko	Tom & Denise Showen
Live-Stream	N/A	Hertneky	N/A
Radio	N/A	Tom Krenzke	N/A
Ushering Team	Dave Meyer	Joel Tesch	Mike Neff

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Title: *The Difference Between Confidence and Showing Off*

5pm & 8am Worship

LSB, Divine Service, Setting 1, pg. 151

10:30am Worship

Special Order

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music
Jill George, Principal

Rev. Jason Schockman, Associate Pastor
Christine Flores, ECC Director

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (Monday-Friday)

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Micah 6:1–8

Hear what the Lord says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

How have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt

and redeemed you from the house of slavery,

and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,

and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O man, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God?

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what

we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

February 1, 2026

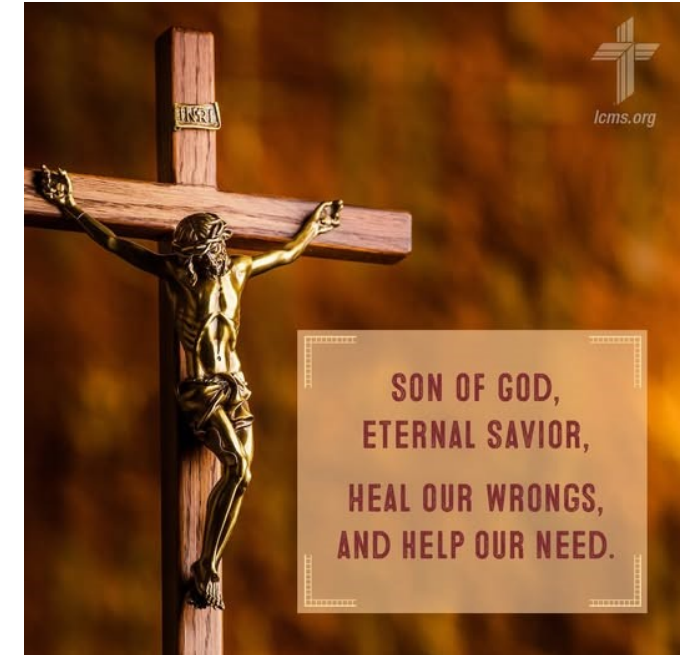


St. Paul's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ



Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

262-567-5001

www.splco.org

Welcome to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,
School, & Early Childhood Center

+ Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. + As the prelude begins, worshipers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare for worship.

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome! We’re delighted that you’ve joined us for worship.

If you have questions, or would like more information about St. Paul’s, a greeter, elder, or pastor will be happy to help you.

Please fill out an attendance card, located on the pew in front of you, and place it in the offering plate.

We welcome young children to the service. Try sitting closer to the front by a side aisle. There are activity bags located behind the back pews, and a simulcast downstairs if necessary.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord’s Supper is not a private meal, but a body-and-soul communion with Christ and His body, the Church. In keeping with the Lord’s instruction (cf. 1 Corinthians 11.17-34) and with the common historical practice of the church, St. Paul’s welcomes only those who are in full confessional agreement to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. If you hold a confession differing from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or are not yet confirmed in our confession of faith, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing (Please indicate by folding your hands over your heart.). If you are physically unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you and give you communion. Those communing should mark this on the attendance card. If you have questions, our pastors will be pleased to speak with you.

Distribution and Communion Wine

Please place open hands out to receive the Body of Christ and also to indicate whether you are receiving the Blood of Christ from the common cup or the individual cup. The wine glasses in the center of each tray contain **one drop** of communion wine. The glasses that contain more wine are dark in color.

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

5:00 pm – 77 Total: 330
8:00 am – 135
10:30 am – 118

Scan the QR code and give electronically. This is a safe and easy way to offer your gifts to God.



THOSE SERVING THIS WEEKEND

	5pm	8am	10:30am
Celebrant	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman
Preacher	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell
Musicians	Allison Mackie	Allison Mackie	Praise Team
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Bernita Krenzke	Wendy Tesch Sue Thelen	Karen Gotthardt
Elders	Jim Juneau	Chuck Laabs	Erik Benes
Greeters	Dan Maynard	Chris & Pam Kroupa Dona Thurow Judy Mueller	Josh & Valerie Peters
Live Stream	N/A	Edwards	N/A
Radio	N/A	Jim Juneau	N/A
Ushering Team	Mark Baganz	Gary Flanagan	Erik Benes

Radio Broadcast: Sponsored by Mark & Sue Baganz to the glory of God

ST. PAUL’S MEDIA

+ Radio: *LIVE* Sunday at 8am on WTKM (104.9 FM)
+ YouTube: *LIVE* Sundays at 8am (stpaulsev.lutheranchurch7279)
+ Web: Anytime at www.splco.org or YouTube

DIVINE SERVICE

Lutheran Service Book
Setting 1, pg. 151

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Sermon Outline:

Son of God, Eternal Savior

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
1 February, A.D. 2026
Mic 6.1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1.18-31; Mt 5.1-12

Introduction

Son of God eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace, Word made flesh whose birth among us Hallows all our human race, You our Head, who, throned in glory, For your own will ever plead: Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need. ("Son of God, Eternal Savior," LSB 842:1)

CCT: Jesus Christ alone is the _____ of true life and truth and grace.

I. God's Call and Our Predicament

What is our predicament? (See Micah 6.8) How did the examples sit with you?

How does Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Mt 5, esp. 1-12, 19-20, 43-48) "up the ante regarding God's expectations?

What does the Law of God do to our self-righteousness and self-justification and excuses? (See Isa 64.6)

II. Christ for Us

How is the life of Jesus “good news” for us? (See 1 Jn 2.2; 1 Cor 1.18-31)

Why is the preaching of the Gospel never “old” for us?

What does the beauty of Jesus’ life expose in us?

Conclusion

Christ’s grace to us is not an excuse for what? (See Gal 5.13)

What is “the Word of the Cross” for us? What, truly, is Christ to us? (1 Cor 1.18, 30-31)

“... the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18, ESV)

CCT: Jesus Christ alone is the source of true life and truth and grace.

He is our

“... wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”” (1 Corinthians 1:30-31, ESV)

The peace of God...