



A Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

# The Messenger

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,  
and the message is heard through the word of Christ."  
(Romans 10:17)

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

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Telephone: (614) 444-0625

E-mail address: [stpaul1821@rrohio.com](mailto:stpaul1821@rrohio.com)

Website: [www.stpaulcares.org](http://www.stpaulcares.org)

### ***The joy of it being finished*** by Pastor Sims

What a joyful day it was when the extensive dental work that required multiple visits to the dentist came to an end or after the final chemo or radiation treatment for cancer. "*It is finished!*" There was much rejoicing when you completed a difficult assignment for school; an essay for grade school, a research paper for high school or a thesis for a graduate program. You may have even shouted, "*it is finished.*" Or maybe you said this after you made the final car or house payment.

Those words: "*it is finished*" remind us Christians of the time when Jesus Christ said them on the cross on Good Friday. After Christ had shed his precious blood and had suffered innocently and was about to die, he said in a loud voice, "*it is finished!*" His mission of saving mankind was accomplished. Our sins had been paid for. Everything had been done perfectly and completely. The gates of heaven were opened for us. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the proof that we are saved. *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25)*

There is nothing we can do to help Jesus pay for our salvation. Jesus didn't say, "I got it started for you." or "it is ALMOST finished." or "it is half-done." He said, "It is finished." Paid in full!

People all over the world celebrate Holy Week, especially Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. So many people have lost the focus of what really happened on those days. Many only see an innocent man die in a terrible way. Some see the resurrection as a nice picture of what they wish might happen. Many others only see vacation time, bunnies and Easter eggs hunts.

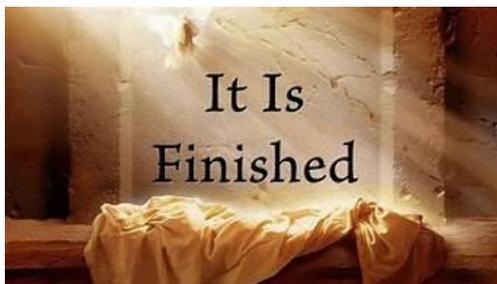
We need to remind ourselves that Jesus was a real living human being - not a fictional character - and that he went through agony that words cannot fully describe, but then he rose from the dead.

Who can measure the depth of joy in our Savior's heart when he at last was able to say, "*it is finished.*" He must have been thankful that his excruciating pain and terrible sufferings were over. He endured the full fury of a God justly offended by the sins of the world. It is finished - the bitter sufferings were done with and the payment was made in full.

In this same way, followers of Christ can use these words. Millions of faithful Christians can at the end of their lives declare with thankful hearts, "it is finished." This life is not easy. For some it seems to be packed with problems. We are still battling sin and our sinful nature, the devil and the sinful world. We will still battle sufferings.

Although our suffering in no way compares with Jesus' suffering as the punishment for the world's sin, yet many a Christian welcomes that final moment when the Lord calls them away. They know that ahead of them is the life of joy and peace with the Lord, and they leave behind this world with its problems and troubles. They can say at the end of life with joy, "it is finished."

This is the blessed joy we, as believers in Jesus, look forward to. This is the blessed assurance we have as a result of the Holy Week we celebrated at the end of March and on April 1. Jesus' life, death and resurrection give us reason to rejoice in the fact that he has finished our salvation. Don't let go of this blessing as long as you live or when you die.



## ***Evangelism***

Your Evangelism Team continues looking for opportunities to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission. Here's a brief review of activities recently completed or planned for the future.

The Annual Family Bowling Event was held on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Wayne Webb Bowl on S. High Street. Our group was allocated 8 lanes for 3 hours of bowling; 33 bowlers participated, cheered on by 12 spectators. A few school parents joined church members to enjoy the fellowship and pizza.

Easter is fast approaching as this is penned. The team handed out door hangers in the neighborhood on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, for our April 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection Day services. We hope some of you were able to join us that Saturday to distribute invitations to attend a service (and breakfast.) After all, many hands (and feet) make short work of walking the area streets. And it should be everyone's goal to invite others to join us and celebrate our Lord's resurrection, which opened heaven's door to us! Additional notices were planned by way of an ad in the German Village Gazette and mention on our Facebook page.

Plans for our annual Easter Sunday "Sonrise" Service at Schiller Park were pretty well set as of this meeting. In view of the number of attendees last year, this year the deacons will set up 90-100 chairs for this service.

Other upcoming events for 2018 – greater details of which will appear in the Messenger and Sunday bulletins as the time draws near – include:

- The Merion Village Yard Sale on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. At this event we hand out water and provide information on our church and school to interested passers-by. More volunteers to take 2 hour shifts between 9 AM and 3 PM are always needed.
- Similarly, the German Village Yard Sale takes place on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Its hours are from 8 AM to 3 PM.
- Then in July comes the German Village Garden Tour at which we hold our annual Ice Cream Social in the courtyard parking lot area, and offer tours of the church.
- Later in September the Merion Village Festival takes place where we can again interface with the public and let them know about our church and school.

We also are careful at each meeting to note

blessings observed or experienced since our previous meeting. Noted at the March meeting: new member Stephanie Stanley received through adult confirmation on March 11<sup>th</sup>; new members actively involved with the congregation; recent visitors and returning visitors, some of whom have expressed interest in joining the church; even an inquiry about our school spurred by our Facebook social networking site. Another blessing we all can provide is to greet visitors when we see them at our worship services.

Please remember our monthly meetings are held on the second Mondays in the Upper Room at 6 PM. New members are always welcome, and the team asks that you prayerfully consider joining us at our meetings to impart your ideas and wisdom. You might be surprised how ideas and concepts once expressed can feed and expand off each other. Come give it a try!

*Dave Colegrove*  
*Evangelism Team Member*

## ***Thank You***

I thank Pastor and Vicar and all of my friends at St. Paul's for the prayers, phone calls, cards and flowers at the time of the death of my Mother, Ardella Hamler. Your kindness has been very helpful to me at this difficult time.

Love in Christ,  
Mary Lascola



We received and welcomed Stephanie Stanley into communicant membership by adult confirmation on March 11, 2018. She is joined by her daughter, Shannon, who was baptized here last year on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Shannon is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student in our school.



## Enrollment for 2018-2019

If you know of anyone interested in Christian education for their children, please share our school information with them! Ed Choice Scholarship renewals and new applications should be turned in now so that there is time to complete the online work to submit them to the Ed Choice Office. The state deadline for new applications is April 30<sup>th</sup>. There might be another window opening in the month of July but there is no guarantee for that!

### DC Trip

The trip plans are on schedule for April 3<sup>rd</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone that has supported the student fund raisers! There will be 10 students and 3 adults (including Mr. Galecki) going on the trip. We had our final planning meeting with parents and students and everything is on schedule and ready to go!



Apr 1	Easter Sunday
Apr 2-8	Easter Break
Apr 3-7	DC Trip
Apr 9	School resumes after break
April 9-Apr 27	ELA Ohio Testing
Apr 13	Teacher Professional Day – No School
May 4	WELS Track Meet
May 10	Ascension Day
May 11	PTO Talent Show
May 13	Confirmation Day
May 18	School Picnic
May 25	Last Day of School School Closing Service & Kdgt. & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

## ORGANIZATIONS



We send a special thank you to all who helped with the annual “Spring” cleaning in the sanctuary.

The work of the guild continues throughout the spring and summer months with the members taking care of the altar flowers, the candles, the acolyte robes, etc. A very important part of the ongoing work is the delivering of altar flowers to the hospitalized and homebound members. It is a very rewarding privilege to be able to visit with some of these members who do not get out very often and who miss being able to be with us in worship.

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, sign up on the calendar posted on the entryway bulletin board. The cost is \$25.00 for the Altar vases and \$15.00 for special flowers after the altar vases are taken.

*(Pat Ratz, president)*



### Last Spring Evening Women's Guild Meeting on April 13th

#### Evening Women's Guild

On Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, our ladies will meet at church at 6:30 PM. At this last spring meeting we will continue our Bible study of the book of Esther. We will also firm up plans for the upcoming Mother/Daughter banquet. All women are invited to attend. Refreshments are provided.

### Mother/Daughter Banquet on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

All women of the congregation and their daughters/friends are invited to attend St. Paul's annual Mother/Daughter Banquet on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. This year's theme is: “Growing in Christian Love.” A warm home-cooked meal, desserts, prizes, a devotion, and homespun entertainment always make the evening memorable. In the church fellowship hall tickets will be sold starting Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ticket prices are \$5 for youth 12-under and \$7 for adults. Consider who you could treat to this evening of food and fun! Questions? Call Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

**Needed: Volunteer Men, Boys & Teens on May 6th for the Mother/Daughter Banquet**

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:30 PM 12-15 men and boys of all ages are needed in the kitchen during the Mother/Daughter banquet. The male volunteers will host the dinner for the women and set out the desserts. Any help is appreciated. Dinner is free to all male volunteers.

**You can Participate in the Mother/Daughter Banquet**

With our theme being “Growing in Christian Love,” we want to give you the opportunity to show love and respect to your mother or perhaps another special woman who has played an important part in your life. You can do this by writing “A Tribute Legacy Letter” about that person and invite your special person to the Banquet! We will then type up the letters and display them on the walls at the Banquet. To make this easier for you, we are providing some suggested sample questions you can use when writing your letter. Sample sheets can be found in the narthex area at the back of church. *All letters should be turned in by April 23<sup>rd</sup>*. Pick up a sheet and get started right away! (Question? Ask Thia Thissen or Kathy Glende)

**An Evening Out with the Ladies on May 17<sup>th</sup>**

All ladies of the church are invited out to dinner at Plank’s Café and Pizzeria located at 743 Parsons Avenue in Columbus on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. The Evening Women’s Guild will join the Altar Guild for this opportunity to enjoy great food and fellowship. RSVP with Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305 at your earliest convenience.

*(Suzanne Geiger, president)*

**April Befriend a Mission Card for Pastor Boettcher**

Once again our church has an opportunity to send greetings to our Befriend a Mission Partner Pastor David Boettcher. Since April 29th is Pastor Boettcher’s birthday, we thought a card from his friends at St. Paul’s might be nice. Currently, Pastor Boettcher serves at St. John Lutheran Church in Wetaskiwin, AB, Canada and also at Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in Red Deer, AB, Canada.

This note of encouragement to Pastor Boettcher will be available to St. Paul’s members to sign until the middle of April. It will be passed around at

Sunday morning Bible class and made available in the narthex of church. Please take some time to send some birthday wishes.

**LWMS Rally at Peace of Our Savior in New Carlisle on Saturday, April 14**

The ladies of our congregation are invited to the spring rally of the Heartland Circuit of LWMS. Our guest presenter is Pastor Robert Krueger, Chairman of the Michigan District Mission Board. The event runs from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. A free breakfast and lunch are included for those attending. All are invited. A carpool will be leaving from church at 7:30 A.M. and returning by 5:00 PM. Questions? Contact Melinda Sims at 614-991-5697.

**Young at Heart**



We will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 19th in the church office meeting room. We will continue our study and discussion of **Predestination**. Please consider joining us. Call

Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571, if you would like more information.

*(Joyce Larger, coordinator)*



St. Paul’s has opportunities for teens to study and enjoy fellowship together. Teen Bible Study on the nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23) continues. All teens beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade are

welcome. Meet Sundays at 9:15 in the auditorium.

The Annual Teen Lock-in was March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 teens and 3 adults who enjoyed worship, Bible study, watching a movie, playing Wii games, board games, basketball and each other’s company. Pizza was provided for a 10:30 PM dinner and a ham and eggs breakfast was enjoyed at 7:00 AM. Thank you to all the teens who were there for cooperating on every level and encouraging one another with fun. The fellowship was a blessing. This month’s Youth Group gathering is April 8<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.

Gather immediately after the late service in the auditorium for food, devotion, and games.

Finally, the service project at the Alpha Pregnancy Center is rescheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to help. Please check Facebook for more information.

If you plan to attend the WELS International Youth Rally in June you are advised to register by April 30<sup>th</sup> for the early bird rate of \$345. After that you can register by May 31<sup>st</sup> for \$370. The funds from the Valentine's Dinner will be distributed after registration is finished.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicar Spaude  
Pastor Sims



## **New World Mission start in South America**

2018/03/20/in Together

This summer two missionaries from the One Latin America (1LA) mission team will be moving to Ecuador. This will be the first time WELS will have an active mission presence in the South American country. Rev. Nathan Schulte and Rev. Phil Strackbein have begun making arrangements to make the move. Schulte currently serves in Mexico, and Strackbein serves in Bolivia.



Schulte, a member of the 1LA team, explains, "In the beginning of November all the 1LA missionaries met in Mexico City to discuss a major training program we are developing and the relocation of different missionaries to best accomplish our goals as a team. We want to reach as many people as possible and to train people to be leaders in their own multiplying groups. The team had done extensive research on a number of major

cities in Latin America. Quito, Ecuador, eventually came to the top of the list for a number of reasons." One of the main contributing factors to the decision was the large number of Facebook users in Ecuador, more than 60,000, following Academia Cristo online. Academia Cristo is a WELS Spanish-language website with videos and audio Bible studies to reach out to non-Christians as well as to train Latin American church members how to share their faith.

A second contributing factor is that with a location in Ecuador, it puts the missionaries closer to other countries in South America where WELS can't permanently locate a missionary for safety or political reasons, but where interest in the gospel message has been demonstrated through active use of the Academia Cristo website.

And a third reason is, while WELS has never officially had a mission in Ecuador, Martin Luther College Spanish Professor Paul Bases has been taking groups of students there for years to teach English, and through that work, valuable connections have already been made.

Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions, says the main goal of the missionaries is to "facilitate the planting of small group churches in Quito and beyond." He says, "The idea is that in a short time, to connect Ecuadorean Christians to the online materials and relationships so that they're able to keep the ministry rolling even after our missionaries might leave."

Schulte says, "I love the fact that, from the start, we are focused on training Ecuadorians to study God's Word and to share it with others. They know their culture and situations better than I ever will and God has already placed them in their own unique contexts with their own connections and opportunities. I'm really looking forward to working to help them to do just that—share God's grace with others."



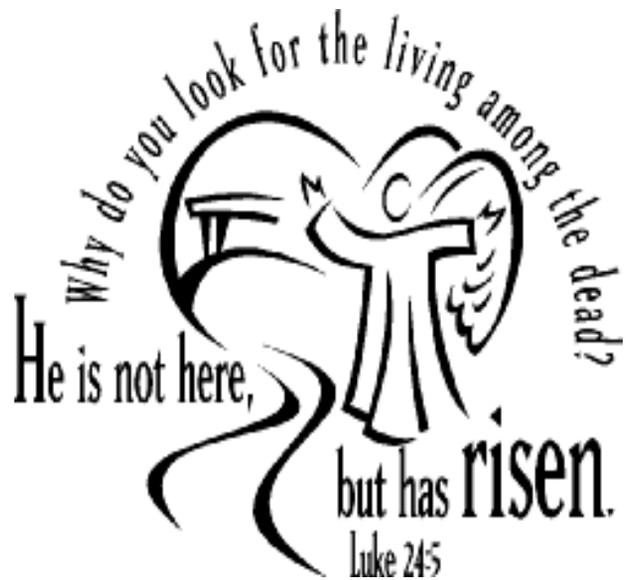
Rev. Phil and Kathryn Strackbein

The missionaries' first priorities will be to find a

location for a Christian training center while also settling in themselves and doing boots-on-the-ground work, meeting their neighbors and learning more about the community. To help this effort, two congregations, St. Matthew, Oconomowoc, Wis., and Goodview Trinity, Goodview, Minn., will be sending volunteers in May and June to host introduction workshops open to the Quito community. These two volunteer groups are the inaugural groups for the new WELS Missions Journeys program, which is starting to help coordinate opportunities and WELS members who want to volunteer in a WELS mission field.

Schulte says, “Ecuador, like all Latin America, is in desperate need of God’s grace. It is grace-starved. Even in many churches and Christian groups, the emphasis is not on Jesus and what he has done for us in our salvation. We want to bring people to the source of that grace—the Bible, to teach them to learn from it and to share it with others.”

Learn more about WELS Missions at [wels.net/missions](http://wels.net/missions) and check out Academia Cristo at [academiacristo.com](http://academiacristo.com).



## April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Resurrection Sunday</b> WELS Connection 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM Worship	<b>2</b> Easter Break: April 2-8 No School this Week  7:00 PM Board of Elders	<b>3</b> School DC Trip April 3-7	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Youth Group Gathering	<b>9</b>  6:00 PM Evangelism Team	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers	<b>11</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel  3:45 & 4:15 PM Jr. Bell Choir  6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>12</b>  7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	<b>13</b> Teacher Professional Day No School  6:30 PM Evening Women's Guild at church	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM -3:00 PM LWMS Heartland Circuit Mission Rally at New Carlisle, OH
<b>15</b> 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>16</b>  6:00 PM Bd. of Education	<b>17</b>  3:30 PM Lutheran Girl Pioneers	<b>18</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel  3:45 & 4:15 PM Jr. Bell Choir  6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>19</b>  10:00 AM Young at Heart  7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>23</b>  7:00 PM Church Council	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel  3:45 & 4:15 PM Jr. Bell Choir  6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>26</b> Pastors' Circuit Meeting  7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>30</b>	<u>Acolytes</u> <b>1-</b> (E) Sarah (L) Katie <b>8-</b> (E) Jamie (L) Cody <b>15-</b> (E) Jamie (L) Andres <b>22-</b> (E) Jamie (L) Braylon <b>29-</b> (E) Sarah (L) Dominic	<u>Greeters</u> <b>1-</b> (E) Thissen (L) Reiner <b>8-</b> (E) Howell (L) McDonald <b>15-</b> (E) Frye (L) Stewart/Cordrey <b>22-</b> (E) Poenisch (L) Balsar <b>29-</b> (E) Howell (L) Moehl	<u>Altar Committee</u> Lucille Ortiger Kathy Glende Sondra Meier		

