



## 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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*"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" – Hebrews 13:20,21*

A few days ago, the voters of St. Paul's voted to approve a list of priorities associated with renovating St. Paul's buildings. They also approved of using *Cornerstone Stewardship Ministries* to help with a fund appeal. Back on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the voters approved the short-term goal of renovating the church and school so they are presentable for us to celebrate our 200-year anniversary. The members wisely chose the theme "Preserving our Great Heritage – 200 years of God's Grace," to summarize it. Going back further, we remember all the other changes the voters have made: Mr. Galecki's call was made principal only. More teachers were called and are eager to start. And a LACE loan was approved, which has resulted in our roofs being repaired. A lot of changes have happened at St. Paul's, thanks to our voters.

Some of you might be thinking, "It's about time." While others might be thinking, "I'm optimistic, but I've been so before." Truth be told, there is reason to give pause and pray for God's help and guidance because with more change comes more uncertainty.

How will everything work out? Will we have enough funds to keep renovating? Will the workers do the work properly this time? The questions are many and they can cause us to become afraid. So where can we get peace?

We can't produce peace. We don't have the power to make lasting peace in our heart that does not swiftly depart in the face of uncertainty. This is why we need to reflect on our God who is peace and

produces it in us.

Our God of peace brought our great Shepherd back to life. Our Shepherd who feeds us with his words of grace, who makes us his own sheep, and who sacrificially allowed himself to be killed by the wolves – sin, death, and the devil.

The blood of Jesus is the centerpiece of God's covenant with us. It has appeased God's anger. It has wiped out our sins. And the proof is that through this bloody covenant, God raised Jesus to life. *If by this covenant God has raised Jesus to life, how much more do the blessings of this covenant apply to us who believe in it!* Especially since it is everlasting.

Our God of peace has certified our eternal wellbeing by raising Jesus from the dead. There is no greater peace than knowing our death has been vanquished. By Jesus' wounds and through faith in these promises we will live in peace with our Shepherd forever.

So while we wait for what is already promised to us, our God of peace promises to give us the gifts and abilities to do his will. He has put love for our Shepherd in our hearts so we have the proper motivation for these renovations. He has put love in our hearts to work together for our Shepherd's glory. He gives us the desire and drive to continue this work. He gives each of us wisdom and insight in its many forms to help with this bold mission. And he has given us so much more.

May our God of peace continue to work in us what is pleasing to him. We ask and pray this not because we are worthy, but because Jesus Christ is our great Shepherd, who intercedes for us. Trusting in him we can rest in peace each night knowing that we, and our work, are pleasing to our Lord. So whatever the future holds for St. Paul's, we forge on ahead with the peace of God within us and our Shepherd leading us.

- Pastor Schrimpf

## Vicar Farewell & Vicar Installation

On August 4, 2019, Vicar Swiderski will preach and conduct his final service here, while Vicar-elect Steinfeldt will be installed. We will have a joint potluck for them on that day, as well. Chicken will be provided. Please bring other main dishes, side dishes and salads. There will be cake and ice cream for dessert. Card and gift boxes will be provided for those who wish to remember the Swiderskis and the Steinfeldts in this way.

Please come and help to celebrate the Lord's continued blessings.

## Pastors' Institute

Pastors from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Pennsylvania and other states will be meeting at Beautiful Savior in Cincinnati on August 5-6 for continuing education. This year's presenter is Dr. Brandon Hayes. He will be addressing the topic of "Ministering to People with Addictions."

Pastor Sims and Melinda, Pastor Schrimpf and Victoria, and Vicar Steinfeldt will be attending. There will be studies for the wives, as well as activities.

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

We want to thank everyone that was able to come out to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary with us. Your love and support is a blessing to our marriage every day. The cards were so very sweet and sentimental.

With our love,  
Josh & Thia Thissen



## Enrollment for 2019-2020

Our enrollment for 2019-2020 is projected to be 95. The kindergarten class is full for the coming year with 18 students. Most of the other classrooms are also nearing capacity limits. Please share our school information with others! We are very

thankful that God has already blessed us with many new students!

## Teacher Inservice

In-service for the teachers will begin on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. All of the teachers will be here each day meeting and working together getting ready for the school year.

## Ohio WELS Teachers Meet

The WELS teachers in Ohio will come to St. Paul's on August 12<sup>th</sup> to study curriculum and collaborate on educational topics. They will be coming from Beautiful Savior in Cincinnati, Beautiful Savior in Grove City, Trinity in Jenera and Zion in Toledo.

## School Theme

The school theme for the 2019-2020 school year is "**Water Walkers.**" This theme is based on the account of Jesus walking on water.

## Curriculum Update

We have a new Social Studies curriculum and a new lower grade reading series for this school year.



- August 4 Farewell to Vicar Swiderski and welcome for Vicar-elect Steinfeldt  
There will be a potluck meal after the the 10:30 AM Worship Service
- Aug. 5 Faculty Inservice Begins
- Aug 12 Ohio WELS teachers meet  
at St. Paul's
- Aug. 15 Registration Day  
11 AM-2 PM & 4 PM-7 PM
- Aug. 22 First Day of School (2019-2020)
- Sept. 2 Labor Day Holiday
- Sept. 20 School Field Trip
- Oct. 9-11 MDTC Teacher Conference
- Oct. 18 Teacher In-Service Day
- Oct. 25 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- Oct. 30 Spelling Bee



## Evangelism

Greetings from your Evangelism Team, which continues looking for opportunities to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission.

Here's a summary of activities discussed at our July meeting.

We learned the Young Adult Bible Class that meets every other Saturday at various locations usually has three attendees. The pastoral staff is considering whether resources might be better utilized taken in a different direction in order to build ownership in this group. No decision has been made yet.

Some blessings cited this meeting included Mark Greiner organizing two successful garden work days on our campus, with the Morgan family being very helpful with the landscaping; young people are joining the congregation; church officer Joe Baumann's health has improved sufficiently to not only allow him to attend worship and the Sunday adult Bible class, but also meetings of the boards to which he was elected.

By the time this report is published, we will have experienced our annual Ice Cream Social in conjunction with the Merion Village Garden Tour, held on July 14th. From noon till 3:00 p.m. we offered not only ice cream to passersby, but also tours of our sanctuary. We hoped to have one or more of our students on hand during this time to provide information on our school if visitors were interested. The poster boards displayed in past years for this event will again be on hand, chronicling the history of our congregation.

Preparations for VBS, to be held Monday, July 22, thru Friday, July 26, were going well. We planned to distribute VBS flyers in rgw neighborhood on July 15<sup>th</sup> and to visitors during our Ice Cream Social/church tours event the preceding Sunday. And we hope to follow up with VBS students/parents who don't have a church home.

Farther in the future is the Merion Village Festival, to be held September 8th, at which we have a presence. Details to be addressed at our August meeting.

Even farther in the future is our church picnic, held annually in September. We'll talk more about this event, and set a date, at our August meeting.

Can you believe it's less than six months till

Christmas as you read this?! We're already working on an outreach date for Christmas, at which invitations to our Christmas services will be distributed. December is an extremely busy month for weekend activities on our campus, so a date for this activity is not yet cast in stone.

Thinking even further out, we all need to be aware the 200th anniversary date for this congregation is August 6, 2021, only two years away now! It is not too early to begin prepping for this celebration. With that thought in mind, our team was tasked with bringing ideas for the 200th celebration to our next meeting. We in turn invite the congregation to suggest ideas - no matter how outlandish they may seem at the moment - to team members, or to a church officer, or to the pastoral staff. We want the entire congregation to be involved in this momentous event. Remember, we have the distinction of being the oldest Lutheran congregation in the city of Columbus!

As you can see from the preceding, there is much planning ahead of us, and we welcome new members to come to our meetings to impart their ideas and wisdom. We normally meet the second Monday of each month in the Upper Room. However, please note that in August we will be meeting on Tuesday, August 20th, at 6:00 p.m. Come give it a try!

Dave Colegrove  
Evangelism Team Member

## Keep Our Church and School Renovations in Your Prayers

Members of St Paul's,

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain (Psalm 127:1). “ Therefore, let us keep all the renovations in our daily prayers. Pray that God blesses the workers to do their work faithfully. Pray that the Lord allows the repairs/renovations to be swift and long lasting. Above all, give thanks to God for allowing these renovations to commence. He is so good to us. He gives us our daily bread by providing a place to worship our risen Savior and by giving 98 children a dry place to learn about Jesus this school year. Praise God for moving your hearts to support this great and noble task!

“When the builders laid the foundation of the

temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." Ezra 3:10-11

I thank God for all of you and pray the grace of Christ makes you courageous and joyful as you trust in him,  
Pastor Schrimpf

## ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will have a regular meeting on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. The Guild continues to serve by taking care of the altar flowers, altar paraments, altar candles and acolytes' robes as well as carrying out other responsibilities throughout the summer months.

There are still openings on the Altar Flower Calendar for 2019. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please check it out and sign up. The cost is \$25.00 for the altar vases and \$15.00 for special flowers after the altar vases are taken.

The Altar Committee for August is Suzanne Geiger, Tammy McFarland and Dawn Howell.  
*(Pat Ratz, president)*



### Evening Women's Guild

The Evening Women's Guild takes a break from regular meetings during the summer months. Monthly meetings start up again on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Three of our ladies attended the National Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention in Des Moines, Iowa on June 27<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>. Our guild actively supports the LWMS with offerings and by attending Circuit Rallies in spring and fall. Our circuit along with the circuit in northern Ohio will be hosting the Annual

Convention in 2021. Plans are to hold the convention in Cincinnati since the Columbus convention centers were all booked up. We are looking forward to this special opportunity!

*(Suzanne Geiger, president)*

### Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, August 15, at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will begin our discussion on Church Fellowship. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.

*(Joyce Larger, coordinator)*



The tables were turned in Teen Bible Class as Vicar Swiderski asked the teens a series of Catechism-related questions for a few rounds of "Stump the Teens." Prizes were awarded to the teens

who answered the most questions correctly. Overall, Stump the Teens turned out to be a fun review of some basic Bible principles.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the teens bid farewell to Vicar and Hannah Swiderski during the final monthly meetup they would get to enjoy with the teens. Vicar-elect Matthew Steinfeldt was also in attendance, and he enjoyed his opportunity to get acquainted with some of the teens he would be working with in his own upcoming vicar year.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Vicar Tyler Swiderksi*



### Every Member Visits With Pastor Schrimpf

Pastor thanks the members who have called him and made appointments for a visitation. He would like to finish up the visits this summer. For those who have yet to make an appointment, feel free to call him anytime (614-817-2812).



## **Synod convention begins July 29**

**2019/07/16/in Together**

*The 65th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held at Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., July 29–Aug. 1. The convention will be attended by over 400 voting and advisory delegates. Approximately half of the delegates are lay, with the other half being pastors, teachers, and staff ministers.*

*The opening service for the convention will be held Mon., July 29, at 6:30 p.m., in the Chapel of the Christ at MLC. The convention opens on Tuesday morning after the presentation of the flags by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society. The first order of business is the election for synod president, to be followed as soon as possible by the election for the synod second vice president. Tuesday morning will also include an overview of the mission opportunity in Vietnam, a presentation of the synod’s ministry financial plan, and the report of the synod president.*

*After the election for president and second vice president is concluded, elections for other offices will take place whenever possible on the schedule.*

*Along with reports from all areas of the synod’s ministry, the convention will act on a recommendation for a formal declaration of fellowship with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ–Kenya, and with a public affirmation of our synod’s fellowship with Christian Lutheran Evangelical Church in Taiwan, formally a WELS mission but now an independent synod.*

*Floor committees will prepare reports and resolutions dealing with all areas of ministry and support services.*

*More than 20 memorials have been submitted for consideration. (Memorials are requests from individuals, congregations, or groups for convention action.) These memorials have been assigned to floor committees, which will then make recommendations to the plenary convention. In addition, numerous proposed changes to the synod’s bylaws will be considered by the convention.*

*Closing worship is scheduled to take place on Thursday afternoon and will include the installation of the newly elected officers.*

*The majority of the convention will be streamed live. The livestream can be found at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention).*

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## **New seminary planned for Indonesia**

**2019/07/16/in Together**

Groundbreaking for a new seminary facility for *Gereja Lutheran Indonesia* (GLI), WELS’ sister church in Indonesia, took place in May. This will replace the current seminary, which is on the island of Java. “It is one of many steps in the process of indigenization and coming of age as a daughter denomination of WELS and a member church of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference,” says Prof. Gregory Bey, professor at *Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Lutheran* (STTL), GLI’s seminary. “It gives GLI a sense of stability and permanence.”

The new location will offer other advantages, including space for the students and professors to live on campus. Currently students commute back and forth from the dorm to the seminary classrooms, and the professors rent places to live. “A new campus will allow for one location with all the facilities in one place,” says Bey. The local community and its government officials also have approved this new building project. Bey says that they pray construction will be completed in the next two years.

The new campus will be located close to one of GLI’s oldest congregations, which started nearly 30 years ago. “Initially the small band of believers met as a ‘house church’ as in the days of the apostles,” says Bey. “Eventually, nearby land was purchased, then a worship facility was erected, and finally a small ‘pastori’ or parsonage was added.” One of the sons of the congregation even served the church as its called worker. Having this congregation nearby will allow students to have a place for worship while they are away from home and a support group of like-minded Christians. It also will give them opportunities to gain practical ministry experience.

WELS first established a seminary to train Indonesian called workers in the mid-1980s. Classes were temporarily suspended in the mid-1990s for various reasons, but the seminary was reopened in 1998. Now almost all the classes are taught by national pastors, with Bey being the only full-time foreign professor. Currently seven students are enrolled, and three new students will potentially start in August.

WELS declared fellowship with the GLI in 2003. Twenty-five national pastors serve 1,239 people in 6 congregations and 23 preaching stations. This includes four pastors who teach full-time in the seminary.

Learn more about the work in Indonesia at [wels.net/missions](http://wels.net/missions).

