



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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"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end." – Isaiah 9:6-7

We hear these verses almost every Christmas. Uttering only a few of the words brings the promised Savior to mind almost immediately. But our familiarity with the verses isn't only because of the annual reading of Isaiah 9. It comes also from cherishing these words and how they describe our Savior. For me, I have begun to dwell upon the word "peace" more than I have in the past.

Part of it has to do with how busy December has become now that I have a family and pastoral responsibilities. Before the Lord blessed me with these great blessings, I had all kinds of time for activities and going places. But now it's different. December seems to be filled up with events and important obligations by September. It's a flurry of church services, preparations, and family activities. For a month in which we say the word "peace" abundantly, there certainly is a lot to do. I can't help but think it would be nice if time stood still like it did for Joshua (Joshua 10:12-14) so I could enjoy that word a little more.

But as nice as it would be for time to delay itself, it wouldn't give me the lasting peace I need. I need a peace that can't come from physical rest. I need the peace of Jesus, the ruler of peace. Only he has the authority and power to bestow peace to my troubled heart. For our offenses are ever with us, Isaiah 59:12 says. We try to ignore them, make excuses for them, and rationalize them. But Satan knows how to keep prodding us about our sins. He knows how to make us feel bad and restless because of our wrongs. No matter what we do, we can't give

ourselves peace.

Yet, in came the Prince of Peace to our tumultuous, troubled lives. God himself entered our earthly story by being born of the virgin Mary and brought with himself the greatest titles any human being has ever carried. He is THE Counselor. The only true God. The giver of all good blessings. The Ruler of peace. Hearing that his government and rule is one of peace is truly comforting. For if Jesus rules with peace and by peace, he is quite different from earthly princes and rulers. His peace was born in our hearts through the message of free forgiveness. By allowing himself to be accused and condemned, he took away Satan's ability to accuse us. By faith in him, we have peace with God. And even if our hearts still bother us at times, Jesus' promises of forgiveness are greater than our hearts and Satan's accusations (1 John 3:20).

Not only is this so, but the verse says the greatness of his ruling power and peace will have no end. Unlike earthly peace that is intermittent and uncertain, Jesus' peace doesn't pass away. It remains intact forever. It doesn't end like the season of Christmas. For nothing in this world can overthrow Jesus' government in our hearts.

Whether or not your December is filled to the max, I encourage you to take sufficient time to consider the authority Jesus has. He reigns with peace in your heart through faith. Nothing can overthrow this peace and nothing can overthrow it from your heart. Not Satan, not even his false accusations.

May Jesus' peace lift up your hearts as you listen again to how he came into this world. May your hearts be drawn to hear how *Peace* came into this world with power and authority. I pray this *Peace* gives you great joy and eagerness to share it with others. Amen.

Pastor Schrimpf



We continue to receive offerings for the "Preserving Our Great Heritage" project. We thank God for moving the hearts of our people to

respond with gifts of love. We have reached \$362,895.00 in pledges and we are nearing our goal of \$400,000. We will keep the pledge box in the narthex for a while so that anyone can still bring a promise sheet in at any time. The Church Council and Boards will meet and discuss plans moving forward. You will be receiving updates as we are able to proceed with the various projects in our plan. May God continue to bless our efforts.



Melinda and I want to thank those who have provided a few meals to give Melinda a breather, as she continues to care for her

one legged husband. They were enjoyed and appreciated.

I send a huge thank you for all the cards that were shared with me from members and by most of the students, from Kindergarten through eighth grade, in our school. Thank you, teachers, for giving your students the opportunity to share their love and serve in this way. I smiled at many of the younger children's words and drawings, and I was deeply touched by the thoughts and insights of the older children.

We also want to thank those five individuals who were able to share their time last Sunday to help rake and gather leaves. Much work was done and it is greatly appreciated.

With hearts filled with gratitude,
Pastor and Melinda Sims

Call Meeting – November 24, 2019

Miss Sandra O'Laire was extended a Divine Call on Sunday, November 24th, to teach kindergarten here at St. Paul's. She currently serves at St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee, WI. Please pray for her and St. Marcus and St. Paul's as she gathers information, deliberates the two calls she is holding and finally comes to a peaceful decision for the good of God's kingdom.

Election of Church Officers

The Election of Church Officers will take place on December 1st and 8th. The ballots and ballot box will be located in the narthex. The Constitution will be available for anyone who may still need to sign it.

Eligible voting members are men, 18 years and older, who have signed the Church Constitution.

Slate of Candidates for Elections

The following names are those who have agreed to place their names on the ballot for election to church offices.

Elders: Joe Baumann (I), John Frye (I), Phil Glende (I), Mark Greiner (I), Josh Thissen, Barry Weber (4 positions open)

Board of Education: John Frye (I), Josh Thissen (2 positions open)

Trustees: Jim Heinlein (I), Ron McDonald (I), Dana Rettig (I) (3 positions open)

Deacons: Matt Ratz (I), Anil Seeli (I), Pierce Thissen (I), Tom Kitzerow (5 positions open)



If you enjoy singing Christmas carols, come and join us for our annual trip to visit homebound members. We will gather following the Sunday School pageant on December 15th to go caroling at the homes or facilities of some of our homebound members. After caroling we return to the auditorium for some food & fellowship. We hope to get to the first home by about 5-5:30 PM and be finished by 8:00 PM.



**Joint Advent Service
WELS Congregations of Columbus**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019
7:00 PM**

**Shepherd of Peace, Powell
520 Village Park Drive**

*A joint adult choir and individual
church choirs will sing during the service.
Light food and refreshments will be
served following the service.*

Make plans to join your brothers and sisters from
other congregations to prepare for the coming
of our Savior!

Christmas Food Baskets

We plan to prepare 30 baskets *or more if possible*. Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the kitchen any time before Friday, December 20th. (Items to consider bringing are: canned tuna or canned chicken, noodles, spaghetti and sauce, cereal, cookies, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, toiletry items, etc.)

You may also give cash donations which will be used to purchase perishable items such as meat, milk, eggs, fresh fruit, margarine, etc. Because we would like to prepare more baskets, the cash donations will be very helpful.

Right now we are lacking soup, fruit, tuna, canned chicken and boxes of cereal. We do have some people that need assistance even before the boxes come out.



SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 15th – 3:00 PM

Lutheran School Christmas Service

Thursday, December 19th – 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th – 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Sing-a-long

Wednesday, December 25th – 9:15 AM

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25th – 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 31st – 7:00 PM
with Holy Communion

Class Trip

This Year's Class Trip to New York City will take place on March 12th-16th. Students have begun selling Anthony Thomas candy bars as a fund raiser to help with their cost for the trip. Be watching for more information and suggestions of ways that you can help with this activity.

Student Council

A student council has been selected. It is made up of students from grades 5-8. They will serve as representatives of our school when guests and visitors come and they will also be available to help at various functions throughout the year. The student council will have meetings to talk about their responsibilities and to give their thoughts on ways to help our school be strong. The following students serve on student council: Jaelan Howell, Steven Wolfe, Katie McDonald, Leah Parker, Avery Martin, Cambell Harper, Katie Stewart, Kylie Stewart and Diamond Johnson.

Christmas Service

The school Christmas Service entitled, **Ring Out the Good News**, will be held on Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. The children have been working diligently on songs and narrations for the service. We invite all of you to set the evening aside for this special service and come to hear the children tell the message of the birth of the Savior!



Dec. 19	Christmas Service at 7:00 PM
Dec. 20	Christmas Parties
Jan. 6	School begins after Christmas
Jan. 13	Teacher Inservice – No School
Jan. 20-21	Pastor/Teacher Conference No School



Evangelism

This month the Evangelism Team **NEEDS YOUR HELP**. Dates are set for the distribution of invitations to the community to attend our Christmas services. Please look over the dates and mark your calendar to come and help! We need many bodies to get these invitations out to as many people as possible. The dates are **Friday, December 6th at 4:15 PM and Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 AM and at 12:00 Noon**. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come and be a part of inviting people to join us at St. Paul's to hear the message of our newborn Savior!

Dates were set for the annual Chili Cook-Off (January 12th at 5:30 PM) and the Family Bowling (February 23rd from 3:00-6:00 PM). Mark your calendars and start thinking of friends to invite!

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Friendship Sunday was held on November 24th. All school families were invited. A few attended. Members were encouraged to invite friends and relatives. We thank the Lagers for heading up the kitchen crew

for the delicious meal!

Our next meeting is at 6:00 PM on Monday, December 9th. We hope to see you there with new evangelism ideas!

Evangelism Team Member

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will have their next meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.

The Altar Guild has set the date for decorating the church for Christmas as Saturday, November 30th beginning at 8:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome. Come anytime in the morning and join the fun!

It is also time to **sign up for Poinsettias** to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$12.00. Sign up on Sunday or call the church office if you would like to sponsor a plant



The new Altar Flower Calendar for 2020 will be posted in mid-December. At that time you can start to sign up for the new year. 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 December is Lucille Ortziger, Audra McDonald, and Tammy McFarland.
(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

All Ladies are Invited to a December 7th Christmas Luncheon

Mark your Calendars: On Saturday, December 7th, from 12:00 noon – 3:00 PM, the Evening Women's Guild of St. Paul's will be hosting their annual Christmas party. All women of the congregation are invited to enjoy an Advent devotion, Christmas caroling, fun-filled games, and a fine meal with desserts. Afterwards, our luncheon guests usually make plans to carry our Christmas gifts to the shut-ins of St. Paul's. The visits from

our members are always appreciated by those unable to leave their homes regularly. RSVP to Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305. Those interested in attending the luncheon should bring along the following items: a dish to share, a \$10 gift to exchange, and a crazy Christmas hat to wear.

Charitable Giving

At the November meeting, our ladies voted to disperse \$50 contributions to each of the following individuals/organizations: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Pantry, Home Missionary Philip Loescher at Crown of Life in Cadillac, Michigan, the student financial aid fund of Martin Luther College's Equipping Christian Witnesses Campaign, and to the world mission Hmong Outreach in Vietnam. A big thank you to all of those individuals who contributed funds to these causes.

Shut-In Gift Creation & Delivery

Each year at the end of the Evening Women's Guild Christmas party, those attending generously step forward and offer to carry a gift from our church to our shut-in members. This year Barb Abel provided her own artistic skills to stain several crosses to give away. Thank you to Barb for her generous heart. Some girls from school will also be joining us to make Advent decorations for the shut-ins. A big thank you to those who go to the Christmas luncheon and then give the gift of a visit to those who are unable to leave home regularly.

January 10th Evening Women's Guild Meeting

The next Evening Women's Guild meeting will be hosted by Victoria Schrimpf at 2346 Boston Mills Drive in Grove City. The 6:30 PM meeting will take place on Friday, January 10th, 2020. Our meeting will consist of a devotion, an ongoing Bible study series on the women of the Bible, and a discussion of Mother/Daughter themes and entertainment options. Refreshments will also be served during our time of fellowship.

2020 LWMS Convention in Athens, Georgia

The 57th Annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention will be held June 25-28, 2020 in Athens, Georgia at The Classic Center, 300 N. Thoms St. Athens, Georgia. Join together with 1000 fellow mission supporters for a Christian

gathering that will include worship services, workshops, speakers, displays, fellowship, and fun. Hotel rooms will open in January of 2020. If you are considering attending the convention, it would be wise to make hotel reservations as soon as the rooms are available since the convention hotels often fill up in a matter of days. Check the lwms.org web site for more information or contact Melinda Sims. Note: Stipends of up to \$250 are available for first-time attendees depending on availability.

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, December 19th, at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will continue our study of Church Fellowship led by Vicar Steinfeldt. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions. *(Joyce Larger, coordinator)*



The Youth Group plans to go to the mall and shop for gifts for our shut-ins (bring \$20). Lunch at the mall will be provided! The date is still to be determined. This will be a wonderful opportunity to serve our shut-ins in such a way. As Jesus says: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Get ready Youth Group! We have another excellent opportunity to meet together, to enjoy one another's company, and to appreciate what our faithful God has done for us.

-Vicar Steinfeldt



Hymnal Project continues to move forward

2019/11/19/in Together

The WELS Hymnal Project Executive Committee met for its final face-to-face meeting this month. This 14-member committee charged with carrying out the development of the new hymnal and its auxiliary resources started meeting in 2013.

At that meeting, the committee made final decisions on the two main pew books—the Hymnal pew edition and the Psalter pew edition—before sending the files to Northwestern Publishing House for editing, proofreading, and layout.

“There was a temporary pause for reflection at the meeting,” says Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project, “but there are still a lot of things to finish to get the balance of the books out.”

Schultz is talking about the 15 to 17 books and 3 digital products that will accompany the hymnal—the majority of which will be released at the same time as the hymnal in Advent 2021. Several subcommittees of the WELS Hymnal Project are continuing to write and develop these materials that will provide direction, support, and resources to pastors, worship planners, musicians, and choir directors. The Technology Committee especially is ramping up as it takes finished materials and inputs them into a digital service builder software program.

To begin introducing the new hymnal to WELS members, the WELS Hymnal Project is releasing a

64-page preview booklet at the January 2020 WELS Leadership Conference in Chicago. Each congregation also will receive multiple copies of the booklet. Schultz says the booklet will show features of the new hymnal, psalter, and other resources so that congregations can start planning for the hymnal’s release. A formal Hymnal Introduction Program will start at the same time, offering introductions to the products that are coming out, ideas for introducing the hymnal to members, as well as tips for funding. New hymnal materials also will be highlighted and featured at the next worship conference in 2021.

Schultz says the executive committee will still meet online as products continue to be finalized. He says, “There’s still a lot of work to do!”

Read more from Schultz in his October Forward in Christ article. Learn more about the work of the WELS Hymnal Project at weshymnal.com.

Notes about the hymnal project from the MI District Worship Coordinator:

Two of the most common questions received about the hymnal project are:

1) What are approximate pricings? *We want to start budgeting now.*

At this time, the pew edition is \$24.00; accompaniment edition, two 8.5x11 spiral-bound volumes of about 759 pages each is \$95.00; the Psalter, about 700 pages, 400+ different settings is \$22.00 and the Worship Builder, a digital resource similar to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's "Lutheran Service Builder", cost will cover current licensing fees (Onelicense, CCLI) - there is not tentative price yet.

2) What else can congregations be doing now already? *This is a golden opportunity to teach worship principles, to strengthen worship planning and collaboration, to build a culture of anticipation and happy receptivity for new materials, and to involve more people in executing worship. A variety of worship education resources are available at: <https://worship.welsrc.net/download-worship/worship-education/>*

