



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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The Peter Plan by Pastor Sims

Dear friends in Christ,

The Board of Elders is expanding our present way of addressing delinquent members by making use of *The Peter Plan*. The goal of *The Peter Plan* is simple – to better feed our members' souls with God's life-saving Word. We have had a number of parts in place for some time. We are refining the use of those items in this plan. More details will be in the Sunday bulletins over the next few weeks.

It is St. Peter who wrote, "**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them...**" (1 Peter 5:2). Peter compares the care a congregation gives its members to the care a shepherd gives to sheep. (The word "pastor" is simply Latin for "shepherd".)

A shepherd's job was two-fold: to feed and protect the sheep. Those are both tasks that are done with God's Word. God's Word feeds our faith, sustaining it and making it stronger. And since our faith is in the gracious King of Kings and Lord of Lords, nothing can really hurt us, not even death.

Peter had to encourage congregational leaders to "be shepherds." It is a joyful task, but also a difficult one. Especially if the "flock" is decent sized, it is easy for sheep to slip away without being noticed. One of the biggest challenges in a congregation is keeping track of who is being fed with God's Word.

It can be very difficult for a pastor or church leader to remember who is present on any given Sunday. It is impossible to remember everyone who has missed two or three Sundays in a row. Simply relying on memory, a congregation will not accurately know who is being fed by God's Word and who is not.

This is not good. Imagine a member named Jim was not able to make it to any of our worship

services because of a change in his work schedule. Currently, it is possible that Jim could be absent for months before someone realized, "*Hey, I haven't seen Jim in awhile.*" Someone might say, "*Well, Jim should have told the pastor he would be absent.*" That is true. Part of the fault is on Jim. However, Peter told a congregation to care for people like a shepherd cares for a sheep. **That puts responsibility on the congregation too.** The congregation would want to have a system in place so that it would know that Jim was absent. That way, someone could take Jim devotions and the Lord's Supper at a time that fit Jim's work schedule, until he could return to worship.

Or imagine a member named Cathy has what she thought was going to be a minor surgery, but there are complications. She heals slowly. Cathy is homebound for six weeks. She thought about calling the church, but she was afraid she was going to be a bother. "*Be shepherds!*" Peter says. We want a system in place to identify that Cathy had been absent, not only so it could continue to care for her spiritual needs, but also so it could provide help in her time of physical need with visits or meals.

The core of the plan is simple. We are encouraging **everyone** to sign the Friendship registers to record their presence. This will allow us to follow up after the first "check point" of four weeks of absence. The follow up would **simply to see if everything is ok.** We can offer the Word and Sacrament to that member in other ways if something is preventing them from attending worship. And if it would be something else that is keeping them from worship, it gives us a chance to discuss that with them too.

St. Peter says that the Good Shepherd wants to feed his sheep regularly. That is the good and godly goal of *The Peter Plan*.

Lent Midweek Services by Pastor Sims

The Lent season starts on February 14th this year with Ash Wednesday. We will have a normal soup supper at 6:00 PM and our worship service at 7:00 PM. You can participate in the Imposition of Ashes during the worship service.



Once again, the Columbus pastors and vicars will rotate throughout the six week season. What a wonderful opportunity for members from all our congregations to be blessed by the fellowship we enjoy to be able to have someone other than our own pastor share God's Word with us.

Please take the opportunities to worship with fellow Columbus believers and have time to fellowship with them over a bowl or two of soup. This is a great way to build up one another.

The theme for this year is: **Jesus is our Great High Priest.** We will learn that he is our perfect High Priest, that he makes us priests, that he is our Great High Priest, our self-sacrificing High Priest, our compassionate High Priest and our High Priest who serves at a great altar.

Evangelism

Greeting! Our congregation started off 2018 with many blessings. We thank God for keeping us safe during the snow days, as well as the "heatwave" we got in January. Here's a brief review of what the Evangelism Team worked on and planned for the future.

We've had quite a few visitors recently at St. Paul's. The Evangelism Team has been following up with them and our church information was also shared. Please keep them in your prayers and hopefully they will come back to worship with us.

Our Annual Chili Cook-off was a great success. We had 8 entries and Mrs. Joyce Larger won the Kid's Choice Award. For the Adult's Choice, Pastor Sims placed 3rd, Mr. John Frye placed 2nd, and Mrs. Dara Baumann won the 1st place. 51 people showed up to the event. Besides the delicious chili and other foods, there were also board games, NFL playoff games and great fellowship.

Some upcoming events in February: The date for our Annual Bowling Event will be March 4th. Check out Sunday bulletins for more updates.

The Evangelism Team plans to have more events to share the Gospel, as well as serve our congregation in 2018, and we'd like to hear from you. Therefore, feel free to join us if you are interested. Our next meeting will be **February 12th at 6:00 pm.**

Tony Deng
The Evangelism Team Chair

Homebound Members by Pastor Sims

We have a list of members who are homebound for many different reasons. Some spend their days alone. Some have family members who are working, but are able to stop in every now and then to check on them or give them a phone call. Some are at their homes, while others are in an assisted care facility.

They all are interested in what is going on with their congregation. They enjoy the visits I and the Vicar make on them for a devotion, communion and conversation. Ladies from the altar guild will drop off flowers and visit for a while. Thank you for that. But a number of our homebound people recently mentioned how they really don't hear from any or very few members from church.

I am writing to encourage those of you who are able to get out and about, who are able to write a short note or get a card, to take the time to get connected with some of our homebound members.

Many wish they could be in worship, but are unable to do so. It is a wonderful blessing you can provide by doing something very simple. You can brighten their day with a phone call, letter or card.

Take Paul's words to the Philippians and make them your own: *I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)*

Let *Inez Behnke, Evelyn Blessing, Pat and Jeff Gramelt, Catherine Lang, Mary Lascola, Lenore Lyle, Paul Minot, Ned Nixon, Phyllis Peck, Jim and Dee Perkins, Judy Poenisch, Brandon Tyler, John Westlake and Barry Weber* know that you have them in your thoughts and prayers.

New Member

We received and welcomed Tammy McFarland into communicant membership by adult confirmation on January 14th, 2018. Tammy is joined by her two children, Avery and Emma Martin, who are students in our school.

Volunteer Table by Pastor Sims

There is a table set up in the narthex with sheets listing all the activities and events that St. Paul's hosts, sponsors or carries out throughout the year. All members are encouraged to find a spot where you can use your time and talents to serve the Lord, one another and our community.

Please take a moment to look over the sheets. The coordinators will need to be addressed and shared later. There were some spots that were vacant and need to be filled. This gives us the opportunity to reach out to others who may have an interest in serving as coordinators.



School Open House

On Tuesday, February 27th, beginning at 5:30 PM, there will be a School

Open House. Parents who are interested in Christian education for their children can come, see our school, meet teachers, board of education members and some school families. The Open House gives us an opportunity to meet the parents and talk about what our school has to offer them, especially the Gospel that we will share with them and their children.

The Educational Choice Scholarship window opens in February. If you know of anyone interested in Christian education for their children, please share information about the Open House, or better yet, bring them to the Open House!

MLS Basketball Tournament

A group of students, parents and teachers will be traveling to Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI on February 2nd and 3rd to participate in a Co-Ed Basketball Tournament. Pray for safe travels and an enjoyable visit at one of our WELS high schools which prepares students for becoming pastors or teachers.

Science Fair

The date for our Science Fair is Friday, February 23rd. The students are preparing to work on their science projects and meet the various deadlines. You are all invited to save the date of February 23rd and come to the Science Fair and view the projects the students will have prepared.



Feb 14	Valentine Parties
Feb 19	No School – Presidents' Day
Feb 23	Science Fair @ 7:00 PM
Feb 27	School Open House (times??)
Mar 2	Teacher Professional Day
	No School
Mar 16	Jump Rope Contest
Mar 16	End of 3 rd Quarter
Mar 22-23	Parent-Teacher Conferences
	Dismiss at 2 PM Thursday
	No School of Friday

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will have its next meeting on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 PM.

The members of the guild care for the altar paraments, candles and flowers. We have Saturday, March 17th at 9:30 AM set as a tentative date for our annual "Spring cleaning" in church. If you are interested in the work of this group, consider coming to the meeting or talking to one of the members about how we serve. We are always happy to have new members.

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.

The Altar Committee for February is Lori Witt, Suzanne Geiger and Audra McDonald.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

February 16th Evening Women's Guild Meeting

The next Evening Women's Guild meeting is scheduled to take place at church. Suzanne Geiger will serve as host and Melinda Sims will lead the devotion. The 6:30 PM meeting on Friday, February 16th will include a devotion, a Bible study on Ruth, and a discussion of other business. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

Thanks to the Pastor/Teacher Lay Delegate Conference Volunteers

St. Paul's was the host site of the Pastor/Teacher/Lay Delegate Conference for two very snowy days on January 15th and January 16th. As hosts, we had the privilege of feeding 50-60 pastors, teachers and delegates five meals.

Special thanks to the following who helped extensively with the meals preparations: the Lagers, the Baumanns, Paula Hickman, Denise Wilson, Lucille Ortziger, and the Glendes. Additional thanks goes to those who ushered/shoveled on Monday evening: Matt Ratz and Anil Seeli.

Soup Suppers Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The Women's Guild will be planning our traditional 6:00 PM soup suppers prior to the 7:00 PM Lenten worship services. There are many opportunities for anyone who would like to prepare a roaster full of soup for one of the evenings. If you would like to sign up, please talk to Kathy Glende to schedule a date.

LWMS Send One Sister Stipend 2018 Application Form

The LWMS Heartland Circuit Board of Officers recognizes that one of the most convincing and effective means of supporting and promoting not only the organization of LWMS, but missions in general, is for an individual to participate in an annual international convention. Therefore, the Board is extending stipends for our members to attend the international convention June 21-24, 2018 in Green Bay, Wisconsin as funds allow. Applications must be received by February 28, 2018. Contact LWMS treasurer Kathy Whipple at

513-377-4838 or email:

kathrynlwhipple@yahoo.com. See the application form on page 6 of this newsletter.

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

Young at Heart



We will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, February 15th in the church office meeting room. We will continue our study and discussion of **Predestination**. Please join us. Call Joyce Llarger at 614-

314-7571, if you have any questions.

(Joyce Llarger, coordinator)



The teens finished their Bible study on the topic of dating and have begun a study on the fruits of the Spirit. All teens starting in 9th grade are welcome to

meet each Sunday at 9:15 in the auditorium.

The January youth gathering went well. This month the gathering is on February 4th. The youth will meet immediately after the late service in the auditorium for food, devotion, and games. All seventh through twelfth graders are invited.

Interested in somewhere to take that special someone for Valentine's Day? Celebrate the weekend before and support the youth group's trip to the International Youth Rally in June. The meal is scheduled for February 11th after the late service in the St. Paul's auditorium. The teens will serve spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert.

There's a suggested minimum donation of \$5 dollars per person. Bring a friend, a parent or any loved one. To help the youth group prepare enough food, please reserve your spot(s) on the bulletin board in the church narthex or by contacting Sarah Llarger - (614) 302-3461. Please come and support teens like Airiana Morgan, Alissa Collins, Charlie Stewart and more for the Youth Rally. If you want to volunteer for the meal in any way, please contact Sarah Llarger.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicar Spaude
Pastor Sims



Possibility for WELS in Mansfield

New Mission Church: The Michigan District Mission Board of WELS hopes to start a new mission in Mansfield. While there is a core group of around 15 adults, we can use other WELS members to help, especially after public services would start in the spring of 2019.

You could assist by attending worship there semi-regularly, helping with Sunday school or other projects, or helping out on weekdays. You could maybe help with an adult fellowship or youth group or Mornings with Mommy.

You can remain a member of your congregation, and continue to give your offerings there. We are just looking for people to do volunteer work at this new congregation. You would be considered part of a "Launch Team".

We'd like names of those interested now, as we submit our application for funding from Home Missions. If you are interested, contact Pastor Robert Krueger of the District Mission Board at pastorbobkrueger@gmail.com or 419-422-8209. And please keep this effort in your prayers.

Our member, Mark Greiner, is a member of the District Mission Board. You can also speak with him.

International Youth Rally

Dear Parents and potential rally-goer,

The time is quickly approaching for the WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH. The dates are **June 26-29, 2018** at **Bowling Green State University**. The theme is "Never Alone" based on Jesus' words from Matthew 28:20.

We realize the challenges and cost involved in getting young people to a rally. This year we are blessed to be able to drive for 1.5 hours to get there. The cost for the rally (which includes everything other than some voluntary excursions): early registration is from **March 1 to April 30 is \$345** and then it is **\$370 from May 1 to May 31**. We want the teens to pay as much as they are able, so have them start saving now.

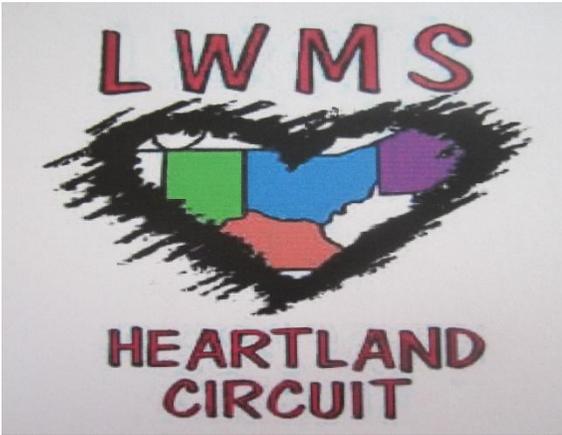
To assist with gaining some funds, we (myself, Vicar Spaude and Sarah Larger) are planning to have them sponsor a **Valentine dinner for the congregation on February 11** at noon following the late service to raise funds to help with the cost of the rally. They will be helping to prepare, serve and clean up for the meal. There will be a minimum suggested amount for donations. Teens will be asked to wear black pants or skirts and white shirts. This is a way for you also to help – invite family and friends to support your child by coming and donating for the rally.

I will be registering as the group leader. Once I have set it up, please get registered as soon as possible. Each rally participant will need to go online to register after I have set up our group. These rallies fill up fast and we don't want anyone to be left out. You will need to make payment online, as well.

After the rally is over, those teens who attended will share their rally experience with the congregation. This is a wonderful way to keep the members in the loop of just how valuable and important these rallies are to our young people.

You are able to get more information online at: WELS.NET/2018YOUTHALLY.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Snowden G. Sims



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Check One Below:

- First-Time Convention Attendee—(maximum \$250)
- Previous Convention Attendee

Name of Applicant	
Congregation	
Mailing Address	
Cell Phone/Home Phone	
Email	
We would like to ask you to briefly report back on your convention experience at the fall rally. Would you be comfortable talking to our ladies at the fall rally?	

What does attending the annual convention mean to you? Explain.

Applications should be mailed or emailed to LWMS Heartland Treasurer Kathy Whipple by February 28, 2018 in order to be eligible for funds. Funding decisions will be shared with the recipients prior to the spring rally.

Kathy Whipple
 1615 Parliament Ct.
 Fairfield, OH 45014
 513-377-4838
kathrynwhipple@yahoo.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/lwmsheartland/>

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Acolytes</u> 4- (E) Jaelan (L) Katie 11- (E) Jaelan (L) Dominic 14- (Wed) Cody 18- (E) Jaelan (L) Andres 21- (Wed) 25- (E) Jamie (L) Braylon 28- (Wed)	<u>Greeters</u> 4- (E) Thissen0 (L) McDonald 11- (E) Howell (L) Moehl 14- (Wed) Ratz 18- (E) Thissen (L) Colegrove 21- (Wed) Howell 25- (E) Poenisch (L) Balsler 28- (Wed) Frye	<u>Altar Committee</u> Lori Witt Suzanne Geiger Audra McDonald		1 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	2 Co-Ed Basketball Tournament at MLS in Saginaw, MI	3 Co-Ed Basketball Tournament at MLS in Saginaw, MI
4 WELS Connection 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Youth Group Gathering	5 7:00 PM Board of Elders	6 3:30 PM Lutheran Girl Pioneers	7 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	8 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	9	10
11 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Noon - Valentine's Dinner	12 6:00 PM Evangelism Team	13 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 8:35 AM School Chapel Valentine Parties at School 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship (Communion) 8:00 PM Sr. Choir	15 10:00 AM Young at Heart 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	16 6:30 PM Evening Women's Guild at church	17
18 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	19 Presidents' Day – No School 6:00 PM Bd. of Education	20 3:30 PM Lutheran Girl Pioneers	21 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Sr. Choir	22 Pastors' Circuit Meeting 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	23 7:00 PM School Science Fair	24
25 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	26 7:00 PM Church Council	27 5:30 PM School Open House	28 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Sr. Choir			