



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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“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” – 1 John 4:7-10

The craftiness of Satan knows no bounds. He is a master of disguising what is evil with the best of words in our vocabulary. In this case, the word *love*. His reason is simple. He knows humans rarely look past outward appearances. He knows we have difficulty talking to people about right or wrong when they are convinced their actions are “loving.” This explains why the LGBT community hides behind the word love. It explains why bumper stickers say tolerance or acceptance = love. If a person wants their evil deed to pass the worlds litmus test, they need only say, “It’s an act of love.”

Believers know better. We know that calling something by a different name doesn’t make it true. We know love was not a quality inherent within us before we were converted. If it was, we wouldn’t need to be made alive. We wouldn’t need a Savior. If love was a quality all people were born with, they would naturally know the one true God. How so?

Love is an attribute of God. It is a characteristic that defines him. Love is not a part of him, it is him. *He who knows love, knows The Source and Essence of love.* The Apostle John tells us God made his love known to us by sending his Son into the world to give us life. God loved his



only Son but he also loved us to the extent that he willed his Son to suffer and die for our countless sins. Love comes from God alone.

Therefore, whoever believes in Jesus’ atoning sacrifice for their sins is born of God and expresses his love. Just as any child exhibits characteristics of one or both parents, so children of God naturally exhibit God’s characteristic of love.

Since we too are born of God and know him,

let us love one another. Let us be selfless and put the needs of each other before our own wants. Let us seek to thank God by learning his commands and living accordingly: being patient and kind with each other, not envying, not being boastful nor proud. Let us not dishonor each other, nor be self-seeking. Let us not be easily angered with each

other nor keep a record of wrongs. Let us detest what is evil and praise what is truth. And let us protect each other, always trusting each other, always hoping and persevering.

We are not like Satan and his children who use deceit to cover up their deeds of hate. We are the children of God. We are in the light and know that what we do is done in the presence of God. We have no need to be ashamed. After all, “It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:13). Love comes from God and is displayed through you.

Yet, when you think you are weak and have failed to demonstrate God’s love, trust in God’s love displayed to you in Jesus Christ. All your deeds are washed and forgiven in his blood. His love has overcome Satan, death, yes, even our sins. His love for you never fails. He loves you.

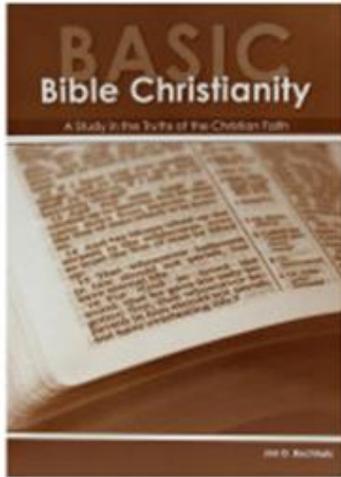
- Pastor Schrimpf

Voters' Meeting – February 23rd

A Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23rd, after the 10:30 AM worship service. The voters will address the proposal given for organ repair.

Bible Basics

- ✧ Start date was January 16, 2020
It's not too late to join.
- ✧ Meets Thursdays at 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- ✧ In the upper room over the church offices – follow the signs
- ✧ Length is **8 weeks for non-member school parents** and 15 weeks for those interested in membership
- ✧ Teachers are Vicar Matthew Steinfeldt and Pastor Snowden G. Sims.



Donations for Food Pantry

After preparing the 34 Christmas Boxes our pantry was quite depleted. Many of you have come to our aid and donated items to help fill up the pantry again. One main item we still need is soup!!! Chicken Noodle and Tomato go best but there is room for Vegetable Beef also. We are also always low on tuna, canned chicken, and canned fruit. Anything you can do to help is always appreciated.



Class Trip

This Year's Class Trip to New York City will take place on March 12th-16th. Watch for students selling Anthony Thomas candy bars as a fund raiser to help with their cost for the trip. Be watching for

more suggestions of ways that you can help with this activity.

CO-ED Basketball Tournaments

St. Paul's played in the co-ed tournament at Beautiful Savior in Grove City on January 25th. Our team brought home the winner's trophy in the consolation bracket. St. Paul's is taking a co-ed team to compete in the WELS Grade School Basketball Tournaments at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) on February 1st and 2nd and at Luther Preparatory School (LPS) on March 5th - 7th.

Roller Skating Party

Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of Roller Skating at United Skates of America on Refugee Road on Friday, February 7th. The times are: a private party from 5:00 PM-6:30 PM, then we can join the family skate session until 9:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 and Skate Rental, if needed, is \$4.00. For each paid admission, United Skates will give \$5.00 back to St. Paul's School. Plan to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship!



Feb. 14	Valentine's Day Parties
Feb. 17	Presidents' Day – No School
Feb. 24	Teacher Inservice – No School
Mar. 6	School Activity Day
Mar 12-16	Class Trip to New York City
Mar. 13	Pi Day
Mar. 20	End of 3 rd Quarter
Mar. 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences Noon Dismissal from School
Mar. 27	Parent/Teacher Conferences No School
Apr.10	Good Friday – School out at 2 PM
Apr.13-19	Easter Break

Family Bowling Event



Our Annual “Pins, Pizza, and Pop” Bowling Event will be held on **Sunday, February 23rd**.

It will be at the Wayne Webb Columbus Bowl, 3224 South High Street, Columbus, OH, from 3:00-6:00 PM. (Come at 2:30 so that we can all be ready to start bowling at 3:00) Cost: \$15.00 per person, which will include **non-stop bowling for three hours**, pizza, pop and shoe rental (if necessary). Sign-Up sheets are posted at church or you may call the office to sign up.



Evangelism

The Evangelism Team is always rejoicing in our opportunities to share our love of Jesus our Savior.

We wished we could have had more people to hand out the Christmas services invitations in the neighborhood, but we were very glad to see so many visitors at the school Christmas service and the Christmas Eve service. There was nearly standing room only at the school service with great excitement, wonderful music, and of course God’s Word. Some parents have been returning for years, long after their children have graduated.

We were blessed with many people contributing to the Christmas food boxes, shopping and preparation in December including some of our school students. We were able to increase the number we gave out from 30 to 34. All who received the boxes were very grateful, some emotionally so.

The annual January Chili Cook-off was a great success with about 30 people and a wide spread of ages. There was great fun and fellowship with some new families. The People’s Choice award 1st place went to Joyce Larger, 2nd place went to Kathy Glende, and 3rd place to Tammy McFarland. The Children’s Choice Award went jointly to Vicar and Brittany Steinfeldt.

Our next fellowship event will be bowling on February 23rd. Cost will be \$15 per bowler and will

include shoes, pizza, and pop. Not a bowler? Come and cheer on your friends and have some pizza. Look for the sign-up sheets on the school and church bulletin boards. All are welcome.

The team is looking forward to other fellowship and outreach opportunities. In March we’re hoping to have a Game Night for all ages. We brainstormed some new ideas for inviting our neighbors to our wonderful Resurrection Day services. Last year we found that the yard signs we had in Schiller Park were quite effective and we plan to do that again along with asking our nearby member and school families to put signs in their yards. We also will have our school kids make invitations which can be duplicated and passed out in the neighborhood.

It may seem like we just celebrated Christmas but soon we will be in the season of Lent. What a wonderful time to join together in worship. We’ll have great fellowship too especially at those yummy Lenten soup suppers. Wouldn’t it be great to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker?

Our next meeting will be February 10th at 6pm. You are invited to come and share your ideas and enthusiasm.

Pat Ratz, Evangelism Team Member

ORGANIZATIONS



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

The new Altar Flower Calendar for 2020 is posted. At this time you can sign up for any time in 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 February is Pat Ratz, Mindy Sayre and Lucille Ortziger.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

February 21st 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. The 6:30 PM meeting on Friday, February 21st will include a devotion, a Bible study on women of the Bible, and a discussion of other church business. Those attending can bring their Bibles for the Bible study portion of the evening and then plan to stay after the meeting for food and fellowship.

Cooks and Clean Up Crews Needed for Lenten Meals

Starting with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 26th our Evening Women's Guild will host the annual Lenten meal each week. A soup supper has traditionally been provided at St. Paul's. If you have a favorite old family recipe for delicious homemade soup, consider signing up to share your tasty creation with fellow church members. Desserts can be brought by those attending the meals. Questions? Contact Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

Spring 2019 Door Offering Mission Projects

Door offerings collected twice a year at St. Paul's for mission projects will fund one home mission choice and one world mission choice. These selections are voted on by LWMS member churches by ballot. Final voting results are always revealed at the annual convention. On Sunday, February 23rd, St. Paul's will collect the next door offering. Those with mite boxes can bring them to Evening Women's Guild Treasurer, Joyce Larger.

LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, March 28th

Mark your calendars! The Ohio and Heartland Circuits are coming together to host WELS Director of Mission Operations Sean Young as their featured speaker. Mr. Young will share the latest highlights about the WELS Vietnam mission efforts to the Hmong population. If you have a heart for missions, you will enjoy hearing how the Lord has blessed the

WELS with this unique outreach opportunity. The rally is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 28th at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Centerville, Ohio from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Rally attendees will receive breakfast and lunch. \$5 will be collected for lunch expenses at this year's rally. Extra monies given above lunch expenses will go to the convention funds for the 2021 LWMS convention scheduled to take place in Cincinnati. A carpool will leave St. Paul's at 7:30 AM. Questions? Contact Melinda Sims at 614-271-2089.

World Mission Update: WELS Multi-Language Publications Hosted a Translation Expo in Africa

WELS Multi-Language Publications (MLP) sponsored a conference in Lusaka, Zambia, in August to equip and inspire representatives from our partner synods in Africa. The MLP Expo 2019 brought 17 Africans from 6 countries and 3 American missionaries together for 4 days. The two main objectives of this event were to give participants linguistic tools to translate confessional Lutheran literature from English into their local languages and to produce a prioritized list of the publications needed in each sister synod.

Missionary John Roebke of the One Africa Team, says, "Our partners in Africa are looking for the essential tools needed to conduct gospel ministry. Thankfully translations of the Bible in their native tongues already exist. But how confidently can someone call himself 'Lutheran' if he never read anything written by Martin Luther?"

Both the Ethiopian and Kenyan Lutheran synods want to translate the Small Catechism into a total of seven languages between them. Other goals include adapting MLP's "Bible Stories in Pictures—Expanded Version" for Sunday schools in the African churches as well as creating doctrinally sound hymnals, evangelism tracts, and prayer books for special services such as funerals and church dedications.

Roebke reports, "Our African brothers and sisters in Christ want to walk with us in the same faith, yet they have a much more difficult path to follow than we can even begin to understand. In Cameroon, armed rebels shut down the country every week on

Mondays and are threatening to make this a permanent arrangement until they get independence. Pastor Mathias walks six hours to preach at one of the congregations he serves and then another six hours to get home. Pastor Mweete struggles to increase attendance at Bible class and to keep from losing his members to the Pentecostal church. Pastor Onunda tries to communicate the Bible's timeless truth to the youth of his church, even though they don't understand his Lutheran style of worship and he doesn't speak their 'Sheng' (a type of slang that is popular among Kenyan youth)."

Reading materials printed on paper are still the primary method of receiving information about the world in these regions of Africa. Although some older smartphones and social media apps are starting to appear in the capital cities of Africa, internet access remains an expensive luxury for most people.

"WELS congregations across the United States make use of hymnals, Sunday school lessons, and other educational books without any thought of where those materials come from. Each one of our sister synods in Africa also has a great need for high-quality, scripturally faithful materials printed in at least two or three of the languages spoken by their members. God's servants work diligently for months and even years before their manuscripts come into print. Tight budgets, untimely illnesses, and armed conflict stop publications projects in their tracks," says Roebke.

This article was taken from the WELS Missions Update Newsletter – Winter 2020 Edition.

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, February 27, 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 had plenty of fun meeting together on January 19th for some board games. During our time together we played Apples to Apples and Scrabble, ate pizza, drank pop, and enjoyed one another's company.

Our teen Bible study has had a special emphasis on the Gospel of John, but in February we will begin a study entitled "Angels and Demons." This topic was suggested by the teens themselves. We look forward to this opportunity to learn more about how God continues to take care of us in ways unseen.

This month, we especially look forward to serving you spaghetti at our annual Valentine's Day Dinner on February 9th at noon. This event's purpose is to raise funds for our Youth Group activities, including the 2020 WELS Youth Rally in Knoxville, TN this June. Invite your friends! Invite your neighbors! Invite your uncle! We can't wait to see you there. We thank you in advance for your support.

Get ready Youth Group! Don't be misled; we have more plans ahead.

-Vicar Steinfeldt



This year's Pollyanna Party will be held on **Sunday, March 1st at 12:00 PM** in the upper room. All are welcome to this women's Secret Pal group so bring a friend to join us! Bring along your gift to reveal your identity to your Pollyanna. Newcomers may bring a gift for exchange with other newcomers. Also bring something to share for the potluck luncheon. This year's hostesses are April Peck, Dawn Howell and Kathy Glende.



Conference of Presidents met for winter 2020 meeting

2020/01/20/in Together

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met for its winter meeting on Jan. 6-9. The COP meeting addressed many topics, including:

The COP approved proposals to amend the synod's bylaws dealing with disciplinary procedures carried out by the districts. These proposed changes are intended to clarify the terms, timing, and process to be followed when discipline becomes necessary. The proposed amendments will be reviewed by the synod's Constitution Committee and will ultimately be presented to the 2021 synod convention.

Asia Lutheran Seminary has enrolled several American students who will soon graduate. To prepare these students for serving in stateside ministry, the COP approved Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's plan to provide these graduates with a year of stateside vicar experience and with two semesters of additional instruction at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.

The COP issued a divine call to Prof. John Hartwig to serve as a civilian chaplain in Europe and to Mr. James Sievert to serve as a part-time assistant consultant for the Commission on Lutheran Schools.

The COP has asked for a review of the Ministry of Christian Giving's major gifts program to ensure that the Ministry of Christian Giving is best positioned and structured to carry out its work.

The COP received with thanks the news that Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2019 were \$330,000 higher than what congregations had committed. CMO subscriptions for 2020 are now being gathered, with the prayer that congregations will be able to increase their subscriptions to provide additional support for WELS missions and ministry. Looking ahead to 2021, the COP will prepare an encouragement video highlighting the blessings that Congregation Mission Offerings have made possible.

The COP approved a proposal that congregations

will be encouraged to designate one Sunday in 2021 as a "WELS Mission and Ministry Sunday" as a way of highlighting the work we do together. Informational and worship materials will be provided.

Each of the 12 districts will be asked to consider the proposed change to the WELS Pension Plan at this summer's district conventions. Informational materials will be provided well in advance, and each district will be given a detailed overview of the proposed changes. Districts will be asked whether or not they approve of the changes. Depending on the results of those votes, the Synodical Council will determine how and when to proceed with the process.

The COP has overseen a restatement of the synod's doctrinal position on the roles of men and women, entitled "Male and Female in God's World." The restatement does not reflect a change in our teaching; rather, it was intended to clarify and update the current doctrinal statement. The restatement will be reviewed by pastor and teacher conferences. In addition, an accompanying Bible study is available for use in congregations. The districts will be asked to provide reaction and input before a final draft is presented to the synod convention in 2021.

*Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder*

