



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

Website: www.stpaulcares.org

What are you doing to grow? *by Pastor Sims*

With each New Year come all sorts of resolutions that we make and try to keep. We make them because we want to grow in some area of our life. Some people are able to keep them for only a week or two, some for a month or two. Then there are others who are totally committed to keeping them for the entire year and are able to do so.

If you were to ask those who are able to keep their resolutions and commitments, you will probably find that they aren't able to do it alone. They have help. They have someone who holds them accountable. They have an accountability partner; someone who is committed to the same thing they are, someone who has the same resolve. *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

But this whole thing of accountability is not something most people are open to. It means that I need to communicate with others. It means that I open myself up for criticism. It means that if I don't do what I said I would do, that I have given the authority for my accountability partner to call me to the carpet, point out my shortfall and encourage me to do what I committed to. This is a scary thing, because I don't want to be accountable to anyone; in some cases, not even to God.

For us to grow spiritually, we need to be connected to some good stock. We need to remain connected and committed to Jesus - *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5)



To grow in our life of resolutions, we first need to be committed to the source of our growth. Apart of Jesus, we can do nothing. This is not just talking about in the realm of religion, but life. The good and positive things that we do are only good and positive when they are done through faith in Jesus and out of love for God and one another. Our daily lives cannot be separated from our spiritual life and connection with Jesus.

This leads to the ongoing encouragement for every Christian, **be in Word**. Be in the Word to strengthen your faith. Be in the Word to increase your resolve. Be in the Word to grow in strength to face the challenges of the coming year.

It doesn't do any good to wait until tragedy strikes before I start preparing for a bad situation. Growing is a process that takes more than oneself to

do, as Paul shared with the Colossians: *"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,"* (Colossians 1:9-10)

If you have made resolutions already, my prayer is that one of the first ones is to **grow** – in your knowledge of God's Word, in your faith, in your relationship with fellow believers and in living a life worthy of the Lord. When you do these things, the resolutions of this life become easier to keep because they are focused on serving to my Savior's glory and for the benefit of others.

Evangelism

Greetings! We thank God for the abundant blessings we've received throughout this Christmas Season. Here's a brief review of what the Evangelism Team worked on in December and planned in the near future.

We prepared 1,000 Christmas invitations this year and distributed them in our neighborhood on December 16th. Thanks to the volunteers who helped us with this task. We also, in collaboration with the deacons, prepared 30 Christmas boxes on the same day. Many of these boxes were picked up by those in need in the afternoon at church, and we got to take them on a church tour and shared *God's Great Exchange* with them.

The Christmas Season is a great time to reflect on the blessings God has given us. We are thankful for friends, families, and especially recent visitors. Keep them in your prayers so that by the power of the Holy Spirit they may believe that Christ is their Savior, too.

Here are a few upcoming events:

Annual Chili Cook-off will be on January 21st

- Details on annual bowling fellowship and Bingo night will be discussed during our January Meeting.

Our next meeting will be **January 8th at 6:00 pm**. If you are interested, feel free to join us.

*Tony Deng
The Evangelism Team Chair*

Election of Church Officers

The following men were elected to service St. Paul's congregation and their Lord in the respective positions listed. Keep these brothers in your prayers as they seek to serve you with their time and talents.

Elders: Joe Baumann, John Frye, Phil Glende, Mark Greiner

Board of Education: John Frye, David Morgan, Dana Rettig

Trustees: Jim Heinlein, Ron McDonald, Dana Rettig

Deacons: Matt Ratz, Anil Seeli, Jacob Strous, Pierce Thissen

Installation will take place on January 7th in the worship service they attend. Please come and take the opportunity to encourage them with your presence.

For all the leaders on the different boards and committees, there will be a Leadership Bible Study and orientation taking place on **Saturday, January 13, 2018. We will start at 9:00AM** over a nice breakfast, then plan on going to noon. Pastor Sims will lead a Bible study and the different boards or committees will breakout to make plans for 2018.

Annual Reports

Board and committee chair people,

Time is winding down to submit a summary of your work over the past year. Please prepare a few paragraphs or charts where necessary to inform your brothers and sisters of what you did in 2017 and plan to do in the future.

Please submit it to Pastor Sims, so that he can compile and share the report in early January. A more detailed request will be sent to our chair people soon.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

The Evangelism Team is planning this year's Chili Cook-Off to be held on **Sunday, January 21st at 5:30 PM.**



Contact Pat Ratz to enter your chili in the competition (614-267-4423) or sign up on the bulletin board at church by January 14th. Those entering are asked to bring a crockpot or kettle of chili and arrive 20 minutes early to make preparations for the judging.

Once the judging is complete, everyone can get a bowl or two or three of their favorite. If you plan to attend, please bring a side dish to add to the meal: chips, salsa, salads, cookies for dessert and beverages to share. Watch for more information in the Sunday worship folders.

*We always thank
 GOD for all of you
 and continually
 mention you in
 our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV



Washington, DC Trip

Plan are progressing for the optional Washington, DC trip that is planned over the Spring break for students in grades 5-8. Students are selling entertainment books (with coupons) to raise money for those going on the trip. There are 12 students and 3 adults signed up to take part in the trip. If you have any fundraising ideas, please speak to Mr. Galecki.

School Resumes

The teachers are back on campus for a Professional Day on Wednesday, January 3rd. The students return for the first day of classes on Thursday, January 4th, beginning at 8:30 AM. The end of the 2nd Quarter will be on Friday, January 19th.

Looking Ahead

The date for our Science Fair has been moved up to Friday, February 23rd. As soon as the students get back from break they will be digging in to work on their science projects and meet the various deadlines set up by the teachers.

You are all invited to save the date of February 23rd to come to the Science Fair and view the projects the students will have prepared.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for the food pantry. We were blessed with many contributions before Christmas which were used to add to the 30 food baskets that were distributed on December 16th and 17th. We are still receiving contributions that will be very helpful during the upcoming cold weather to help church friends and others in the community who are in need.

THANK YOU

I want to thank the Girl Pioneers and the Women's Guild for the Christmas gifts that I received from them. I also enjoyed the carolers that came to the house. It is a blessing to be remembered by my church friends.

Thanks also to Pastor and Vicar for their visits and for bringing me communion.

In Christ,
 Mary Lascola

A big thank you to the Sunday morning Bible Class and all the members of the church who gifted my family with cards and other generous gifts for Christmas.

Serving you in Christ,
 Pastor Sims



Inez Behnke
 Evelyn Blessing
 Jeff & Pat Gramelt
 Catherine Lang
 Mary Lascola
 Lenore Lyle
 Carol Martin
 Paul Minot

Ned Nixon
 Phyllis Peck
 Jim & Dee Perkins
 Judy Poenisch
 Brandon Tyler
 Barry Weber
 John Westlake

SAVE THE DATES

Jan 3	No School
	Teacher Professional Day
Jan 4	1 st Day of Classes after Christmas Break
Jan 15-16	No School - Pastor/Teacher Conference at St. Paul's
Jan 19	End of 2 nd Grading Period
Jan 26	Students receive report cards
Feb 14	Valentine Parties
Feb 19	No School – Presidents' Day
Feb 23	Science Fair @ 7:00 PM

ORGANIZATIONS



The members of the Altar Guild care for the altar paraments, candles and flowers.

The guild members thank all the volunteers who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season. The new Altar Flower Calendar for 2018 is posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, 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 January is Kim Frye, Judy Moehl and Arlene Balsler.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

Charitable Giving in December

Our ladies voted to disperse \$75 to each of the following organizations in December: WELS Christian Aid & Relief, Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center of Columbus, Calvary Academy Ministries for troubled youth and families, and Luther Prep Scholarship Program. We also sent a Christmas gift to our *Befriend a Missionary* pastor in Canada. A big thank you to all those who contributed throughout the year!

Shut-In Visit & 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-ins. Thank you to those who took the extra time to connect with those who are unable to leave their homes regularly.

January 12th 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, January 12th 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.

St. Paul's Hosts the Pastor/Teacher Lay Delegate Conference January 15-16, 2018

St. Paul's will be the host site of the Pastor/Teacher/ Delegate Conference scheduled for Monday, January 15th and Tuesday, January 16th, 2018. As hosts, we will have the privilege of feeding 50-60 individuals in attendance. Three meals will be made available on Monday and two meals will be served on Tuesday. Snacks will also be supplied by St. Paul's.

Volunteers will be needed to set up, serve, and clean up in between meals. Consider starting 2018 with this wonderful way to serve and thank the called workers and the lay leaders among us. Questions? Contact Joyce Larger, Suzanne Geiger, or Kathy Glende.

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: kathrynwhipple@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, January 18th in the church office meeting room. We will continue our study of Predestination. Please consider joining us.

Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571, if you have any questions.

(Joyce Larger, coordinator)



Last month the teens finished their study of *Prepared to Answer*. This month they begin a new Bible study on dating. Teen Bible study is not just an opportunity to grow

in the knowledge of one's Savior, but also to enjoy fellowship with one another. All teens are welcome. Meet in the auditorium at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

The December youth gathering had Christmas flare. Individuals allowed their teammates to festively decorate them as a Christmas tree in friendly competition with another team. Those on the winning team were Airiana Morgan, Dominic Morgan, and Cody Stewart (as the tree). Other activities included a goofy gift exchange, a pizza lunch, a Bible study on the doctrine of predestination, and an unofficial karaoke session to end the gathering. This month the youth gathering is on January 7th immediately after the late service in the auditorium. There will be games, food, and devotion. 7th through 12th graders are invited.

On January 20th the youth will work together to help the Alpha Pregnancy Center. More information will come on the St. Paul's Youth Group Facebook page. Keep posted and consider serving your Savior in this way. 7th to 12th graders are invited.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicar Spaude and Mr. Galecki



MLC invites public to Evangelism Day

2017/12/19/in Together /by WELS

Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., will be hosting its 13th annual Evangelism Day on Jan. 10, 2018. This year, for the first time, MLC has scheduled evening workshops that the public is invited to attend.

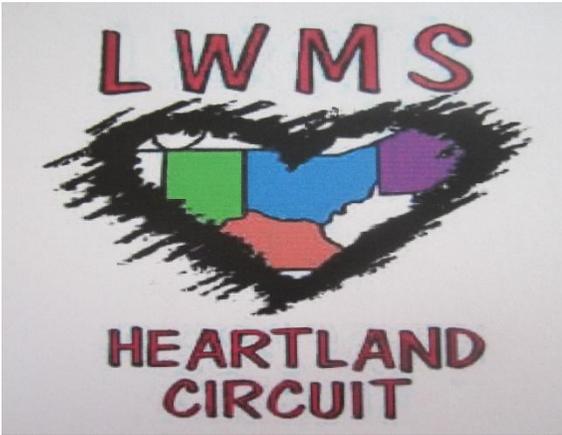
Rev. Mike Hintz, director of WELS Evangelism, says, "When this special program was planned in 2005, the emphasis was to raise evangelism awareness and provide encouragement and guidance for future called workers of our church to fulfill their calling as evangelists of Christ. Evangelism Day at MLC continues to serve this important purpose."

Mrs. Michelle Gartner, event coordinator at MLC, adds, "Each year in January MLC students are inspired by dynamic presenters from around our synod on Evangelism Day. We hope that by adding Evangelism Day evening sessions we will give our area members the opportunity to take part in these presentations to inspire them to find ways to do outreach within their communities."

Evening sessions begin at 4 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. with breaks for dinner and a chapel service. Four different workshops will be offered in multiple time slots throughout the evening.

Rev. Mike Geiger, Cross and Crown, Georgetown, Tex., will present "Defending Your Faith: Being prepared to give a reason for the hope we have." Mr. Jim Rademan, director of the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, will speak on "Advancing Strategies for Connecting More People with the Ministry of the Word." Also from Lutheran Schools, National Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministries Mrs. Cindi Holman will present "Outreach through Early Childhood." And, Rev. Jon Enter, Divine Savior, West Palm Beach, Fla., will lead a presentation about "Transformed: Equipping Youth Leaders," a program to help congregations implement youth ministries.

For a detailed schedule and to register, visit mlc-wels.edu.



Send One Sister Stipend 2018 Application Form

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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/>

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Faculty Professional Day	4 School resumes at 8:30 AM	5	6
7 WELS Connection 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Church Officers Installed Youth Group Gathering	8 6:00 PM Evangelism Team 7:00 PM Board of Elders	9 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers	10 8:35 AM School Chapel	11 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class Begins	12 6:30 PM Evening Women's Guild at Church	13 9:00 AM Leaders' Breakfast
14 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	15 No School Pastor/Teacher Conference at St. Paul's	16 No School Pastor/Teacher Conference at St. Paul's	17 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	18 10:00 AM Young at Heart 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	19	20
21 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship 5:30 PM Chili Cook-Off	22 6:00 PM Bd. of Education	23 3:30 PM Lutheran Girl Pioneers	24 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	25 10:00 AM Pastors' Study 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class	26	27
28 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	29 ----- Pastor at 7:00 PM Church Council	30 Praesidium meetings ----- ----	31 8:35 AM School Chapel 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<u>Acolytes</u> 7-(E) Jamie (L) Dominic 14-(E) Jamie (L) Andres 21-(E) Jamie (L) Braylon 28-(E) Jamie (L) Cody	<u>Greeters</u> 7-(E) Frye (L) McDonald 14-(E) Howell (L) Hickman 21-(E) Poenischl (L) Moehl 28-(E) Thissen (L) Balsler	<u>Altar Committee</u> Kim Frye Judy Moehl Arlene Balsler