



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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"After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." – Matthew 11:1-6

Dear Christians,

How could John have questioned Jesus as the Messiah – the coming one? John baptized him. He saw the Holy Spirit descend upon him as a dove. He was told by God that this one was God's Chosen One (John 1:29-34). How come he had doubts?

Well, how come Abraham lied? How come King David committed adultery with Bathsheba? How come Peter denied his Lord? How come the Galatian church was beginning to turn to a false gospel? How come our faith waivers and shakes even though we hear week after week that Christ reveals himself as our Savior? How come?

The answers are the obvious ones that we often forget. We have a sinful nature that defies God. We have the bombardments of Satan's lies upon us when unprepared. We live in a world that hates Christ and hates us for loving Christ and his words.

Any one of these evils are powerful enough to shake our faith and cause us to question if the revealed Messiah has true meaning for our daily life. When such doubts shake your faith Christians, I pray that the response of Jesus to John's disciples cements you upon Jesus. *"The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed,*

the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." Who can do such things in their own name except God himself. Clearly, Jesus is the one who was to come.

The miracles of Jesus are proof that his message to you is true. If he is master over your bodies, then he is master over your sins and death. If he is master over sin and death, then he is master over this world and your daily struggles. If he could raise the dead, then he is master over Satan's control of you. If he could proclaim good news to the repentant, then he has given you victory by his death on the cross.

Friends, your victory over your sins, over death, and over Satan will never end. This means that your present troubles will come to an end. Although on certain days you may become sad, discouraged, depressed, or disheartened; Christ has made you rich by his words. He loves you. He will never let you go. He paid too high of a price for you!

May this Epiphany season strengthen your faith in the Messiah. May it give you comfort in your daily struggles. Christ revealed himself as Savior for you.

Finally, remember Jesus' parting words to John's disciples, *"Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."* Blessed are you who believe Christ is the Messiah who was foretold long ago in the Old Testament. Blessed are you who believe Christ is your Savior from all your sins. Blessed are you who believe Christ is the Savior of those who are weak in faith. Blessed are you who continue in your faith. Blessed are the members of St. Paul's, who believe the Messiah's love and mercy is for them too. Amen - Pastor Schrimpf

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: Dave Colegrove, Bill Ratz

Board of Education: Mark Greiner,
Joe Baumann, Dana Rettig, Kevin Strous,
Kent Stuebs

Trustees: Bill Ratz, Tommy Kitzerow,
Matt Ratz

Deacons: Josh Thissen, Phil Glende,
Dana Rettig

Evangelism: Phil Glende

Recording Secretary: Dave Colegrove

Financial Secretary: Joe Martin

Treasurer: Kent Stuebs

Installation will take place on January 13th in the worship service they attend. They will be joined by the following men who have one more year to serve in their present positions: Elders – Joe Baumann, John Frye, Phil Glende, Mark Greiner; Board of Education - John Frye; Trustees – Jim Heinlein, Ron McDonald, Dana Rettig; Deacons – Matt Ratz, Anil Seeli, Jacob Strous, Pierce Thissen.

Please come and take the opportunity to encourage them with your presence.

Church Council Meeting Recap of December 17, 2018

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- Installation of church officers will be January 13, 2019.
- Board chairmen need to get their board's annual report data to Pastor Sims by January 20, 2019, for the church's 2018 Annual Report.
- SWOT analyses to be discussed at the January 19, 2019, leaders' meeting.
- Most desirable to get the loose plaster down from the organ corner by Christmas in anticipation of visitors for Christmas services. Possibly too late to accomplish that now, but TNT Equipment was to be contacted immediately to get a cost estimate of, and secure scaffolding for, that removal job. How will we pay for it?
- The Evangelism Team is discussing new ways to reaching out and making St. Paul's known.

(Some nice comments have been noted from the area about our new church sign.)

- Suggestions for future Sunday adult Bible class topics included: closer examination of just completed mission sermon series; study of the book of Hebrews; revisit the SAA (Self-Analysis and Adjustment program) results of a few years ago.
- The teen class has taken up the study of the book "This Changes Everything."
- Blessings noted: the new church sign is in place; our musicians, instrumental and vocal; looking forward to the December 20 school Christmas program; the colorful and highly informative school analysis packet presented at the last Council meeting; Christmas baskets for needy families.
- School enrollment stands at 70. Emphasis was put on trustee issues with school facilities. The teachers are not happy with water problems in the classrooms when it rains, including having to mop up water. This is certainly not one of their called duties.
- Allied to the previous bullet point, extreme frustration has again been voiced with the failure of our congregation to address problems that have been known and on display for years (not just with the school.) Our congregation has been likened to the frog in a pot of water whose temperature is rising so slowly the frog doesn't realize he's being cooked.
- We're in the process of calling a teacher, yet with our school facilities in bad shape? This is certainly a weakness that must be honestly admitted to if the call prospect asks.
- These and other problems have been known for many years... and still no remedy has been forthcoming.
- Another illustration of significant apathy: for the second year in a row only 20 eligible men - out of around 80 - bothered to cast ballots for church officers in December.
- The proposed solution of replacing the troubled lighting in the chancel area - more than half the lights are out - with LED track lighting has become more complicated than first thought.
- 10 Christmas baskets were picked up on the designated Saturday; the balance should have been delivered on Sunday. As we normally prepare more baskets than we have requests for

Principal Charles Galecki suggested that in the future we encourage needy school families to apply for a basket. Council thought this was a good idea.

- Looking for former treasurer Kevin Strous to spend whatever time necessary to help treasurer-elect Kent Stuebs get a handle on things.
- We should start the budgeting process in March each year, for the new fiscal year starting August 1st.
- It was cautioned that our budget must not exceed our income! If we "need" to spend more than we take in, that points to the need for... cuts? In programs and/or staff? Downsizing our campus/moving to a newer, smaller facility? Rather than considering the need for "cuts," would we not be better served striving to build membership and help them increase their stewardship? In the past, the congregation has "given to the need" when that need was made known. How do we get the congregation to continue giving at a high level even when the need has been met?
- Our LACE loan application has been resubmitted. Apparently our first application was not received. The resubmitted application has been received.

Voters' Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 20th, after the 10:30 AM worship service.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

This year's Chili Cook-Off will be held on **Sunday, January 20th 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. 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 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.



Musical Praise

Attention all Singers and Instrumentalists

If you are interested in singing a solo/duet or playing an instrument in worship services, please let me know. Since I am new to St.

Paul's, I am unaware of all the musical gifts that people in the congregation may have, and it would be great if these talents could be used in our Sunday worship. If you are interested in serving in this way, please text, call, or email me: 614-705-4464; jheller@stpaulsk8.org. Jeanine Heller



School Resumes

The students return for the first day of classes on Monday, January 7th, beginning at 8:30 AM. The end of the 2nd Quarter will be on Friday, January 18th.

Teacher Professional Day

The teachers will gather on Monday, January 14th for a Professional Day. There will be no school on that day.

Pastor/Teacher Conference

The Ohio WELS Pastor/Teacher/Delegate conference will be held on January 21st and 22nd at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and School in Grove City. There will be no school on those days.



Jan 7 School Resumes
 Jan 14 Professional Day – No School
 Jan 18 End of 2nd Quarter
 Jan 21-22 Pastor/Teacher Conference
 No School
 Feb 14 Valentine’s Parties
 Feb 18 Presidents’ Day – No School
 Feb 25 Professional Day – No School
 March 1 Social Studies Fair – 6:00 PM
 March 15 End of 3rd Quarter
 March 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 Dismiss at 12:00 noon
 March 22 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 No School
 March 29 Jump Rope Contest – 12:30 PM



Evangelism

Happy New Year and Happy Epiphany! We look forward to sharing God’s Word with our friends and neighbors and another year of grace with you.

We are so thankful for many recent blessings – the Ladies Christmas Luncheon with more people attending, the recent Christmas Pageant, caroling to the shut-ins and great fellowship after, and the school Christmas Program.

This year we passed out postcard invitations to our Christmas services at the Village Lights event in German Village on December 2. We were blessed with wonderful weather that evening and many people took our invitation very warmly. We were very encouraged and plan to do this again next year. We’ll look into other ways we can reach out at this event including a table and tent at Schiller Park and signs offering free parking. We passed out postcards again in the neighborhood on December 15 and despite the heavy rain we again were able to invite and talk to quite a few friendly people.

Thirty Christmas Food Baskets for those in need were again distributed before Christmas. It provided another wonderful opportunity to invite them to celebrate Jesus’ birth with us and to share the good news of the salvation he brought. Thank you to all who were able to help out with donations, in the preparations, and with the distribution.

We discussed some new ideas for fellowship and outreach: a “free dinner” for our school families on some Friday nights, continuing church services at Schiller Park after Resurrection Sunday, and a movie night at Schiller showing To the Ends of the Earth.

Several dates for fellowship activities are now in the works. This month our now Annual Chili Cook-off is planned for Sunday, January 20th. We look forward to warmth of body and spirit at this event. Next month we’re looking into having a game night. Our annual Bowling Night is going to be on February 24th. Watch for more information about these events which will be coming soon.

We love new ideas so bring them to our next meeting on January 14th at 6pm.

Pat Ratz, Evangelism Team member

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will not have a regular meeting until Thursday, March 7th, at 7:00 PM. Women of St. Paul’s are invited to join the Altar Guild and serve by helping to

take care of the altar flowers and altar paraments as well as carrying out other responsibilities. We thank the many volunteers who helped the Altar Guild recently with the church decorating for Christmas. Plans to take the decorations down are scheduled for Saturday, January 12th, beginning at 9:00 AM. Volunteers to help with this are always welcome!

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in the coming year, the new Flower Calendar for 2019 is 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 Judy Moehl, Arlene Balser and Suzanne Geiger

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild



Leaders of ELS, LCMS, and WELS Meet 2018/12/04/in Together

Women's Guild Meeting

The next Evening Women's Guild meeting will take place on Friday, January 11th, at 6:30 PM at the home of Victoria Schimpf – 2346 Boston Mills Drive, Grove City, OH 43123. Melinda Sims will have the devotion. For our Bible study, we are working through the book of Esther. Consider joining this active and social group of ladies for a meeting. All are welcome. Questions? Or need a ride? Contact Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

Young at Heart



We will meet on Wednesday, January 16th, at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will continue our studies of other Christian churches led by Vicar Swiderski. Call Joyce

Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.

(Joyce Larger, coordinator)



In December, the teens enjoyed a few Sundays of general Bible discussion, where they were free to ask Vicar Swiderski various topics of their choosing. Included among these topics were Holy

Communion, demons, the book of Revelation, and questions about Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. In the new year, the teens are eager to begin their new unit on *This Changes Everything*, a book on Christian living for teens. Join them on Sundays at 9:15 A.M. in the auditorium to begin with devotion. Guests and visitors are welcomed. The teens are also invited to the Youth Group New Year's Party, to be held January 5th at 10:30 AM, with plenty of food and games. Stay updated with the teens in the church bulletin, our newly revamped youth group page on stpaulcares.org, and on Facebook!

Respectfully submitted,
Vicar Swiderski

About 20 leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) met in Florida on Nov. 27-28 to continue the informal discussions begun in 2012.

At this seventh annual meeting, participants updated each other on news from their respective synods. They also spent time discussing the doctrine of creation and its relation to science—a topic about which they found themselves in agreement on the key issues.

Looking ahead to the future, participants debated whether or not it is proper to begin formal doctrinal discussions with a view to restoring fellowship between ELS/WELS and the LCMS. Given the issues that separate us, it was decided that such a move would be premature at this time.

Rather, the group decided to continue with informal discussions, with another meeting planned for December 2019. At this meeting, the group will discuss the doctrine of justification. They also will precisely articulate and commit to writing some of the specific points of controversy between our synods.

These intersynodical discussions, conducted outside of the framework of church fellowship, have been useful in clarifying our synodical positions and in sharing information on topics of mutual interest. This latest meeting was no exception. Many participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to get together and to keep the lines of communication open.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder

Christian Life Resources celebrates 35 years

2018/12/31/in FIC News, Forward in Christ

Since 1983, Christian Life Resources (CLR) has been helping people of a variety of backgrounds navigate family and life issues in God-pleasing ways. CLR's mission is to use these issues "as bridges to convey the love of God and to share the message of salvation through Christ."

CLR's origins precede its official inception. When abortion was legalized in the United States in 1973, many WELS laypeople and pastors were inspired to respond. Soon, the first WELS pregnancy resource center opened in Palatine, Ill. Similar facilities popped up throughout the country shortly after.

The leaders from these centers came together for their first convention in the fall of 1982. The following spring, WELS Lutherans for Life was formed at Shepherd, West Allis, Wis. This national organization would later be renamed Christian Life Resources.

Robert Fleischmann, who has been serving as CLR's national director for 30 years, notes that the ministry has changed significantly since he began.

"When I started in 1988, there really was a single primary issue: abortion," he explains. "Today, we provide resources on the Christian perspective of a wide spectrum of life and family issues including infertility, birth control, challenging pregnancies, birth defects, cancer treatment, medical directives, health care, gender issues, transplants, stem cells, and many more."

Fleischmann says that CLR often gets requests for information from church leaders and laypeople on these complex and often challenging topics.

"In a Bible Information Class, a woman asked me about vaccines," says Philip Janisch, outreach pastor at Trinity, Brillion, Wis. "I e-mailed CLR and was quickly provided with a wealth of information that explained the history of vaccine creation and a Christian judgment on whether Christians can use vaccines in good conscience. Christian Life Resources is a wonderful source of

information for tough questions dealing with life issues."

Besides its central office located in Wisconsin, CLR has 14 pregnancy resource centers in eight states. Together, the centers see 4,000 to 6,000 clients a year. On average, about 19 percent of those clients are non-Christian or have no church affiliation, offering opportunities for outreach. A total of over 100 volunteers serve in these centers.

CLR is also associated with New Beginnings—A Home for Mothers. Located in Milwaukee, Wis., New Beginnings provides a safe, caring, Christian environment for single mothers and their children. General education, career training, and spiritual guidance are all available to the residents to help them develop the confidence and skill to live independently.

Fleischmann anticipates that the ministry of CLR and its associated organizations will continue to expand and adapt in order to respond to developments in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and other social issues.

Despite the difficulties that may be ahead, Fleischmann says that CLR is committed to reflecting the selflessness of Jesus Christ in all that they do. "We have the opportunity to talk about what it means to have someone sacrifice for you—and that someone is Jesus. He sacrificed for us. Dare we be any less loving?"

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Acolytes 6-(E) Jaelan (L) Braylon 13-(E) Ileana (L) Kylie 20-(E) Jaelan (L) Katie 27-(E) Jaelan (L) Emma	Greeters 6-(E) Thissen (L) Colegrove 13-(E) Howell (L) Balsler 20-(E) Frye (L) Hickman 27-(E) Thissen (L) Falter	1	2	3	4	5 10:30 AM Youth Group New Year's Party
6 WELS Connection 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	7 8:30 AM School resumes 7:00 PM Board of Elders	8 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers	9 8:35 AM School Chapel 4:30 PM Jr. Bell Choir 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	10 7:00 PM Bible Basics Class Begins	11 6:30 PM Evening Women's Guild at Schrimpf's	12 9:00 AM Christmas Decorations taken down
13 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	14 Faculty Professional Day No School 6:00 PM Evangelism Team	15	16 8:35 AM School Chapel 10:00 AM Young at Heart 4:30 PM Jr. Bell Choir 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	17 10:00 AM Pastors' Study 7:00 PM Bible Basics	18	19 9:00 AM Leaders' Breakfast Board. of Education following Leaders' Breakfast
20 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Voters' Meeting after 10:30 Worship 5:30 PM Chili Cook-Off	21 No School Pastor/Teacher Conference at Beautiful Savior/Grove City	22 No School Pastor/Teacher Conference at Beautiful Savior/Grove City	23 8:35 AM School Chapel 4:30 PM Jr. Bell Choir 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	24 7:00 PM Bible Basics	25	26
27 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	28 7:00 PM Church Council	29	30 8:35 AM School Chapel 4:30 PM Jr. Bell Choir 6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	31 7:00 PM Bible Basics	Altar Committee Judy Moehl Arlene Balsler Suzanne Geiger	

