



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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Constantly Growing by Pastor Sims

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."
(1 Peter 2:1-3)

We have tasted that the Lord is good. He has blessed our school with three teachers to fill what was going to be missing for the coming school year. He is blessing us with a record enrollment in the school. He has brought new, young people to our congregation who are becoming members. He has given us the means we need to make the renovations and to repair his house of worship. Brothers and sisters, the list could go on. Our God has been good to us and continues to do so. It is God's grace.

It is his grace, because I am not sure about you, but I need to constantly do what Peter encourages in the first verse – *get rid of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.* This is a constant battle for our sinful natures. But if you notice, it is something we are and can constantly do when these things rear their ugly head.

Do we have problems dealing with the items Peter lists? If we don't, then we are completely mature and grown up and don't need what our God offers to help us grow and mature in our faith. If we do need to battle with these things, our God tells us how we can battle and overcome them.

Peter reminds us of that little baby who is always clamoring for milk. Clamoring for milk, so that he or she can continue growing. Remove the milk, the baby dies. This is beautiful picture of what our spiritual life it to be like. We are to crave what

helps and makes us grow.

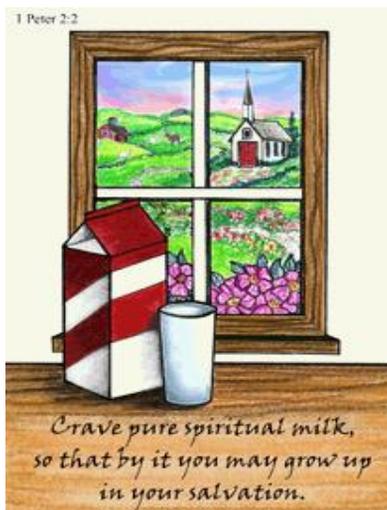
The milk for the soul, for our spiritual growth, is nothing other than the Word of God, the gospel, the good news of Jesus and all that he has done to demonstrate God's love and goodness for us.

We get to feed on this awesome food every Sunday in worship, in Bible Class and Sunday school for the children. We get to feed on God's Word on a private level. As parents, we get to share this spiritual milk with our children to help them constantly grow in their relationship with Jesus. We get to share this milk with those who are new to the faith, so that they desire to move on from milk to solid food.

Eating solid food, getting into the deeper things of Scripture, helps us to constantly grow. But sometimes, we reach a point in our lives where we "feel" that we have had our fill. We have learned all we can learn. We can stop eating the awesome food our good Lord has provided for us. When we reach this point, we need to start drinking milk again. We have forgotten the importance of growing in our knowledge and in our relationship with our God.

This is when we go back to the words of Peter - *rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.* These things have filled us with poisonous food that will kill us. These things can sour us on the pure spiritual milk and nourishing truths of God's Word.

The Lord has given us good food to eat. We get to enjoy it on a regular basis for our continual growth. Take advantage of those opportunities so that each of us can continue to be constantly growing.



New People on Campus

God is good to his people, to us! He has once again provided what we needed in the positions for teachers in our school to replace those who are leaving. He has provided us with another vicar to learn in a live setting.

We get to welcome them all on a couple different dates. The new teachers: 7th-8th -Megan Schoch; 3rd-4th Tiffany (Tellock) Stevens; and kindergarten, Brittany (Boyd) Steinfeldt will be commissioned and installed on July 21, 2019. Also, on that day, we will bid a farewell to Christa Crass and Jeanine Heller. There will be a joint potluck to cover both the welcomes and the farewells.

Then, we get to do it again for our vicars on August 4, 2019. Vicar Swiderski will preach and conduct his final service here, while Vicar-elect Steinfeldt will be installed. We will have a joint potluck for them on that day, as well.

Please mark your calendars and help to celebrate the Lord's continued blessings.

Called Home To Heaven

God in his wisdom called our brother in Christ, Dr. Paul Leithart, home to be with him in heaven on Wednesday, May 29th, 2019. His funeral was held at St. Paul's on Tuesday, June 4th, at 11:00 AM with Pastor Sims officiating. Interment following at Green Lawn Cemetery. May God give comfort and strength to the family in the assurance of the resurrection to eternal life.

Welcome New Members

Dave Mossman – completed the Bible Basics Course, and desired to become a member of St. Paul's. He was received into communicant membership on June 9th.

Kayla Rossman – Kayla has been accepted into membership as a transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Jenera.

Holly Brown – Holly was accepted into communicant membership by profession of faith on June 23rd. She is the granddaughter of member, Betty Hamilton.

We welcome these new members into our fellowship!



VBS coming in July

Save the following dates for Vacation Bible School - July 22 to July 26. VBS serves children ages 3 to those entering the sixth grade. This year's theme is

“Miraculous Mission –

Jesus Saves the World.” Please sign up your children and invite others that you may know.

Sign up to donate items for the planned snacks. You will see a poster board display in the narthex at church. Teen helpers can volunteer to Vicar (7th grade and up). For more information, please speak to Vicar Swiderski.



Enrollment for 2019-2020

Our enrollment for 2019-2020 is projected to be in the mid-90's. The kindergarten class is full for the coming year with 18 students. We do have room for more students in some of the other grades. Please share our school information with others! We are very thankful that God has already blessed us with many new students!

Three New Teachers Assigned

God blessed us with the assignment of a kindergarten teacher through the WELS Assignment Committee. Brittany (Boyd) Steinfeldt. Brittany married our new vicar, Matthew Steinfeldt, on June 22nd. Mrs. Steinfeldt will be joining us in mid July.

Tiffany Tellock of Freedom, WI will be our 3rd and 4th grade teacher. In July, Tiffany will be marrying Adam Stevens (the new principal at Beautiful Savior in Grove City.) Mrs. Stevens will also be joining us in mid July.

Megan Schoch of Merrill, MI will be teaching the 7th and 8th grades. Miss Schoch is the sister of

our 5th and 6th grade teacher, Garrett Schoch.

May God bless these teachers as they begin serving his precious lambs here at St. Paul's.



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| July 12 | Back to School Night
5:00 PM-7:00 PM |
| July 20 | Back to School Day
10:30 AM-12:30 PM |
| July 21 | Farewell for Mrs. Crass and Miss Heller and Welcome for Mrs. Steinfeldt, Mrs. Stevens, and Miss Schoch
There will be a potluck meal after the the 10:30 AM Worship Service |
| Aug. 8 | Faculty Inservice Begins |
| Aug. 15 | Registration Day
11 AM-2 PM & 4 PM-7 PM |
| Aug. 22 | First Day of School (2019-2020) |
| Sept. 2 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Sept. 20 | School Field Trip |
| Oct. 9-11 | MDTC Teacher Conference |
| Oct. 18 | Teacher In-Service Day |
| Oct. 25 | End of 1 st Quarter |
| Oct. 30 | Spelling Bee |

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

There will be a Voters' Meeting on **Sunday, July 28th after the 10:30 AM service.** Members will be brought up to speed on the repairs to the masonry work, the possibility of using Cornerstone to assist in a capital campaign, what is going on with our school, looking ahead to the 200th Anniversary celebration in 2021 - "*Preserving our Great Heritage - 200 Years of God's Grace*", membership changes and addressing other questions that may arise.

As normal, when major items are before the congregation, we have an informational meeting prior to the voters' meeting, so that all voices may be heard. Following that, the business of the voters is taken up.



Evangelism

God works in marvelous ways. German Village Valuables Sale went well. Members talked with people and handed out water to people; some took The Gospel of John books. Dogs enjoyed the water bowl. Some people took water earlier, then came back later and donated water to us! What a wonderful pre-evangelism event!

Blessings: Three new teachers assigned; eighteen Kindergarten students and ninety-five students overall are interested in attending our school for the next school year; Jeanine Heller's year of service; a new vicar assigned and his wife; Joe Baumann is back in Sunday School and Church; and Barry Weber is attending Sunday School.

We also discussed how to get new school families acquainted with St Paul's, and get them involved so they can become a part of our church family.

Upcoming events: Merion Village Garden Tour, Sunday, July 14. St. Paul's will have an Ice Cream Social and church tours from 12 noon to 3:00 PM. We need people to dip ice cream on Saturday, young people to help with the window and church tours and to hand out Vacation Bible School flyers at the ice cream social. Volunteers are needed to set up and tear down.

Vacation Bible School - July 22 - July 26, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Vicar Swiderski is organizing VBS this year. Members may sign up to provide snacks.

Merion Village Fall Festival, Sunday, September 8, 12 PM to 6:00 PM at Moeller Park.

The theme for the 200th anniversary of the founding of our congregation has been chosen, namely, "PRESERVING OUR GREAT HERITAGE- 200 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE."

We are all called to spread the Good News of Jesus our Savior. Come join us to help plan events. If you are going on vacation, the church has a list of WELS churches you can attend.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,

Lois Anne Colegrove, Evangelism Team Member

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will not have a regular meeting again until Thursday, September 5th. The Guild continues to serve by taking care of the altar flowers, altar paraments, altar candles and acolytes' robes as well as carrying out other responsibilities throughout the summer months.

There are still openings on the Altar Flower Calendar for 2019. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please check it out and sign up. 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 July is Arlene Balsler, Pam Bivens, and Mercedes Wiley.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

The Evening Women's Guild takes a break from regular meetings during the summer months. Monthly meetings start up again on Friday, September 13th.

By the time you receive this, four of our ladies will have attended the National Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention in Des Moines, Iowa on June 27th-June 30th. We will look forward to a report from them when they return. Our guild actively supports the LWMS with offerings and by attending Circuit Rallies in spring and fall. Our circuit along with the circuit in northern Ohio will be hosting the Annual Convention in 2021. It currently looks like the convention will be held in Cincinnati since the Columbus convention centers were all booked up. You will be hearing more about this as plans start to shape up. We are looking forward to this special opportunity!

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, July 18, 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)



As June winds down and July approaches, the teens eagerly look forward to their upcoming camping trip, to be held July 12-13.

Information forms and permission slips were handed out June 23 and

are expected back by July 7.

With Teen Bible Class, the teens recently had a great discussion on the various topics that have historically caused divisions in the church and how it is the true Word of God that unites us.

Stay updated with the teens in the church bulletin, on our revamped youth group page on stpaulcares.org, and on Facebook!

*Respectfully submitted,
Vicar Swiderski*



Every Member Visits With Pastor Schrimpf

Pastor thanks the members who have called him and made appointments for a visitation. He would like to finish up the visits this summer. For those who have yet to make an appointment, feel free to call him anytime (614-817-2812). Please know that you do not need to meet at your home. He can visit you at St. Paul's, a café, the park, etc.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Recap of June 24, 2019

- Several membership names to be voted on at the next congregational meeting, Sunday, July 28th.
- Worship numbers are down from previous years.
- The lights in the chancel area have been replaced; Pastor Sims is happy with them.
- Counseling/Prospects and Bible Basics work continues (may have as many as 30 for next round of BIC classes with new school parents coming in.)
- On the other hand, there are still some recalcitrant school parents from the school year just ended who have not completed the mandatory 8 lessons. This jeopardizes their children's reenrollment.
- Blessings noted: we have a complete school staff entering the school year; Joe Baumann's continuing recovery; Vicar and his wife had a good vacation, but it is good to have traveled safely and be back in church; 95 prospective students for the new school year.
- Sunday, July 21st, will mark the installation of our new teachers, with a potluck/welcome to new, and farewell to departing teachers, after the late service.
- Sunday, August 4th, will see the installation of our new vicar, followed by a potluck/farewell roast of our current vicar, and welcome to our new vicar after the late service.
- It was noted that as far as an earlier concern regarding the weekly Sunday school donut expense being covered, we currently are actually running a surplus.
- With a projected enrollment for next year of 95 at present time, it was noted that almost 20% of that total would be Kindergarten students. Our new Kindergarten teacher will need help.
- Following a recommendation from the Board of Education, Council approved Principal Galecki using the Upper Room for teaching Social Studies.
- A request is in to clean the school classroom and hallway floors on the second floor, perhaps the first floor as well. Saturday, July 6th, was selected for the task of classroom clear out.
- Need to replace a broken basement window. Roof vents need attention also.
- A question was raised whether the school replacement work would interfere with VBS (which makes use of second floor classrooms) if roof work is not done by then. If so, some VBS activities could be moved to the school library and other spaces.
- Next Evangelism event is our Ice Cream Social and Church Tours on July 14th in conjunction with the Merion Village Garden Tour.
- Our Treasurer is actually projecting an Operating Fund surplus at the end of our fiscal year, July 31st. This is largely due to the Synod reimbursement for Pastor Schrimpf's salary, insurance, etc. He also projects a fiscal year-end surplus in the Building Fund.
- Work is being performed on the outside wall behind the chancel as well as coming around the sides of the adjacent towers. Dana Rettig submitted a memo in June outlining three items of additional exterior masonry work the contractor determined. The Board of Education recommends to Council we proceed with items 1 and 2 – totally \$22,010 – as they relate to the school. Council approved this recommendation.
- Council approved recommending to the congregation (on July 28th) that we accept the Cornerstone proposal as outlined by WELS professional stewardship consultant Mr. Jeff Davis on June 6th.
- Member Paula Hickman has assembled information of possible outside funding for restoration work featuring 5 or 6 organizations. She was given the go ahead to research the historical aspect of our building. The question was raised, do we want to use "outside" help, even if we qualify – would there be strings attached? Keeping this information in abeyance, for the time being, we will concentrate on the Cornerstone proposal and see how Jeff Davis is able to perform in raising funds.



begins his role as seminary president, we can be thankful that God has blessed our seminary in the past and that those blessings will continue under the leadership of President Treptow.

New President at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder

At the end of this month, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., will experience a change in leadership. Seminary President Rev. Paul Wendland will be stepping down as president and will move back into the role of full-time classroom professor. Seminary Vice President Rev. Earle Treptow has accepted the call to serve as the seminary president and will officially begin his duties on July 1, 2019.

The role of the seminary president is an important one. It's been said that "as the seminary goes, so goes the synod." The seminary is the place where nearly all WELS pastors are trained, so it goes without saying that for the synod to remain faithful to God's Word, the seminary will need to remain faithful to the doctrines of Scripture. It is the responsibility of the seminary president to ensure that the seminary carries out that responsibility.

The seminary president is also the spokesman for the seminary. Our synod looks to the seminary faculty to provide guidance and input on doctrinal matters. The Conference of Presidents often consults with the seminary faculty when discussing doctrinal issues. It is the role of the seminary president to speak for the faculty when discussions on doctrinal matters take place.

President Wendland first joined the seminary faculty in 2001 after serving in both world and home mission settings, in an established congregation, and as a professor at Northwestern College and Martin Luther College. He has served as seminary president since 2004. We are thankful for the years in which President Wendland has faithfully carried out these important responsibilities and pray for God's continued blessings on his new role in the classroom.

Prior to coming to the seminary in 2016, President-elect Treptow served as a pastoral recruiter at Martin Luther College, as a pastor in British Columbia and Denver, Colorado, and as the president of the Nebraska District. As Treptow

