



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

Vol. 93, No. 6

322 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus, OH 43206

June 2018

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Stay Encouraged

Spring has sprung, and summer is almost here. School has ended. Vacations are beginning. Many of us may travel a little way from home. We take a break from the hustle and bustle, from keeping schedules and deadlines. Sometimes in our traveling and vacationing, we are tempted to take a break from God, his Word and worshipping with fellow believers.

Don't let the vacation bug get the better of you and drag you away or drag your fellow believers away. Instead, *let us consider how we may spur one another on*

toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as we see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

The encouragement is to put our minds on one another, noting what is needed; thinking about how we as individuals can help keep the body of Christ strong. We are to *spur one another on*. When we notice that someone has not been in worship for a couple weeks, we can pick up the phone and give them a call to see how they are doing or if there is something they may need. When someone shares a hurt with us, take a moment to pray with them on the spot. These are a couple easy ways of considering how to *spur one another one toward love and good deeds*.

We need to continually gather to be strengthened by the Word of God and Communion. What better way to spur someone on than to be with them and many others being fed with the Bread of Life and

being assured over and over again that our relationship with God has been made right through Christ.

We also give strength and encouragement to one another as we gather as a body of believers. We see that we are not alone in our struggles and challenges. We realize that there are brothers and

sisters able and willing to assist us as needed; physically, emotionally and spiritually. This needs to be our habit.

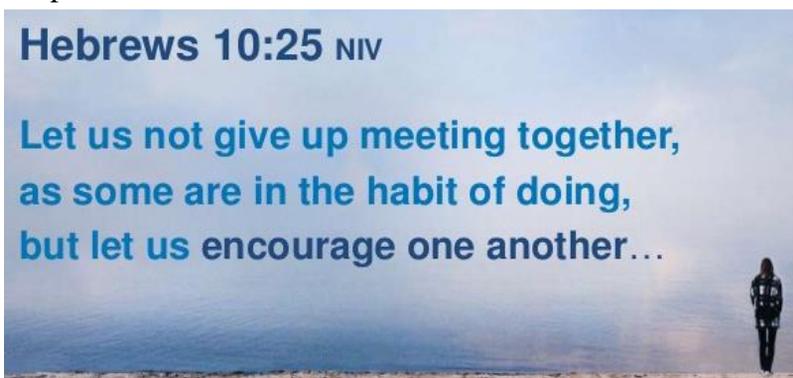
We need each other. We cannot be that lone charcoal briquette sitting by ourselves hoping we

will have enough heat to get us through the summer. We cannot get into this habit, because a lone briquette will go out due to a lack of the heat and warmth of other briquettes. This is what the writer to the Hebrews is trying to get across to his readers, to you and to me.

The writer to the Hebrews is not saying this to lecture or criticize, but to stand alongside, walk alongside and help where needed, in love. Ongoing encouragement is always needed, because "*the day*", judgment day, is approaching. We are encouraged to be prepared for that last day at all times.

We are able to be prepared as we keep in step with the Holy Spirit. We do this as we make use of God's Word and the sacraments on a regular basis for the strengthening of our faith and are concerned about our brothers and sisters. This is the simple encouragement of Hebrews 10:24-25.

—Pastor Snowden Sims



New Vicar Assigned

Tyler Swiderski, from Minneapolis, MN was assigned to his vicar year at St. Paul's. Below is a photo of St. Paul's vicar-elect and his fiancée, Hannah Schlomer. They will be married in June and move to Columbus in late July, so that Tyler can begin his vicar year in August.

Biographical information will be coming later.



Michigan District Convention to be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary

The Michigan District Convention will be held from June 11-13 in Saginaw. The convention will consider business pending for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Pastors, principals, male teachers and a lay delegate from each congregation will attend the convention. Pastor, Vicar and Mr. Mark Greiner, our lay delegate, will be attending.

There will be a change in leadership of our district. President John Seifert and First Vice President Paul Naumann are not standing for reelection this year. They have served in those positions for 24 years. What a blessing to our district!

VBS coming in July

Soon you may sign up for Vacation Bible School, coming in July. The dates for VBS are July 16 to July 20. VBS serves children ages 3 to those entering the sixth grade. If you would like more information, please see Vicar Spaude.

Church Doors Locked for Safety

In an effort to keep our members safe, the

deacons will begin locking the outer doors 10 minutes after the service starts.

A deacon will need to let you in through the archway entrance if you arrive after that time.

Evangelism

The Evangelism Team is looking forward to lots of activities this summer where we can be friendly and show our love for our Savior.

In May, we again participated in the Merion Village Yard Sale on May 5th at a new location. We also participated in the German Village Valuables Event, a community wide yard sale, on May 19th with a tent with water and goodies for visitors set up at the entrance to the archway. Signs were posted to advertise free water, free parking, and church tours. Folders and fliers with useful information, pens, and water were given out during the events. We had a number of interesting conversations and we had a visitor who came to church and Sunday School as a result of the May 19th event.

We will be participating in the Merion Village Garden Tour which will be on Sunday, July 8th from 10am to 3pm. As in past years we will invite people on the tour to have ice cream and water in the parking lot and we'll have guided tours of the inside of the church. If you are willing to help out on the day of the event, please contact Pat Ratz.

Bill Ratz is offering free rides all summer weekends, 12 noon to 4pm, at the Zanesville & Western Scenic Railroad, 5700 SR 204, Mt. Perry, OH 43760, for all St. Paul's members and school families if you wear a St. Paul's t-shirt or polo.

We're still working on plans for the Merion Village Festival on September 9th and the church picnic in September.

We'll be talking to people again in Schiller Park using a survey after our August meeting. Come join us!

We're looking forward to seeing YOU at our next meeting on June 4th at 6pm.

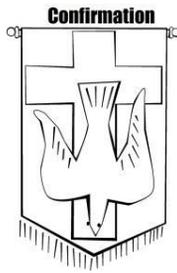
*Pat Ratz
Evangelism Team Member*



Baptism

Alexandria Romero, infant daughter of Santos Romero and Jasmin McFarland was baptized on May 20th in the 10:30 AM service.

Five young people were confirmed and received as communicant members on May 20th, 2018 during the 10:30 AM service. What a blessing to have these young people continue to grow in their faith!



Jamie Marie Howell, 715 Oakwood Avenue, Columbus, OH 43205, born March 4, 2004, in Columbus, OH; was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH on October 11, 2009. Jamie's hobbies are being with family and watching YouTube videos. She plans to attend Cristo Rey Columbus for high school. She would like to have a future profession in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Bible Verse: "*She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.*" (Proverbs 31:25)

Statement of Faith: As I consider the future, I consider Jesus to be my greatest possession because: Without him I can do nothing!

Andres Allen Loving, 239 Dering Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207, born July 13, 2004 in Columbus, OH; was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH on October 13, 2015. His hobbies are hanging out with family and friends and playing video games. For high school Andres plans to attend Hamilton High School. He would like to become a teacher and an O-line coach in football.

Bible Verse: "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*" (Psalm 119:105)

Statement of Faith: As I consider the future, I consider Jesus to be my greatest possession because: He helps me and will walk by my side every step of the way. No matter the path I chose I know God has my back 100%.

Dominic Xavier-Josiah Morgan, 2485 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43207, born December 26, 2003 in Columbus, OH; was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH on January 9, 2006. His hobbies are basketball and playing guitar. For high school Dominic plans to attend Hamilton High School. He is undecided about the career he will pursue.

Bible Verse: "*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*" (Revelation 2:10c)

Statement of Faith: As I consider the future, I

consider Jesus to be my greatest possession because: No matter what, he will always be there for me, even when I need him most and when I am weak.

E'Naijah Jenee Smith, 854 Linwood Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206, born December 26, 2003 in Columbus, OH; was baptized on June 23, 2013. Her hobbies are playing basketball and spending time with family. For high school E'Naijah hopes to attend Cristo Rey Columbus. She would like to have a profession as a sports doctor.

Bible Verse: "*The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?*" (Psalm 27:1)

Statement of Faith: As I consider the future, I consider Jesus to be my greatest possession because: Jesus is to always come first before anything, including family, friends and work.

Cody Gabriel Stewart, 3049 Durham Drive, Columbus, OH 43207, born April 5, 2004 in Columbus, OH; was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH on October 12, 2014. His hobbies are sports and video games. For high school Cody plans to attend Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI. He hopes to become a pastor.

Bible Verse: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" (John 15:5)

Statement of Faith: As I consider the future, I consider Jesus to be my greatest possession because: Without Jesus I would be dead in my sins.



New Teachers

Miss Jeanine Heller will be teaching kindergarten plus handling church and school music. She is presently in the Czech Republic and will finish teaching there. She will return to the states to pack up her home in Wisconsin and move to Columbus in July.

Jeanine Heller was born in Evergreen Park, Illinois. She received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Dr. Martin Luther College, and her Wisconsin state certification from Wisconsin Lutheran College. Jeanine has had a

lifelong interest in music and served as a piano/organ instructor at DMLC as an undergraduate.

Jeanine's first classroom call was to St. Paul's in Franklin, WI, where she taught grades 3 and 4. After this she took a call to teach 4th grade at Apostles in San Jose, California, and later accepted a call to Trinity in West Bend, WI, to teach grades 3 & 4. Throughout her years of teaching, Jeanine has enjoyed serving in various musical capacities, such as organist, Jr. Choir director, accompanist, praise service coordinator, director of musicals, and piano teacher.

From a young age, the Lord placed an interest in her heart for missions. He led her to teach English as a Second Language to other cultures as a bridge to the Gospel in California, Japan, China, and currently in the Czech Republic.

In April Jeanine accepted the call to teach at St. Paul's. She is looking forward to this new opportunity to share the Gospel of God's grace in Jesus to the children in Columbus!

Garrett Schoch will be teaching 5th & 6th grades and serving as athletic director. An introductory letter is below:

I grew up in Midland MI for the first 15 years of my life before moving to Merrill MI. I went to Michigan Lutheran Seminary from 06-10 and Martin Luther College from 10-15. I have been a dorm supervisor and Algebra 1 teacher at St. Croix Lutheran Academy for the past 3 years.

My wife, Calla (pronounced Kayla) and I got married on July 9th 2016. We will be expecting our first child around July 30th. Calla graduated from MLC in 2017 and she is currently teaching Science, Algebra and Spanish to 5-8th graders at Salem in Stillwater MN. She will be taking the year off teaching next year to take care of the baby.

I very much enjoy playing and coaching sports. My favorites are Ultimate Frisbee, baseball, football and basketball. I am an avid Lions, Tigers and Wolverine fan (uh oh...) which may prove challenging in city of Columbus. ☺

My wife and I are very excited to meet all of you and start our ministry at St. Paul!

In Christ,

Garrett Schoch (Pronounced Shook)

Christa Backus will be teaching 3rd & 4th grades. She will marry Charles Crass (vicar-elect at Beautiful Savior, Grove City) in June. Her introductory letter follows: *I am Christa Marie Backhaus. I was born in Saginaw, MI. From the age of four to eleven, I lived in Las Cruces, NM. Ever since then, my family has lived in Tomah, WI. My parents are Curt and Becca Backhaus, and I have three younger siblings. My dad is a pastor at St. Paul in Tomah, and my mom currently teaches first grade in the Tomah Public School District. My brother, Duke, will be a junior in the pastor track at Martin Luther College next year. My sister, Amanda, will be in her last year at Luther Preparatory School, and my other sister, Caroline, will be an eighth grader at St. Paul in Tomah.*

I have aspired to be a Lutheran educator since I was in preschool. I have loved all of my teachers both in my public schools in Las Cruces, and during my time at St. Paul, Tomah, Luther Preparatory School, and Martin Luther College. Learning at the feet of excellent educators, coming from a family of called workers, and enjoying school lead me to continue to desire to be a teacher all throughout my entire life. I was blessed with many opportunities to gain practical experience at Martin Luther College. I have spent time in 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, and Spanish classrooms in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Florida. I also took two summer trips to South America for my Spanish minor. I am thrilled to serve the 3rd and 4th graders at your school this year. I am sure that I will learn just as much from them as they will learn from me.

In high school and during my first year in college, I participated in track, volleyball, drama, and choir. I enjoy running and being outdoors, and I love a good book. Traveling and going to theater productions are some of my favorite things to do.

In June, I will get married to Charlie Crass. He will be serving as the vicar at Beautiful Savior in Grove City starting in August. We look forward to starting our married life and our ministry in the Columbus area. Lord willing, we will move to the area and meet all of you in July.

Enrollment

Enrollment is still continuing throughout summer. The second Ed Choice Scholarship enrollment window will open on July 1st.

If you know of anyone interested in Christian education, please share information with them and put them in touch with Mr. Galecki!



Evening Women's Guild

The Evening Women's Guild takes a break from its monthly meetings during the summer.

Regular meetings will resume in September.

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

School Graduation

The Closing Service & Graduation for the 2017-2018 school year took place on Friday, May 25th.

The Kindergarten graduates were: **Peyton Boyd, Aliviyah Gilchrist, Davion Holmes, Ethan Holt, Essence Jones, Ta'Sira Neeley, & Maresa Peppers.**

The Eighth Grade graduates were: **Jamie Howell, Andres Loving, Dominic Morgan, E'Naijah Smith, Cody Stewart & Marra Thompson.**

We will meet at 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 21st in the church office meeting room. We will continue our study and discussion of Predestination. Please join us. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.

Young at Heart



(Joyce Larger, coordinator)



July 13 Back to School Night (5:00 PM)
July 21 Back to School Day (10:30 AM)
August 16 Registration Day
August 23 First Day of School



The teens have begun their study of selected Psalms, but it's not too late to join in. If you're a teen, who is entering the 9th grade this fall, please join us Sundays at 9:15 A.M. in the auditorium.

Bring your friends for this wonderful opportunity to meditate on God's Word.

While you're at it invite your friends to our monthly Youth Group gathering on June 3rd. Immediately after the late service meet in the auditorium for food, devotion, and games. Those entering 8th grade are welcome, too!

We'll end this month with a bang with our trip to the WELS International Youth Rally at Bowling Green State University on June 26th-29th. We are blessed to have 11 teens and 4 chaperones going.

This is possible because of the great support our congregation demonstrated through the monetary gifts that came through spaghetti dinner the teens sponsored and other generous gifts from members.

Please pray for safe travels and for a life-changing experience with other young Christians we meet.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicar Spaude
Pastor Sims

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will continue their regular duties of caring for the altar candles, paraments and flowers throughout the summer months. They will meet again on Thursday, September 6th.

The Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in the entryway still has dates to fill. If you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion, please sign up.

The Altar Committee for June is Pat Ratz, Audra McDonald and Tammy McFarland.

(Pat Ratz, president)



One church—two locations

In 2014, Divine Peace, Garland, Texas, began discussing the idea of starting a second congregation in the neighboring community of Rockwall. This area northeast of Dallas is booming, and many families were traveling from the Rockwall area to Garland to attend Divine Peace. Rather than start a separate daughter congregation, Divine Peace decided to become a multi-site congregation.

John Hering, pastor of Divine Peace, notes, “Initially there was some hesitation from members wondering how it would be possible to start a new location and survive. But, after clearly explaining that we would not be two churches but one church at two locations, the tensions eased and folks supported the effort.”

In 2016, after Divine Peace conducted community surveys and a demographic study of the area and demonstrated that a strong core of its members would support ministry at a second site in Rockwall, the WELS Board for Home Missions voted to support the mission effort. In May 2016, Gunnar Ledermann, a new graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, was assigned to serve as the second pastor at Divine Peace, with the main responsibility of establishing the Rockwall location.

Soon, those in Rockwall were worshipping at a wedding chapel just off of the town square. In January of this year, Divine Peace bought the wedding chapel and its property thanks to support from WELS Church Extension Fund.

“Now that Divine Peace has a second permanent location for ministry, a new door has opened for reaching our community,” says Ledermann, who is excited about the potential the location has for serving as a gathering place for the community.

Mark Drezdson and his wife, Michelle, joined Divine Peace in 2013 after completing Bible information classes with Hering. Mark currently serves as Divine Peace’s president. He says, “‘One church—two locations’ brings challenges and blessings alike. One of the biggest challenges was splitting our congregational resources and talents

between two locations. We have been blessed with many talented and gifted members to cover things, like musicians for all of our services and teachers for our Kingdom Kids Bible study sessions. It takes time to coordinate everything between the two locations, but it has also brought members closer together. But most important, having two locations gives us the chance to achieve the Divine Peace mission—to bring the true Word of God to our community—in two communities.”

Hering agrees. “Multi-site gives you the joy of sharing the gospel with more people in more places while remaining one church.”

“Stay tuned,” concludes Drezdson. “With the way growth continues in the Northeast Dallas Metroplex, we might be ‘one church—three locations’ in the not too distant future!”

June 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <u>Acolytes</u> 3-(E) Jamie (L) Emma 10-(E) Sarah (L) Andres 17-(E) Jamie (L) Dominic 24-(E) Sarah (L) Katie | <u>Greeters</u> 3-(E)Howell (L)Colegrove 10-(E)Frye (L)McDonald 17-(E)Thissen (L)Falter 24-(E)Howell (L)Balsler | <u>Altar Committee</u> Pat Ratz Audra McDonald Tammy McFarland | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 WELS Connection 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship | 4 6:00 PM Bd. of Evangelism 7:00 PM Board of Elders | 5 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship | 11 MI District Convention in Saginaw, MI | 12 MI District Convention in Saginaw, MI | 13 MI District Convention in Saginaw, MI | 14 7:00 PM VBS Staff Meeting | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship | 18 7:00 PM Bd. of Education | 19 | 20 | 21 10:00 AM Young at Heart LWMS National Convention In Green Bay, WI June 21-24 | 22 LWMS National Convention In Green Bay, WI June 21-24 | 23 LWMS National Convention In Green Bay, WI June 21-24 |
| 24 Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship | 25 7:00 PM Church Council | 26 WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH June 26-29 | 27 WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH June 26-29 | 28 WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH June 26-29 | 29 WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH June 26-29 | 30 |

