



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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The Lord is our Strength

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever" – Psalm 28:7-9

Is this not an appropriate Psalm for us to memorize at this particular time? Our church building is in a state where safety concerns are a reality. Our place of worship is now the school auditorium. Such a drastic change certainly causes one to wonder: Can the church be repaired? When will it be repaired? How will we pay for it? When will we worship in the nave again?

Such questions can cause us to become afraid. Which is why we need to dwell on psalms like this one. There is no uncertainty in God's Holy Word. God is our strength and protection against our troubles. His promises are the reason our hearts trust in him. He doesn't lie to us or deceive us. He truly helps us with everything in ways we are too near sighted to see.

Are our buildings in disrepair? Yes, but this is no reason for us to be afraid or angry. Our Lord is the strength of his people. He has risen from death and has secured a place for us that will never crumble, never fall down, never be destroyed. The building of St. Paul's is a temporary structure, not an eternal one. Let not your hearts become devoted to its bricks, plaster or stained-glass windows. They are not the beauty of St. Paul's. The beauty of St. Paul's is the message that Jesus Christ was crucified for your sins and raised for your justification. He is your fortress of salvation

It is certain fact, that if our hearts are set upon the building of St. Paul's, it will continue to

crumble. However, if our hearts are set upon the message of the gospel at St. Paul's, then who can know but God alone the infinite ways he will bless us. Those who trust in God alone are helped by him.

Does Scripture not say, *"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked"* (Psalm 84). Yet, to be near God through the Word and Sacraments is better still! I pray that you will take no other viewpoint than this.

Therefore, since God is near you in his word, let not your hearts be troubled. Our risen Savior has saved us from our unrighteousness and blessed us with an eternal inheritance. He is our Shepherd and will carry us in his arms forever.

So what now? Remember your ancestors. On October 31, 1847 your ancestors dedicated a new St. Paul's building to the glory of the Triune God. Yet only nine years later, this church burned to the ground. Pastor Mees escaped with his life and a few belongings. The organ, which was the finest in Columbus, was completely destroyed. Neither it, nor the building was paid for. Your ancestors had no insurance on the building and still owed money on it. So what did they do?

"On the same day of the fire, while the walls were still smoking, a little group of members met under an elm tree and decided to rebuild immediately. The following Sunday, Pastor Mees stood on the steps of the burned-out structure and preached a sermon of repentance to a group of weeping members gathered on High St. This was indeed a trying time for the members of St. Paul's, but they withstood the test. A number of them mortgaged their own property to give to the church, and on October 11, 1857, just a year after the fire, the new church was dedicated, and on May 16,

1858, a new organ was dedicated. The new church was a duplicate of the older one.”

The Lord is our strength and our shield; our hearts trust in him, and he helps us. Just as the Lord was with your ancestors, so he is with us. Who knows the infinite ways he can help us in this trying time, especially when our hearts are set upon the gospel at St. Paul’s.

Again, let not your hearts be troubled. Instead, I encourage you to help St. Paul’s in whatever way you can. Pray for our congregation. Pray to God that all the buildings can be fixed in their entirety. Is God’s arm too short and small to do such a task? Voice your wisdom, thoughts, and opinions with love and respect. Give generously for the rebuilding of St. Paul’s. Learn from your ancestors and consider the outcome of their faith in action.

Finally, rejoice, brothers and sisters. I say it again, rejoice! Let your hearts leap for joy on account of the knowledge of salvation that is yours. May your whole heart be set upon worshipping at St. Paul’s, in order to praise God for saving us and blessing us.

– Pastor Schimpf



Confirmation – May 12th

The examination and confirmation of Emma Martin will take place on May 12th in the 10:30 service. She will make her promise of faithfulness to God and his Word, be presented with a certificate of confirmation and receive her first communion with her mother, Tammy McFarland, who is a member of St. Paul’s.

Following this service there will be refreshments and fellowship in the auditorium for all in attendance. Come and welcome Emma into communicant membership at St. Paul’s!

Anniversary Bible Class Breakfast on Sunday, May 26th

Pastor & Melinda Sims will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, May 29th. In recognition of their marriage they invite St. Paul’s members to join them for a special Bible class breakfast starting at 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 26th. No gifts are needed. All are invited.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for your care and concern for me. Thank you for the flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and especially your prayers. I really appreciate seeing you and hearing from you. I miss going to church and your words of encouragement are very helpful!

In Christ,
Mary Lascola Scott



Graduations from high schools and colleges:

Please let the office know of any of our members who will be graduating from high school or

college so that we can recognize them in the Messenger. Please include information about the name of the high school or college they are graduating from and about future plans for further education or a career that they will be entering.

Sign Up For Kroger Rewards

This program has been going on for a long time. We do get quarterly checks from Kroger but we think we could benefit more from it. We know a lot of members shop at Kroger. You can register online or you can go to the Kroger office and get information about registration designating St. Paul’s Lutheran Church as the recipient. Our Church number is #QQ412. Once you are registered, you just have to show your key fob at the time of checkout and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church should get credit. Let’s all get together behind this Awards Program!



Enrollment for 2019-2020

Our Kindergarten Class for 2019-2020 is full at this time. We do have room for students in the other grades from 1-8. Please share our school information with others! We are very thankful that God has already blessed us with many new students!

The Ed Choice Scholarship window is closed as of April 30th. They plan to have another window opening for the month of July.

Track Meet

Grades 3-8 will travel to Findlay, OH for a Track Meet with other Ohio WELS Schools. A shout out to the parents who transport the students to this event and to the teachers and parents from Trinity Lutheran in Jenera for hosting this event each year!

Closing Service and Graduation

You are invited to our School Closing Service and Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation service on Friday, May 24th, at 7:00 PM. We wish our graduates and all of our students a blessed summer.



- May 1 Track Day (Gr.K-2) (Grove City)
- May 2 PTO Talent Night
- May 3 Track Meet (Gr. 5-8) (Findlay)
- May 7 Graduation Pictures – Gr. K & 8
- May 12 Confirmation
- May 13 Teacher Professional Day – No School
- May 17 School Picnic at Blacklick (Buttonbush Shelter)
- May 24 Last day of School
Closing Service/Graduation-7 PM

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will join the Evening Guild to host the annual Women’s Night Out on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 PM. It will be an opportunity for all of the women of St. Paul’s to enjoy great food and fellowship at Ruby Tuesday’s at 4065 Marlane Drive, Grove City. Call Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305 with questions. All those attending should also RSVP to Suzanne as soon as possible.

We will not have a regular meeting again until September. 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 May is Audra McDonald, Lucille Ortziger and Pat Ratz.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evangelism

The Evangelism Team is rejoicing with you at the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a great time to be sharing our joy with our friends and neighbors! Eight of our members visited and spoke with our neighbors on April 13th to invite them to our Resurrection Sunday services. We were so glad that 35 visitors signed our friendship register on Resurrection Sunday and that there were actually many more visitors than that. Lots of great conversations have happened at the “Meet and Greet” before the services. One of our visitors said, “this sure is a friendly church!”

Going back to March, the game night on March 15 was well attended and everyone had a great time. It was rewarding to see kids of all ages (even those of us who are repeat kids) and a number of our school families and friends. The Evangelism Team is

thinking about some additional activities that will be attractive to our school families.

We will be participating in Village Valuables Sale sponsored by the German Village Society on May 18th, 9am to 3pm. We'll be located in the archway parking lot at church and will hand out water or coffee and packets of information about our church and school. And of course, we'll be our usual friendly selves. Please consider volunteering for a 2-hr shift – contact Pat Ratz at pratz@columbus.rr.com or 614-595-9703 to volunteer.

We'll also be participating in the Merion Village Garden Tour on July 14th, 12 noon to 3pm, by offering ice cream and water in the parking lot and guided tours of the inside of the church. We had an excellent turnout for this event last year with quite a few repeat visitors and had some great conversations.

It's not too soon to be thinking about inviting friends and neighbors to VBS which will take place in late July.

We'd love to see you at our next meeting on May 13th at 6pm.

Pat Ratz, Evangelism Team Member



Evening Women's Guild

Kentucky Derby Themed Mother/Daughter Banquet on Sunday, May 5th

Ladies! Dust off and wear your fanciest hats to our Kentucky Derby themed banquet “Run the Race” and you might just win a rosy award to take home with you. All women of the congregation and their daughters/friends are invited to attend St. Paul's annual Mother/Daughter Banquet on Sunday, May 5th at 5:30 PM.

A warm home-cooked meal, desserts, prizes, a devotion, and a special presentation by Rachel Greiner will make the evening memorable. In the church fellowship hall tickets will be sold each Sunday and also the day of the event. Ticket prices are \$5 for youth 12-under and \$7 for adults.

Consider who you could treat to this evening of food and fun! Questions? Call Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

Needed: Volunteer Men, Boys & Teens on May 5th for the Mother/Daughter Banquet

On Sunday, May 5th at approximately 5:00 PM, 12-15 men and boys of all ages will be needed in the kitchen during the Mother/Daughter banquet. Dinner is free to all male volunteers. Any help is appreciated.

An Evening Out with the Ladies on Thursday, May 9th

All ladies of the church are invited out for an evening dinner on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 PM. The Evening Women's Guild will join the Altar Guild for this opportunity to enjoy great food and fellowship at Ruby Tuesday at 4065 Marlane Drive, Grove City. Call Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305 with questions. All those attending should also RSVP to Suzanne as soon as possible.

(Suzanne Geiger, president)

LWMS 2019 Convention in Des Moines, Iowa

Three ladies from St. Paul's plan to attend the annual LWMS convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 27-30, 2019. Several missionaries will be featured as speakers throughout the convention.

Anyone else interested in going to the convention can still sign up. There are convention registration forms available on the credenza in the narthex of the church. Feel free to take one and fill it out. The early bird deadline is April 1; however, later registrations are still welcome.

Young at Heart



We will meet on **Wednesday, May 15**, due to a Pastor meeting conflict with our Thursday meeting date. We will meet 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)



April saw a few exciting changes for the Youth Group. In Bible Class, a new music-oriented unit began, where the teens analyzed various Christian song lyrics. With our monthly meeting

in April, the teen room in the basement was cleaned up and reorganized, with the teens hoping to decorate the place further in the summer months. Plans have also begun for both a teen lock-in at church and a camping outing, with further planning expected to be made in May.

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

Dear members of St. Paul's,

I thank the members who have called me and made appointments for a visitation. I have enjoyed getting to know who you are. For those who have yet to make an appointment, feel free to call me anytime (614-817-2812). Please know that we do not need to meet at your home. I can visit you at St. Paul's, a café, the park, etc.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Schrimpf



Welcome Home!

2019/04/02/in Together

There are approximately 155,000 WELS individuals who come to church only one or two times per year. Some have not set foot in church in years. They are drifting toward becoming what we call a “back-door loss,” members who slip away from churches.

WELS Congregational Services is planning the Welcome Home initiative for this fall. Congregational Services will provide congregations with resources, training, and encouragement to try to regain those people. We want to welcome them back to their church home.

Congregational Services Coordinator Rev. Jonathan Hein describes the effort:

“Congregations are encouraged to pick a date—October 20 or October 27—as Welcome Home Sunday. This Sunday is ‘pitched’ to all members as an ‘everyone in attendance’ type Sunday. ‘We want a service where 100 percent of our members are there! Let’s pack the place.’ That way it does not seem to someone who has been absent that they are being singled out. ‘It’s great to have Joe back! He hasn’t been in church in 14 months!’ This is simply a day for everyone to attend.

“Worship that Sunday will focus on the blessings . . . the need . . . for the Christian family. Christians simply are not wired to exist as rugged individuals. We need one another.

“Resources will suggest ways to make that Sunday special: a fellowship meal, fall festival, activities for kids, etc. The goal is to get 100 percent of your members there, including those who rarely come to church, maybe who have not been in church in years.”

Many features of this initiative will help congregations to plan and carry it out, including online elder training and resources that help congregations track member attendance. There are also plans for a November sermon series in the weeks that follow Welcome Home Sunday. The prayer is that we not only get returning members to come back for Welcome Home Sunday, but through continuing efforts, we retain them in the fold.

You can find additional information about the Welcome Home initiative as well as the “10 for 10” stewardship program also planned for the fall at welscongregationalservices.net. Resources will be available at that site in June.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder

WELS CEF Offering Limited-Time Special Rates

2019/04/02/in Together

Increasing requests for loans from WELS Home Mission churches and mission-minded congregations is prompting WELS Church Extension Fund (WELS CEF) to offer special rates for new investors. WELS CEF makes loans below or at market rates for WELS churches that are either new and building for the first time or established congregations with a new mission-focused initiative.

WELS CEF funds these loans through WELS congregations' and members' investments in WELS CEF products. With the need for funds increasing, WELS CEF, through this special offer, is seeking to raise approximately \$12 million in investments. "If you are not an investor in WELS CEF, this is a great opportunity to support ministry. If you are already an investor, this is a great opportunity to increase your support of ministry by increasing your investments," says Mr. Scott Page, director of WELS CEF.

For a limited time, WELS CEF is offering a four percent interest rate on a minimum investment of \$5,000 in either a 56-month-term loan certificate or a 60-month-term IRA certificate. WELS CEF's investment certificates pay and compound interest quarterly. The four percent interest rate applies only to new money investments.

"We're offering a great interest rate for new investments," says Page. "Congregations are eager to grow, and now's the time to fund that need." Investing in WELS CEF is not only a smart way to manage personal finances, but it also supports the mission of the church. Rev. Keith Free, administrator for WELS Home Missions, says, "The continued investments of more WELS members and congregation gives WELS CEF additional funds to support missions and mission-minded congregations."

View rates online at wels.net/cef. New IRA investors should contact WELS CEF at 866-511-7793 for investment materials. Investors can also manage their accounts and investments [online](#).

Graduations and Call Days at Synod Schools

Our synod schools will have their graduations and call day in the month of May. Each of the services can be viewed by way of a livestream. What a continued blessing to have young men and women offering themselves as candidates to serve in the public ministry!

Martin Luther College Commencement

New Ulm, Minnesota

May 17-18, 2019

May 17

Commencement Concerts: 4:00 PM & 7:30 PM

May 18

Graduation Service: 10:00 AM

Call Service: 2:00 PM

Luther Preparatory School Commencement

Watertown, Wisconsin

May 24-25, 2019

May 24

Commencement Concert: 7:00 PM

May 25

Graduation Service: 10:00 AM

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Commencement

Mequon, Wisconsin

May 23-24, 2019

May 23

Call Day Service & Vicar Assignment: 10:00 AM

Commencement Concert: 7:00 PM

May 24

Graduation Service: 10:00 AM

Michigan Lutheran Seminary Commencement

Saginaw, Michigan

May 24-25, 2019

May 24

Commencement Concert: 7:00 PM

May 25

Graduation Service: 10:30 AM

