



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. 94, No. 10

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October, 2019

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"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need. You will abound in every good work." – 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

October is finally here. With it, our stewardship emphasis drive. Up to this point, some of you may be frustrated on account of the lack of information presented. What will happen? What does this entail? Will it be like past fund appeals? Through preaching, teaching, and presenting, all of our questions will be answered.

But there is one question that is worth addressing immediately: What is the driving force behind this stewardship emphasis? I can assure you it is **not** money. It is not even the desire to fix up the church so everything looks beautiful again. Yes, the renovations are the reason for our stewardship drive, but they are not the motivation.

Look again at what Paul wrote to the Corinthians. What makes a gift "generous?" Is it the amount given? Our world says, "yes." But God's Word says, "No!" Generosity is not determined by *how much* someone pledges to give for our renovations. Generosity is determined by a heart that cheerfully gives to the Lord in faith. This means that if one believer gives a pledge of \$5.00 cheerfully and another gives \$50,000 reluctantly or under compulsion, the generous giver was the one who gave \$5.00. Cheerful giving is the key.

Our goal is not to force or compel anyone to give a pledge. From my own experience it benefits no one. I have toured St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In my own opinion, it is breathtaking and beyond compare. Yet there was a sadness to it. I asked

myself, "At what cost was this place built?" The people were deceived into thinking their family members would receive less time in purgatory if they gave money! Far be it from us at St. Paul's to follow in the footsteps of those wicked deceivers. Far be it from us to use the law to motivate members into giving.

Our goal is to teach the gospel and let it work on hearts so that, whatever the gift amounts may be, they are acceptable to the Lord. Pastor Sims and I are servants of Christ. We desire to please him. And what pleases him is hearts motivated by his love. That only happens when we ponder what God has graciously given to us: His Son, free forgiveness of sins, adoption into sonship through baptism, his body and blood in the Lord's Supper, freedom, life eternal, and so much more. It is his giving to us, that motivates us to give back to him cheerfully.

This is why verse nine is so important. Our hearts are often timid and scared. We worry. Yet God says he is able to bless us abundantly. He promises to do so, so that in every situation in life, at every moment, we have all that we need. God assures us of his providence, so we can give generously.

The gospel is the driving force behind this stewardship emphasis. Trusting in Jesus turns our giving into cheerful giving. Trusting that the Father will still provide for us when we give things away turns our giving into cheerful, generous giving.

No one knows what the final pledge amount will be. But success is not determined by raising \$400,000. Success was determined when Jesus said, "It is finished." Everything we do now is in loving thanks to that timeless truth. If people give pledges cheerfully, the stewardship emphasis is a success. For God loves cheerful giving.

What I hope for, even more than raising \$400,000, is that when these renovations are

completed we can all look up at them and think to ourselves, “these are the results of the members giving cheerfully to their Lord.” Not even St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome will be able to compare to that beauty.
 – Pastor Schrimpf

Cornerstone Update

I would put an update in here, but there is not room to mention it all. Look at the attached calendar for important dates. Come to our worship services, bible studies, and the presentations this month to learn about *Preserving Our Great Heritage* and our fund appeal. This is a very exciting month! Don’t miss out on the invites.

Thank you,
 Pastor Schrimpf

Called Home to Heaven

The Lord called the soul of Lenore Lyle home to heaven on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at the age of 102 years. There was no memorial service per Lenore’s request. We pray for comfort for her son and those who mourn her death and we thank our God for the blessings he gave to Lenore during her lifetime, especially the blessing of eternal life in heaven which she is now experiencing.

Spelling Bee

The annual St. Paul’s Spelling Bee will be held on Wednesday, October 30th, at 12:30 PM. The students will be studying words that are published for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. There will be two divisions of spellers for this event. Grades 1-4 will be together and Grades 5-8 will compete in the other division. You are invited to come and encourage the students and enjoy the event.



Oct. 4	Skating Party (5:00-9:30 PM) at United Skates of America
Oct. 9-11	MDTC Teacher Conference
Oct. 15	Grades 1-2 Field Trip
Oct. 18	Teacher In-Service Day
Oct. 25	End of 1 st Quarter Kindergarten Field Trip
Oct. 30	Spelling Bee
Oct. 31	No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Nov. 1	No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 PM-8:00 PM
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Parties
Nov. 27/28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 19	Christmas Service at 7:00 PM
Dec. 20	Christmas Parties



Roller Skating Party

Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of Roller Skating at United Skates of America on Refugee Road on Friday, October 4th. The times are: a private party from 5:00 PM-6:30 PM, then we can join the family skate session until 9:30 PM. Admission is \$5.00 and Skate Rental, if needed, is \$4.00. For each paid admission, United Skates will give \$5.00 back to St. Paul’s School. Plan to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship!



St. Paul’s will be hosting the Joint Reformation Service on **Sunday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m.** Please plan to come and worship with believers from our sister congregations.

There will be opportunity for fellowship as we gather for a potluck meal after the service. Chicken, beverages, and table service will be provided. Bring main dishes, side dishes and desserts for the meal. Please consider bringing a generous amount when preparing your food since there will be guests.



Evangelism

The Evangelism Team is praising and thanking God for the opportunities we've had and for ones we look forward to this fall as we reach out to our church neighbors and friends.

The church picnic was a huge success and we were again blessed with fabulous weather. With the school children singing at the late service, we had about 220 people attending that service. It was wonderful to see the church nearly full. About 200 people attended the picnic including many school families and some of our neighbors. There was great fun, food, and fellowship for all. As always, the kids especially liked the bouncy house. Thank you to all who helped out.

We were also blessed with great weather for the Merion Village Festival on September 8th. We handed out water, frisbees, pens and a number of information packets about our church and school. The volunteers enjoyed their conversations with people and doing some crafts with the children. St. Paul's is becoming more well-known as people return to our table every year.

The Evangelism Team is very thankful for the great church picnic day with all the attendees and help from members who prepared, set up, cooked, and cleaned up, and for the attendance at church with the school children singing. We're also thankful for a very successful camping trip with 38 students and 17 parents and teachers and helpers.

We confirmed 2 dates for handing out postcard invitations to our Christmas services: Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 14th. Come join us on those dates if you can. Some members of the team will also be taking postcards to some local places for people to take.

A Game Night is in the planning stages and we will again be having our Friendship Sunday with a Turkey Dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Keep this in mind and invite your friends.

Come join us on October 9th at 6pm at our next meeting in the Upper Room.

Pat Ratz, Evangelism Team Member

ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild will have a regular meeting on Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. The Guild serves by taking care of the altar flowers, altar paraments, altar candles and acolytes' robes.

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 October is Pat Ratz,, Mindy Sayre and Kathy Glende.

(Pat Ratz, president)



Evening Women's Guild

Meeting Friday, October 11th

We extend a warm invitation to all women of the congregation to join us for the October gathering of the Evening Women's Guild. Suzanne Geiger will be hosting the event at 6:30 PM on Friday, October 11th in the fellowship hall at St. Paul's. Kathy Glende will have the devotion. Those attending can bring their Bibles for the Bible study portion of the evening and then plan to stay after the meeting for food and fellowship. Questions? Contact Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

Silent Auction Donations Needed for the LWMS Fall Rally

The Heartland Circuit of LWMS is asking St. Paul's to donate one basket to the LWMS fall rally. Our basket theme is Gifts of Love. Donate gift bags, bows, gift tags, curling ribbon, decorative boxes and other gift-wrapping supplies or greeting cards. A box will be available in the church narthex for donations until Wednesday, October 16th. The funds collected from the sale of our silent auction baskets go towards the convention stipend fund.

LWMS Door Collection on Sunday, September 22nd

St. Paul's Lutheran Church continues to support mission projects in the United States and other parts of the world. On Sunday, September 22nd a door collection of \$336.25 was taken up by the church. 100% of the monies collected will go directly to the mission field. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of missions.

Learn about Mission Trip Opportunities on October 19th

Want to take a mission trip? You have the opportunity to hear about the WELS Missions Journey Program with Shannon Bohme on the morning of Saturday, October 19th. A carload or two of ladies will be traveling to Radcliff, Kentucky to attend the LWMS Fall Rally at Faith Lutheran Church. We plan to leave Saturday morning at 5:00 AM from the parking lot of St. Paul's and return by 7:30 PM. Saturday's rally will also feature LWMS Awareness Committee Chair Karen Goetzing who will share tips on how to "Ignite" our Heartland Circuit. First-time attendees are always welcome. Enjoy a beautiful fall drive down to Kentucky in October to refresh your spirit. To register or to get a ride, contact Melinda Sims at 614-271-2089 or you can register yourself at www.tinyurl.com/lwmsheartland. Breakfast and lunch are provided to attendees the day of the rally.

Befriend a Mission/College/High School Student Cards

As members of St. Paul's we have the opportunity to send some loving words of encouragement and support to our home & world mission contacts as well as our fellow church members who are studying in high schools and colleges away from home. Please take the time to write your personal greetings or share your favorite Bible passage in their cards. The cards will be available in Bible class or in the narthex of church from Sunday, September 29th through Sunday, October 13th. We have the following individuals to encourage:

Pastor Mark Panning in Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa
Pastor Paul Biedenbender in Denver, Colorado
Cody Stewart at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan

Christopher Baumann at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin
Jennalee Strous at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mt. Vernon, Ohio
Jonathan Strous at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana

Young at Heart



We will meet on Thursday, October 17th, at 10:00 AM in the church library. We will continue our study of Church Fellowship led by Vicar Steinfeldt. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571 with questions.
(Joyce Larger, coordinator)



The Youth Group has plans to meet on Sunday, October 6 after the second service for some wonderful dodgeball and video games. Since this has been a favorite Youth Group activity in the past, we are working on getting our own set of dodgeballs. We may ask some of you to bring your favorite game/console, if we haven't already asked you about it on Sunday, September 29 during our "Game Time/Hello Vicar" event.

Get ready Youth Group! The events are beginning and the leaders are super pumped. We know you are too.

-Vicar Steinfeldt



Celebrating the blessings of WELS youth ministry
2019/09/17/in Together

As one decade comes to a close and another begins, WELS youth ministry programs have exciting milestones and events on the horizon.

First, the monthly video news magazine Kids Connection is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Created to complement the WELS Connection monthly video news magazine, Kids Connection encourages children and their families to “stay connected to Jesus” through Christ-centered stories and segments presented by two teenage hosts.

“We have an incredible number of passionate kids and adults in our church body,” says Mrs. Kris Snyder, producer. “God places each of us in spaces and situations and in different relationships to nurture our faith and provide us with opportunities to serve him by serving others. Kids Connection is our chance to share their stories and connect us through our common faith.”

Snyder recalls how the tagline “stay connected to Jesus” first came to be a signature element of the program.

“Early on, we used the line ‘stay connected to Jesus’ to close a few episodes, just encouraging kids to stay in their Bibles, to learn more about their Savior,” Snyder says. “Soon, kids began to quote that line when they wrote letters to us; it became a permanent tagline. I even heard it used during one of our WELS grade school graduations!”

Kids Connection is valuable in numerous settings, including grade schools, Sunday schools, preschools, early childhood education centers, and Christian homes. It can even be shown after worship for the whole congregation or during visits to elderly homebound church members.

Another way for young people to stay connected is the WELS International Youth Rally. The next rally will be held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, June 23–26, 2020, under the theme “Vision 2020: Seeing Christ Clearly, Serving Christ Boldly.”

“So much in our culture distracts, distorts, or outright denies the incredible love of God who sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for their sins,” says Rev. Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Commission on Discipleship. “This rally will position Christ and his cross in front of them to encourage clarity of faith and motivate bold service to him in their lives.”

Youth rally attendees will join more than 2,000 others who share their faith, making this event the largest regular assembly of WELS members. Special speakers and workshops will further bring into focus the meaning of their Savior’s presence in their lives today and in the life to come. Christ-centered discussions of critical topics like evangelism, anxiety, and social media will guide and empower teens long after the event.

“We don’t want the rally to impact them for just four days,” says Dobberstein. “We want this to be transformational in their lives as they understand who they are and what their God has equipped them to do.”

Attendees also will be able to enjoy the Anakeesta Theme Park, river tubing, paintball, and other recreational activities around Knoxville for an additional fee, all the time growing through fellowship with their Christian brothers and sisters.

Churches and schools are encouraged to start promoting and planning for the youth rally by announcing the dates of the event to church teens and youth leaders and by connecting with the event on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Registration booklets will be available at churches and online in January. Early-bird registration begins March 2.

To learn more about and subscribe to Kids Connection, visit wels.net/kidsconnection. To learn more about the 2020 WELS International Youth Rally, visit wels.net/youthrally.

