



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



“Thoughts on Spiritual Warfare”

by Pastor Robert Schrader

I don't know about you, but I don't usually think of 90s movies as being particularly profound. Yet, the same decade that produced less-than-philosophical classics like *Wayne's World*, *Forrest Gump*, and *Toy Story*, also spawned the lesser-known *The Usual Suspects* in which is one of the more insightful lines that I've heard in a while: “The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he did not exist.”

Think about it. It is a pretty good trick, isn't it?

I think it's led to our moral relativism. Just like the devil doesn't exist, neither does right or wrong. People say things like: “I decide what's good and bad for me.”

I think it's led to our materialistic worldview. Just like the devil doesn't exist, neither does God nor spirits of any kind. “All that there is, is what I can see, taste, touch, hear, and smell.”

I think it's led to the degradation of our ethics. If the devil doesn't exist, we stop watching out for him. Stealthily, silently, he leads us into worse and worse behavior because our guard is down.

And, taken together, by convincing us that he doesn't exist, Satan has had great success at achieving his ultimate goal: leading us away from trusting in God so that we'll join him in his eternal torment instead of receiving God's gift of everlasting life.

Right now, the church is growing in places like Africa and rural Asia where people believe in and worship spirits. At least in part, this is because missionaries are able to go in and demonstrate the power of God over and above the power of the demons that plague them every day.

But here in America, Christianity, and religion in general, is faltering. Undoubtedly, a big reason for this is that the devil has convinced us that he doesn't exist.

And I think these ideas have even crept into the church. I'll be the first to admit that I don't talk about the devil enough. We talk about pain and suffering,

Continued on page 2

falling away from faith, temptation, and sin. But rarely do we talk about the one who's behind all of these things – our true enemy – the devil.

The Bible says: *“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). It talks about being caught by *“the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will”* (2 Timothy 2:26). It's the devil who tempts us (1 Thessalonians 3:5). It's the devil who fills our hearts to do wrong (Acts 5:3). He's the bringer of death (Hebrews 2:14). He's the source of evil (John 8:44). It's the devil that keeps people from coming to faith (2 Corinthians 4:4). It's the devil who leads people to hell (Revelation 20:7-10).

Certainly, the Scriptures acknowledge that the devil is the one behind all the evil, but we so often fail to see that. And ultimately, because of this, I think we fight our spiritual battles ineffectively.

For instance: how many lives would have been saved if the Allies had been able to assassinate Adolf Hitler instead of slowly fighting through the forces he commanded? Likewise, I think, to some degree at least, we'd be better off fighting the tempter instead of the temptation, the depressor instead of the depression, and the hater instead of the hate.

In other words, because the devil has, to some degree, convinced us that he doesn't exist, we fight our worldly problems but fail to fight the one commanding those problems to assault us: Satan himself. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 says, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”*

Now, I'm not saying that earthly weapons are of no use to fight against our problems. Certainly, support groups assist in overcoming addiction. Undoubtedly, medication helps to handle mental health concerns. And absolutely, self-help books aid in battling temptation. These are still gifts that God gives to us. Even though they didn't kill Adolf Hitler, the Allies still won WWII.

But I'll also say that I believe we'll fight our problems more effectively when we realize that, ultimately, the devil is behind our sufferings and that we should use God's spiritual weapons to fight against him.

In fact, God's word instructs us to do just that: *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the*

heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11-12). The next few verses describe in detail what the armor of God is: a righteous life, the Gospel, the truth of God, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

For the devil does exist. Though he might be trying to convince you otherwise, don't fall into his trap. Instead, recognize that he's the one who is really buffeting you. Then, don't just sit here and take it. God enables us and empowers us to defend ourselves and fight back. So, instead of just picking up a pill, also pick up prayer. Instead of just opening up a self-help book, also open up the Good Book. Instead of just looking for an earthly solution, look up to your salvation.

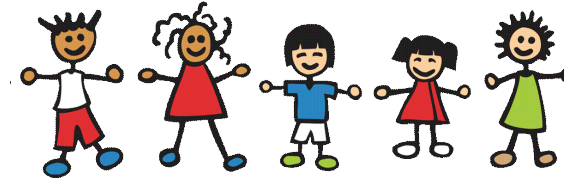
Don't forget, God has already defeated the devil, and he's on our side! You can't lose.

Pastor Robert Schrader



Early Childhood Center

The 2023-24 school year has ended. We had 12 children from the 4K class graduate on May 22. The children acted out the book *"No Sleep for Sheep,"* sang some of their favorite songs and then received their diplomas. We wish them God's blessings as they enter Kindergarten in the fall.



Child Care will be open throughout the summer. We will be closed Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, a staff retreat July 29 and Labor Day weekend August 30 & Sept. 2. Weather permitting, the children will be spending their days out on the playground for centers, art projects, snacks, large motor and free play. They will come indoors to eat lunch and rest in the building. This altered format gives the children a change of pace and lots of time for fresh air and exercise.

Thank you for saving used ink and toner cartridges as well as old cell phones. You can continue to drop them off in the Giving Center during the summer.

There are still openings available in the afternoon Preschool and morning 4K classes next Fall. If you know someone who might be interested, please give them our contact information – call 920-467-6733 or email us at preschool@stpaulfalls.com.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Awards \$37,000 in Grants

The St. Paul Endowment Committee is pleased to announce this year's grant awards, with \$37,000 distributed to seven projects aligning with St. Paul Church's mission of Connecting People to Christ. Each represents a unique outreach program extending God's grace to others and opening the door to conversations about God's Word and love. Collectively, the projects touch the lives of those in Sheboygan County and in areas throughout the world!

2024 Grant Award Recipients

- Anchor of Hope Health Center - Obstetric ultrasound program
- Feed My Starving Children – St. Paul Mobil Pack Event 2024
- Guatemala Mission Team – Activity materials and gifts for children living at Casa Aleluya children's home
- LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Ministry – Outreach program
- Love INC of Sheboygan County – Office equipment upgrades; Refugee Resettlement gap ministry services
- St. Paul Early Childhood Center – Storage expansion
- Stepping Stones of Sheboygan County, Inc. – Grant sourcing/management training



Since 2012, the St. Paul General Endowment Fund has provided over \$250,000 in funding to numerous Christ-centered programs. Professionally managed, the Endowment Fund is a perpetual fund from which only the investment earnings are distributed for needs separate from the church's day-to-day operating budget. For more information about the fund, including ways to contribute, contact the church office or visit stpaulfalls.com/endowment-fund.

Children & Family Ministry

Savannah Henn, Director of Children & Family Ministry



Sunday School

On May 12, we had our last Sunday School of the year. 3K-3rd Grade finished their unit on the coming of Jesus. Our 4th and 5th Graders finished the year by learning about the Exodus. We are already planning and looking forward to September when we can be back together. Stay tuned in August for registration for next school year!



Children's Messages

During our summer months, there will be Children Messages at our 9:30 am services on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. We invite you and your families to join us for that service for an age-appropriate children's message.

Nursery

Due to the change of the summer worship schedule, the nursery will be staffed 9:15-11:00 on Sundays. The nursery is open for ages birth-3 years old. We encourage children 4 years old and up to attend service with their families in the summer. Additionally, the nursery will not be staffed on June 16. You are still more than welcome to use the space. If you would like more information about the nursery, grab a pamphlet outside the nursery door or contact Savannah Henn.



Family Fun at the Park

July 9

6:00-7:30 PM

Shaw Family Playground

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming next month! The time has been flying by and we are so excited for this event. Child Registration is open now on our website

stpaulfalls.com/childrens

June 13-27, we will be accepting donations for VBS. In the back of church, there will be a donation board that you can take a tag from. These tags will have descriptions of the items that are needed for our VBS. **All donations are due June 27 unless indicated otherwise on the tag.** All donations can be dropped off at the church office. There will also be a flyer by our donation board for our Amazon Wishlist if you choose to donate that way. Amazon Wishlist items can be shipped directly to St. Paul. If you have any questions, please reach out to Savannah Henn.



Upcoming Children, Youth, & Family Event

Please come and join us **Tuesday, June 18** at 12:45 for an afternoon at the movies. We will be seeing **Inside Out 2**. Please see Nicole or Savannah to get your tickets in advance. Cost is \$5 a person.



Confirmation

We had a beautiful day for Confirmation. God's blessings be with our 19 confirmands as they continue to live out their faith in some big ways!

Grad parties are in full swing. I love attending these and lifting our students in all of their accomplishments and cheering them on as to what the future holds. God Bless our Seniors!

Youth Group

Summer is upon us and that usually means a big shift in schedules and plans. We have a great **summer youth ministry schedule** set up. This is an awesome time to touch base and connect during the summer. So, all youth and young adults are welcome to check out our Food, Fire, and Fellowship event on **June 9th**, and our family movie event on **June 18th**. Please check out our website for a few other events we have and always watch social media for pop-up ice cream gatherings all summer long!

Youth Mission Team

Pittsburgh, here we come! The **youth mission team** has been trained and educated and we are ready to serve! Please keep in your prayers our group as we travel and serve **June 22-28th**. We value the support and love that we are shown by our home church.

LCMS Youth Gathering

The **LCMS Youth Gathering** is around the corner even though it is over a year away. We have a rich tradition of sending great groups to the gathering and as we start to assemble, fundraise, and gather we know God will bless us with a great group! Please pray for all of the churches around the world that are planning to attend the gathering.



Youth & Young Adult Food, Fire, & Fellowship

June 9 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM |

Nicole's House

Come and enjoy some time with friends and get ready to celebrate summer break!



2024 Youth Mission Trip



**Commissioning
for our Youth
Mission Team!**

June 16 | 9:30 AM

**Dine to Donate
Culvers Plymouth Location
Monday, June 10th**

4pm-9pm

Supports 2025 Youth Gathering Trip



Support the 2024 Feed My Starving Children MobilePack at Ducktona!



We're preparing for the eleventh annual **Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack** and couldn't be more excited! Mark your calendar for **October 10 – 12** to help pack meals. FMSC has provided life-saving meals to 112 countries around the world since 2009 and depends on organizations like ours to continue that mission.

We'll be raising funds at Ducktona again this year and would love your support.

Sunday, July 7 – Ducktona Pancake Breakfast: Come enjoy a delicious breakfast between 7 – 11am. Could you lend a hand at the event? There are two shifts available: 6 – 9 am or 9 am - 12 pm.

Contact Katrina Martin at katrinapc@att.net or 920-912-3316 to volunteer or to learn more. You can also sign up to volunteer here: <https://signup.com/go/WagHNVW>; or by scanning the QR Code.



And, don't forget about the money tubes, to fill with quarters and return, at the Welcome Center. This is a great opportunity to encourage a giving heart with your little ones at home over the summer. Drop a quarter each time you sit down for a meal. Each quarter nearly covers the cost of the ingredients for one meal for our MobilePack!

Congregational Meeting



There will be a **Congregation Meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm** in the **Worship Center**. Please see the weekly news two weeks prior to the meeting for the agenda.

A Maycember to Remember

Have you heard of 'Maycember'? It is a trending term that refers to the chaos and stress of December, but during the month of May. It's especially relevant in the education world, where students, parents, teachers, and staff all feel the heat as end-of-school-year activities abound: exams, papers, concerts, awards, senior nights for athletics, banquets, prom, graduations, confirmations, parties... the list goes on. Was May crazy at Lutheran High? Absolutely! But May also provided many opportunities to celebrate the God-given talents of our students, particularly the Class of 2024 graduates. In the fall of 2020, these students began their high school experience in the midst of the COVID



The Crusader Class of 2024 celebrates with silly string at the commencement service.

pandemic, socially distancing and masking up, making the most of their freshman year. Four years later, they went out with a bang, earning an astounding \$1.97 million in scholarships for higher education. Of the 49 graduates, 46 will be attending tech schools, colleges, or universities, with several intending to pursue church work as educators or musicians. Regardless of the next path they have chosen, it is our prayer as a faculty and staff that each graduate feels prepared for lives of Christian leadership. When asked to reflect on their experience at Sheboygan Lutheran High, here is what a few new Crusader graduates had to say:

"Lutheran High has prepared me to stand up for my faith, love and serve my neighbor in all vocations, and be a kind and compassionate Christian leader."

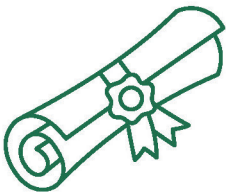
- Peyton Roethel

"LHS has prepared me to really understand how to hone my God-given abilities and best use them in the world that God has laid out for me."

- Ryan Lindsey

"Lutheran High has trained me in many ways to be ready to go out into the world and spread the light of Christ to everyone around me."

- Asa Diener



49 Graduates



46 College-Bound
(College, university, or tech school)



3 Workforce-Bound



\$1.97 Million in Scholarships
(Average of \$40,200/college-bound grad)

St. Paul Serves



May 18 was a great day! With over 150 people participating in our day of mission, we were able to assist at 11 sites throughout Sheboygan County including Neat Repeats, REINS, Lutheran High, Anchor of Hope, just to name a few. We also had 4 in-house projects including Project Linus, Nursing Home Placemats, Meals on Wheels Bags and Card Making. Thanks to everyone who participated! *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..."* Mark 10:45



ST PAUL

Serves 



"Thank-Yous" and Other News

Rebuilding Together Thank You

On Friday,
April 12th and
Saturday, April
13th volunteers



from St Paul helped an older couple create a safer environment. The concrete steps leading down from their porch sidewalk to the city sidewalk was breaking apart and sinking. This created slanting steps that were difficult for the couple to navigate. The old concrete steps were removed, and new wooden steps built. A railing was also added. At an earlier date gutters and downspouts were fixed so that water would not run onto their sidewalk and freeze. Thank you to Allen, Jon, Pete, Tom, and Brian who helped with the project. Thank you also to St Paul congregation for your continued support of Rebuilding Together Sheboygan County.

Dick Boenisch
St Paul Coordinator

Thank you

I would like to thank Joan Dulmes for the beautiful job she did on the God Bless America Sign by the Veterans display.

Fay Risse

Guatemala Mission Team Thank You

Thank you so much for supporting our mission team through your purchase of our cinnamon rolls. We are looking forward to sharing with all of you about our mission trip to Guatemala this August.

36th Annual Trash 'N' Treasure

Check those basements, attics, garages, and drawers for items in good, clean condition that you no longer need. Sheboygan County's largest rummage sale will be **Saturday, September 21**, sponsored by St. Paul Friends Club. Proceeds fund Mission Projects!



Drop off information and volunteer sign up begins in August! If you have any questions, please call Lorrie Wilson, aka Trash Queen at 920-467-6880.

SAVE THE DATE
BRAT FRY & CAR SHOW
AUGUST 19 • 5:00 TO 7:00 PM
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
730 COUNTY ROAD PPP • SHEBOYGAN FALLS

BRAT FRY, CAR SHOW AND DJ!
You do not want to miss it!

All proceeds for this event will benefit The Gathering Place and Memory Matters programming!

engaging hearts...enriching minds
The Gathering Place Memory Matters

Love Inc – Furniture Ministry Help Needed

Do you know that Love INC has received over 60 requests for furniture this year? Currently, we are only able to deliver furniture twice a month for a maximum number of 8 families each month. Our neighbors are now waiting until late August for furniture. Could you be a part of the solution and volunteer to serve on a furniture delivery team? We would like to create 4 teams of 4-6 people who would serve once a month so we could deliver furniture each Saturday and reduce the waiting time for our neighbors. Contact us at loveincsheboygancounty.org if you are willing to serve in this capacity.



Financial Report - April 2024

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Financial Results- 10 Months Year to Date Actual, Budget & Variance

	10 Months Ended 4-30-24 Actual	10 Months Ended 4-30-24 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 1,038,421	\$ 1,125,142	\$ (86,720)
Other Income	\$ 39,198	\$ 26,200	\$ 12,998
Mission Offerings	\$ 79,728	\$ 71,473	\$ 8,254
Total Income	\$ 1,157,347	\$ 1,222,815	\$ (65,468)
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,085,681	\$ 1,144,353	\$ (58,672)
Mission Support	\$ 79,728	\$ 71,473	\$ 8,254
Total Expense	\$ 1,165,408	\$ 1,215,826	\$ (50,418)
Suplus (Deficit) Total	\$ (8,062)	\$ 6,989	\$ (15,051)

Capital Improvement Fund

	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 7,517	\$ 301,814

Membership Report

Baptized Members	2,033	Confirmed Members	1,732
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CelebrateRecovery®

A CHRIST-CENTERED 12 Step program

We CELEBRATE God's amazing healing and restoration!

Celebrate Recovery now has BABYSITTING available! Contact Julie for more information.

Did you know... that 2 out of 3 people attend CR for NON-addiction issues?

We all have struggles. What do you struggle with?

Depression, Anxiety, Anger, Feelings of Unworthiness and Being Less Than, Paranoia, Perfectionism, Obsessive Thoughts, Co-Dependency, Loneliness, Control, Fear, Resentment, Addiction to Food, Drugs, Sex, Bad relationships, Unforgiveness, Money Issues, Emotional or Sexual Abuse, Pornography, Jealousy, Selfishness, Judgement of Others, Unfaithfulness, etc.

Principle 4 – Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and to someone I trust.

"Happy are the pure in heart." Matthew 5:8

Step 5 – We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16

Confess and Admit – A big step in our healing process is to examine the areas of our lives that we made mistakes, take ownership of the hurt we have caused other people and admit that to God, ourselves and to someone that we trust. This work can be difficult, but we are not alone! We surround ourselves with people that we trust that are on the same healing journey we are. Once we name those short comings and admit our faults there is freedom...and an incredible peace that comes from Jesus Christ. Then the healing can really begin!

Are you ready to take that first step in your journey of recovery from life's difficulties?

You were never meant to walk this life journey alone...

Come join us at Celebrate Recovery!

Your forever family is waiting! You are not alone!

**Celebrate Recovery follows a Christian 8 Principal / 12 Step process
to heal from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits!**

Entrance #4 – 300 Wing

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Large Group: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Open Share Group (Gender Specific): 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Fellowship: 8:30 PM – 9:00 PM

No sign-up necessary, the only requirement is confidentiality!

Everyone is Welcome! We are waiting for you!

For additional information contact Julie J. @ 920-207-1397

St. Paul Lutheran Church
730 County Road PPP
Sheboygan Falls WI 53085



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Pastors
Kyle Backhaus, Senior Pastor
Robert Schrader, Associate Pastor
Tom Gudmundson, Pastor Emeritus
Donald Hasse, Pastor Emeritus

Lay Leaders
(Contact Church Office for contact information)
Tom Splittgerber,
Congregation President
Jeff Berg, Congregation Vice President
John Rische, Head Elder
Donna Felch, Treasurer

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Fridays: Closed

Church Phone: 920-467-6449
Church Fax: 920-467-4239
ECC Phone: 920-467-6733
The Gathering Place: 920-627-6847
Website: www.stpaulfalls.com

Worship Schedule
Thursday:
6:30 PM Informal
Sunday:
7:45 AM Traditional (*Hymns*)
9:15 AM Blended (*Hymns & Praise Band*)
10:45 AM Contemporary (*Praise Band*)

Wee Care Nursery
Staffed Sunday from 9:15 - 11:45 AM

Children & Youth
(all below during the school year)
Sunday School: 9:15 AM service
AWANA Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Confirmation Wed Night: 6:00 PM
Youth Group Sunday Night: 5:30 PM

Early Childhood Center
3 year-old class *(during school year)*
Tuesday & Thursday:
9:00 - 11:30 AM or 12:30 - 3:00 PM
4K Class *(during school year)*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday:
8:30 - 11:30 AM

Child Care
Monday through Friday:
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Ages 2 ½ - 5 years – call for Drop-ins

The Gathering Place & Memory Matters
The Gathering Place
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday:
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Memory Matters
Thursdays: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM