



# St. Paulite

**Support** each other with God's Word and sacraments  
**Share** Christ with our community and the world  
**Serve** others in Christian love



## Wednesday Lent Services

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday February 14. We'll be having special Wednesday worship services (Feb. 14, 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 20) at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm. We'll also be having Lenten suppers starting around 5:15 pm each of those days. Our sermon series is called "God on Trial" as we follow Jesus to the cross and see how knowing that truth leads us to live in a world that often puts God and his people on trial. We'll have a preaching rotation again this year and will also be welcoming pastors from Immanuel, La Crosse and Good Shepherd, Holmen. **We'll also have the Lord's Supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14.**

## Thursday Evening Services

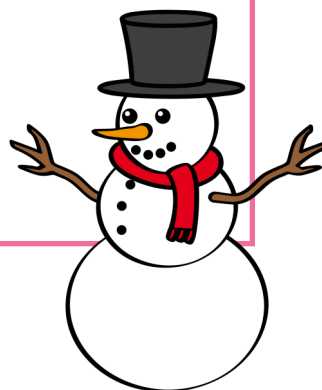
Due to our midweek Lenten services, there will be no Thursday evening services on February 15-March 21. Thursday evening services will resume on March 28 as we celebrate Maundy Thursday during Holy Week.

## Singles Retreat

We invite all single members of the WELS and ELS to join us this spring on April 26-28 for the 2024 WELS/ELS Singles Retreat at Camp Shiloh in Pittsburg, Texas for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Register by April 8, 2024 at [wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat/](https://wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat/)

## Lent/Easter Choir is Starting!

Our adult choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, January 24! We'll be preparing to sing for Ash Wednesday on February 14 and also will be introducing Good Friday and Easter music. Please come if you can! Choir meets in the back of the sanctuary at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. When Lent starts rehearsal will be after evening services at about 7:20.



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### Contact Us

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**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church Onalaska, WI**  
[stpaulsonalaska.org](http://stpaulsonalaska.org)  
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## ST. PAUL'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18*

### Judges

Sundays at 9:20 & 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall)  
Wednesdays at 9 am in the Fireside Room

We'll continue our main Bible study topic by continuing looking at the Book of Judges. In the new year, we'll start with the fascinating life of Samson and the amazing things the Lord accomplished through him and (sometimes) in spite of him.



### Starting Point Class

**6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Questions about the Bible? New to the Christian faith? Has it been more than five years since you've attended Starting Point? Pastor Olson will begin a new Starting Point class which covers the main teachings of the Bible and gives clear answers to life's biggest problems and questions. Atmosphere is relaxed and questions are encouraged. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Krause – [skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org](mailto:skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org).



### Sunday School, Young Teen, and Teen Bible Class Options

**9:15am Sunday School for ages 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Classes meet in the elementary school wing of our school, just down the hall from the Fellowship Hall. Classrooms are: **3 and 4 Year Old's** (children who are potty trained are welcome to attend), **Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup>+3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**10:30am Young Teen and Teens for Grades 6-12:** These classes will also meet in the elementary school wing of our school, just down the hall from the Fellowship Hall. Two different classes will be offered: **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade** and **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**High School Teen Group:** Pastor Krause will continue to lead youth group for high schoolers on select Wednesday and Sunday nights throughout the year. Let him know if you'd like to get on his text list. (Pastor Krause: 608-217-5660)

**7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade B.I.B.L.E. Classes:** We have plans to resume our 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade BIBLE in March. Parents will receive information in the new year. We'll meet for about 6-8 weeks and study "hot topics" that are especially relevant that teenagers and adults face in our modern world.

**Remain** is a Bible study and fellowship group for our upper high schoolers and for those in college, roughly ages 17-23. They typically meet the last Saturday of the month at 6pm at St. Paul's. Follow Remain on Instagram for the most up to date news: [@remain.st.pauls](https://www.instagram.com/remain.st.pauls)

**20s-30s Group** We have a group of folks in their 20s-30s who meet periodically (usually weekly) to study a book or a section of the Bible. The days/times sometimes change due to scheduling conflicts. In the new year, we'll be choosing a new topic to study together. If interested in attending, please reach out to Pastor Ehke: [behke@stpaulsonalaska.org](mailto:behke@stpaulsonalaska.org).

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### **Men's Bible Class**

**Saturdays 8:00 am**

Facilitator: Steve Loehr

**Meets Year Round**

**Location: Kwik Trip (408 Sandlake Rd)**

Topic: Book of Acts

### **Women's Bible Classes**

**Mondays at 4:00 pm**

Facilitator: Wendy Schibbelhut

Zoom option available

[wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org](mailto:wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org)

**Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)**

Topic: Real Women of the Bible from Time of Grace

**Mondays at 6:30 pm**

Facilitator: Wendy Schibbelhut

**Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)**

Topic: Prepared to Answer

**Tuesdays at 9:00 am**

Facilitator: Lois Jenson

(email Lois to sign-up) [jensonrlj@gmail.com](mailto:jensonrlj@gmail.com)

**Location: Lois' Home**

Topic: Women of the Bible

**Wednesdays at 8:20 am  
(Childcare available)**

Facilitator: Megan Mueller

**Location: Fireside Room/Cry Room**

Topic: Women of the Bible

**Wednesdays at 2:00 pm**

Facilitator: Nicole Wickus

**Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)**

Topic: The Mom God Chose: Mothering like Mary

**Thursdays at 6:30 am**

**email Jan to get the Skype link**

Facilitator: Jan Westerman

[jkwesterman1@yahoo.com](mailto:jkwesterman1@yahoo.com)

**Location: Online Class**

Topic: Soul Care



**Women in Christ Book Group** meets the second Tuesday of each month September through May at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Area at church. We will meet again on Tuesday, February 13. For February the selection is "A Different Kind of Gone" by Catherine Ryan Hyde. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Please consider joining us for this time of Christian fellowship through reading.



**WOMEN IN CHRIST CRADLE ROLL** meets every other month on the first Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Children who are enrolled in Cradle Roll receive periodic mailings and books every 6 months until they are 4. Our next meeting will be March 7th, 2024. If you are interested we can always use new members.



**WOMEN IN CHRIST CREATIVE HANDS** group meets in person several times throughout the year. We craft blankets and baptismal napkins to present to newly baptized children and adults as a memento of their baptismal birthday. We invite sewers, stitchers, knitters and crocheters to join us. At times we also sew Quiet Bags for children for use during worship as well as table runners for fellowship meals. If you would like to join us, please contact Deb Nuttelman ([randdnuttel@charter.net](mailto:randdnuttel@charter.net)) and we will let you know the next time we meet.



## God Calls Us To Be His Ambassadors



***All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>f</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***  
**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

On January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect and announced that all slaves in rebellious states were now free. With the Civil War still happening, those slaves were not immediately freed from slavery. Even after the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, some remained in slavery. It took some months for the northern army to make its way throughout southern states to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, by the summer of 1865, all slaves were freed. Even though slaves had the status of being freed according to the federal government, they still lived as slaves.

Many people live a spiritual life like that in our world. By nature, we were slaves to sin, death, and the devil. Completely unable to find God or come to him. But Jesus came. He lived the perfect life we couldn't have lived. He died the death that should've been ours. Because of that, God has reconciled us to himself. Our status before God has changed! What a wonderful truth – the sins that we struggle with daily...the sins that keep us up at night...the sins that are embarrassing are forgiven in Christ. God wasn't content to end it there. He has also wrapped around us Jesus' perfect life. So that through trusting in Jesus, God sees none of our sins but only Jesus' perfect life.

But unfortunately, not everyone knows this or trusts this. Despite God's victory over sin and death, people continue to remain in the darkness of sin and unbelief. What is our task? God calls us to be his ambassadors – to announce this victory proclamation. God has freed us from the slavery of sin and death, and he calls us to be his own and live in his kingdom of grace and mercy. May God give us joy to know that we have peace with God, and may God give us zeal to share that grace with others.



## Make a Difference and Support Local Foster Families

### WHAT WE LEARNED

During this meeting Kingdom Workers staff provided us with more background information on the Foster Support program. We covered topic areas such as additional information on the foster care system, learning more about supporting these families through volunteer work and being introduced to the topic of trauma informed care.

### PLANNING EVENTS

We also discussed how churches can plan events and get to know foster families in their area better. Our staff will be there to help you walk through your first event and plan for future events.

Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of foster children and families in need. Watch news for more information on how you can get involved as a volunteer with the Kingdom Workers Foster Support program. Rachel Binczak at [rbinczak@kingdomworkers.com](mailto:rbinczak@kingdomworkers.com)

## Thru My Bible

### February

1. Matthew 4
2. Matt. 5:1-16
3. Matt. 5:17-48
4. Matt. 6:1-18
5. Matt. 6:19-34
6. Matt. 7:1-12
7. Matt. 7:13-29
8. Jonah 1, 2
9. Jon. 3, 4
10. Joel 1:1-2:17
11. Joel 2:18-3:21
12. Zephaniah 1
13. Zeph. 2:1-3:7
14. Zeph. 3:8-20
15. Nahum 1
16. Nah. 2, 3
17. Habakkuk 1:1-2:5
18. Hab. 2:6-20
19. Hab. 3:1-15
20. Hab. 3:16-19
21. Obadiah
22. Matthew 8:1-22
23. Matt. 8:23-9:8
24. Matt. 9:9-34
25. Matt. 9:35-10:23
26. Matt. 10:24-42
27. Matt. 11:1-24
28. Matt. 11:25-12:21

### "What Does Domestic Abuse Look Like (It's not necessarily what most people think)"

On Sunday, February 11th, during the two bible study hours (9:15am or 10:30am) Lori Kinsley, from WELS Kingdom Workers will present on what domestic abuse looks like, briefly covering different types. There will be a short case study where we will look at one couple that had domestic abuse in their relationship and how that looked to everyone on the outside, what was going on behind closed doors, and then what happened after separation. This addresses a couple of stereotypes. We touch on the effects of abuse and the statistics. Why we need to care as individuals and as a church body. We then go into how people can serve this population of people either directly as an advocate or indirectly as support people. I hope you can join us

### Memorials

***Given in honor of the 90th birthday of Dorothy Gartner***  
Ray and Lou Easton Grateful and Growing Fund

### Thank You

Dear St. Paul's Members,  
I just want to say thank you for the gift cards that I received for Christmas. It was very thoughtful and will help a lot when I am back at school.

Thank you, Sarah Tonkovich (MLC Student)





## GRATEFUL AND GROWING BUILDING UPDATE



### Let's... Start Strong!

Reflecting on the past year, our building project has been showered with blessings, marking significant progress and achievements. As we enter 2024, our focus is unwavering – to start the year strong and carry the momentum into the final phases of building the new school and worship space expansion. The richness of God's blessings has been our cornerstone, guiding us through challenges and triumphs alike. Proverbs 10:22 resonates with our journey, emphasizing that the Lord's blessings bring abundance without sorrow. With the motto "Let's Start Strong," we enter the concluding stages of the project with faith, determination, and gratitude for the divine guidance that has brought us to this pivotal moment.

### Let's recap...

The outside of the building is almost complete and the work moves steadily on in the inside of the building. Floors are done, cabinets are installed and classrooms are nearing completion and are almost ready for students. The basketball hoops are up in the gym and the contemporary worship space is taking shape. The next big project to watch is the completion of the foyer with the window installation and doors.

If you haven't seen the most current video update showing a comprehensive overview of the building, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the St Paul's YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsonalaska>)

**Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."**



## Christian Counseling Services Are Available To Our Congregation

Through Christian Family Solutions, members of our congregation have access to confidential counseling services through a program called MAP (Member Assistance Program). The counselors are WELS/ELS mental health professionals, using secure, online video technology. Short-term counseling is available from any private location that has an internet connection and a web cam. Telephone counseling is also available. If you are interested, please talk to one of our pastors.

## Recovery <sup>in</sup> Christ

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays, 4:00 pm here at St. Paul's in the school library and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St.). To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays and 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

## Recovery in Christ Offers Hope In Jesus

## Onalaska Food Basket



The Board of Outreach would like to remind members of our area food pantry services. The Food Basket is located just down the street from church at 735 Sand Lake Road (in the back right hand corner of the American Legion parking lot) and serves residents of the greater Onalaska, West Salem, French Island and Holmen areas with food and personal care items. They are a Christ centered organization dedicated to helping those in need. The Food Basket is open to everyone; however there are general income guidelines for eligibility. If you or your family are in need of their services, please stop in, call (608) 783-7722 or visit [www.thefoodbasket.org](http://www.thefoodbasket.org). Assistance is available on a one-time or on-going basis. All of their services are free of charge.

## Wish List

**WISHLIST** If you would like to help fund special projects (outside our budget funding), please see the items on **St. Paul's Wish List**. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the list on how to make a donation. Click the link below to go to the list or go to St. Paul's website and on the menu at the top of the page, click **Give** and then **Wish List**. [Master Wish List](#)



## WELS Connection

Keep connected to what's going on around our synod. Click on the link for the monthly WELS connection. <https://wels.net/news-media/wels-connection/>



## Luther High School

### Open House Showcasing YOUR Luther High School New Industrial Arts Center

The building addition to our practical arts classroom was completed in early January. And teachers have been using the new classroom space. We are excited to show families this amazing facility. You are invited to an open house at Luther High School on Saturday, February 10, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. You will be able to tour the practical arts classroom, see the new equipment, meet our instructors, and learn about the curriculum.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 10 at the Open House!

God Bless,  
Phil Punzel

**Principal Luther High School**  
**Office:** 608-783-5435 ext. 1160

### SPRING MUSICAL

Luther High School's Spring Musical, *The Secret Garden*, is only 2 months away! Join us for this compelling tale of forgiveness and renewal as 10-year-old Mary Lennox begins her new life in Yorkshire after being orphaned in India. Performances are on March 8-9, 2024, at 7:00 PM, and on March 10, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Ticket sales start February 5, so watch for more information to come!

SET CONSTRUCTION help is needed to build, paint, and create scenery and functional props for Luther's Spring Musical. No experience is needed, and we have tools available for those who aren't able to bring their own! Meet us on stage on Saturday mornings from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM or a portion of that time! Set construction dates are February 3, 10, 17, and 24.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** The production staff for *The Secret Garden* is looking for any donations to the Drama Department of fake plants, flowers, vines, etc. that you no longer want. We will be taking these items apart to use with our sets, props, and costumes. If you want anything back, it will not be in one piece.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Emily Schmidt ([schmemil@luther.k12.wi.us](mailto:schmemil@luther.k12.wi.us) or 262-229-0688).







## St. Paul's Lutheran School

### Forward in Faith – God Will Do Amazing Things!

Name some amazing things God has done. There are so many examples recorded in Scripture, and that is just a small sample of all of the amazing things God has done.

Recorded in Joshua, chapter 3, is one of those amazing things. God had been working through Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and to the Promised Land. God had performed many miracles while Moses was in charge, and now God wanted to do something amazing so that the people of Israel would know God would work through Joshua, too. I can only imagine what it might have been like to see God hold back the Jordan River (while at flood stage) so that the Israelites could cross. It was a miracle, and it must have been amazing to see!

***Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”*** Joshua 3:5

God still does amazing things for His children. These amazing things remind us that our God is almighty, so He can do anything – even things that seem impossible. They also remind us of His love. He cares about each and every one of His children. He knows our needs and He provides for all of them. We move forward in faith with confidence because our God has done and will continue to do amazing things!

***“Being confident of this, he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*** Philippians 1:6

### ST. PAUL’S ACTIVITIES UPDATE

As the new year starts, St. Paul’s students continue to showcase their God-given talents in various activities.

The Robotics season continues as the teams enter their last regular-season tournament at Whitehall, Wisconsin. Heading into that tournament two of our three teams have qualified for the State Tournament that will be held in the Green Bay area in early March. All three teams have been making progress and having success in practice as they prepare for this next challenge.

Basketball teams of all levels continue to have success. The B-Boys and A-Girls both are *undefeated* this season. Check out the photos and details below about the B-Bounce Off Tournament. The B-Girls team will play three games to wrap their season up at Luther High School on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Finally, both A teams will look to find success in the LALSAC season tournament hosted by Luther High School February 3&4<sup>th</sup>. All our teams have been having great years, and we hope that you get a chance to come out and support St. Paul’s activities.

For more information about our activities, go to the school website, Student Life>Activities.

### WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP) & SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (SNSP)

St. Paul’s Lutheran School has registered to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) for the 2024-2025 school year. The application period is February 1, 2024 – April 18, 2024. Current St. Paul’s families using the WPCP will receive information about applying for



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the 2024-2025 school year. All others interested can find eligibility information on our school website. You may also call the office with questions.

### **ST. PAUL'S STUDENTS TO HELP THOSE SUFFERING FROM POVERTY**

St. Paul's Lutheran School will be doing a service project on February 14, 2024. It will support the homeless in our community. Students will make "kits" that will be distributed by Couleecap, a local organization that supports people suffering from poverty. Items we are collecting include travel size deodorants (both men's and women's), travel size lotions and ChapStick, travel size packs of baby wipes/wet wipes, hand warmers, socks for man/woman/child, paper towels, sponges, cleaning products (i.e. Windex, Pine sol, Soft Scrub, all purpose cleaner), and flash-lights with batteries. In addition to the supplies, each kit will include a message of Jesus' love. Collection bins will be set up in the church lobby area. We ask that donations be brought by Monday, February 12, 2024. Students will assemble the "kits" on Wednesday, February 14 - Valentine's Day.

### **ENROLLMENT FOR 2024-2025**

TADS Admissions is now open for new students. Applications are time-stamped. A priority order established by St. Paul's Board of Education will be followed to determine which students are awarded seats. There are classrooms currently at capacity with students on a waiting list. Members of St. Paul's with new children they would like to attend St. Paul's are encouraged to complete Admissions applications (on our website) as soon as possible to give the best chance of getting a seat.

Parents of currently enrolled St. Paul's students have received emails through TADS to complete Enrollment for their children for the 2024-2025 school year. Completion of Enrollment is the way to reserve a seat for a child in a classroom. We will use the priority order established by the Board of Education to offer seats to student on our waiting list.

St. Paul's hosted an Open House on Sunday, January 21, 2024, for parents interested in learning more about our preschool and Kindergarten programs. We anticipate filling Kindergarten and beginning a Waiting List. It is possible a similar situation will happen with four-year-old preschool. Our leaders continue to work hard to serve as many students as possible while still striving for the excellence in Christian education that makes our school so attractive.



### **Great Things Happening at St. Paul's**

St. Paul's PTO sponsored a visit from Jesse Horn on Friday, January 19. Jesse Horn, diagnosed with autism at age 3, gave a motivational speech about overcoming disabilities. Jesse is a world champion cup sport stacker. He demonstrated competition speed for our students, and he also took time to slow down and explain different events in sport stacking.

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Using kits from STEM 101, St. Paul's 7<sup>th</sup> graders decorated and built playable ukuleles during art and music classes.

Two St. Paul's B Boys basketball teams participated in the B Bounce-Off tournament on January 13-14. One St. Paul's team earned the Consolation Championship, and the other St. Paul's team won the Tournament Championship. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication our athletes and coaches in using their God-given abilities to give glory to God!



## London Trip

As a part of our synod's goal of planting 100 churches in 10 years, we have the opportunity to help one of those mission plants in London. St. Paul's has a team of people ready to go to London from **June 14th-24th**. The mission work is going to focus on Central London, specifically Tower Hamlets. The reason they want us there:

- 1) The WELS UK mission is looking to offer weekly church services in June and July. They are requesting more people to be in church to welcome guests on the two Sundays that they will be there.
- 2) The group will spend 2-3 days volunteering in a UK run charity. The groups should engage others in conversation, let their light shine by word or deed, and invite them to a church service.
- 3) Encourage WELS UK members in their life of discipleship.

40-50% of the trip will be sight-seeing and the trips are self-funded. The estimated cost of the trip will be \$1500 plus airfare.

If you'd like to be a part of the team or donate money to defray costs for attendees, please talk with Pastor Olson ([dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org](mailto:dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org)) asap as plans are already underway (applying for passports, purchasing airline tickets, etc.). Even if you can't go, please pray for this mission church and the group that we are sending there.