# St. Paulite

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



2024

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#### **Contact Us**

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Onalaska, WI stpaulsonalaska.org 608.783.2552

#### Wednesday Lent Services

We'll be having special Wednesday worship services (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.

#### **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



#### **Holy Week Services**

Holy Thursday March 28 6:30 pm

Good Friday March 29 1:00 & 6:30 pm

**Easter Sunday** 

Traditional Sunday March 31 7:45 & 10:45 am

Contemporary Sunday March 31 9:15 am

> Easter Breakfast 8:30 - 10:30 am

**Livestream Available** 

#### **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 (<a href="mailto:dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org">dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org</a>) 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.

#### **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/

#### Pastor and Teacher shortage

As of January 29th, 2024, there are currently 160 (145 parish) pastoral vacancies in our synod. And there are 180 teacher vacancies. This number includes a significant number of principal and ECM (Early Childhood Ministry) vacancies. This information is being shared just to let you know what is going on in our synod. A task force was put together by our synod back in 2022 to address the issue. The group will be making recommendations for a synod-wide effort to increase the number of candidates for public ministry. What can we do now?

Pray for and encourage current called workers, future called workers and our synod as a whole. Your prayers as well as your personal words of thanks and encouragement go further than you can know.

Encourage someone to go into the teaching or pastoral ministry. A recent LCMS' Set Apart to Service initiative asked current called workers, "Who encouraged you to pursue the public ministry?" 34% said their pastor, 27% said a lay person and 25% said members of their family. Simply put, these statistics tell us that we all need to be encouraging young people to consider a career in ministry. Look for young people in your life and encourage them to consider the public ministry. The Lord needs them for His work.



#### The transition from Passover to the Lord's Supper



Pastor Dan Olson

Easter is coming soon. If your family is anything like ours, you probably have a lot of traditions that go along with it. We spend the morning in church. We have a big family meal with extended family. My wife makes her famous ham balls. There is always an easter basket hunt. I don't care how old my children are, we will always have an easter basket hunt. Traditions are a great thing to have for a family, especially when they're centered around a religious festival.

2000 years ago the disciples were thinking the same thing. It was time to celebrate the Passover. As Jews, Jesus' disciples would have known exactly what to do and what this celebration was all about. They, no doubt, would have celebrated this festival with their own families once a year, every year since their birth. The disciples would have known the routine well. They needed unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and a number of other things for their celebration. Most im-

portantly they needed an unblemished lamb. It was their Independence Day. It was the day that they remembered how God liberated them from slavery in Egypt through the blood of the lamb.

On this particular Passover celebration it was just the disciples and Jesus celebrating. In Mark 14:12 it says, "On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'"

While the disciples thought this would be a typical, traditional Passover celebration, this would also be the great transition between celebrating the Passover and celebrating the Lord's Supper. Let me read these words of Mark 14:22-26. <sup>22</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup> "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. <sup>25</sup> "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

All the Passovers of the past, all the lambs who were slain, were all leading up to the Lamb of God who would be slain just a few hours after this meal. The freedom of slavery from Egypt would quickly be overshadowed by freedom from slavery of sin. This would be a festival not just for the Jews, like Passover, but this would be a festival for all people to enjoy. We would forever celebrate the day the Lamb of God was slain to take away our sins. And now we have a festival called the Lord's Supper where we can celebrate this on a regular basis, not just once a year, but as often as it is offered.

Passover was simply a celebration to remember the past. But is the Lord's Supper just a reminder of the forgiveness that Jesus won for us in the past, or is it something more? Just as the body and blood of Christ is really present in the Lord's Supper, so also the results of the supper actually do something for us. We have forgiveness. We have strengthening of faith. The Holy Spirit works powerfully though this sacrament to strengthen your faith and trust in the Lord. It's like an extra bonus that we receive every time the Lord's Supper is offered.

The bible makes a point to mention in Matthew when the Lord's Supper is celebrated that we receive the forgiveness of sins. It's not just a symbol or a reminder of forgiveness. It is forgiveness. In 1 Corinthians 11 we see that if someone takes the Lord's Supper without recognizing the body and blood of the Lord, it can actually be harmful to someone's soul. Positively, this tells us that the body and blood of the Lord is not just a symbol or representation. It is truly present in a miraculous way that I can't understand, so much so, that it can do harm to those who don't understand what it is. These elements are truly present and that means that the results of their presence are there too, to do harm to those who don't understand it, but for us who know what it is, to strengthen our faith and grant us forgiveness of sins.

Praise be to God that we have this special festival to celebrate. It is our Independence Day celebration, that reminds us of when Christ won our freedom. And what a unique festival that isn't simply a reminder of the past, but actively forgives us and strengthens us until the day when we get to eat at the full wedding supper of the lamb in heaven. We look forward to that day. Amen

#### 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

#### See Jesus in the Old Testament Feasts

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

We are about to celebrate the season of Lent and think about the work of Christ through his life, death and resurrection. In this bible study, we are going to look at the Old Testament Feasts and see the work of our Savior fulfilled through what the people were instructed to do. We'll study the specifics of Passover, Feast of Weeks, Day of Atonement, The Feast of Tabernacles, Sabbath, Purim and more and see the promised Messiah throughout. This study will cause us to appreciate those Old Testament books that are hard to read (especially Leviticus), give us a greater understanding of the work of Jesus, and strengthen our faith throughout this Lenten season.

#### 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 Krause 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 encour-



aged. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Krause - <a href="mailto:skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org">skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org</a>.

#### 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

**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 Ehlke: behlke@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

Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)
Topic: Real Women of the Bible from Time of Grace

Mondays at 6:30 pm

Facilitator: Lois Jenson

Facilitator: Wendy Schibbelhut

Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)
Topic: Prepared to Answer

Tuesdays at 9:00 am Location: Lois' Home

(email Lois to sign-up) jensonrlj@gmail.com

Wednesdays at 8:20 am (Childcare available)

Facilitator: Megan Mueller

**Location: Fireside Room/Cry Room** 

Topic: Women of the Bible

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

Location: Online Class Topic: Book of Acts



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, March 12. We will be reading a new author for our group, Irene Hannon. The book we are reading is the first on a three part series. Hope you enjoy it, "Point of Danger". 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) and we will let you know the next time we meet.

### 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 <a href="mailto:rbinczak@kingdomworkers.com">rbinczak@kingdomworkers.com</a>



#### Saturday, April 20, 2024 Luther High School Onalaska, WI

Join us for a day of fellowship, growth, and renewal as we learn from Scripture how God fills us with so much love that it overflows into all we do.

#### Speakers include:

- ◆ Emily Krill of the "Messy Worship" blog
- Amy Vannieuwenhoven, author of "Look Up From Your Phone So I Can Love You"
- Rev. Joseph Radsek from Institutional Ministries
- ♦ Rebeckah Ellinghuysen, MA
- Anna Wallander of Temple Love Fitness
- ♦ Hayli Littlehead

Visit our website for more details and registration information! https://welscwr.wixsite.com/retreat

#### Thank You

Dear St. Paul's Onalaska.

Thank you for your kind letter and generous gift of the gift cards during Christmas time! I appreciate the constant love and support that I receive from everyone! I am so blessed.

Thank you again, Emily Gronholz

## Thru My Bible

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March
1 Matthew 12:22-50
2. Matt. 13:1-23
3. Matt. 13:24-52
4. Matt. 13:53-14:12
5. Matt. 14:13-36
6. Matt. 15:1-20
7. Matt. 15:21-39
8. Matt. 16:1-20
9. Matt. 16:21-17:13
10. Matt. 17:14-27
11. Matt. 18:1-35
12. Jeremiah 1
13. Jer. 2:1-3:5
14. Jer. 3:6-4:31
15. Jer. 5, 6
16. Jer. 7:1-8:3
17. Jer. 8:4-9:22
18. Jer. 9:23-10:25
19. Jer. 11, 12
20. Jer. 13
21. Jer. 14, 15
22. Jer. 16:1-17:18
23. Jer. 17:19-18:23
24. Jer. 19, 20
25. Jer. 21, 22
26. Jer. 23

27. Jer. 24, 25

28. Matthew 19:1-22

29. Matt. 19:23-20:28

30. Matt. 20:29-21:22

31. Matt. 21:23-46

#### GRATEFUL AND GROWING BUILDING UPDATE



#### Let's...Push Forward!

As we near the completion of our school building project, the theme "Let's Push Forward" resonates deeply within our congregation. The journey has been marked by blessings, both spiritual and physical, as we've worked together to bring this vision to life. As the physical structure of our school and worship space nears completion, we are reminded that a building requires strong foundations and steady progress. Through this project, we've witnessed how perseverance, teamwork, and faithfulness contribute not only to the construction process, but also, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to the spiritual development of our youth as the groundwork is laid for a future rooted in God's love and grace. Proverbs 4:7 encapsulates the essence of this: "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding." The school building and spiritual growth of our children are ongoing journeys. May the Lord continue to bless them both.

#### Let's Recap

A big thank you to those volunteers who came on the Saturday work day to help finalize some projects in the new building! Doors were hung and cabinets were installed among many other projects.

Please consider volunteering for one of the remaining dates below. Any amount of time or talent is welcome as we prepare to move into the new building.

March 16<sup>th</sup> at 8am - All congregation volunteers will be helping with cleaning the building from top to bottom.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8am** - Moving day into new classrooms! All congregation volunteers are invited to move items from the storage units back into the building.

Click on this <u>link</u> to see the current video update.

Psalm 28:7 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.

## Marriage Bible Study Survey

A few members are working on holding a three week Bible study for married couples. It'll be a relaxed, fun environment for couples to come together around God's Word and be encouraged in their most important earthly relationship. We plan to have some snacks and babysitting if needed. If interested, please take 15 seconds and fill out this brief survey: Marriage Bible Study. If you receive a physical newsletter, you can find printed surveys at church in the entryway. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Pastor Ehlke <a href="mailto:behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org">behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org</a>.

### **Church Library**

#### Look Up From Your Phone So I Can Love You

"Sometimes I think you spend too much time on your phone."



"It's not a big deal. When I'm on my phone, I'm just talking with my friends." If this exchange sounds familiar, you may be looking for a gospel-driven way for your family to reconnect in the age of smartphones and other technologies. This book helps parents communicate with their grade school and high school children about balancing and moderating their smartphone use. This book contains detailed devotional prompts that ask parents and children alike to consider their use of technology and the health of their relationships. You and your family will gain an appreciation for the opportunities God has given you all to be together.

Location: New Titles Shelf

#### 3 Words That Will Change Your Life



One tiny little sentence can change your life. Ready for it? "God is here." It may sound obvious at first, but truly understanding these three words is the key to more happiness, less boredom, more rest, less rush, more love, less drama, more peace, less fear. A deeply satisfying life doesn't require a sabbatical, a mission trip, or a New Year's resolution. As long as God is glorious enough and near enough, you can enjoy the life that is truly life—not just the cheap substitutes we've settled for.

**Location: New Titles Shelf** 

#### **Faith that Engages the Culture**



God places people in your life that need His saving word. God wants all of his creation to know Him, so shouldn't you be prepared to witness to all people, at all times, no matter the circumstances? This book is the perfect guidebook to learning what it takes to witness effectively in today's world. Using the points of an engagement triangle, you will easily and quickly learn how to witness to others efficiently. With the three touch points of person, place, and perspective, your efforts of sharing the Gospel will go further as you're able to adapt to the culture.

**Location: New Titles Shelf** 

#### Saving Grayson



Grayson Hayes doesn't remember things as well as he used to, but he's sure his time is running out. Diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, he realizes he has a small window of time left to right a terrible injustice—he just can't remember what it is. Convinced of the importance of his mission, he embarks on a journey to the small West Virginia town of his childhood hoping he can put together the fractured pieces of his memory and set things right. But as the past becomes more clear, he wonders if God forgives the sins he can't remember.

**Location: New Titles Shelf** 

The library is located in the "fireside" area of the narthex. It is easy to check out books: Complete the blue card (from back book pocket) with the date and your first and last name\* printed legibly. Place the blue card in the black bin on the counter.

\*Your envelope # can be used for privacy purposes. If by chance a reminder call needs to be made for the book to be returned, the envelope # (not the book title) will be given to one of the Pastors and they will make the reminder call.



## 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
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† Christ

#### Recovery in Christ Offers Hope In Jesus

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 con-

firm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays and 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.



#### **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 <a href="www.thefoodbasket.org">www.thefoodbasket.org</a>. Assistance is available on a one-time or on-going basis. All of their services are free of charge.

#### Wish List

If you would like to help fund special projects (outside our budget funding), please see WISHLIST 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/

#### St. Paul's Lutheran School

#### Forward in Faith - Without Hiding

Did you ever hide from your parents? When we have done something wrong that we know will upset our parents and get us in trouble, the Devil tempts us to hide. We think, "If we hide long enough, perhaps the trouble will go away."



Adam and Eve tried the same thing after the first sin. They tried to hide from God in the Garden of Eden. Hiding didn't work then, and it still fails today. Our God is omniscient; He knows our every thought. Our God is omnipresent; He is everywhere. We cannot hide from God.

When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, they knew God was with them. Word got out of the power behind the Israelites, and nations feared them. The Israelites enjoyed victory after victory, until Achan stole from the Babylonians and hid the treasures in his tent. The Lord knew it, and Israel suffered defeat at the hands of their enemies as a result.

"Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them. Joshua 7:13

Our sins get in our way of serving our God and our neighbor faithfully. Trying to hide our sin is wrong. We may be able to hide from people, but we cannot hide it from God. As Christians, we study His Word to help us see our sins. We confess all our sins to God, knowing that Christ has paid for every single one. As our school moves forward in faith, we place our trust entirely in our God. He leads us to repentance. He forgives our sins. He guides us as we share the love of Jesus with others. As forgiven, redeemed children, we know God will work through us to build His Kingdom.

"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

January was a month of achievements for the St. Paul's student body. Many different talents and abilities shown through in various competitions and events in the last month. Our basketball seasons came to an end with three teams ending with undefeated seasons (A-Girls, B-Boys, and B-Girls.) Both the A-Boys and the A-



Girls participated in the LALSAC end of the season tournament at Luther High School. Both teams made it to their championship games. The A-Boys came away with a second-place finish, while the A-Girls completed the perfect season with a first-place championship finish. St. Paul's athletes, coaches, and the school in general are so thankful to all the support throughout the basketball season. It was wonderful to see the improvement in skill and sportsmanship made by the players. It is encouraging to see young people reflect the love of Christ on and off the court. Our basketball players, robotics participants, and coaches all wore t-shirts in support of teammate Colten who is undergoing cancer treatments.

In a different arena, our St. Paul's robotics teams continued their successful ways at their final regular season tournament in Whitehall, Wisconsin. There the last team showed their robotics abilities and team strength by earning a bid to the State Robotics Tournament. The State Robotics Tournament.



ment will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, March 2-3, where these three teams will work to show their excellences to earn a spot at the World Championships. May God bless those teams and coaches in the rest of their season.

For more information about our activities, go to the school website, Student Life>Activities. Or you can follow this link to our <u>Activities pages</u>.

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#### WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP)

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 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 AND MEMBERS HELP THOSE SUFFERING FROM POVERTY



On Wednesday, February 14, St. Paul's students assembled kits for the unsheltered in the La Crosse area. Approximately 200 kits were assembled. Each included a card colored by a student with a Bible passage and a message that God loves all people. Each kit also had a flashlight with batteries, handwarmers, socks, bandages, ChapStick, wipes, and at least one more item (deodorant or lotion). We also collected cleaning supplies for people just moving into a new home. In total, we collected and donated more than 4,600 items! We thank God for moving the

hearts of His people to give generously to those suffering from poverty in our region. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and

sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

#### **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. We hope to let parents on the Waiting List know about available seats in March, but no later than early April.

Since we are unable to add additional staff to open additional classrooms, we anticipate our total enrollment for 2024-2025 to be similar to our current enrollment. Several families inquiring about transferring to St. Paul's Lutheran School have children in classrooms that have reached capacity. We thank God for providing us with resources and staff to serve so many families with the Word of God every day.

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

Why did the snowmen wear headphones? Because he wanted to listen to some cool tunes. (Ha! Ha!)

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes used their cool skills for a *Snow Man Competition*. There were awards given to the tallest and widest snowmen. Each group had fun and it was a great blessing to be outside. This is one of the fun ways St. Paul's teachers and students are staying active even when we do not have a gym.



