



The Ant and the Contact Lens

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope and started up the face of the rock.

Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there.

She was scared and blurry-eyed. She was desperate and began to pray to the Lord to help her find her contact lens. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found.

She sat down, despondent, and waited with her friends for the rest of the climbing party to reach the top. She looked out across range after range of mountains (as well as she could see with only one contact lens) and thought of the Bible verse, "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth" (2 Chronicles 16:9) and she thought, "Lord you can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and you know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but even more startling is how the climber found it.

An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it. Brenda's father, a cartoonist, drew a picture of this incredible scene. An ant lugging a contact lens and he was saying, "Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what you want me to do, I'll carry it for you."

Maybe we can learn a lesson from the ant and the contact lens. When we are burdened with care for a loved one, hard tasks, difficult decisions, or we are overworked and worn down, maybe we can learn to say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if you want to me carry it, I will."

²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." ²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? (Luke 9:22-25)

-- Pastor Kenneth Frey

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Worship Schedule

Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Lent services: 3:45 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Our 8am Sunday services are on facebook live and can also be heard on WNAM 1280 AM. Midweek Lent services

3/7, 3/8	Lent 3 – Exchange: Sign for Stumbling Block
3/10	Midweek Lent 4 – Hands of Misguided Zeal
3/14, 3/15	Lent 4 – Exchange: Faith for Works
3/17	Midweek Lent 5 – Hands of Self-Preservation
3/21, 3/22	Lent 5 – Source for Seed
3/24	Midweek Lent 6 – Hands of Brutality
3/28, 3/29	Palm Sunday – Exchange: Scorn for Shame

Official Acts

Forever with the Lord:

Ann Kracht departed this life on January 26th, 2021, at the age of 76 years, 7 months, and 10 days.

Baptisms:

Jaqua, Kayelle, and Carter Thompson, children of Kevin & Laura Thompson

John Hollern, son of Mitchell and Brittney Hollern

Transfer In:

Ron & DeAnna Rogers and children

Transfer Out:

Chris & Jaclyn Kies and children

Arlene Dolan

Release:

Ryan Kuehn

Financials through Jan. 31st, 2021

	Jan.	July – Jan.
Income	\$ 133,587	\$ 1,210,847
Expense	\$ 169,092	\$ 1,219,475
Behind / Ahead	\$ - 35,505	\$ - 8,628

All bills are paid; all obligations are met.

School News

Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

School Information Packets & Tours: Do you know of any friends, family members, coworkers, and acquaintances looking for a school for the 2021-2022 school year? Please provide us with their contact information or have them contact us (920-733-9061 or office@stpaulappletonwi.com). We will provide them with more information and a personal tour of your school.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP): St. Paul Lutheran School is a member of the WI Private School Choice Program. The application window for the WPCP opened February 1 and closes April 15. Please follow this [LINK](#) to apply for the 2021-2022 school year. *Please remember that all families have to reapply EVERY year.* For more information about the WPCP, follow this [LINK](#) and contact our School Choice Director Mr. Phil Rehberger @ prehberger@stpaulappletonwi.com.

Call News: Mr. Paul Hoffman, our 6th grade homeroom teacher and technology director, received a divine call to be principal and teacher of grades 5-8 at Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River, WI. Please keep Mr. Hoffman and his family in your prayers as he deliberates the calls to Christ Lutheran and the one he currently has at St. Paul Lutheran. Please reach out to him as he deliberate these calls, phoffman@stpaulappletonwi.com.

Spring Sports @ St. Paul! We are excited to announce the return of sports at St. Paul this spring! Since our league shifted the format of seasons for this school year, we will be playing our traditional fall sports (volleyball and soccer) in the spring months ahead. Volleyball & soccer will be offered to students in grades 5-8 (volleyball for the girls, soccer will be co-ed) with volleyball starting the week of March 1st, and the soccer season starting the week of April 6th. Attendance will be limited at all games and Covid-19 safety protocol in effect. Let's go Falcons!

American Heart Challenge: February is American Heart Month and our students are learning how nutrition and being active can help us live longer, healthier lives, while giving them the opportunity to help others who are affected by cardiovascular disease. Over the next month, students will be collecting donations to support the American Heart Association. Our school will have a special

afternoon of fun, healthy heart activities on Friday, March 12th.

LWMS

LWMS Meeting – All women of St. Paul are invited!

Tuesday, March 18, 6:30pm St. Paul LWMS will meet in the church basement. Come and learn about different ways our congregation can support missionaries and their families here in the US and around the world.

LWMS meets only 4 times throughout the year. We will meet again on May 20, September 16 and November 18.

LWMS Spring Rally: LWMS Paperland Circuit Spring Rally will be held Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am-12:00 pm at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Menasha. Registration is from 8:00-9:00 am, with lunch served following the rally. The theme is **“We Will Tell the Next Generation”** with Gerald Worden speaking on the work being done with campus ministry at UW-Stevens Point. Contact Connie Frey if you have any questions or would like to register for the rally, conniefrey@hotmail.com or 920-428-5623. Registration deadline is April 2, 2021.

LWMS Mission Door Offering – March 21, 2021: The March Door Offering will go to the LWMS Spring mission projects. The LWMS Mission Box will also be available in the Narthex on the following Sundays: March 14, 21 and 28. Please pray for all of our missionaries as they serve at home and abroad!

Spring 2021 Home Mission Project: WELS Campus Ministry Support: During their college years, students are often living away from home for the first time – it is critical for them to have guidance from God’s Word. The Campus Ministry Committee assists congregations in ministering to college students.

Spring 2021 World Mission Project: Outreach to Roma: In 2015, a national pastor was installed in Bulgaria and called by the WELS Europe Committee to serve as the coordinator for the outreach to Roma (Gypsy) ministry. Your gifts will supply materials for the children’s Bible camps and cover expenses for outreach work in new areas.

A message from the WELS East Asia Missionary:

Mission Journeys has sent two teams to help us in East Asia. Both teams were from my parents’ congregation in Watertown, South Dakota. Four to six came each time, with ages ranging from 23 to 73. Some of them had international travel experience, and some had none. Before they arrived, we met via video chat to determine when they would arrive and what they would be doing. Shannon Bohme coordinated the trips.

Each time our Mission Journeys team arrived we were busy preparing for an Easter event. The volunteers on our mission team provided extra manpower and enthusiasm. We wanted to share candy and food and friendship at the event, but most of all, we wanted to share

with our Asian friends the peace and joy that is ours (and theirs) through Jesus’ resurrection. A main aspect of our work is friendship evangelism. While the team was with us, we all shared our lives and the gospel together. This was not a simple informational exchange. It happened over meals and during late nights; in laughter and in tears the gospel and love were mixed together, and Jesus came to our friends through us in our words and actions.

As each year starts, we have plenty of energy for getting out and finding new friends and spreading the Word. But as work and school take up more time, and the weather gets colder, it can be hard to get out and find new friends. The Mission Journeys teams helped with that. They brought a fresh perspective and new energy to the work. By the time each team left, we had a new list of contacts and friends to follow up on. We who are here full time in this foreign culture can sometimes feel ineffective and frustrated with the lack of visible progress. Sometimes we’re just too close to the situation to see what God is doing through our efforts. But the Mission Journeys team encouraged us and showed appreciation for our work. Some of the volunteers who came on both trips told us that they could see spiritual growth in the friends they had met on their first trip.

Our Mission Journeys teams have been a blessing to us in big and small ways. They have enabled us to establish more friendships with people here in East Asia. They have motivated us to continue this important work even when the results aren’t obvious. I enjoy living overseas and serving as a missionary and even though I like all the foods that Asia offers, I do appreciate the resupply of American food when the volunteers arrive.

East Asia Missionary

ECC Update

The St. Paul 4k class has been busy learning our letters and letter sounds along with counting. The students have learned about where we live, different kinds of animals, different birds and our five senses. We just finished up a unit on Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. One of our Humpty Dumpty activities was to attempt to protect an egg by surrounding it with different items and then dropping the egg from a distance. Some of our eggs were protected, and others got a little scrambled!

This week will be spent learning about money. We are going to be learning about measurements by length and weight, as well as the concept of more or fewer. There is a special classroom scale with miniature monkeys and various numbers. The children place a weighted number on one side of the scale and then put that number of monkeys on the other side of the scale to make it equal – the 4k class loves to play with it!

To finish up the school year, we are looking forward to learning about clouds, sports, pond life,

gardening, bugs/insects, camping and much more. May God bless us as we study his creation!

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and School Project Wish List

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Push Bars for Doors | \$2,500 |
| 2. | Playground Improvements | \$10,000+ |
| 3. | School Classroom/STEM/Media Center | \$268,266 |
| 4. | ECC Basement | \$215,683 |
| 5. | Classroom Doors | \$29,000 |

Any donations (large or small) given toward these items is greatly appreciated. Some of these items/projects have been purchased/completed and we are looking for members to help in covering any part of the costs involved. For a closer look at these items as well as giving options, including 'Easy Tithe', please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#).

We've been blessed to receive donations to fully fund the items shown below, totaling \$195,000. They have been removed from the active Wish List and will be completed as soon as possible.

1. Hymnals
2. ECC Loan
3. Security Cameras

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations towards these items!

FVL News

Tickets for FVL Theatre's performance of Disney's *Beauty & the Beast* musical on March 5-7 are now available! Watch it in-person or online. All tickets must be purchased through the ShowTix4U website. Go to fvlhs.org/Beauty for the link and more info. COVID precautions are being taken for the safety of all involved.

FVL Youth Sports Options -- Info on upcoming youth sports opportunities is available at fvlhs.org/youth-sports, including the FVL Cheer Camp in April (girls 5K-8); FVL Middle School Track Team (boys & girls grades 5-8); Junior Foxes Baseball Team (boys going into grades 8-9); and the Summer Softball Tournament (girls going into grades 8-9). Also, 8th graders who will be playing Foxes football in 2021-22 should submit their contact form to Coach Jaeger at fvlhs.org/FB2021.

Application windows for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) and the FVL Tuition Assistance Program are open now through April 15. For details, go to fvlhs.org/WPCP or fvlhs.org/Tuition-Assistance. Direct any questions to Mrs. Heather Knoll (hknoll@fvlhs.org).