



## **How can I be happy when I'm poor?**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit." Matthew 5:3*

The hand is out. The face is pleading. In this case, the need is real. When one has run out of options and is desperate for help, begging seems the only choice.

It's hard to imagine that one who is forced to beg would be happy about it. Being so poor in physical things can make life very hard.

Yet when it comes to a person's spiritual condition, God says that it is very important to be a beggar. In fact, true happiness only comes when you see that you are a beggar.

Do you see yourself as a spiritual beggar? However wealthy we might be financially, it is very tempting to feel that we—just naturally— have what we need in our spiritual bank account. We think that striving to be a good person has to count for something before God. We may not be perfect, but we reason that surely God doesn't expect us to be.

Have you ever tried to reassure yourself with thoughts like those? And yet have you had lingering fears, wondering whether you've really done enough good? Does guilt for things you have done wrong keep coming back, robbing you of happiness?

Rather than trying to shout louder than those frightening voices, hear God speak a hard truth: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

When I disobey God's perfect will in my life, I deserve to die eternally in hell. For God demands that everyone be perfect—that we never sin, even once.

This makes it quite clear that by nature we are all spiritually bankrupt. Yet Jesus says, "Blessed (happy) are the poor in spirit." But isn't being spiritually poor—even bankrupt—reason to be sad and afraid?

Yes. But this is also the moment to hear God tell us a most amazing truth from his Word: "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

When we see that we have nothing to give God, we are so grateful that God has lavished us with spiritual riches. Jesus freely came to earth to take all of our sin on himself. He became poor— he humbled himself to become the victim of the greatest suffering, paying on the cross the penalty of sin that we owed. He now assures you, "Your sins are forgiven." With sins forgiven and the eternal kingdom of heaven yours because of Jesus, you are truly rich!

It is a blessing to be a poor beggar before God because, in Jesus, we are filled with the riches of salvation.

*Pastor Matt Holtz*

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## Worship Schedule

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

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten services are 3:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Our 8am Sunday service is on YouTube and can also be heard on the radio **WOSH 1490 AM and 93.9 FM (recorded) at 9am.**

**'Exactly What I Need' Continues:** "I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent. Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

### Midweek Lent Series 'It is Finished!':

This series explores the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior Jesus, particularly as these prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Week passion, death, and resurrection.

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|------------|---|
| 3/1, 3/2   | Exactly What I Need – Faith                         |
| 3/4        | Scattered Sheep                                     |
| 3/8, 3/9   | Exactly What I Need – Water                         |
| 3/11       | The Truth, The Whole Truth, & Nothing but the Truth |
| 3/15, 3/16 | Exactly What I Need – Sight                         |
| 3/18       | The Kingly Priest                                   |
| 3/22, 3/23 | Exactly What I Need – Life                          |
| 3/25       | Look at the One Who was Pierced                     |
| 3/29, 3/30 | Hail the King who Humbly Comes to Save Us           |



## Official Acts

### Transfer In:

Tony & Crystal Abitz and children

### Transfer Out:

Sarah (Petermann) Johns

Janel Bridwell

Elaine Parodo

### Adult Confirmation:

Brandon Whalley

### Forever with the Lord:

Barbara Drews departed this life on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at the age of 72 years, 9 months, and 2 days.

## Financials

### Ministry Funding Plan Financials through Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

	Jan.	YTD
Income	\$ 186,623	\$1,737,772
Expense	\$ 231,495	\$1,749,570
Deficit	\$ -44,872	\$ -11,798

## 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.*

**Call Updates:** **Mrs. Alyssa Wascher** has received a call to be the director of SNSP at Atonement Lutheran in Milwaukee, WI. Please keep her in your prayers as she deliberates her calls here at St. Paul and Atonement. **Mr. Jason Kelley** has RETURNED the call to serve at California Lutheran Academy and will remain at St. Paul. To God be the glory!

**St. Paul Book Fair:** i55 Book Club is a Christian-based book company that organizes book fairs for schools. They provide spiritual and secular books for purchase. St. Paul's book fair will take place in the School Learning Center from March 6-11. 40% of your purchase will go towards credit for school and ECC libraries. We would love parent volunteers. If you can help, please speak to Mrs. Schwerin. The fair will be open the following times:

**Friday 3/6** - 3:15-6:00

**Sunday 3/8** - 20 minutes following both services

**Monday 3/9** - 3:15-4:00

**Tuesday 3/10** - 3:15-4:00

**Wednesday 3/11** - 4/2 3:15-6:00

## LWMS News

Mark your calendars for our next **LWMS meeting** on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the church basement. All confirmed women of St. Paul are invited to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming Spring Rally in April, updates of our Befriend A Missionary assignments, the Central Africa Medical Mission collection, and other great topics. Please consider joining us! Contact Tammie Beitz if you have any questions about LWMS at 920-840-5585 or beitz@athenet.net.

**LWMS Paperland Circuit Spring Rally** is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Neenah. Plans are already taking shape for this semi-annual event involving 32 congregations in our Paperland Circuit. Please join us for a morning of prayer, singing, mission updates, and discussions regarding future mission work. More information to come in the church bulletin later in March.

  
exactly  
what i need

## LWMS COLLECTION FOR CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION (CAMM) IN 2026:

The Central Africa Medical Mission has several ongoing supply needs for babies, toddlers, young children, and adults as they travel to villages in Malawi and Zambia. LWMS will be sponsoring a collection of baby and toddler clothes, blankets, hats, etc. from April 19, 2026 through May 17, 2026 to send to CAMM. The supply list includes:

- Knit hats for babies and small children
- Baby blankets
- Onesies (newborn to 2T)
- Booties and socks
- Pants/Leggings (newborn to 4T)
- Washcloths (crocheted or bought)
- Knitted winter hats (newborn to adult)
- Short sleeve shirts (24 months to 4T)
- Sun hats (newborn to adult)
- Sweatshirts (24 months to 4T)

Announcements will be made in April to kick off the collection.

A message from World Missionary Jennifer Wolgramm, One Europe Team, Finland:

In November 2023, my husband Luke and I traveled with Professor Allen Sorum to the western coast of Finland. The men had plans to conduct an evangelism workshop for St. Johannes Lutheran Church. That Friday evening, Pastor David Akerlund drove us to the church. "I think you will meet our newest friend tonight. She is a Vietnamese woman. She's new to our church and wants to learn more. But I'm not sure we're understanding each other because of the language barrier." Sure enough, Ngoan Nguyen came to the evening session.

What to do? Prof. Sorum pulled out his phone, "I know just the man who can help." He dialed one of his former students from the Pastoral Studies Institute, a Vietnamese pastor named Trung Le, now serving in California. Prof. Sorum explained the situation and handed the phone to Ngoan. Immediately her eyes lit up. Finally, she was hearing about Jesus in her heart language! Pastor Trung Le and Pastor Akerlund worked together to teach Ngoan the wonderful promises Jesus makes to us in baptism. A few weeks later, Ngoan was baptized over the Christmas holidays. What a perfect gift! God's family stretches all over the globe and now Ngoan is also our sister in Jesus' family.

*'We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues' (Acts 2:11).*

*World Missionary Jennifer Wolgramm  
One Europe Team, Finland*

## What's New with Women's Ministry

Our February meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10. We reviewed the following past activities:

- January winter gathering: 31 members of our St Paul family enjoyed dining together at Good Company. A free will offering from attendees enabled us to gift Christian Family Services with \$160.
- December bake sale: Many members of the congregation contributed homemade goodies to be sold during the Kids Only event. The few remaining items were sold the following morning at church. Proceeds from the sale were \$382.
- Sunshine cookies: Approximately 35 of our congregation's shut-ins received a tin of delicious Christmas cookies donated and delivered by members of the congregation.  
Future activities will include:
  - Lenten meal to be served between services on Ash Wednesday. We will serve sloppy joes, salad, chips, and dessert.
  - Stephanie Ivan will be heading up plans for the Ladies' Spring Gathering. A tea party theme is being considered. She is open to ideas.
  - Another soup sale was discussed, but rejected for this winter due to timing.
  - Members who have visited with the Ninmer's suggested that we might be able to help them out by offering to bring them a meal.
  - \$500 will be donated toward LWMS spring rally offering.
  - There was discussion on how we want to spend the money in our treasury. We will wait for details on the school bathroom project before making a decision. There was also a suggestion to look into replacing the dishwasher in the church kitchen with cabinets.
  - Our membership list will be updated at our next meeting. Our next meeting will be April 14th in the church basement. All women of the congregation are encouraged to join us.

## Lenten Worship & Meals

You are invited to join us for midweek Lenten worship at St. Paul on Wednesdays at 3:30pm and 6pm, beginning 2/18 (Ash Wednesday). A fellowship meal is served between services. Menu can be found below.

2/18 – Women's Ministry serving sloppy joes

2/25 – FVL students/\*Meros Center serving chicken sandwiches & salad

3/4 – PTO serving chicken chili & salad

3/11 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class & The Bar on Lynndale; menu tbd

**3/18 – OPEN** (spring break)

3/25 - Northright Financial/Londre family & Girls A Team Basketball serving smoked ribs

**\*MEROS Lent Meal 2/25:** The MEROS Center and FVL are once again partnering for a return trip to Africa. This year, our team will be traveling to Zambia to conduct research and serve alongside local churches. Four students and two

teachers will spend two weeks in Zambia, staying at the seminary and working closely with the congregations there. All proceeds from the Lent meal on 2/25 will go toward offsetting expenses of this trip. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and thankful for your continued prayers and support.

## Spring Break Office Closure

The St. Paul office will be closed during the week of spring break (3/16 – 3/20). If you have a health or spiritual emergency, please contact one of the pastors:

Pastor Holtz: 970-576-1154 mholtz@stpaulappletonwi.com

Pastor Shrum: 920-512-4318 jshrum@stpaulappletonwi.com



## Annual Church Cleaning

Our annual church cleaning day will be on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8am. Please save some time this morning to help – many hands make for light work! Bring the whole family – there will be jobs for everyone. Please bring rags and a bucket. A light breakfast will be provided.

## Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

St. Paul is a collection site for NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio's 'Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive' from Feb. 22 through March 9. If you are interested in helping, please place your donations in the Help for the Homeless collection box located in the church basement by March 9. Click [HERE](#) To make a secure financial donation for the purchase of supplies. Hygiene and cleaning products are not covered by Wisconsin FoodShare (food stamps / SNAP). **Some of the most urgently needed items are bathroom tissue, cleaning supplies, dental care, deodorant, diapers/baby care, face/bath soap, feminine care, hair care, laundry detergent, paper towels, razors, and trash bags.** Your donations will remain in this community. Thank you! More information available at thefamily.net or 800-236-9364.



## FVL News

**Coming events - go to [fvlhs.org/news](http://fvlhs.org/news) to find details**  
**Summer Job Fair for FVL students** - Local businesses are invited to attend the March 12 event.

**Spring musical, Disney's Newsies - March 6-8**

**Student Art Exhibition - March 6-8**

**FoxFest Dinner Auction "Great Outdoors" - April 17**

**FVL Open House/Activities Fair - March 10**

**8th Grade Scheduling Night - February 23**

**The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program** February application window is open through Feb. 20. Go to [fvlhs.org/WPCP](http://fvlhs.org/WPCP) for details and the registration link.

**The application windows for the Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarship** (for new students only) and for FVL Tuition Assistance are open February 2 through May 1. Details are at [fvlhs.org/admissions/paying-for-high-school](http://fvlhs.org/admissions/paying-for-high-school).

**Youth Sports opportunities** including a Cheer Camp (March 28), Softball Clinic (April 18), and Saints Football are shared on [fvlhs.org/youth-sports](http://fvlhs.org/youth-sports). Summer camp registration opens on Monday, March 2, at 9:00 AM.

**FVL is accepting applications for our Financial Controller position.** Go to [fvlhs.org/about/employment](http://fvlhs.org/about/employment) for details and the application link.

**The FVL General Board meets** Monday, February 23 at 7:00 PM in the FVL Media Center (use the tower entrance-Door A). The meeting is open to parents and Federation members.

**FVL's International Program** offers your family the opportunity to make global connections without leaving home! Consider hosting an international student so they can get a Christ-centered education at FVL. Contact Monica Uhlenbrauck ([muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org](mailto:muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org)).

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

1. Debt Retirement \$83,880
2. ECC Room Dividers & Code Updates \$15,000
3. Radio Broadcast Fund 2025 \$2,185
4. Cordless Commercial Vacuum Cleaner \$1,024

Any donations (large or small) given toward the item(s) is greatly appreciated. For a closer look as well as giving options, please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#).