



The Image of God

For years Americans visiting the Capitol in Washington, D.C. have stopped to marvel at one of Gutzon Borglum's best-known pieces, a huge head of Abraham Lincoln. While Borglum was still working on that sculpture, one day he was interrupted by a family who came to visit him at his shop. The face of Lincoln was just emerging on one side of the massive block of stone on the studio floor.

While the adults visited with Borglum, their five-year-old daughter, dwarfed by the granite block, gazed in wonder at the giant features of Lincoln's face. After a few moments of intense study, the little girl scurried over to Borglum, tugged at his pants leg and asked, "Is that Abraham Lincoln?" "Yes," the famous sculptor replied. "Well," the little girl asked, "how did you know he was in there?"

The Bible tells us that at creation, "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." (Genesis 1:27) We were created with the image of God in us. That's the shape we were intended to take, the face that people were supposed to see when they look at us. But sin ruined all that. No longer did God's perfect image of righteousness shine out from within us. Sin disfigured that image beyond recognition. Sin brought pain, shame and death.

But Jesus changed all that. His resurrection gives us hope. Peter wrote, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

That new birth is ours in our baptism. Paul wrote, "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Galatians 3:26-27) That image of God that we lost, in baptism we regain. It is still

smudged with sin and may be hard to see, but it's there. Believe that.

What do you see when you look in the mirror? A good Lutheran would probably answer: "A sinner." That's good. That's the attitude of the tax collector in the Temple who beat his breast and prayed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." (Luke 18:13) Jesus said that he went home justified because he trusted in God's mercy and not his own righteousness.

But if that is the only image we focus on, we are missing the power and joy of the resurrection. Through your baptism Christ is alive in you. When you look in the mirror, yes, see a sinner, but also see Christ. See God's image rebooted in you.

See the eternal life that is already in you and will be exposed in all its beauty on the last day. Find joy in the person you are in Christ.

Then live that image. Show the face of God to the world. When you go to work, do people see the face of God in how you go about your business? Do they see someone who is happy to help and serve?

As a parent, do you think about how your children see you? Shine the face of Jesus in your love and care for them.

When you are facing surgery, are you grumpy and complaining or does the face of Jesus shine through with patience and kindness?

May you see Christ in you. May others see Christ in you.

• *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.

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

5/2, 5/3	Fifth Sunday of Easter – Confirmation; Connected to the Vine
5/9, 5/10	Sixth Sunday of Easter – Connected by Love
5/16, 5/17	The Ascension of Our Lord
5/23, 5/24	The Coming of the Holy Spirit – The Day of Pentecost
5/27	Graduation
5/30, 5/31	First Sunday after Pentecost – The Holy Trinity

Official Acts

Transfer In:

Kathryn Watson
Stephanie Pelot

Transfer Out:

Casey & Becky Balczewski

Profession of Faith:

Erica Thompson and children

Financials through March 31st, 2021

	Mar.	July – Mar.
Income	\$ 172,714	\$ 1,625,115
Expense	\$ 191,863	\$ 1,577,808
Behind / Ahead	\$ -19,149	\$ +47,307

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.

Confirmation: The first Sunday in May is always set aside as our student confirmation (10:30 service). Please note that this service is reserved for the confirmands and their families so we may adhere to social distancing guidelines. We congratulate the following young people from St. Paul on their confirmation: Anna Dvorak, Brooklyn Frye, Ian Holmes, Eliot Kelley, Leland Morey, Gwen Pfeifferle, Tabitha Potter, Austin Rogers, Hailey Rogers, Jack Schlueter, Isaac Schultz, Laura Selig, Alex Thompson, Rowen Volhard, Ragen Volhard, Reese Volhard, Will Volkman, Jason Ziglinski, Jack Ziglinski, and Marek Zimmerman. May you live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life! Congratulations!

Graduation: On Thursday evening, May 27th, at 6:00, we will be conducting our annual commencement service for our 8th-grade graduates. Please note that this service is reserved for the graduates and their families so we may adhere to social distancing guidelines. Diplomas have been earned by the following students of St. Paul Lutheran School: Danial Bacon, Kelley Buyeske, Gabriel Dierks, Graham Feidt, Adrian Haertl, Caitlin Holz, Noah Johnson, Emma Luehring, Piper McCray, Faith Pomeroy, Isaiah Sievert, Jonah Toppe, Maizy VanLinn, and Storm Wilson. Congratulations to our graduates and God's blessings on your high school years and beyond.

Spring Plays – You're Invited!

Grades K-4 plays will be held on Friday, May 7th:

12:30PM: K-2 performances- Fairy Tales
1:30PM: 3&4 performances- Fairy Tales
6:00PM: K-2 performances- Fairy Tales
7:00PM 3&4 performances- Fairy Tales

Grades 5-8 plays will be held on Friday, May 21st:

12:30PM: 5&6 performance- Phantom Tollbooth
1:30PM: 7&8 performance- MidSummer Night's Dream
6:00PM: 5&6 performance- Phantom Tollbooth
7:00PM: 7&8 performance- MidSummer Night's Dream
Families will be dismissed/enter during intermission depending on the grade level performance. Students will stay for the remainder of the day for the morning performances. For the evening performances, students will also be dismissed during intermission. Social distancing will be practiced and offered. There will be a separate entrance/exit for our performances. The entrance will be at the gymnasium door "S8" near the playground. The exit will be at the Stage Left door "S3" near the parking lot. Please view each teacher's newsletter for learning parts and evening student arrival times.

Food Service Assistant needed for 2021-2022: Mrs. Karen Briggs has notified the LES Board of her intention to retire at the end of this school year. She has faithfully served St. Paul Lutheran School for the past 15 years and a total of 32 years working in the hot lunch program. Mrs.

Kris Feidt has already transitioned to the Food Service Lead position. In light of this retirement, we are looking for applicants to fill the role of Food Service Assistant. If you are interested in this position, please contact Mr. Jason Kelley or stop by the office to pick up an application and a position description.

LWMS

All women of St. Paul are invited! Thursday, May 20, 6:30 pm St. Paul LWMS will meet in the church basement. Come and learn how our congregation is supporting missionaries and their families. We will also be voting on LWMS Board of Directors and mission projects of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

LWMS meets 4 times throughout the year. After a break during the summer months, we will meet again on September 16th.

A message from Pastor Ryan Cortright, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Madison, WI:

During the fall before the Outdoor Adventure Camp VBS our congregation had planned for the following June, I stumbled across a promotion for the Mission Journeys program. Since I was hoping to find a group of volunteers from another congregation to help us, I went to Mission Journeys website and filled out the online form with information about our camp.

About five months later (when I forgot I had even applied for a Mission Journeys team!), I received a message that there was a group interested in helping us. The team was from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Platteville, Wisconsin – about an hour from our church in Madison. When I thought of a mission team, I always imagined that they would come from a faraway place. Having our team come from another congregation in our region was a good reminder of the mission opportunities that surround all of us without having to go very far.

The process of organizing the team was simple. I was put in contact with Irv, one of the adults coming on the trip. We made plans for housing and food for the team of four high school students and two adults who would spend a week in Madison. They arrived on Sunday afternoon before the camp began, and we worked on setting up. Throughout the week of camp, the team came early each day to welcome the kids. They led groups and participated in all the camp activities. Every member of the team was engaged. They wanted to be helpful and it showed in all they did. When they left to head home, they were tired, but they knew they had helped us to connect the 80+ kids in our camp to Jesus and God's Word.

I've been a pastor for about 10 years and I've worked with about that many mission teams. The benefits of hosting a team go far beyond the help they provide for whatever activity the host congregation is doing. Teams bring with them enthusiasm and energy. They come

expecting to work hard and also make some memories. Hosting a team is not as easy as simply signing up on the Mission Journeys website. It involves providing food, transportation, and housing for team members, which gives the host congregation the opportunity to practice Christian hospitality. The best part of having a mission team is working together with other Christians who share a common confession and goal of sharing the gospel.

Pastor Ryan Cortright,

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Madison, WI

Posting Signs on School/Church Doors

Please do not use tape of any kind to attach signs/posters to the exterior doors of school or church as the tape 'bakes' on the doors. Only display signs by:

1. Using the clear plastic magnetic holders (8.5" x 11") provided on the door.
2. Using the white 'A' frame holders located on the stage.
3. Using the magnetic strips located in the school kitchen utility drawer.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our property looking nice!

ECC Update

Did you know that every year there is a week in April that we call "Week of the Young Child" in the early childhood world? The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families. It also recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child 50 years ago! Early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

St. Paul ECC celebrated Week of the Young Child on April 12-16. Each day of the week had a different theme (Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday). Yes, we do plan activities involving music, food, and art all the time. Yes, we do work on social skills like working together. Yes, we do learn all about our families (this is one of the most relevant topics for them). What is great about the Week of the Young Child is that we give each area the targeted emphasis it deserves. The children had a blast!

While Week of the Young Child is only once per year, we at St. Paul like to celebrate our children every day! We are blessed to be able to expand our facility to serve

more families, and along with that comes the need to add more teachers and assistants to our team. With work being completed by Fall, we are looking to bring new employees on soon to get them trained and ready to celebrate more children in a few short months. If you or someone you know is ready to celebrate with us, please contact Candy Schulz (cschulz@stpaulappletonwi.com or 733-9061) right away! We'd love to hear from you.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Push Bars for Door | \$2,500 |
| 2. Playground Improvements | \$10,000+ |
| 3. Baby Grand Piano | \$20,000 |
| 4. Classroom Doors | \$29,000 |
| 5. WELS Hymnology Curriculum | \$800 |

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 \$317,114. 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
4. ECC & School Construction Project
5. Vex Robotic Program

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

FVL News

FVL's Annual Electronics Recycling Drive is April 30-May 1. Get rid of those old electronics and help FVL in the process. Check fvlhs.org/recycle for what you can bring and any costs.

More Upcoming Opportunities!

- Registration for FVL Youth Sports & Summer Camps remains open. Find out more at fvlhs.org/youth-sports
- Plan now to attend the FVL Spring Band Concert on May 9. Both the FVL Band and FVL Schools will be performing. Details coming soon!

Letter from Pastor Neumann

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Rose Marie, Tim, and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your generous gift to help the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, in memory of our

son, David.

As you are aware, David passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 4th, 2020. David had type 1 diabetes since third grade (he was 31 when he died). We found out the cause of death was complications due to the diabetes, called ketoacidosis.

David had wanted to, at some point, come along with me to Ukraine to visit the churches there on one of my trips. The Lord had other plans, however.

After the memorial service we had for David, which had to be limited due to COVID restrictions on gatherings, we decided to start a memorial drive to secure funds for one building, for a congregation in the ULC. Only 5 of the 17 congregations have a building that is their own. All the others rent facilities. I knew of one possibility in Tokmak of purchasing a building that could be renovated and we set our goal for that purchase.

Rose Marie and I started the fund with a gift of \$35,000 and Tim added \$5,000.00. The Lord has richly blessed our efforts and we now can say that we have funds for that one building. We knew others still wanted to give a gift so we raised our sights to help 3 congregations. This has allowed us to increase our goal from \$110,000.00 to \$250,000.00. We will keep this Memorial Fund open through 2021, or to the first anniversary of our son's passing on Dec. 4th, 2021.

With the new goal, my wife and I will add another \$10,000.00, which will put us half way there to the \$250,000.00. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

This wholeheartedly has Synod approval, with the WELS Ukraine Committee fully informed of what we are doing. Also, I talk weekly with Bishop Horpynchuk, president of the ULC and each of these goals are with full approval of the ULC Council.

My niece, Jackie Mayer, who worked for a period of time with Jesus Cares Ministry, is excited about helping me by providing donors with updates on the use of these gifts. One of my members, Nadine, who helped put together a video, will assist her.

Thank you for your support, and for your love for the gospel ministry, both home and world.

With Love, in Christ,

Pastor Roger, Rose Marie, and Tim Neumann
(4/8/2021)