



ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

June 2025

Time to Grow

Jesus said, "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times" (Mark 4:3-8).

Songwriters have used it. Thinkers have used it. Investors have used it. You probably have used it yourself. Even Jesus Christ used it. Used what? They used the picture of planting seeds to make a point. Jesus told a story about planting seeds. Recorded for us in Mark 4:3-8, this simple story speaks volumes for our lives.

Jesus teaches us that seeds are being planted in hearts at worship services each Sunday. That's also what is happening in a children's Sunday school lesson—seeds are being planted in their hearts. That's what is happening when you learn what the Bible teaches—seeds are being planted in your own heart. They are being planted by God through his Word.

Seeds need time to grow. In springtime, when gardens are first planted, there's not much to see. Yet, as every gardener knows, when it comes to seeds, it takes time. As sunlight warms the moist earth where seeds are embedded, seeds take time to sprout and grow.

Sometimes, a person checks out a church one Sunday and decides not to go back. But that's not much time to let the seeds sown that Sunday grow, is it?

Sometimes, people are glad to attend a particular Bible class or workshop at a church. But when it is done, they lose interest. In a way, they are like a child who excitedly plants a seed in a foam cup and waters it

regularly. But a couple of days later, the child forgets about it, and the seed dries up.

Sometimes a person goes to worship regularly so that the seeds of God's Word start to grow, but then he lets the cares of life grow up like thorns. They crowd out time for the Word, and so the planting of faith in his soul gets the life choked out of it.

But sometimes, an amazing thing happens. The person keeps coming back to hear the Word. And the seeds grow and keep growing. The plant of faith is made strong by God's complete forgiveness won by Jesus. It flourishes under God's unconditional love given in Jesus and is made resilient by heaven's guarantee paid for by Jesus.

This summer, let God continue to plant the seed of his Word in your heart. Worship with us Sundays at 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. (May 25 - August 31) and Mondays at 6:00 p.m. [Subscribe to have a WELS Devotion](#) delivered to your email inbox. Read through a book of the Bible this summer in small chunks and ask Martin Luther's 4 Bible Study Questions: What does this Bible lesson teach me to do? What does it teach me to be thankful for? What does it teach me to confess? What does it teach me to ask for?

This Summer it's time for God to grow your faith.

— Pastor Matt Holtz

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Worship Schedule

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

***Summer Schedule begins 5/25 with Sunday services at 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day weekend.**

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

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

New Series Begins 6/15 'Undivided Attention':

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real



danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being "free from distraction." But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

We have come to the second half of the Church Year. In the first half, we focused on the life of Christ. In this second half, we turn our attention to all the teachings of Christ. May we give them our undivided attention.

6/1, 6/2	Christ Creates Unity Within Diversity
6/8, 6/9	Christ Sends Us His Spirit
6/15, 6/16	On the Mystery & Majesty of Our God
6/22, 6/23	On the Mission Right Before Us
6/29, 6/30	On Christ's Call for Commitment

Summer Service Hours

Sunday (5/25) is the first week of the Summer Worship schedule. Services will be on Sundays at 8am & 9:30am through Labor Day. Monday worship is at 6pm with the exception of Memorial and Labor Days – there is no service. In place of that service, we will hold a service on the Thursday before (5/22 & 8/28) at 6pm.

Official Acts

Baptized:

Landry Kuehn, son of Mark & Ashley Kuehn

Eva Aquino, daughter of Jonathan & Lindsey Aquino

Children Confirmed:

Emily Carrel	Lucas Gosha
Mason Haack	Anabella Holmes
Olivia Jelinek	Hailey Miller
Reagan Pribbernow	Maggie Uhlenbrauck
Hailey VanLinn	

Transfer In:

Jeffery Wascher

Forever with the Lord:

Lawrence 'Larry' Becher departed his life on May 9th, 2025 at the age of 75 years, 6 months, and 14 days.

Ministry Funding Plan Financials through April 30th, 2025

	April	YTD
Income	\$ 177,389	\$ 2,385,102
Expense	\$ 211,354	\$ 2,310,460
Deficit	\$ -33,965	\$ +74,642

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.

Summer Email Communications: Parents/Guardians of St. Paul Lutheran School for the 2025-2026 school year, please look for a summer email communication from Mr. Kelley that will come out late June/early July. This communication will have all the necessary items for you to complete for the upcoming school year. Our back-to-school worship service will be held on August 17th at 9:30AM with school registration afterward. The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 20th.

Summer Camps & Activities at FVLHS: There are a variety of camps and activities hosted by FVLHS this summer for children of all ages and grades. Please find more information and register on the [FVLHS WEBSITE](#).

LWMS News

New Befriend a Missionary Assignments: One of the ways LWMS serves missionaries is through the Befriend A Mission Program (BAM). Each circuit receives at least one home mission and one world mission to befriend over a two-year period. We will be sharing information about each of our new 2025-2026 BAM missions and missionaries over the next few months.

World Missionary: Our World Missionary is Pastor Timothy Matthies II. He works with the Asia-Oceania Team. The Asia-Oceania Team is made up of 17 missionaries serving 18 different countries throughout Asia and Oceania. The team—with members in Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Australia—partners with God's people to equip, encourage, and empower others to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the billions still lost in darkness. The Asia-Oceania Team explores new mission opportunities, supports existing sister synods, and trains current and future leaders for service in their churches through Asia Lutheran Seminary.

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS), the regional seminary for Asia and Oceania, trains Christian leaders by equipping students to reach out, disciple believers, train leaders, and multiply groups for the advancement of God's kingdom. ALS offers a comprehensive evangelist through pastor-level training program, ranging from certificate courses to a Master of Divinity degree.

Initially focused on Chinese-speaking students, ALS has now expanded its reach to serve students across Asia and Oceania. A partnership with Multi-Language Production's TELL Network has expanded ALS into new, unreached areas. The Regional Theological Education Program (RTEP) collaborates with sister churches throughout Asia and Oceania to ensure consistent training through consultation, curriculum development, and visiting instructors.

Pastor Matthies was called to the Asia-Oceania Team in 2019 to serve as a professor for Asia Lutheran Seminary. He teaches courses in the areas of Old Testament, Hebrew, and the Lutheran Confessions. He previously served at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Washington, Mich., from 2015-2019.

Matthies married his wife, Rachel, in 2013, and they have two children: Irene and Zadok. The family resides in Hong Kong.

A message from Home Missionary Caleb Schultz, Cross of Life, ON, Canada:

Early in its history, Cross of Life Lutheran Church focused on getting as many people as possible in the doors. Outreach at all costs! Such is the life of a mission start. But now, our 24-year old congregation has started to focus on nurturing deeply disciplined relationships with Jesus, and the Spirit is producing fruit. Take Matthew for

example. A few years ago, he would have described himself as an atheist. But he started exploring our church after seeing one of our YouTube videos. He went on a 3-year-long journey of studying Scripture regularly with me, asking tough questions, and wrestling with truth. He and his sister were recently confirmed at Cross of Life! Or take Will for another example. A long-time member of Cross of Life, in the last few years he has taken amazing strides in being a spiritual leader. He teaches the gospel to his family, recites psalms with his children, engages his non-Christian friends in spiritual conversations, and has organized and facilitated a men's group where brothers in Christ study the catechism and discuss how to lead their families. He also serves as our church president. All this makes sense, since our Lord did not tell us, 'Go and get lots of people in the doors, gather large crowds, make lots of converts.' No, he tells us, 'Go and make disciples.' We believe this is our call, and we are seeing the fruit.

'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.' John 10:27-28

Home Missionary Caleb Schultz, Cross of Life, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Joint Ascension Service

On Thursday, May 29, at 6:30 pm, our congregation will join with Bethany, Eternal Love, Riverview, and St. Matthew for a Festival Worship Service for the Ascension of our Lord at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 302 Morrison St, Appleton. Pastor Matt Krenke, from Bethany, will preach. The service will feature holy communion, a joint adult choir, and a joint instrumental ensemble. Dessert fellowship will follow the service. Come join your fellow Christians to celebrate our risen and ascended Lord!



Campus Outdoor Work Day

Save the date! Please plan to lend a hand on May 31st from 8am – noon to freshen up our grounds. Tasks include raking, spreading mulch, trimming bushes, etc. Bring the whole family to help! If you have a shovel or rake, please bring it along. Thank you!

Christmas Cookie Tins

If you are 'cleaning out' some items to make space, the Sunshine Cookie distribution can use Christmas tins. The best size is approximately 10 inches round & 2 inches deep. They can be dropped off anytime in the church kitchen. Thank you.

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Debt Retirement | \$128,784 |
| 2. School Doors | \$38,918 |
| 3. Kindergarten Room Flooring | \$8,964 |
| 4. Repave Parking Lot | \$83,500 |
| 5. ECC Room Dividers & Code Updates | \$13,000 |

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](#).

ECC News

The ECC is full of excitement these days! We recently celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in the ECC. Our ECC parents and Board treated us to numerous foods, treats, cards, and other gifts. It was a lovely week and we enjoyed all the little extras!

We are very close to the end of the 3K/4K school year with a **graduation service** taking place on May 20th and the last day of the school year is May 22nd. We are in the process of welcoming one new full time staff member and two-part time cleaners to our ECC family. In a couple of weeks will say goodbye to some of our families as they move on to kindergarten in the fall at their neighborhood school or church school. We will also be welcoming several new families for the first time!

With the recent voters' approval of a **room expansion/code compliance project**, the ECC is also preparing for some work to begin in June. By August, we will be able to take on 8 additional students, allowing us to better meet the needs of our growing families and welcome a couple of new families into the ECC. We are currently hiring new staff to fill the roles being created by opening a new room.

The ECC has immediate openings for a part-time janitor, 2 full-time care givers, and one part-time caregiver. The janitor position has flexible hours 3-4 hours per day, 2-3 days per week. The caregiver positions vary slightly with times and ages and is up to 40 hours per week. Benefits and paid time off are also available for full time caregiver positions. For more information, please contact ECC Director Candy Schulz at cschulz@stpaulappletonwi.com.

We would like to wish all of you a wonderful summer!

FVL News

NEW youth sports opportunities available! Registration to try out (dates July 21-22) for 2026 Boys Junior Foxes Baseball opens May 19. Registration is open for 2026 Girls Jr. Foxes Baseball tryouts (July 23 & 30). Registration is still open for some Summer Camps and Summer Workouts on fvlhs.org/youth-sports.

Urgent need for host families! Thank you to those who have volunteered to be host families for 2025-26. We still have 20 students who are waiting for housing. Girls needing housing are from France, Spain, Germany, S. Korea, and China. Boys needing housing are from Vietnam, Spain, Luxemburg, and China. Consider hosting an international student, so they can get a Christ-centered education at FVL. Find out more at fvlhs.org/hosting or contact Monica Uhlenbrauck (muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org).

Registration for FVL's annual Golf Outing (June 13) is closed, as the event is full, however, donation and sponsorship opportunities are available. Find donation and sponsorship info at fvlhs.org/golf.

Fox Valley Lutheran High School will be hosting the 2025 WELS National Choral Fest in November. The festival steering committee is looking for people with catering or product-procurement experience (including managing a concessions stand) to assist on a meal and snack committee in preparation for this event. Anyone with questions or interest should contact Chuck Adrian (chuck.adrian66@gmail.com).

FVL is accepting applications for 5 positions: Network Engineer, Custodial Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, Media Center Assistant, Study Hall Supervisor. Go to fvlhs.org/about/employment for details and application.

Saturday, May 24 at 10:00AM is FVL's Graduation Worship Service. Doors open at 9:00AM. Check fvlhs.org for the livestream link.

Watch for the FVL Band in the Appleton Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26. Also plan to see FVL student Anna Buschkopf, who will be reading during the "Moment of Remembrance" ceremony at Appleton's Riverside Cemetery following the parade.