



ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

July 2025

Living the Christian Life: It's Not Just You

Have you ever had one of those days where living out your faith feels more like dragging yourself through a spiritual obstacle course? Maybe you're trying to be patient with someone who tests every ounce of your self-control. Or you keep falling into that same old sin again, and you wonder, "Why is this still so hard?"

You're not alone—and more importantly, you're not left to figure it out on your own.

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul reminds us: "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). That little verse is packed with hope and direction. The Christian life isn't just about trying harder. It's about the Spirit of God at work in us—transforming us from the inside out.

We talk a lot about Jesus and what he's done for us—and rightly so. His perfect life, his innocent death, and his glorious resurrection are the reason we are saved. But sometimes we forget just how active the Holy Spirit is in our lives every single day. He's the one who brought you to faith in the first place. That wasn't your doing. That was a gift—straight from God. And now that same Spirit is the one helping you grow in that faith, even on the days when you don't feel it.

Think about it this way: You don't see the roots of a tree growing, but over time, you definitely see the fruit. In the same way, the

Spirit produces fruit in your life—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Sound familiar? That's Galatians 5 again.) And it doesn't happen all at once. It's a slow, steady process. But the Spirit is working.

So if you're tired, discouraged, or just feeling like you're not a "very good Christian," take heart. The Spirit of God hasn't stopped working on you. He hasn't given up. He hasn't walked away. He is present in the Word you hear, in the baptism you received, and in the Lord's Supper you take. He's in the small acts of kindness you show. He's in the remorse you feel when you sin—and in the comfort you find when you hear you're forgiven.

Living the Christian life isn't about being perfect. It's about being His—and letting the Spirit lead you. So keep showing up. Keep listening to the Word. Keep praying, even if you're not sure what to say. The Spirit intercedes. The Spirit guides. The Spirit empowers.

And remember, you're never walking this road alone.

— *Pastor Justin Shrum*

In this Issue:

Worship Schedule 2
 Official Acts 2
 Financials 2
 School News 2 - 3
 LWMS News 3
 Facility Improvement Update 3
 Fall Festival - Save the Date! 4
 St. Paul Wish List 4
 ECC News 4
 FVL News 4

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.

'Undivided Attention' Continues in July:

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.

- 7/6, 7/7 On the Want for Workers
- 7/13, 7/14 On a Neighbor in Need
- 7/20, 7/21 On the One Thing Needed
- 7/27, 7/28 On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer



Official Acts

Baptized:

Hayden and Weston Wert, sons of Wyatt & Kendra Wert Oakley Rodriguez, daughter of Javier & Mackenna Rodriguez

Lydia Oudenhoven, daughter of Trevor & Cheyenne Oudenhoven

Forever with the Lord:

Thomas A. Winter departed this life on June 19th, 2025 at the age of 84 years, 8 months, and 16 days.

Ministry Funding Plan Financials through May 31st, 2025

	May	YTD
Income	\$ 362,013	\$ 2,747,116
Expense	\$ 241,296	\$ 2,551,759
Deficit	+\$120,717	\$ +195,357

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.

Scrip Sales: There will be no physical scrip cards sold in the St. Paul office 6/30 through 7/6 due to the annual audit (and holiday). You may still purchase E-gift cards and reloads through your RaiseRight app.

Installation Sunday: One new teacher will be installed at St. Paul on Sunday, August 17th during the 9:30am service. Please join us to welcome Mr. Jason Dutcher, who will be teaching 4th grade. A Gift Card Shower is planned and a card box will be available that day.

Summer Email Communications: Parents 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 20.

Now Enrolling 2025-2026: St. Paul Lutheran School has openings in most of its classrooms for the upcoming school year. Please share your school with your friends, neighbors, and others who would like their children to have a Christian education. If they would like additional information or a tour, have them contact Mr. Kelley for more details at 920-733-9061 or jkelly@stpaulappletonwi.com.

Coaches Needed for '25-'26: We are in critical need of coaches for the upcoming school year. Without your support, some of our athletic programs may be impacted. We are looking to fill the following roles:



- **Cross Country Coaches**
- **B-Team Volleyball Coaches**
- **A-Team Assistant Volleyball Coach**
- **B-Team Girls Assistant Basketball Coach**
- **B-Team Boys Assistant Basketball Coach**
- **A-Team Girls Assistant Basketball Coach**
- **B-Team Cheerleading Coaches**

If you—or someone you know—may be interested, please contact Mrs. Pautz (jpautz@stpaulappletonwi.com) or Mr. Kelley (jkelley@stpaulappletonwi.com) today. Our students are counting on it!

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. Last month we shared information about our World Missionary, Pastor Timothy Matthies II and his family. This month we will share information about our Home Mission, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Richland Center, WI.

Home Mission: Bethlehem Lutheran Church is part of a consortium of three churches that have joined together to grow in faith and go out with the message of salvation to their communities. Their joint ministry is named Christ Countryside Ministries. The three churches involved in the group include Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Richland Center, Trinity Lutheran Church in Lime Ridge, WI, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Hilltop, WI.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an active and growing young church in the Richland Center area. The congregation comprises many members, and they focus on community outreach. They like to be in their community and host fun and rewarding events for all ages. Bethlehem is in Rockbridge in the former Rockbridge Elementary School. As they grew in the Richland Center area, they knew they needed a new facility. Rather than build a brand-new facility, they took a community landmark and reinvented it.

In addition to the church, Bethlehem has established a preschool and childcare program called Bethlehem Lutheran Academy. The preschool has a curriculum that is a nationally award-winning program. The Academy provides a faith-based, foundational and intergenerational program that fills a vital need in the community, prepares children for school and fosters a

love of reading, and lets the love of Jesus shine in all they do.

A message from World Missionary Michael Hartman, One Europe Team, London, UK:

In 2023, Dr. Michael Hartman moved with his family to London, where mission efforts are being carried out to plant churches in the United Kingdom. He oversees a core group of members in the area, along with volunteers from the United States, with the goal of developing a ministry that is centered in London and reaches to other parts of England and beyond. The individuals involved have connections around the world, ranging from Africa and South America to Europe and Asia.

It is an exciting and opportunistic time to be in one of the world's centers for trade, commerce, and travel. Immigrants arrive in London every year, looking for a better life and a hopeful future. The country's rich history and culture mean that many churches sprinkle the scenery—though they are often empty or used for other purposes such as kid recreational activities, plays, and musical performances. Could some of these places be used again for their original purpose, and in a way that presents the clear Gospel message to the many who are searching for it?

'Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:18-20

*World Missionary Michael Hartman,
One Europe Team, London, UK*

Facility Improvement Project Update

Since their approval at the 4/29/25 Voter's Meeting, Special Funds have been set up for congregation members to donate directly to the following four projects. Status updates are as follows:

- Project 1 - Replace Interior School Doors:
Cost \$38,918; \$15,144 Remaining
- Project 2 - Replace Kindergarten Room Flooring:
Cost \$8,964; \$8,824 Remaining
- Project 3 - Repave Parking Lot:
Cost \$83,500; \$78,024 Remaining
- Project 4 - ECC Room Dividers:
Cost \$13,000; \$6,985 Remaining

Donations toward these projects will free up funds for future use. Giving may be done through the Church Center app, offering plate (please specify project on check) or directly to the office. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

Fall Festival – Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct 26, 2025! Women's Ministry will be serving our delicious roast beef dinner and holding our basket raffle to support our St. Paul Ministries. We will need soup makers this year rather than bakers. **A change for this year's event is we will be including a soup sale (no bake sale this year).** We are hoping that many of you will join us and support our ministries that Sunday. Watch for more information as we get closer to the event.



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

With opening another classroom in the Fall, we are looking for TWO full-time teachers! These positions would float between all the classrooms. Full time benefits provided. Interested candidates may contact Candy Schulz (cschulz@stpaulappletonwi.com).

FVL News

Urgent need for host families! We still have 15 students who are currently waiting for housing. Students are from Spain, Germany, Vietnam, Luxemburg, and China. Consider hosting an international student, so they can get a Christ-centered education at FVL. Find out more, and watch a video about hosting at fvlhs.org/hosting or contact Monica Uhlenbrauck. (muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org).

FVL is accepting applications for 3 positions: Custodial Assistant, part-time Media Center Assistant, and On-Call Substitute Teachers (looking for more than one). Go to fvlhs.org/about/employment for details and application.

Check the online calendar (fvlhs.org/calendar) for summer School Office and SCRIP hours. Both offices will be closed on Fridays and have reduced hours during the summer.

Youth sports opportunities available: Registration to try out (dates July 21-22) for 2026 Boys Junior Foxes Baseball is open. Registration is open for 2026 Girls Jr. Foxes Baseball tryouts (July 23 & 30). Go to fvlhs.org/youth-sports for details.