



How can I be happy without doing anything dirty?

"Blessed are the pure in heart." Matthew 5:8

Wash your hands. Wash your hands! So often we are reminded of the need to wash our hands. After using the restroom, before eating, after eating, before cooking, after cooking. It's so hard to keep them clean.

And that's just our hands! Try keeping our hearts clean, and we have an impossible task! How hard it is to have perfectly pure motives! When I cut that little section of grass between my neighbor's house and mine, the good deed is spoiled with the self-serving intent that maybe he'll let me borrow his edger. I give some money to a worthy charitable cause, but only because I don't want to disappoint the sincere person asking.

We may be able to hide our impure motives from others, but not from God. The Bible says, "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). We can't fool God. There is no covering false notions or hidden deception. God looks right through the outward act and inspects the inner motivation. He is looking for the pure in heart.

What is the measure for that kind of inner purity? God holds us up to his perfect will and measures us against it. The conclusion is that all of us have sinned and fall short of the sinless

standard that God has set for us. Under God's inspection, our hearts are not pure.

What's the solution? Our hearts need to be washed. But how? We can't wash them on our own, so Jesus did it for us. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus, [God's] Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). By his death for us, Jesus washed our hearts clean; he has cleansed us of sin's stain. Through him all our sins are forgiven, and our hearts are now pure in God's sight.

The forgiveness of sins and purity of heart that we have received freely from Jesus powerfully motivates us to stay away from anything dirty. We'll not want to dirty our hearts again with sinful things. Rather, we'll be happy to strive to live according to the pure way that God teaches and thereby indicate our great appreciation for the sacrifice that Jesus made to wash our hearts clean.

— 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 8/17
'Wounds That Heal': Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need. "Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

8/3, 8/7	Undivided Attention: On Useful Resources
8/10, 8/11	Undivided Attention: On Heavenly Treasure
8/17, 8/18	Christian Education Sunday: Let the Little Children Come to Me
8/24, 8/25	Wounds That Heal: The Door is Very Narrow
8/31	Wounds That Heal: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled



Official Acts

Forever with the Lord:
Earl W. Pappenfuss departed this life on June 27th, 2025 at the age of 90 years, 6 months, and 10 days.
Vera E. Krueger departed this life on July 12th, 2025 at the age of 98 years, 8 months, and 27 days.

Ministry Funding Plan Financials through June 30th, 2025

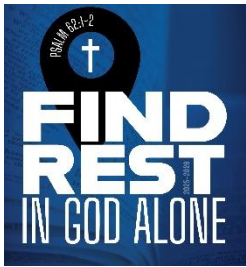
	June	YTD
Income	\$ 152,859	\$ 2,876,013
Expense	\$ 234,238	\$ 2,762,035
Deficit	\$ -81,379	\$ +113,978

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.
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.
Welcome to Our New Teacher, Mr. Jason Dutcher! I was raised in Balaton, MN, where I attended Balaton Public School until 2001. Subsequently, I relocated to Wood Lake, MN and continued my education at Lakeview Public School in Cottonwood, MN, graduating in 2010. I earned a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Communication Arts, and Literature from Martin Luther College in 2014.



My career began in 2016 when I entered the ministry as a 2nd-4th grade teacher at Mt. Olive Lutheran School in Overland Park, KS. For the 2017-2018 academic year, I taught 1st-2nd grade at St. John's Lutheran School in Lake City, MN. From 2018-2023, I served at Good Shepherd Academy in Deltona, FL, instructing students across multiple grade levels. In 2023, I joined Zion Lutheran School in Hartland, WI, teaching 3rd-4th grade and subsequently 2nd-3rd grade in 2024. I am now honored to serve as the 4th grade teacher at St. Paul. I look forward to working with students and families in the school community.
A favored Bible verse of mine is John 14:6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"



2025 – 2026 School Theme: St. Paul Lutheran School begins its 146th year of serving families in the Fox River Valley with Christian education on Wednesday, August 20th. The theme for this school year is "Find Rest in God Alone". This year's theme is based

on Psalm 62:1-2, *'My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress. I will never be shaken.'*

It is our prayer that we continue to nurture our families in the message of our Savior's birth, crucifixion, and resurrection for the sins of all. This is the message we want all of our students to learn and remember for the rest of their lives. It is also the message that we are Spirit-led to share with everyone around us!

LWMS News

62nd Annual National LWMS Convention 2025: The 62nd Annual National LWMS Convention took place in Tulsa, OK on June 26-29. There were 617 registered attendees for the convention this year. The convention began and ended with beautiful worship services. The attendees heard five presentations regarding missions in Asia, Arkansas, Texas, Native Christian Network, and Academia Cristo. Six workshops were also offered that offered insights into the Africa, home, Australia, Apache Reservation, and other mission opportunities. The 63rd Annual National LWMS Convention in 2026 will be held in Madison, WI.

Our St. Paul LWMS group has three more upcoming activities to finish out 2025:

- **September 18, 2025:** Meeting at St. Paul in the church basement
- **October 11, 2025:** Fall Rally at St. Paul in Green Bay
- **November 20, 2025:** Meeting at St. Paul in the church basement

All confirmed women of St. Paul are welcome to attend the meetings. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

A message from Home Missionary Jonathan Kehl, St. John's, Antigua:

The mission in Antigua celebrated its 50th anniversary in January of 2023. Dozens of missionaries have served the congregation over the decades. Some had the opportunity to return or send video messages for the anniversary, sharing memories and encouragements with the members of St. John's Lutheran. God has used each of them to plant, water, and harvest as the Lord led the mission to grow. And the congregation grew indeed! A once small Lutheran school has grown to over 350 students. Hundreds of families entrust their children to St. John's Lutheran School, a school with a mission to equip

them for everlasting success. The harvest field comes to us! Sadly, the devil works hard to cause families to wilt and to deprive them of the blessings of God. There are tears from pastors, teachers, and laymen who have experienced the damage the devil causes. But when seeds of the gospel spring to life, it's like a farmer seeing a field bursting to life.

Jemoya's family has sprung to life. Growing up, Jemoya attended St. John's Lutheran School. Her parents weren't really interested in church. They came when she sang with her class, but when she graduated, they moved on. Many years later they realized their life didn't seem fruitful. They visited St. John's again and God's Word took root. Jemoya and her family are now part of our church family. They are growing to understand the blessings of being part of God's family. For that we sing songs of joy!

'Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.' Psalm 126:5-6.

Home Missionary Jonathan Kehl,
St. John's, Antigua

Altar Guild Help Needed

The Altar Guild is in need of a few more members to assist with the set up and clean up of Communion. There are no weekly or monthly meetings. If interested or would like to know more, please contact Julie Kaepernick at (920) 428-4738, or reach out to the Parish Office.

Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

- **BASKET RAFFLE**
 - Raffle Tickets are \$2 each
 - You do not need to be present to win
 - Raffle hours 9am – 12:15pm
 - Baskets are donated by the grade school classrooms and congregation members
- **FELLOWSHIP**
- **HOMEMADE SOUP SALE**
- **FAMILY DINING WITH MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT**

***Serving 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.* (Menu tbd)**

Sponsored by Women's Ministry



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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Debt Retirement | \$122,868 |
| 2. School Doors | \$38,918 |
| 3. Kindergarten Room Flooring | \$6,998 |
| 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](#).

FVL News

Check the online calendar (fvlhs.org/calendar) for summer **School Office and SCRIP hours**. Both offices have reduced hours and are closed on Fridays. Regular office hours resume August 18.

The Summer 2025 edition of the *Legacy Magazine* is online. Read where the members of the Class of 2025 are headed, see the FVL photo flashback focused on football through the years, and catch up on FVL news. Go to fvlhs.org/legacy to find the magazine.

ANNUAL REPORT
St. Paul Lutheran Church – Appleton, WI
2024 - 2025

Official Acts

Added to God's Kingdom Through Holy Baptism:

Sutton Thiel, Brynnley Miller, Theo Maschka, Rowan Beirl, Landry Kuehn, Eva Aquino, Nellie Paschen, Hayden and Weston Wert, Oakley Rodriguez, Lydia Oudenhoven

Marriages:

John Lyons & Julie Tauber

Welcome into the Fellowship:

A. By Transfer:

Julie Stephens & children, Hannah Blob, Jacob & Naomi Leyrer, Sara Mears, Nicole Heil, Andrew & Lindsey Chesbro and children, Heather VanCamp and child, Brooke Buchholz, Gregory & Mercy Kopitske, Shayna VandenHuevel and children, Mark Kuehn, Jeffery Wascher,

B. Profession of Faith

Will Dauss

C. Adult Confirmation/Baptism

David & Heather Reh, Brad Eggert, Zachary & Melissa Hartzeim, Casey Tisler, Collin & Ciara Wells, Jordan Janssen, Nathan Verhelst,

D. Confirmation

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

Farewell and Godspeed:

A. By Transfer

Andy & Kristin Ziegler, Hailey Ziegler, Audrey Ziegler, Phil & Claire Rehberger, Amanda Rehberger, Hannah Rehberger, Tony & Linda Abitz, Paul & Laurie Hoffman, Jenna Hoffman, Kayla Rogers, Lorry Voss-Hoffman, Kelly Voss, Stephanie Pelot, Bob & Trudy Fischer, Wendy Hall and child, Brynnlee Jefferies, Kailey Crenshaw, Chris Kantelberg

B. By Release:

Mildred Watermolen, Duane Watermolen

C. Self-Exclusion

None

D. Forever With the Lord

Ray Kersten, Dean VanDaalwyk, Doris Falk, Betty Lecker, Rollie Fredericks, Louise Niemuth, Roger Fischer, Jerry Schultz, Karl Hoppe, Lila Schroeder, Lawrence Becher, Thomas Winter, Earl Pappenfuss, Vera Krueger

CHURCH STATISTICS

From July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2025 your pastors performed the following:

Baptisms: 11 Weddings: 1 Confirmations: 9 Funerals: 14
Communicant Count: 678 Soul Count: 820

CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Perry Abitz Secretary – David Paulson Treasurer – Travis Paschen
Spiritual Growth – Chad Woehler Spiritual Life – Dan Vogel LES Chair – Jim Jelinek
ECC Chair – Jake Holm Pastors: Kenneth Frey, Matthew Holtz, Justin Shrum, Philip Birner

2024 - 2025 St. Paul School Statistics

Number of St. Paul families represented at St. Paul School: 98
Number of boys attending St. Paul School: 64
Number of girls attending St. Paul School: 85

Number of students per grade:

Grade 8 – (20) Naomi Leyrer	Grade 3 – (15) Dina Dietzler
Grade 7 – (9) Jewel Pautz	Grade 2 - (15) Alyssa Kelley
Grade 6 – (22) Matthew Ivan	Grade 1 – (12) Alyssa Wascher
Grade 5 – (18) Mike Schulz	Grade K – (24) Stacy Shrum
Grade 4 – (14) Sara Mears	Spec. Ed – Kirsten Gullerud

Administration & Support Staff: Jason Kelley, Stephanie Ivan (Spanish), Deb Zunker, Melissa Volhard, Ryan Zimmerman, Curt Jacobson, Kris Feidt, Jodi Gunville, Jennifer Jelinek, Charissa Kuntsman, Becky Ryan, Jessi Hamblin

Percentage of children in school from congregation: 76%

Number in school – 73

Number not in school – 23

From other WELS churches: 26

Number attending FVL/LPS: 42

Number of Parental Choice students: 54

Number of SNSP students: 15

St. Paul School Tuition Rates – 2024 - 2025

St. Paul Members: \$1,450

Non-Members: \$4,125

2024 - 2025 Sunday School Statistics

Average Sunday School Attendance: 20

Sunday School Superintendent: Jay Uhlenbrauck

Sunday School Teachers: Jake Holm, Rebecca Mellete, Rebecca Rausch, LeAnn Jacobson, Susan Martin, Amy Holtz, Stacy Shrum

Music Director: Becky Ryan

Helpers: Celia Runkel, Ella Uhlenbrauck

2024-2025 ECC Statistics

Number of students: 128

ECC Administrator: Candy Schulz

ECC Assistant Director: Laura Borree

ECC Staff: Lisa Buchholz, Lori Poukey, Maggie Pockat, Farrah Zadeh, Sabrina Skaletski, Lynn Miller, Carys Wendland, Ali Miller, Stephanie Green, Maraia Gassner, Emma Luehring, Lisa Varnell, Mandy Gummin, Michele Jeske, Abby Mueller, Gemma Appelt, Rebecca Eveland, Hannah Bartmann, Elizabeth Zabel, AJ Mildebrandt, Lily Schramm, Kat Sagan, Dave Selig (janitor), Chris Hankwitz (janitor)

