

October 2013

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“You can’t go home again,” is one of the sad truths of life in this fallen world. There is no going back to the way things were. It can’t happen because the knowledge of things having been different changes the way things are, and you can’t just pretend you didn’t experience something you experienced.

In a time of pastoral vacancy the tendency is want things back the way they were. One person asked, “What if we called Pastor Grams back? Can we do that?” Technically the answer is “Sure. You could. But realistically it wouldn’t be fair to him or his new church and in any event it wouldn’t accomplish what you’re hoping for.” Why not? Because things wouldn’t be the same if he came back. All the events of the last few months would factor in to the new reality, so the goal of just going back to the way it was would be thwarted no matter what.

The same is true of the vacancy situation. Of course it was only four years ago that we here at Faith were serving the last vacancy. God really blessed the brief time for me and for Pastor Ahlemeyer and from talking to people it seems the people of St. Paul’s thought so, too. So the natural inclination is just to go back to that. But you can’t go back and have it be the way it was. The context is different. Four years ago St. Paul’s was in some turmoil, having gone through Pastor Bat’s extended illness. Yet hopes were also high with the brand new school building and the promise of a new chapter in the life of the congregation. Today St. Paul’s is coming off of three years of strong leadership of a different kind, so the goal is not so much to do new things but to keep things going. That is a very different dynamic for the congregation and for the vacancy pastors.

And of course Pastor Errer was not here last time, Pastor Ahlemeyer was. Both are good, strong pastors in different ways. But people who just want everything back the way it was will make the mistake of not receiving the gift in front of them because of their disappointment that it isn’t the gift that used to be there. A better idea is to give thanks for what was and receive with hopefulness and joy the gift of today.

When you get a new pastor, you will be blessed. He won’t be Pastor Grams or Pastor Bat, nor will he necessarily be like any of the vacancy pastors. But he will be a gift to you, and you will be a gift to him and his family as well. And just as you wouldn’t want him coming here and talking about all the ways St. Paul’s isn’t like the church he really loved when he was younger but instead would want him to love and build up St. Paul’s, so you can best be a gift to the new pastor who comes by not trying to go home again and not holding him up to some standard of a previous pastor, but receiving him and building him up and embracing God’s plan for the next chapter at St. Paul’s.

In Christ,
Pastor Speckhard

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Mission Statement

The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran is to strengthen and support our members in their Christian faith through God’s Word, the Sacraments, education, prayer and fellowship; thereby preparing them to be witnesses of the Gospel in our community and the world, so that all who believe shall receive the gift of eternal life.

St. Paul Charger News

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5

First Annual Walk-a-thon Fundraiser

The first annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser is scheduled to take place on Friday, September 27th at NEW Lutheran High School. The students at St. Paul will join together with other area Lutheran Schools as together they walk to raise money for their prospective school. In every pigeon hole was placed a donation letter. If you would like to help contribute to this fundraiser please return the bottom portion of the letter along with your donation to the school office. All donations from the event will go towards the Ministry of St. Paul Lutheran School. We ask for your prayers that this event would be a success and that as always, in everything we do it would be to the glory of our Lord.

Lutheran Education Association

The 11th triennial Lutheran Education Association Convocation will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Wisconsin Center, October 24-26, 2013. The theme for this convocation, Rise and Shine, bringing knowledge to light and Light to knowledge, is based on several scripture passages: "We are his servants because the same God who said that light should shine out of darkness has given us light. For that reason we bring to light the knowledge about God's glory, which shines from Christ's face." 2 Corinthians 4:6 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1

As a staff we look forward to this amazing conference and the opportunities for growth, enrichment, and fellowship. It proves to be an outstanding event.

Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 27th - 10:30am-12:00pm

Trunk or Treat is a yearly event held at St. Paul where families decorate the trunk of their vehicle with fall/festive decorations and hand out treats to the children as they travel through the parking lot. Lunch will also be available through the St. Paul Ladies Aid. If you would like to decorate a trunk for this event, please watch for more information in the church bulletin.

North Wisconsin District

On Thursday, September 19, the Assistant to the President, Mr. DJ Schult visited St. Paul. He spent time with each teacher offering encouragement and support for our ministry. The North Wisconsin District is there to assist and equip each school in the district with what it needs to be successful. What a wonderful resource God has blessed us with.

Calendar

September 27	St. Paul Lutheran School 1 st Annual Walk-a-thon
October 2	School Pictures
October 3	Midterms
October 4	½ Day In-service (noon dismissal)
October 10	Algoma Library
October 24-26	Lutheran Education Association Conference – Milwaukee NO SCHOOL
October 27	Trunk or Treat – 10:30am-12:00pm
October 31	End of 1 st Quarter – Fall Party

Stewardship News & Views

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support of the Church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthian’s joy filled Jerusalem’s need. The reality of stewardship is that because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we should also be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work in us: through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. And it convicts us. How can we who have been given everything—life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance—be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe the Church is the place of forgiveness, life, and salvation in the face of sin, death, and the power of the devil. There we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor, in giving what we have received from Him. And that is an enduringly joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

Courtesy of LCMS.org

Bonnie Lannbrecht, Lon Fager, Paul Janda





Poinsettia Sale

This year St. Paul's youth group will be running the Poinsettia fundraiser. This sale is a beautiful way to brighten up your home for the Christmas season, and also support the youth group and events that they want to attend. If you are interested in placing an order for poinsettias, please fill out the order form with payment to **St. Paul Youth Group** and submit it to Sherry Byrne or to school office. We encourage you to offer this to your friends, family, and co-workers.

Orders are due to Sherry or the office **by Friday, November 1st**. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Byrne at 920-606-2000.

Thank you for your support!

Poinsettia Pricing:

- 4" (1 plant 3-4 blooms) - \$5.50
- 6.5" (1 plant 5-7 blooms) -\$10.50
- 8" (3 plants 10-14 blooms) -\$16.00
- 10" (4 plants 15-18 blooms) -\$23.00

COLORS

- Red
- White
- Pink
- Marble
- Red Glitter

Name _____

Phone Number _____

	Quantity	Size	Color	Price
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total

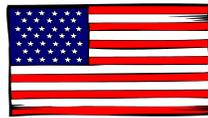


SCRIP Summer Drawing Summary

A special thank you to everyone that purchased at least \$200 worth of SCRIP to get their name in the SCRIP drawing this summer during June, July, and August. The winner each month got to select a \$25 gift card from one of the following three businesses: Shell, Piggly Wiggly, or Stodola's IGA. Congratulations to the winners! Following is a summary for each month of the drawing:

MONTH	TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES	NUMBER OF PEOPLE/FAMILIES	WINNER	PRIZE
June	51	33	Bertha Zeitler	\$25 Shell Gas Card
July	32	24	Gordon Prah	\$25 IGA Gift Card
August	36	25	Joe Kramer	\$25 Piggly Wiggly Card

The Scrip Committee



The Veteran's Service will be held on November 10th in the school gym. **THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNION.** Watch the bulletin and the November newsletter for more information. Please invite your friends and relatives.

Holy Humor

A Lutheran Pastor was teaching his confirmation class about the sacraments of the church when he noticed that little Johnny was not paying attention in the back. He decided he would call the boy out in order to get him to start paying attention. "Little Johnny," he cried. Little Johnny looked up. "Pay attention, the sacraments are very important to the church." "I know," Little Johnny said. "Then how many sacraments are there in the Lutheran church?" the Pastor asked. Little Johnny panicked and thought of what his parents considered very important in church. Then he took a breath and replied, "Two." The pastor was impressed, he could not believe he got it right. "And what are those two sacraments?" he asked. Confident now that he had it right little Johnny replied, "Coffee and potlucks."

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Peter Speckhard: pspeckhard@hometown.com
Principal: Debbie Kline: dkline@stpaullux.org
4K Teacher: Tiffany Dart: tdart@stpaullux.org
4K Teacher: Beth Budnik: bbudnik@stpaullux.org
5K Teacher: Sherry Byrne: sbyrne@stpaullux.org
1st & 2nd Grade: Heidi Schneider: hschneider@stpaullux.org
3rd & 4th Grade: Ruth Bernau: rbernau@stpaullux.org
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: Ben Phelps: bp Phelps@stpaullux.org
Secretary: Jenny Tenor: jtenor@stpaullux.org
Newsletter: Angie Peterson: apeterson0727@yahoo.com
Funerals: Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137
Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048
Prayer Chain: Tina Peterson –920-836-5137



Christian Education Sunday

DVD's are available of the church service. Call the church office at 920-845-2095 and one of our volunteers will deliver it to you.

Need a ride to church? Please notify the church office for a ride to and from church services.

Newsletter Deadline: the 21st of the month.

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