

September 2013

Newsletter



*St. Paul Lutheran Church*



## *From the Heart of Your Shepherd*

Dear friends in the Lord:

Three years. In the grand scheme of things, it's not a lot of time. In the nearly 150 years that make up the HIStory of St. Paul Congregation, 3 years is barely a blip. Looking back, Pastor Paul Bergmann served St. Paul from 1956-1957. He came from Iowa and went back to Iowa. Pastor Martin Hasz served from 1925 until the Lord took him to heaven in 1929. Pastorates are long and short. The same Lord is always at work caring for His congregation of saints.

I know that my decision to follow the Lord's call to Ascension of Christ – Beverly Hills, Michigan has left some scratching their heads. It seems like the ministry of pastor and congregation is ending very prematurely. There is speculation about possible explanations for my decision. (Speculation is not helpful, especially if it casts a negative light on this congregation.) I do believe, however, that it's important for everyone to remember the confidence and promise that comes from the Divine Call.

It's easy to only see the surface of the call process – a group of members of a congregation gathering together, considering the names of a few men, and then voting to select one. But the fact of the matter is that, while the instrument that is used is a congregation, the One who is doing the calling is the Lord.

Does the fact that I've chosen to accept the Lord's call to Ascension of Christ mean that it is a better congregation than St. Paul? Absolutely not. When a call is issued, a choice is required. Each Call is truly a Call from God Himself, and therefore must be a good thing. The decision to accept the call was very difficult for me and my family. Both congregations involved would be affected by my decision. But "we know that for those who love God all things work together for good..." This is living by faith, trusting that God is at work in the world for the good of all believers in His congregation!

Because I've accepted a call does this mean that I was unhappy at St. Paul? This is perhaps the question that is most personal. It is true that sometimes a situation dictates that the best thing for a pastor, his family, and even the congregation, is for the pastor to accept a Call. To answer God's Call to serve as a pastor in the first place is to acknowledge that the rest of one's life will be one of service, often requiring the setting aside of personal desires and ambitions. When a pastor has more than one Call to consider it's because God is at work – never because the pastor is searching for greener pastures. This is true even if he or the congregation thinks otherwise!

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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.

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My family and I leave St. Paul confident that it was the Lord who guided me to come to St. Paul. We have been richly blessed to have lived and served in your midst. We are very sad because we will miss so many of you who have become treasured friends. Nevertheless, we can look back on the last three years knowing that God was at work in this place among His people through the Word and that God blessed our life together in Christ.

I go with the same confidence that God has guided me to Ascension of Christ and that He will bless my ministry and my family. You, too, must be confident in the promise of the Lord to work through you to call a new pastor to shepherd God's flock at St. Paul. You can be certain that God will bless you through that ministry!

Three years is not a long time, that's for sure, but consider that three years was the time of our Lord's public ministry. In that time, through Jesus, the world's salvation was completed, life and forgiveness was won for all. Now, I'm certainly not comparing myself to Jesus. In the roll call of pastors who've served St. Paul Lutheran Congregation, I'm sure I'm at the bottom of the list when it come to being most like Christ!

Nevertheless, it is my prayer, that when you look back upon the past three years at St. Paul, and as you look forward to many more years under the Lord's grace, you will see - no matter who the pastor was, is, or will be – that all have served and loved you in Christ as an extension of the Jesus' own ministry...a ministry which knows no vacancy and continues always until our Lord comes again.

*“And when I came to you, brothers...I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” 1 Corinthians 2:2*

The Lord be with you till we meet again!  
Pastor Grams+



# St. Paul Charger News

In just a few days, another year of Christian Education will be beginning at St. Paul Lutheran School. What a privilege to serve this area and offer a Christ filled alternative to the community. God is good!! This year our theme will be based on Phil. 2:5 -- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. We will be extending this thought and working with the students of how to have a servant's heart.

## *First Annual Walk-a-thon Fundraiser*

This year St. Paul will be doing two main fundraisers throughout the school year. The first fundraiser will be a Walk-a-thon scheduled to take place on September 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Please watch for further information on how you can contribute to this event. 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.

The second fundraiser will be a pizza and cookie dough sale which will take place sometime during the second half of the school year.

## *Educational Opportunities*

Many of the teachers have been busy this summer attending educational opportunities including:

North Wisconsin District Early Childhood Conference – Beth B. and Sherry B.

Einstein Education – Beth B. and Ruth B.

Continuing Education – Tiffany D.

Smart Board Training – Tiffany D. and Beth B.

## *North Wisconsin District*

Donald C. Schult Jr. (DJ) has accepted the call as Assistant to the President for the LCMS North Wisconsin District. His call began on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. We praise God for his service and the work that he will be doing to assist all the schools in the North Wisconsin District. Mr. Schult will be coming to St. Paul on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to visit with the teachers and to learn more about the ministry of St. Paul.

## *Pastoral Help*

Pastor Peter Spehardt and Pastor Josh Errer have offered to assist St. Paul until another Pastor is called to this congregation. For the school they will be helping cover religion/confirmation and assisting with some of the chapel services. We look forward to working with these two amazing servants.

## *Calendar*

September 2	Labor Day – No School
September 3	First Day for Students, Opening worship 8:30am
September 12	Library
September 22	Christian Ed Sunday/Book Fair
September 27	NEW 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Walk-a-thon

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# Stewardship News & Views

In September we observe Labor Day, a legal holiday in honor of labor. It was part of God's plan of creation to make human beings for work and provide work for them. Honest labor provides us with a sense of fulfillment along with an income we need for our daily lives. Much of our self esteem is tied closely with our employment.

Work is a blessing from God as He gives us the time, talent and resources to do our work in a way that honors God and blesses others as well as ourselves. As God's redeemed stewards we recognize that God has entrusted to us many things to manage and work with according to His will and plan. So this September, let's remember that with the power of the Holy Spirit we can live and work as God's stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life's resources for His purposes. May we always be encouraged to give our very best when it comes to our financial gifts of love, our use of time and talents, and our willing service at home, in the workplace in our communities and in our congregations.

Pastor Grams, Bonnie Lannbrecht, Lon Fager, Paul Janda



## 3rd Annual Rummage, Craft & Bake Sale

Once again our rummage sale was a big success! Our sale brought in a total of \$2,840.50 of which \$53.42 (free will offering from quilt drawing) will go to our quilting fund and \$2,787 will go toward updating the church bathrooms and other areas of the church. Winners of the quilts were Jackie Duescher and Rachel Jenquin. Congratulations! The remaining items were donated to Lake Shore Lutherans for Life, Service Guild quilting project and Easter Seals of WI., Fox Valley Region. We are grateful to all who contributed items, brought baked goods, and all who enjoyed our Sunday plate lunch. A HUGE Thank You to the ladies of the congregation who helped unpack and display all the treasures, the kitchen help, check out girls and take down people; Leslie Patrycia, Yvonne Janda, Bev Graunke, Maria Ortiz, Jessie Brand, Jeanette Blum, and Nola Duescher. And to the men who transported, moved and put up the "heavy stuff"; Gary Kratz, Robb Brand, Jordan Ortiz, Arlie Doell, Bob Prah, Weldon Dahlke, Larry Zeitler, Mike Peterson and a very big thank you to Larry Lannbrecht and Ron Janda who helped us on take down day. (We apologize if we missed anyone.) And to the ladies of the Service Guild who spent months in planning and hours of hard work putting the sale together; "A job well done" to Faye Dahlke, Bonnie Kratz, Dianne Zeitler, Sedonie Zeitler, Arlene Gruetzmacher, Tina Peterson, Christine Baierl, Phyllis Lannbrecht and Dianne Kilgore.

God's Blessings to you all! Lori Prah and Renette Brand



## Christian Service Guild

*The Congregation is invited to join the Christian Service Guild for Guest Night on September 4, 2013 at 7pm in the school auditorium. The speaker will be Linda Hogenson who, together with her husband Jim, founded the Manna For Life Ministry in Green Bay.*

*Donations for Manna For Life in the form of non-perishable food items, paper products, quilts or monetary gifts would be appreciated.*

*Refreshments will be served. Please join us!*

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The Christian Service Guild is again collecting Health Kits and bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. There will be boxes in the church to collect these items:

- Include the following items in each health kit: - One light or medium weight Towel 52"x27"
- Two bath-size bars of soap, any brand in its original wrapping
  - One toothbrush in original wrapping preferred
  - One comb, wide-tooth preferred
  - One metal nail file, or nail clippers with file attached, unwrap packaging
  - Wrap items in the towel, and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

Soap: LWR accepts new bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping.

The Guild will collect these items during the month of September.



### **ST PAUL CHOIR**

#### **FIRST REHEARSAL: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

If God has blessed you with a good singing voice, please consider the senior choir. We rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7:30pm – 8:30pm during the months of September through May. The rehearsals are held in the church meeting room. In January and February we only rehearse twice a month. We sing for the church services two or three times per month. Anyone who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older is eligible to join the senior choir. You may join anytime during the year. If you have any questions, please call Jean Doell at 845-5162. Besides singing together, we also enjoy Christian fellowship. We thank God for the faithful members, and we look forward to welcoming all of them back. We also hope to see some new faces. Remember! The voice you are born with is God's gift to you; the use of your voice is your gift to God!

Thank you!

Jean Doell

## *Holy Humor*

Q: How many Lutherans does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
A: I don't know, but if it's in the front row, it will never get fixed!

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### Faculty/Staff Contact Info

**Pastor:** Daniel Grams: [revgrams1@mac.com](mailto:revgrams1@mac.com)  
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**Principal:** Debbie Kline: [dkline@stpaullux.org](mailto:dkline@stpaullux.org)  
**4K Teacher:** Tiffany Dart: [tdart@stpaullux.org](mailto:tdart@stpaullux.org)  
**4K Teacher:** Beth Budnik: [bbudnik@stpaullux.org](mailto:bbudnik@stpaullux.org)  
**5K Teacher:** Sherry Byrne: [sbyrne@stpaullux.org](mailto:sbyrne@stpaullux.org)  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Heidi Schneider: [hschneider@stpaullux.org](mailto:hschneider@stpaullux.org)  
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**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Ben Phelps: [bphelps@stpaullux.org](mailto:bphelps@stpaullux.org)  
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**Funerals:** Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137  
Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048  
**Prayer Chain:** Tina Peterson –920-836-5137



Confirmation Retreat at Camp Luther

**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 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

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