



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

A Little of This...A Little of That...

Dear fellow members of Christ's Body at St. Paul:

For my monthly newsletter column I want to take the opportunity to share information on a number of subjects for your information and awareness in general and for the benefit of our life together at St. Paul.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Many have inquired about the schedule for Holy Communion and whether it will be our practice to continue the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. You will recall from prior months' newsletter articles, Sunday Bible study, and Midweek Lenten preaching, that there is very good biblical support for celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly, grounded in Jesus' own words instituting the Sacrament: *Do this...in remembrance of Me.* Likewise, there are strong pastoral care reasons for making the Lord's Supper available more frequently, so that those who so desire may receive the gift of Christ's body and blood under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith in Christ. For these reasons, the Board of Elders supported my encouragement that the Lord's Supper be celebrated every Sunday during the Sundays after Easter in April and May.

Obviously, not everyone prefers to receive the Sacrament weekly. With that being said, there are many who do! Those who desire the Sacrament ought not be deprived of it because some do not. At the same time, no one should feel compelled to go to the Sacrament weekly. Christ's Body and Blood are gifts of His grace. There is no Law when it comes to God's grace!

Taking all of this into consideration, the Board of Elders decided that weekly communion on Sunday will be continued throughout the summer. Again, there is the primary pastoral care concern: during the summer months, many people go on vacation and miss the opportunity to worship and commune. It seems a good thing to provide more opportunities for receiving the Sacrament over the summer months than less.

Many of you are wondering what is the bottom line concerning the celebration of Holy Communion? While the Board of Elders will continue to evaluate it, I believe that we will continue to move in the direction that Scripture, the Catechism, and sister congregations are leading us...toward a more frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper. For now, that means Divine Service (with Holy Communion) each Sunday and every other Thursday. It is the expectation that those who have concerns will express them in the spirit of Christian kindness and love to the Pastor and Elders as they continue to evaluate the spiritual needs of the congregation.

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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.

Mercy Fund

As part of our Lenten discipline, the congregation took part in a special Lenten collection to provide funds for the needy within our own congregation. St. Paul writes in Galatians 6: *“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ...So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, **and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**”* I thank all who have generously contributed to the *Mercy Fund*, including the Christian Service Guild for sponsoring a brat fry fundraiser at the IGA, which was matched with Thrivent funds.

The *Mercy Fund* is part of the church's general fund. Disbursements from the *Mercy Fund* will be administered by the Treasurer at the direction of the Pastor. Requests for assistance will be handled confidentially. In general, no one should ordinarily expect to receive direct cash assistance. Rather assistance may be given in the form of SCRIP for grocery stores, gas cards, etc. If you are in need or know of someone in need, please inform the Pastor. If the need is greater than the *Mercy Fund* can provide assistance for, then additional steps can be taken to assist our brothers and sisters in the Lord with their needs. Pastor will provide an update concerning the funds raised/disbursed to the congregations, again, respecting the confidentiality of those who receive assistance. Please continue to remember support the *Mercy Fund* with your periodic offerings.

Confirmation Camp

This year, all St. Paul member children entering grades 6-8 will kick-off the confirmation year by attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Luther in Three Lakes, Wisconsin August 18-20. The registration fee for the camp will be paid for by the congregation. Families will be required to pay a fee for transportation. We will be sharing a bus with the youth from Faith Lutheran Green Bay. It's my hope that by participating in this experience together, our confirmation/youth programs will begin to overcome some of the division that exists between those who attend St. Paul school and those who attend public schools. More information about the Confirmation Camp is included in this newsletter. I am in need of two adult chaperones to come along. If you are interested, please contact me soon!

Teaching on Marriage

Awaiting the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the legality of same-sex marriage, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod recently released a marriage “toolkit,” created to help congregational members, confirmation classes, Bible study groups and others discuss the topic of marriage.

The Supreme Court is currently deliberating on two marriage-related cases: Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The court heard arguments in mid-March and is slated to make its ruling in late June. The toolkit, created to help LCMS members learn more about how Scripture defines marriage, is free and downloadable.

One of the major components in the kit is a Bible study explaining marriage, written by the Rev. Timothy Pauls, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho. Broken into two parts, the study's first part entails “Knowing What to Say,” which, according to Pauls, will “clarify what the Bible says about God's design for marriage; explore what the Bible says about homosexuality ... [and] determine from Scripture the relationship between marriage and homosexuality.”

The goal of the study's second part, “Saying What We Know,” is “to review what the Bible says about marriage and homosexuality; to determine obstacles that obstruct a loving proclamation; to explore how we ought to speak the truth in love.”

The toolkit is part of the Synod's ongoing “Free to Be Faithful” campaign, which encourages education and informed action in defense of freedom of religion. To learn more or to download the toolkit, go to lcms.org/freetobeforthful.

It should be a goal St. Paul congregation to equip our members to be able to understand what Scripture teaches concerning marriage and how to speak about the challenges to that Scriptural understanding in the world today. Watch for more information to come this fall!

May God bless you and your families as you spend the summer enjoying God's good gift of His beautiful creation! *God bless, Pastor Grams+*

An Affirmation of Marriage

by Anglican Church in North America, Lutheran Church-Canada,
North American Lutheran Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Sacred Scriptures teach that in the beginning the blessed Trinity instituted marriage to be the life-long union of one man and one woman (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:4-6), to be held in honor by all and kept pure (Heb 13:4; 1 Thess 4:2-5). God’s Word assures us that each time one man and one woman join themselves together in the union of the marriage commitment and relationship, God himself has joined them as one. It is important to see that marriage is not only a grace-filled institution of the church, but part of the very fabric of God’s creation which extends to every time and place on earth and includes every man and woman who are joined together in this “one flesh” commitment and bond. Marriage is created by God and is not simply a social contract or convenience.

Flowing from the gift of marriage is another precious gift of God, the gift of children. “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen 1:28) is as much a word of divine blessing as it is a command. Children are the most obvious, distinctive and natural gift of marriage, for the child is in every sense the “one flesh” of the mother and father. Marriage lived out according to God’s purpose is therefore also, just as naturally, the optimal setting for the child. Within the gift of marriage children receive the blessing of a father and mother who nurture and care for them, modeling a life in which the distinctive uniqueness and created differences of male and female serve to complement one another.

Part of the tragedy of contemporary cultural perspectives in Europe and North America is a growing bifurcation of marriage and child-bearing. Growing numbers of men avoid or abdicate fatherly responsibility. Growing numbers of women choose to have and/or raise children apart from marriage. Just as frequently encountered is the pervasive assumption of married couples that postponing or purposefully rejecting children is compatible with the marriage bond. In these different ways, children appear to have value only to the extent they fulfill parental desires.

While the gift of procreation is a profound and beautiful testimony of the blessedness of marriage and reveals one of marriage’s most fundamental purposes, marital goodness is not limited by procreation. Where procreation is not possible, many couples choose to adopt a child into their family and, regardless of intention, also reflect the divine love which leads God to adopt us as His own (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:5).

So also, a childless couple exhibits, richly and beautifully, the blessings and goodness of man and woman living in complementarity. Although as an individual male and an individual female they are different, even to the point of often seeming to be alien to the other, their sexual and emotional bond enacts a life of self-giving openness to each other, protected by the bond of faithfulness. The committed love of marriage always reveals God’s intention that individuals are called into community, since marriage takes us beyond our individual identities so that we give ourselves to another who is distinctively different from us.

The beauty and significance of marriage go beyond its earthly effects — as rich and wonderful as they are. God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church. In sustained and exalted language, Ephesians 5:21-33 connects godly marriage with the glorious relationship of Christ and His church. As a man and woman relate to one another with rich love and profound respect, their one flesh union hints of and is intended to signify the union of Christ and His bride, the church. But Christ and His bride also

indicate the fullness of divine intention for marriage. Speaking of Christ as bridegroom and church as bride, the apostle notes that husbands are called to sacrificial love toward their wives and wives to a willing respect for their husbands.

In responding to the bitter reality of divorce, the Word made flesh, our Lord Jesus, reaffirms the gift of marriage and then reminds us of an obvious implication: “Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (see Matt 19:3b-6). His warning is necessary because the beautiful gift of marriage — like all of God’s created goodness — can be and is marred by sin, which Jesus describes as “hardness of heart” (Matt 19:8). Yet, sin does not have ultimate power. Christians recognize that marriage is lived under the cross. Husbands and wives are not exempt from the suffering that comes with faithfulness in marriage. Rather, trusting in the promises of Christ Jesus and clinging to each other in love, marriage is the arena for husband and wife to live together in repentance and faith.

God’s intention for marriage is also skewed when it is spurned as unimportant for human well-being, or repudiated as a godly gift, or twisted into forms that no longer correspond to the gift God has intended. Rather, God gives marriage to humanity for its well-being. He commends biblical marriage for couples to make a deep commitment to one another before God for a lifetime of giving to each other.

In faithfulness to Christ and in recognition of God’s desire to continue to bless men and women in the gift of holy marriage, the church through the ages has sought to encourage godly, joyful, faithful preparation for marriage according to God’s plan and work. This is in obedience to the Scriptures, which call men and women to an appropriate discipline of desire. Our human inclination is one of self satisfaction, but God’s Word calls us to a higher purpose — serving God and others (see Rom 6:12-14; 1 John 4:20). To serve the other requires the discipline of our bodies, which obviously includes sexual desires (see Rom 13:13). Therefore both biblical and wider human traditions of most cultures have emphasized the importance of chaste relationships which reserve sexual intimacy for marriage.

In such ways Scripture holds forth a vision of human life as male and female — one which invites us to see that as embodied creatures, our Creator intends great joy for us. Joyful, fulfilled life as men and women requires a paradox, however, for it demands the discipline of our bodies so that our desires do not rule us. This is so because the source of deepest human joy comes as our lives reflect their highest purpose in serving God and our neighbor (Matt 22:38-39).

May 2013

Approved by:

The Reverend John F. Bradosky, Bishop
The North American Lutheran Church

The Reverend Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Church–Canada

The Most Reverend Robert Duncan, Archbishop
The Anglican Church in North America

The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Confirmation Camp at Camp Luther

- Who?** All St. Paul members going into 6th, 7th, and 8th grade this fall.
- What?** Confirmation Camp
- When?** Sunday, Aug. 18- Tuesday, Aug 20th
(Meet at church at 11:00am, return Tuesday afternoon around 4:00 p.m.)
- Where?** Camp Luther near Three Lakes, WI
- Why?** Confirmation Camp is a new addition to confirmation studies at St. Paul. It's our plan to begin each year of confirmation instruction with this camp. Its purpose is to acquaint the confirmands with Pastor Grams and each other, as well as to cover important topics that lead us into the year. The sixth grade covers What's in the Bible and how to use it as well as what to expect from confirmation classes; the 7th and 8th graders this year are covering some important topics that we don't always have time to cover in the course of a confirmation year.
- While we know a few families are away for their family vacations, please consider this a mandatory part of the confirmation process. If you are unable to attend please make sure to talk with Pastor Grams about the reason for absence. If your child is unable to attend, please understand there will be key lessons that the confirmand will miss and they will need to be made up at another time. (4 hours of instruction will take place during the camp!)
- Cost?** **The cost of Confirmation Camp this year is \$30 per child.**
- This cost covers transportation to and from Camp Luther. We will be travelling on a bus with Faith Lutheran in Green Bay. Saint Paul congregation is covering the cost of Confirmation Camp (\$115 per child) because we believe it will be a vital part of the learning process and that it will help to build our ministry to youth. If you are in a place where you feel finances would hinder your child from participating, please talk to Pastor Grams. This is an important part of the Confirmation experience and we will make it feasible for your child(ren) to attend.



St. Paul Charger News

“Team Jesus”

God has certainly blessed St. Paul Lutheran School with an outstanding year. Our theme for the year was TEAM JESUS based on 1 Cor. 9:24-25. We know that in all things we have forgiveness of sins based on the tremendous gift Jesus gave us with His death on the cross. Through His resurrection, we have been given that wonderful gift of eternal life in heaven, the crown that will last forever!! To God be the glory, He is doing GREAT things.

Upcoming Events:

July 8-12 Vacation Bible School

Registration for the 2013-2014 School Year

Registration for the 2013-2014 school year is still open. Please spread the word about our amazing school. Any questions about our 4K or elementary/middle school programs can be directed to Mrs. Kline at dkline@stpaullux.org or by calling the school office.

Saying Goodbye

St. Paul has been blessed by the presence, dedication, and commitment of Brianna Wilson this past year. She has been a wonderful blessing to the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran School. Her enthusiasm, creativity, and professional attitude will be greatly missed. She and her husband Andrew will be returning to the seminary in July to allow Andrew to finish up his coursework in the Pastoral ministry. We thank Brianna for her service, and wish God's richest blessing on both her and Andrew, as together they serve the Lord.

As we are saddened that we have to say goodbye to Mrs. Wilson, God has blessed St. Paul with an outstanding replacement. His name is Mr. Ben Phelps. He has specific teaching gifts in Math and Social Studies and will be an outstanding addition to the staff of St. Paul as our 6-8 grade teacher. The teaching staff is then complete for the 2013-2014 school year.

The teaching staff for the 2013-2014 school year includes:

PK4 Mrs. Tiffany Dart and Mrs. Beth Budnik

Kindergarten Mrs. Sherry Byrne

1-2 Grade Ms. Heidi Schneider

3-5 Grade Ms. Ruth Bernau

6-8 Grade Mr. Ben Phelps

Stewardship News & Views

Luke 10:40 "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" Martha is doing the right thing, in the wrong order. Her service to the Lord is good – but she has let it get ahead of hearing His Word. Mary has placed the Word first, which is good: is there any doubt that she will rise once she has heard the Word and get to serving as well? Isn't that what hearing the Word always leads to? "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

This article courtesy of www.lcms.org

Mark Your Calendars . . .

September 7th

Informational Meeting: Christian Stewardship at Life's End

Pastor Grams, Bonnie Lannbrecht, Lon Fager, Paul Janda



3rd Annual Rummage, Craft and Bake Sale Update

It's almost here! The 3rd annual rummage, craft and bake sale is August 3rd from 8am-4pm and August 4th from 10:30am - 2pm. Sunday will be ½ off day or fill a bag for \$5. Coffee, soda, and hot pretzels will be served on Saturday with a plate lunch for \$5 being added on Sunday.

Drop off dates for items will be any day the school office is open July 15th to July 31st. Donations also accepted July 20th and July 27th from 1-3pm. Pick up and storage available if needed. Call Lori at 609-1354 or Renette at 866-9545.

Baked items can be dropped off Friday, August 2nd or before 8am on day of sale.

New this year will be a drawing for 2 quilts made by ladies of the winter quilting group. Free will donations for the Service Guild quilting, projects will be accepted. Also new this year we will be accepting garden produce to be sold at our sale.

Proceeds from this year's sale will be given to update the church bathrooms and other areas in the church.

Please plan on supporting our efforts to upgrade the interior of our beautiful church.

The Laymen's League of St. Paul has placed some **NEW** brochures in the tract rack located in the narthex. Some of the new titles that are new include:

Raising Your Children with Respect

What Happens When I Die

Truth About Angels

Why Should I Go to Church

Why Do Bad Things Happen

Where is God in all of this?

Prayer-When You Don't Know What to Say

These brochures are free for you to take home.



American Concert

Any Questions Contact:
Arlene Gruetzmacher: 845-5048
or Dianne Zeitler: 845-2840



Live a story. Give a story. Donate blood.

This summer, when you give blood you could give someone time to make their own stories - watching fireworks, having a picnic, rooting for the home team.

What if you could give someone a summer of stories? With the Red Cross, you can.

redcrossblood.org/summer

St. Paul Lutheran School Blood Drive

N4118 Cty Rd AB
Fellowship Hall/Gym
Luxemburg

**Wednesday, July 24
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

For an appointment call
1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767) or visit
redcrossblood.org

Appointments preferred;
Walk-ins welcome!

American Red Cross

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS today to schedule an appointment.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height), and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. © The American National Red Cross 2013 | APLORS 2141

Holy Humor

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Daniel Grams: revgrams1@mac.com
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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: bphelps@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



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.

Join us on Facebook: Search for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School and **LIKE** us today!
