



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

Why the Average Lutheran Kid Should Go to Church

(As we celebrate confirmation and graduations this time of year, I am sharing with you this letter from Pastor Matthew Harrison to his two sons. It was printed in the February issue of the Lutheran Witness. Please pray for our youth!)

Okay, guys. I've never told you that "you are the future of the Church." And I never will. The Bible says the Church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). Jesus is the future of the Church. Jesus is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Jesus has a future, and so every person connected to Jesus has a future.

That's why, more than anything else, your mom and I want you connected with Jesus. That's why I baptized each of you. That's why we read all the Bible stories to you as toddlers. That's why we have a time of devotion when we can actually eat together. That's why we've prayed for you from day one. That's why we sent you to a Lutheran grade school. That's why we made sure you knew the catechism. That's why we always go to church. And that's why we are LCMS Lutherans. The LCMS is simply the best thing going because for orthodox Lutherans, it's all about Jesus--all about being connected to Jesus.

The Church has a profound responsibility to pay attention to young people. The Bible teaches that all over the place. Today, the Missouri Synod has just less than half the high-school-age young people that it had when I graduated from Sioux City, East High in 1980. Why? Mainly because we've just followed the national trend of European-descent Americans who are having fewer children.

In any case, as LCMS young people, you are a precious commodity, indeed! But don't let that go to your heads. The Bible teaches that young people are very much prone to particular and serious sins. "Remember not the sins of my youth" (Ps. 25:7). And I hardly have to tell you what they are. Luther said the sins of youth tend to be sexual, while the sins of old age are greed. All sin condemns. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). I've never pulled any punches in teaching you what the Bible says about sin. We deserve hell, pure and simple. "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23). And so we've always spoken forgiveness at home to each other. We're sinners. We are forgiven sinners. And so we sinners forgive others who sin against us. We are Gospel people to those around us. Christianity is not about ethics. It's about Jesus.

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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.

The Sunday liturgy shows you why we go to church. Luther said we are beggars who stand before God with an empty sack. What happens in the liturgy? The pastor starts us off in the Name of the Triune God. God's there to do His stuff! Then in the confession of sins, "I, a poor miserable sinner . . ." we say, "Dear God, I've got an empty sack!" If you don't think you're a sinner, if you don't think your bag's empty, you'll never understand why we go to church. "In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins," says the pastor. He drops a load of forgiveness, grace and mercy into your bag. And you say, "Amen! Yup! It's in my bag!" Then the Scriptures are read, and more grace and Gospel and mercy is dropped in. Then the sermon is preached, and you are told that you are damned by the Law, but that Jesus comes *only for sinners*. Hooray! "I came not for the righteous but the unrighteous!" (Mark 2:17). And at the end of the sermon, you say (and don't leave this to the pastor), "Amen! Got 'er in the bag!" Then you kneel at the altar to receive the body and blood of Jesus. "Take and eat, Christ's body and blood for you, for the forgiveness of all your sins." And you say again, "Amen! It's in my bag!" This continues right through the Aaronic blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, and give you peace." Amen! Amen! Amen! It's in the bag. I've got it tied up and hoisted on my shoulder as I head out of church.

Now, how shall I live with that big bag of forgiveness, grace and mercy? When my dad sins against me, what do I do? I open my bag and say, "Here, Dad, you misunderstood me and thought ill of me, but I forgive you 'cause I've been forgiven." Then that teacher at school drives you crazy, and you open your bag again. Then that awful bully harasses and embarrasses you, and when your emotions calm, you open your bag of grace and pray, "Forgive him, Lord. He doesn't know what he's doing. And he's hurting inside big time." Then you run into a friend who's really in need because her home life is chaos, and you show her love and compassion like Jesus. In fact, the mercy of Jesus is the greatest compelling factor for you to live a meaningful life of service and love to others.

This happens all week long. Then comes Sunday morning, and you find yourself in church again confessing, "Dear God, I've got an empty sack."

Honestly, boys, I'm frightened for you. This world is an absolute mess. But I'm also confident. Jesus grabbed you at the font, and He won't let go. "No one can snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28). I'm proud of how you've grown. I'm proud of how you've stood the test. I'm proud of how you've kindly witnessed to Jesus in your young lives. And I'm absolutely sure the Church has a future because Jesus has a future, and He's made you His very own for eternity. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

*Sincerely In Christ,
Pastor Grams+*

St. Paul Charger News



Students in 4K and 5K learning about ramps.

“Team Jesus”

Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 1 Cor.9: 24-25

Up-coming Events:

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| April 26 | Earth Day/Clean Up |
| May 2 | Mid-terms |
| May 10-11 | Softball Tournament at St. Paul |
| May 17 | Bonduel Field Day |
| May 24 | 4K-2 field trip to the Children’s Museum in Green Bay |
| May 27 | No School – Memorial Day |
| June 2 | Graduation |
| June 7 | Last day of school, Kindergarten Graduation |

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.

ST. PAUL SCHOOL MUSICAL THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who had any part in making this year’s musical “Don’t Rock the Boat” a huge success. It took parents, teachers, volunteers and students to make this event happen and we could not have done it without each and every one of you. The students did an outstanding job and we thank them for their hard work. The musical is a great opportunity for children to learn discipline, hard work, teamwork, and a love for the arts. Thank you to Miss. Schneider and Ms. Tiffany for leading this amazing program.



This last quarter the students at St. Paul worked with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and their Hearts for Jesus Program. They helped raise money for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. The money raised will be used to purchase mosquito nets for families in Africa. The students raised over \$200. This is enough to purchase 20 nets for families in Africa.

The final quarter’s chapel offerings will go to Freedom House in Green Bay. Freedom House is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving all types of homeless families with children in the Green Bay/Brown County area – single Moms, single Dads and couples. They provide food, clothing and shelter for families until they can find a place to live. They also provide education, counseling, parenting practices, and employment skills. This is all done in a Christ centered atmosphere.



SAVE THE DATES!

Softball Tournament

The softball season is now upon us. We have begun the process of planning for our annual softball tournament hosted by St. Paul Lutheran School. The tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 10-11. Come and cheer the Chargers softball team to victory!

Teacher Appreciation Week

As a nation we celebrate Teacher Appreciation week on May 6th-10th. God has blessed St. Paul with an outstanding group of teachers. During the week of the 6th please be sure to take a moment to thank the teachers for their time and dedication to this ministry.



The 4K and 5K students are excited to start their Frog Center in Science class.



3rd Annual St. Paul Rummage Sale

The Christian Service Guild will hold its 3rd annual rummage sale, craft and bake sale August 3rd & 4th. We will again accept all items from furniture to household goods, toys, tools, books, etc.

Pick up and storage available if needed. Watch for drop-off dates in future newsletters.

Questions –call 845-5284 or 866-9545



Please help us plan for the 2013/2014 Sunday School year.

Please fill out the form if you are planning on sending your child/children to Sunday School next year. Students must be at least 3 years of age at the start of the school year. It can be returned to your child/children's current teacher(s) or placed in the box in the Narthex.

Sunday School Registration
2013/2014

Student Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return by May 19th.

Stewardship News & Views

“Reaping What You Sow”

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV) St. Paul wrote: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” In many parts of our country during this month of May gardens will be turning green as new plants spring from the ground and begin the process of producing fruits, vegetables and flowers. If you have ever planted hills of seeds, like beans or cucumbers, you probably know how true these words of St. Paul are. Plant only one or perhaps two seeds in each hill and you will not have the same results that you would have if you had planted four or more seeds in each hill. Of course, St. Paul was not writing about gardening but rather about a special offering to help the saints in Jerusalem and Judea who were suffering from a severe famine. Some may take this passage to mean that it is our motivation for giving. Those folks might even be so bold as to say that if you are stingy in your giving, you will be poorer for it, but if you are generous in your giving you will be even wealthier. But this verse does not state the motivation for giving but simply refers to information and instruction that we know to be true from experience and observation.

The true motivation for Christian giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV): “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” God’s grace in Jesus Christ is the motivation for our Christian giving. Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves, that is, save us from sin, death and everlasting condemnation. Our spiritual needs are fully taken care of in Christ, but what about our physical needs? This passage speaks to that as well when it indicates that God also takes care of our physical needs so that in all things at all times we will have all that we need so that we can abound in every good work.

St. Paul stated this so eloquently in Romans 8:32 (NIV): “He (God) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? This question begs for the answer “yes.” God does provide all that we need for our spiritual and physical welfare and he does it lavishly so that we can abound in every good work.

Finally St. Paul brought the truth of Christian giving home when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV): “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver.” Christian giving is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. When we children of God answer the question of what do I believe God is calling me to give then we respond freely and generously not because the church or any other Christian cause needs our money, but because we believe in our hearts that our giving is a consecrated response. The joy that we reap from such free and generous giving is something that brings a special sweetness to our lives that no one can ever take away from us.

Pastor Grams, Bonnie Lannbrecht, Lon Fager, Paul Janda



This article courtesy of www.lcms.org



The youth were able to attend a Green Bay Gambler game in April. We had fun, even though they lost and the fire alarm went off. Thanks to all who attended and chaperoned!



Congratulations Confirmands



Nicholas Christoff
Justin Gaedtke
Kelsey Heim
Alysha Ihlenfeldt
Chauncey Junio
Emogene Kickbusch
Logan Kinjerski
Megan Mueller
Jacob Robinson

Notes of Thanks:

Dear St. Paul Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution towards my Christian education. Your support and that of the congregation is much appreciated!

Thank you,
Ana Shin

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the gift of money that supports my Christian Education.

Caleb Shin

Holy Humor

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Daniel Grams: revgrams1@mac.com
Cell phone: 920-883-9523
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: Brianna Wilson: bwilson@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.

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