



St. Paul's EPISTLE

April 2019 edition

You Are Called to Lead in your home, workplace, and community

By Pastor Lucas Proeber



On March 15 and 16, my wife Amy and I were able to attend the Christian Leadership Experience in La-crosse. The title sounds vague, but it was, by no means, a generic experience. The opening keynote address was given by Pastor Don Patterson and his wife Mary. We were especially excited to see them; Don was my supervising pastor during vicar year in

Austin, Texas. He and Mary have spoken across the country on Christian marriage and family life. While the title of their presentation was "Establishing a Christian Home in Today's Society," there were a few quotes I scribbled down for any situation:

- **"Success and failure are two imposters that will lead you away from your God-given purpose."** — God gives us identity and purpose as his redeemed children, regardless of circumstances; success and failure are entirely based on circumstances.
- **"Kids lean into what you tell them."** — If you pepper anyone (not just children) with negativity, she/he is much more likely to think negatively rather than with the optimism that is completely unique to Christianity. Thus, kindness and forgiveness play the primary role in a Christian's life. When you speak grace, you will live and think in more gracious ways.
- **"No matter where you are in life, you get a continuous new beginning in Jesus."** — That's the beauty of the cross, isn't it?
- **"We have an unconditional commitment to be a blessing to others."** — God wants us to seek to bless others, no questions asked.

Another highlight was a session called "Breaking the Unwritten Rules of the Church." Four pastors presented a panel-type discussion on how churches often fall into certain habits without giving much thought to the "why" behind the "what." Again, I'll share some quotes:

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God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30 AM

www.stpaulswr.org

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Counting Our Blessings

- A season to focus on the cross
- Baptism of Gracie & Gunnar Stensberg
- Talented students
- New Members: Patrick & Michelle Gear and their sons Walker & Wyatt
- Safety Patrols
- Mission work
- Our handbell choir

- **The best question to ask when examining a church practice is, “What is the best way to...?” not “How have we always done this?”** — I encourage every single member (myself included) to constantly ask themselves this question as we continue to examine ministries and practices.
- **“The gospel is not just, ‘I’m going to die and go to heaven someday;’ it’s also ‘I have the approval from the one voice that matters.’”** — I can’t improve on this gem from Pastor Mike Novotny of Time of Grace Ministries.
- In relation to our fears of overstepping scriptural bounds, Pastor Novotny also shared this analogy, **“Are we going 55 in the left lane in a 70 zone?”** — In other words, are we so cautious to make sure we don’t come close to breaking a law that we’re actually becoming a hindrance or danger to some? I welcome your input and thoughts on that question.

Other sessions we attended included discussions on the warning signs of addiction and how to help those who struggle; financial stewardship; creating a “Family Church;” and being the best neighbor we can be to those who might be forgotten by society. The other two keynotes were by Don Zietlow, WELS member and founder/CEO of Kwik Trip; and Kent Stock, who made an impact on those around him through faith-based patience and perseverance.

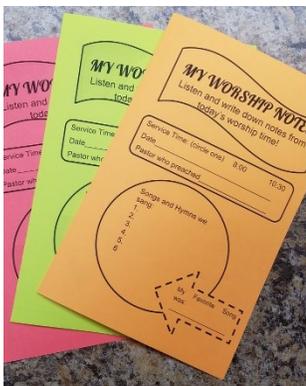
Overall, I was floored by this experience. Among a host of other thoughts, it instilled in me that leaders (which we all are in one way or another) are more effective when they are proactive in addressing opportunities rather than reactive. Effective leaders own up to their mistakes and live in forgiveness. I pray I can be an effective servant-leader for the people of St. Paul’s and Wisconsin Rapids. Will you grow with me by taking ownership of the call to lead that God has given you in your home, workplace, or community?

Getting Children Active in Worship

In Christianity, worship is the act of attributing reverent honor and homage to God. Note that in the definition just stated, worship is an action and not an event. Bringing children to church is an important part of training them to worship. We want children to put their faith into action. One way to get children to be active in worship is to model it. If you sing, they will sing. If you pray, they will pray. If you, they will...

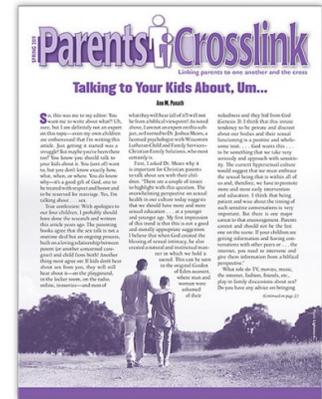
St. Paul’s provides an additional way to assist children to be active in worship. It is a folder entitled, My Worship Notes. It guides children with activities to draw their attention to what goes on during the church service. It provides activities for children to do during the sermon. When children “act up” in church, it is likely that they are bored. My Worship Notes will help keep their minds busy in a productive way. After the service, it provides talking points for parents to discuss on the way home from church or at home.

We encourage parents to try making use of My Worship Notes as a way to help children actively participate in worship. Copies of My Worship Notes can be found in the tract rack next to the left entry of the church. They are printed on colorful paper so they are easy to spot.



From the Principal

As a financial contributor to the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, St. Paul's is provided free copies of Parents Crosslink magazine. The spring edition of the magazine is now available. Digital copies are sent to school parents. If you did not receive a digital copy but would like one, simply ask Mr. Melso or send him an email (principal@StPaulsWR.org). A few paper copies are in the information racks near the church mailboxes.



The spring issue includes an excellent article on parenting teens and young adults entitled, Challenging Times: Your Child Is Not Quite an Adult. The time in life between childhood and adulthood is challenging both for parents and children. As children transition between child and adult, the line between the two is difficult to define. The article provides guidance for parents as they prepare their children for adulthood and direct children to their heavenly Father.

Classroom Highlights

Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugly



Christ Light: After learning about the birth of Jesus last month, we now have been learning about Jesus' life when he was on earth. The kindergarteners have really enjoyed learning about the miracles performed by Jesus.

Guided Discovery: Our topics in guided discovery has focused on the outdoors this month. We have discovered different types of clouds and weather. Most recently, we have studied plants and even planted our own seeds in the classroom.

Reading: We are up to knowing 20 letters now. As a result, the kindergarteners are on full throttle to reading all by themselves. Only 6 more letters to go before they know all 26 letters. How Exciting!!!!

Upcoming Events: St. Paul's Got Talent will be here soon! The kindergarteners have been working hard to learn songs for the play they will be performing with the preschoolers on April 12. We would love to see many of you there!

3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mrs. Destinee Fiecko

Word of God: We have been focusing on lessons from Jesus's ministry and will be leading up to the events of Holy Week in the next few weeks. It's been so wonderful to see the students' faith grow as they learn about all the ways Jesus kept the law for us so that we could have his perfect life cover over our imperfections.

Language Arts: We have been reading different legends and folktales in our Reading classes. It's been really fun to look for hidden lessons in these traditional tales.

Science: We have been learning about God's Great Forces. We just finished up a unit on matter and a unit on sound.

Fun Stuff: We are preparing our dances for St. Paul's Got Talent. We hope to see you there on April 12th at 6:30!



St. Paul's Got Talent

Friday, April 12
at 6:30PM



Classroom Highlights

1st-2nd Grade News – by Mrs. Karen Obsuszt

On April 3rd, Northland Lutheran High School has invited the Kindergarten through 2nd grade for Plant the Seed Day. We will be participating with other grade schools learning about a brief lesson on seeds and how they grow with reference to God's word and our faith. The students will have an opportunity to actually plant a seed that will grow in Northland's garden. We will also get a chance to make salsa.

The 1st and 2nd graders have been working hard on identifying nouns, adjectives and verbs. We also have been focusing on the mechanics of writing proper sentences.

In Science we just finished our unit on Matter. We now know why our hands get all wet when we pick up our glass with a cold drink in it...condensation. We will be moving on to our unit on Movement and Force.

Our reading incentive in our room is going great. Feel free to stop and take a look. If the students read one chapter they get a link on their chain. If they read a picture book they also get a link on their chain. We have a room full of chains. They are very proud.



5th-6th Grade News – by Mr. John Quint

One of the student groups that doesn't get a lot of attention is the St. Paul's Safety Patrol. On a volunteer basis, students from grades five through eight ensure the safety of their fellow students after school while students wait for their buses or car pick-ups. Patrollers maintain good behavior and report any problems to the supervising adults. To thank them for their service, we hold two special events during the year, one of which is coming up in April. The patrollers will gather after school for fun, games, and a pizza supper. On May 17th, they will spend the day in the Dells at the Mt. Olympus Water Park. * * * In science class, after finishing a chapter on simple machines (levers, pulleys, wheels and axles, etc.), the fifth and sixth graders are currently working on their Rube Goldberg machines. They need to build a crazy compound machine that can perform a simple task such as breaking an egg or popping a balloon. The machines will be on display at St. Paul's Got Talent, on April 12th. * * * Late in April we will be taking our annual Spring field trip. Watch next month's newsletter for details.

Classroom Highlights

7th-8th Grade News – by Mr. Randy Pahl

Hello and welcome to “March Madness”! The 7th and 8th grade students are convinced it is appropriately named because there are so many activities taking place (or will take place) that it could actually drive one “mad”. As we pen this article, there are still preparations being made for several upcoming events including the annual academic challenge held up at Northland Lutheran High School on Friday, March 22. Also, our basketball season drew to a close on February 23rd as St. Paul’s finished in 3rd place at the NLHS Grade School Tournament with a 2-1 record. A huge thank you to Ms. Jessica Kruger, Mrs. Chelsie Thuecks, and Mr. Jon Blum for coaching our student/athletes this year!!!

We also had a special visitor to our room on Friday, February 22nd, as Ms. Sarah Haugly came and spoke to our students. If the name sounds familiar, it’s because she is the sister of our Kindergarten teacher! Ms. Haugly is a nurse and instructor at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. She gave an awesome presentation as to both career choices as well as the advantages of attending a Lutheran college. We thank her for the time and effort (and gifts!) she shared with our class, and we wish her God’s richest blessings in her career!!!

In addition to all of the above, by the end of March we will be in the midst of Spring Break and the Lenten season and have reached the conclusion of the third quarter. It is hard to fathom that we are just two months shy of our 8th grade students leaving our school family. It is even **more** difficult to fathom that our Savior would shed His precious blood to save sinners like us! As we journey through this season of Lent, may His great sacrifice always be on our hearts and in our minds. And, finally, may the joy of the **EMPTY TOMB** remind us that because Jesus lives, we too will one day live eternally with Him in heaven!

Help with St. Paul's Booth at the Children's Festival



Our church will have a booth at the annual Children's Festival at Lincoln High School on Saturday, April 27. Theme of this year's festival is birthday parties. This event will give us an opportunity to share the Good News and information on our ministries with families in our community.

Our childcare director, Mrs. Carole Melso, and assistant director, Mrs. Kellie Jensen are leading this project. Volunteers will be needed to set up our booth, help with activities during the festival, and take down our booth. To sign-up, please contact Carole & Kellie at littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 15.

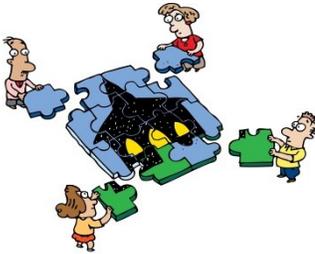


NLHS Forensics Team

All seven entries from the Northland Lutheran High School's forensics team qualified for the state competition this year. They will be traveling to UW-Madison on April 2. This group includes St. Paul's members, Macie Kaehn, Wyatt Jensen, Mikayla Obsuszt, and Coach Dawn Jensen. Congratulations to everyone!

NLHS is located in Kronenwetter. For more info visit www.nlhs.org.

Exploring Our Ministry Options



Thank you to everyone who attended the open forum on March 17! Your input and feedback are very much appreciated. For those who were not able to attend, a lot has been discussed over the past couple weeks. Here's a brief update: Mr. Randy Pahl, our current 7th and 8th grade teacher, has requested to move to a part-time ministry role at St. Paul's. After much discussion, the Leadership Council, Board of Lutheran Education, and Mr. Pahl came to an agreement that he would be a great fit as a part-time staff minister. Along with that call, the suggestion was made to request a teaching graduate from Martin Luther College. There was also a suggestion to request a pastoral candidate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Many of those who attended the open forum seemed to be in favor of each of these suggestions, in one way or another.

OPEN FORUM
 Sunday, April 7
 at 9:15AM

The Leadership Council then met on the evening of March 17 to further discuss the open forum. Throughout the discussion, it became obvious that another open forum would be necessary. This gives an added opportunity for the congregation to give a clearer picture to the leadership as to how they might best accomplish the wishes of the congregation and carry out effective gospel ministry.

This next open forum will be on Sunday, April 7 between the two Sunday services (about 9:15). Given the overall attendance trend at the last open forum, the leaders are asking that everyone come to this single meeting; there will be no meeting after the 10:30 service. Please prayerfully consider attending this open forum! Also continue to pray for our congregation, called workers, and the people of Wisconsin Rapids throughout this time of discussion and change!

Spring Mission Rally



Saturday, April 6
 9:00AM—2:30PM



Speakers:

Vicar VonDeylen, St. Peter - Schofield
Vicar in Missions Program
 Shelly Sievert, Chairperson
Central Africa Medical Mission

Registration \$3 (lunch provided)

at Trinity Lutheran Church
 9529 State Highway 80
 Marshfield, WI

Questions? Contact Karen Haralson
 kharalson7@gmail.com or 715.305.1776

Immanuel Lutheran Church is proud to host

40th ANNUAL WELS HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Northeast Regional Sacred Concert



Lift High The Cross



April 7, 2019 - 2:00 PM



Event is held at

Medford Area Elementary School

1065 W Broadway, Medford, WI 54451

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through March 17, 2019

Current

- In memory of Rev. Burton Stensberg given by his sister Donna Stensberg, Gary & Judy Stensberg, Charlotte Carlson, and Barb Manz
- In memory of Jerry Blum's sister given by Barb Manz
- In memory of Vic Kulhanek given by Barb Manz, Jerry & Barb Blum, Randy & Pat DeBoer, Carol Brown, Marilyn Foley, Mike & Judy Anderson, and Anita Simenson
- In memory of Greg Ubinger given by Barb Manz, Huntz & Marilyn Link, and Inge Johnson
- In memory of Gloria Livernash given by Thomas & Gail Stout
- In memory of Joe Feaster given by Randy & Pat DeBoer

Mortgage

- In memory of Rev. Burton Stensberg given by Lavern & Delores Becker
- In memory of Greg Ubinger given by Stephanie Bathke

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Greg Ubinger given by Gil & Bev Pecher
- In memory of Virginia Mischnick given by Kathy Jackson

School

- In memory of Vic Kulhanek given by Larry & Veronica Klish, Sue Bobrowski, and Vernon & Betty Meyer

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Carol Newsom's brother Joseph Kegel, Vic Kulhanek, Rev. Burton Stensberg, and Amelia Beamish given by Edna Haferman

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

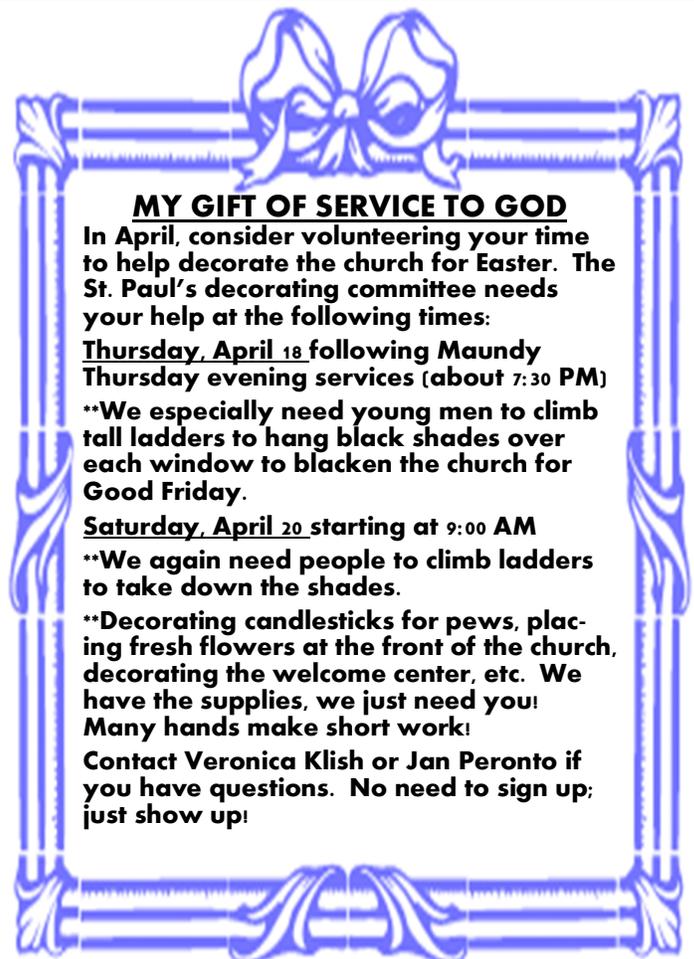
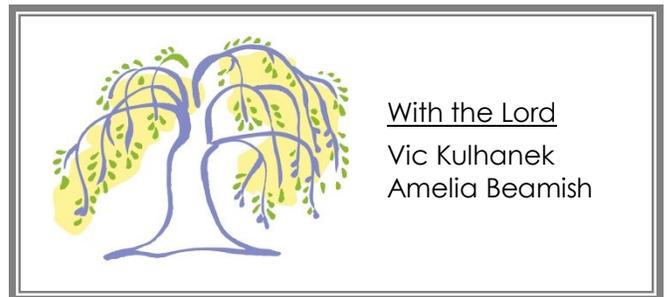
- In memory of Esther Schedler given by her cousin, Edna Haferman
- In memory of Vic Kulhanek given by Tom & Sue Kulhanek and Ken & Sue Brokmeier

Outreach

- In memory of Vic Kulhanek given by Linda Pollnow
- In memory of Laurie Meister's mother Rita Klismith given by Larry & Veronica Klish and Linda Pollnow

Smile for the Camera

Photography sessions for our new church directory will take place June 5-8 & 12-15. You can begin signing up online in April. To help those who don't have a computer or just tend to forget before you get home from church, we will have volunteers here to help you sign up after each service on Sundays, April 14 & 28. So check your calendars. We want everyone included in our directory!





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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 715-421-3634
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April 2019 edition

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday—April 14
8:00 & 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday—April 18
3:35 & 6:30PM

Good Friday—April 19
12:10 & 6:30PM



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