



St. Paul's EPISTLE

August 2016 edition

Spend Time with Jesus

By Pastor Martin Baur

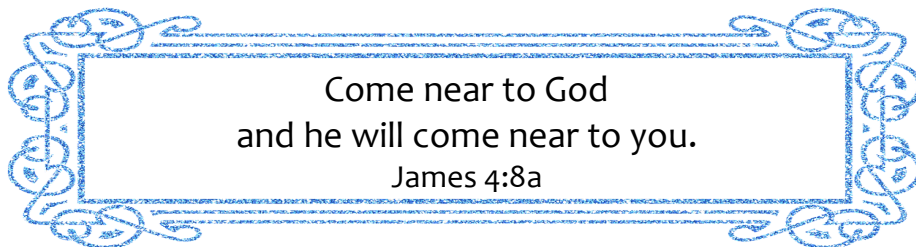
People who love each other spend time together. If you doubt it, just watch how newlyweds are inseparable and how toddlers hang tightly to the leg of a parent. Time together is the way their love is expressed. So how much time do you spend with the one you say you love, how much time do you spend with Jesus. Does that love move you to set aside time to listen to his words. Does that love move you to give up those things that would keep you apart? Does that love look forward to spending time together? Time in the Word is time with Jesus.

Why wouldn't one want to spend time with Jesus? He loved us enough to spend some 30 plus years of time on this earth. During that time, he lived out the kind of life that we could not and gave up his life as the only payment God could accept. That is how much he loved us and that is why we love him. That love connects us. We are the honeymooners that are inseparable, that is why he calls us the bride of Christ. We are the toddlers that hold tightly to a parent, that is why he calls us his children. That is why we spend time together.



Will that time with Jesus make a difference? What a blessing to go through life with your hand in his hand, side by side with that look of joy in our eyes. What a comfort to have him to hold onto and be safe. That is the day to day difference spending time together makes.

People who love each other spend time together. Spend time with Jesus.



Come near to God
and he will come near to you.
James 4:8a

God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am

www.stpaulswr.org

St. Paul's School News by Jon Engelbrecht



Mrs. Karen Obsuszt

As we begin a new school year, there are some new changes in our staff. Once again, we thank the Lord for the five years of service from Mrs. Lexie Tangen. We also welcome aboard our new 1st and 2nd grade teacher, Karen Obsuszt. With these changes, it provided a new opportunity for St. Paul's Lutheran School to locate a new principal-release teacher. Again, the Lord has provided for us. Mrs. Elizabeth Roecker, of Divine Word, has agreed to be our principal-release teacher. Mrs. Roecker is the wife of Pastor Jim Roecker at Divine Word.

Mrs. Elizabeth Roecker was born and raised in Genesee Depot, WI. She attended Trinity Lutheran School in Waukesha, WI, Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI, and Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. In May 2010, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

Elizabeth taught Kindergarten at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, FL from 2010-2013, Special Education at Darbydale Elementary School in Grove City, OH from 2013-2014, 2nd grade at Mount Calvary in Waukesha, WI from 2014-2015, and 2nd grade at St. Peter in Weyauwega, WI from 2015-2016.

In July 2013 she married Jim Roecker, who is from Saginaw, MI. In May 2015 Jim was assigned to serve Divine Word in Plover. Divine Word is in the process of expanding its ministry to a daughter congregation in Stevens Point, The Word. The Word Church in Stevens Point will open in 2017 and Jim will serve there as Pastor/Campus Minister. On April 25th, 2016 Jim and Elizabeth were blessed with a daughter, Sophia Noelle.

Elizabeth is very excited to serve God's people at St. Paul this upcoming school year!

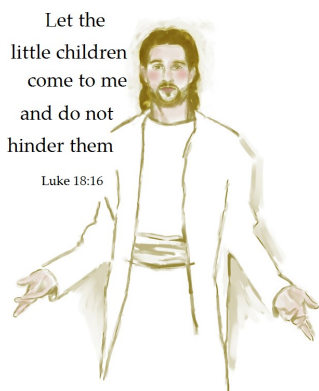


The Roecker Family

Help a Child Attend Our Christian School

Our Board of Lutheran Education will soon be making decisions on which families should receive school tuition assistance. However, our Student Assistance Fund is dry. Your gifts to this special fund would be greatly appreciated. They help children hear about Jesus on a daily basis. You can give to this fund by noting "Student Assistance Fund" on your offering envelope. Gifts to this fund should be over and above your regular support of the Lord's work at St. Paul's.

You can also provide ongoing support to the Student Assistance Fund by purchasing St. Paul's Scrip. For more information on scrip, stop by the scrip table on Sunday morning, call the church office, or www.stpaulswr.org/school and click on Support Your School.



Help the Community Stuff the Bus

From now until August 3, we are collecting school supplies for needy children in our school district. All of our donations will go to the Stuff the Bus event in downtown Wisconsin Rapids on August 4. Please consider picking up some of the following to aid in this effort. You can add them to our display in the Welcome Center. For more information, click on the link on our homepage, www.stpaulswr.org.

Items needed: backpacks, 1" binders, loose leaf paper, notebooks & folders (plain colored), pencil boxes, pencils, pens, red pens, colored pencils, markers, crayons, highlighters, watercolor sets, calculators, pink erasers, pencil top erasers, rulers, compasses, scissors, glue sticks, and glue.



From the Steamy South

A recent message from Pastor Jim Douglas...

Great to hear from you! For the record, I sweated more sitting and watching the 4th of July fireworks at night than I did running the entire Tough Mudder in Wisconsin!

Sarah and the kids are adjusting very well. We are expecting #5 in January so the bedroom situation here is going from crammed to complicated! But, If Caleb keeps up his shenanigans we'll have room!

Things are going very well...and quickly here. I've had 5 baptisms in 8 weeks - 3 non-member families. (Someone came out of church last week and seriously looked at me and said "What, no baptism this week?" Sometimes I think people forget where children come from!) I had to start a BIC after two weeks which we are in the middle of right now and the mission start-up they are looking at is growing legs and wings at the same time. We were blessed to welcome 6 new members this past Sunday. But, the bad news is that I do have to staple and fold my own bulletins (100). Tell the bulletin crew we happily accept transfers! They just re-upped on a contract for a new copier and it prints at the speed of everything else in the south - slow!

Greet everyone for me and tell Engelbrecht to get back to work!



Luther Days Festival

The Luther Days Festival is the largest Lutheran festival in North America. It will be held on Saturday, September 17, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers, WI. This one-of-a-kind event is for the entire family and brings Martin Luther and the Reformation to life by offering participants a uniquely interactive and distinctly Lutheran experience for all ages. The festival also embraces the heritage of the Lutheran Church and is an action-packed day with hands-on exploration into the Reformation, our Lutheran faith, and the German heritage of the immigrant Lutherans. There will be 75 WELS/ELS Presenters, 100 presentations, WELS/ELS Book Signings, Taste of Germany Food Court, Children's Activities, a Liturgical Art Contest, and dozens of WELS/ELS Organizations! For more information, visit www.lutherdays.org. Shoreland Lutheran High School, is located at 9026 12th St. in Somers, WI.

Luther Days Festival



Saturday, Sept. 17
9am-4pm
Shoreland Lutheran
High School

LWMS Rally Highlights

By Kristie Schroeder



The 53rd Annual LWMS Rally was held June 23-26, 2016 in St. Charles, Illinois. First of all, if you have never been to the rally, plan a vacation to Orlando, Florida next year or plan ahead for GREEN BAY, WI in 2018. If you want or need to be rejuvenated in your service to God, this is the place for you. The convention began with a communion service with 1128 people in attendance. Imagine the singing with so many that even if you miss a word or two...it is still great. They bring in the United States flag and the WELS flag and then carry

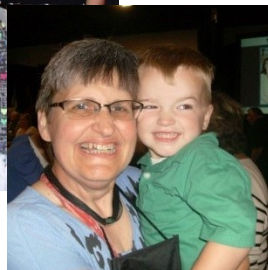
in the flags representing all of the countries where we have a presence. This always gives me goosebumps as you can see our Lord at work. The following day we start early to get everything in. Missionaries from different countries and even those in remote areas right here in the US present information on what their missions are doing. There are break-out sessions and a business meeting that the delegates from the congregations go to throughout the day. We were told about missions that cannot be broadcast as the missionaries could be killed. (Why then would they go to those countries? Because there are people there that thirst for the true Word of God and walk or ride for hours on end to hear them.)

We heard from a former schoolmate of mine (Michael Quandt) who has a mission in St. George, UT. He said there are 2 million people in Utah who say Jesus but don't really know what it's about. They do not go to "temple" to worship, but to work. Another missionary told us that it is against the law to baptize anyone UNDER the age of 18. (They baptized 30 children last year! Praise God!)



Another story tells us how trusting the Lord will give us what we need: One of our home missionaries went to the Church Extension Fund committee to ask for help in buying land for a new church. He was worried as the land he had found in their area was \$800,000 (that was just land). When he asked for the money the men in the room were not shocked, what they said however shocked him...They said, "Don't you need a building?" He told us that he was bawling right there in front of all of them. The deal on the land fell through, so they kept praying for God to show them what they needed to do. Soon a piece of land, with a church building already on it came up for sale....for \$800,000! God was letting him know that the guys were right that he needed a building.

Highlights: the LWMS through their mission offerings gave \$131,461.34 to four different mission projects for the year. They chose one of two projects for both the world and home missions so the other two projects split the offering money from the convention....The offering for just Thursday night totaled over \$30,000. The Kid's Care ministry (which our school children participated in a couple years ago) gave \$60,816.17 to the project for this year. In the 10 years it has been in existence, they have raised \$547,212.45 for mission projects! Again, Praise God!



There are many, many stories such as these that inspire us to return and share them. There is a program to Send one Sister, which is a program designed for individuals or congregations to send someone to the convention so that they may experience this awesome event. Please consider going to the rally in Orlando or even when it is closer in Green Bay. By the way, Sarah and the Douglas children say "hi" to all, and yes, I got my Caleb hugs and he still loves me!

Far left: Kent, Kristie & Emma Schroeder with Sarah Douglas, her children and her parents. Near left: Kristie & Caleb

St. Paul's Hosting Fall Rally by Jeanne Jackson

On October 1st, we will be hosting the LWMS Fall Rally. Our theme will be "Come to the WELS for the Living Water and the Living Word". We have been receiving information already about the speakers and the other parts of the program and it will be a very inspiring day. If you have never attended a rally, you may not realize what LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) is all about. This local rally is a one-day taste of the mission experience. Women (and a few men) will be coming that Saturday to learn of the ways the WELS supports different ministries outside of our immediate congregations. Our speaker will be from Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries and will also be speaking to the entire congregation on Sunday, October 1st. We belong to a district group and take turns hosting this event. Over 100 women enjoy a day of fellowship, morning speakers, lunch, afternoon speakers, devotions, music, etc. Most importantly, the groups that make up our district bring their offering for the work of our missions.

How do you fit into this picture?

First of all, if you have given through our "**mite box**" collection, you are already part of this. In addition to the boxes that we distribute (and collect twice a year), each month the women of the Willing Workers group contribute to a Mission Fund at our meeting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the rallies and you will always get a flyer to advertise these events.

This time, however, it will be easier for you to attend as we will be hosting. The Willing Workers group has taken on the responsibility for this, but you are also encouraged to help. On August 15th, at 6:30 we will be having a "special" Willing Workers meeting. Please join us as we will **make favors** to give to all the women who attend and sign up to help with one of the many opportunities to serve. On Rally Day we will **serve coffee** and more during registration, we provide lunch, table decorations, favors, and of course there is always **set up and clean up** when many hands are welcome.

Watch for the flyer invitation and plan to attend, but if you can, we would like to have you join us on August 15th to help plan for the October 1st event.

LWMS Mission Rally

Saturday, Oct. 1
9:00-3:00pm

Pastor Mark Wenzel
WELS Prison Ministry



Mission Festival

Sunday, Oct. 2
8:00 & 10:30am
Pastor Charlie Iles
WELS Prison Ministry

Canning for a Cause

Willing Workers will again have a Bake Sale in November and that always includes, along with baked goodies, pickles, jams, sauces, etc. If you have a garden and make some of these things, please consider sharing a few jars to sell. Also, if you have cucumbers (small 4-5") and want to donate them, we have "pickle producers" who would do the work. In addition to canning for the sale, we also make larger jars to have for our fellowship meals here, so we could use any excess that you have. Apple pie time is coming up also, so we could use apples (please don't buy, just your "extras" please) and your pie making skills also. Watch for further info on the pies.



Youth Travel to Colorado

June 26-July 1, Joey and I had the privilege to road trip across the country and attend this year's WELS International Youth Rally in Fort Collins, CO with members of our youth group. Six of our teens joined 2500 teens from across the country and the world to join in fellowship, workshops, and various fun activities. We were graciously hosted by our dear friends, Jeremiah and Laura Drews, in Lincoln, NE and got to experience amazing sights and delicious food! Our experiences were uplifting and inspiring. We learned so much throughout our time together. We learned more about each other. We learned that Wings America in Iowa does not, in fact, actually serve wings. Most importantly we learned that God reigns. He reigns in every aspect of our lives and will continue to do so until we join Him in heaven.



Back row: Joey Mueller, Wyatt Jensen, Adam Jensen. Front row: Erin Gast, Allyssa Antoniewicz, Halley Engelbrecht, Katie Livernash, Hannah Mueller

Joey will be conducting a presentation on our experiences at the Youth Rally before the summer's end. SPY's (St. Paul's Youth) meets every other Sunday from 6:30pm-8:30pm and is open to all confirmands through high school. If you have any questions about SPY's, please contact Joey at joeymueller@hotmail.com or call/text him at 920-242-2539 or via Facebook on the St. Paul's Youth page.

In the Mailbox

Thank you to everyone who shared words of comfort with me at the death of my sister, Rose Marie Wallace. Your prayers, cards, and memorials were a blessing to me and my family.

Your sister in Christ,

Helen McAuley

Now Hiring Childcare Workers

Little Lambs is seeking
one full-time and
one part-time worker
for the Infant Care Room.

If we are not able to fill these positions,
we risk losing families in both
our school and our preschool.

Contact Little Lamb's Director,
Hannah Mueller
(715) 421-3634
littlelambs@stpaulswr.org

Update on Special Funds

At the July meeting, the voters approved this year's Gifts and Memorial List. We have already received special gifts to cover two items on the list: the gym floor maintenance and parking lot lights. We also now have enough money in our Outdoor Sign fund to begin that project. Our Bible Fund currently has a balance of \$2,132. This fund was set up for the purchase of bibles in a new translation, since the translation we currently use (NIV84) is no longer being published.

Other items on the Gifts & Memorial List are expanding the fencing on the preschool playground (\$1597), sealing the parking lot (\$1650), repairs to the basement bathroom in parsonage one (\$2100), and a new or used copy machine (up to \$11,750). Gifts to these funds should be above and beyond your regular support of the ministry of the church. If you would like to give to one of these projects, just note it on your offering envelopes.



Vacation Bible School July 31- August 4

6:00-8:00pm
Free Dinner at 5:30pm

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

- Youth & Adult Bible Study
- Traditional VBS for K-6th grade
- Preschool VBS
- Free Childcare for under 3 yrs. old

Charitable Grants from Thrivent

We are pleased to announce that the ministries at St. Paul's have received \$6,355 since the beginning of the year from Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program. By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran School, or Little Lambs Child Development Center. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

Special Gifts and Memorials Through July 17, 2016

Current Ministry

- In memory of Vivian Lois given by Lavern & Delores Becker
- In thankfulness for their 40th wedding anniversary given by Tom & Sue Kulhanek
- In memory of Helen McAuley's sister, Rose Marie Wallace given by Dona Stensberg, Barb Manz, and Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Chris Jardine's brother given by Barb Manz

Mortgage

- In memory of Lucille Cook given by Nancy Hoppe

Line of Credit Loan

- In memory of her son given by Pat DeBoer

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Helen McAuley's sister, Rose Marie Wallace given by Edna Haferman

Parking Lot Lights and Outdoor Sign Fund

- In memory of their son, Matt Raasch, who died on July 3, 1991, given by Marvin & Dorothy Raasch



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2402

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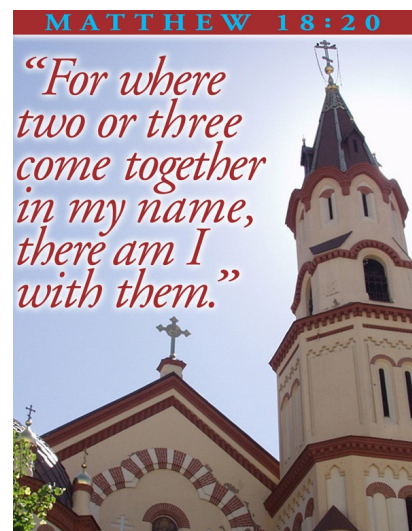
Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School
July 31-August 4 ~ 5:30-8:00 p.m.

First Day of School at NLHS & LPS
Monday, August 22

Opening School Service
Wednesday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m.

First Day of School at St. Paul's
Thursday, September 1



Pastor Martin Baur • 715-421-1424 • Pastor James Mumm • 608-780-7106