



St. Paul's EPISTLE

August 2017 edition

Too Heavy to Carry

By Pastor Baur

How strong are you? I'm not talking about muscles, but all that it takes to deal with the burdens that come with everyday life. What are you carrying? Some of you have some pretty overwhelming circumstances to carry in life. Perhaps you have a physical handicap that makes your life difficult. Or, perhaps you have lost your job and your family is suffering financial difficulties. Maybe someone in your family has cancer or some other serious illness and you are worried if there will be a cure. It could also be that you carry the burden of a broken or struggling relationship.

I don't know which burdens are affecting your life, but I do know that they are heavy and that you can't carry them. You may struggle and groan for a while, but ultimately they overwhelm. You cannot carry them. That is why Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." There is no reason for you to struggle with life's burdens. God's Word is full of promises to help us in times of trouble. These words of encouragement are just what we need to face the hard times that may come our way. Does that mean that if we ask him, God will take all of our troubles away? Not always, but he will get us through them. In fact, some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us learn to lean more on Jesus. There is no burden that is too heavy for him. Let go of life's burdens and let the Lord carry the load.



God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org

Former Pastor to Visit



Sunday, July 30 -
Thursday, Aug. 3

Come for a Royally Good Time

Our VBS team has been hard at work creating and setting up decorations to set the scene for Mighty Fortress Vacation Bible School. There will be activities for preschool thru adult (childcare for the little ones). Don't miss out on the fun!

We start each evening will supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by age-appropriate activities focused on God's Word about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory won for us by Jesus Christ, our Savior. The kids will sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, and play awesome games. Bring your friends and neighbors!



School News

By Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

Summer time is a time of renewal, study and planning. Mrs. Karen Obsuszt will complete her two synod certification classes the first week of August. I will complete my master's school leadership class the 28th of July. We will both be able to take the knowledge we have gained through these classes and apply them directly to our ministries at St. Paul's. Thank you for supporting us in our continuing education efforts.

The theme for the upcoming school year is **"All In For Christ"** based on Colossians 3:1-17. We are collaborating with Northland Lutheran High School and a couple of other elementary schools in the Northland Association by using the same school theme. So, if our students are here at St. Paul's or traveling to one of these other schools, the message will be the same.

Mrs. Mueller's surgery was successful this past week. We thank our Lord for guiding the hands of the surgeon and nurses. Now, we ask that He physically heal her so she can continue her ministry at St. Paul's. Please keep Mrs. Mueller and her family in your prayers.

Here are some other things going on at the school this summer:

- Our childcare is serving 33 children this summer.
- Special gifts and memorials have allowed us to purchase a smart-board type projector for the 3K-4K room and new computers for our computer lab.
- We are looking for volunteers to install fencing around the Little Lambs playground.
- Your Campbell's Soup Labels have allowed us to purchase two additional routers for the school, giving us better wireless coverage for the ipads used in the classrooms.
- Ron Schroeder has been hard at work cleaning carpets throughout the building.
- Jean Olari reorganized the kitchen pantry.
- Mike Anderson's aunt, Carol Carman, who is a retired professional librarian in Maryland, is helping a crew of volunteers inventory and organize our school library.



Carol Carman and our library volunteers.

Be a Helping Hand

There are a couple of Christian brothers in our church family who could use your help. Because of declining health, they are unable to carry out some of the needed maintenance around their homes.

We have set up a website for Rich Zawatzke, who is in need of help with lawn mowing. He lives at 541 14th Ave. N. The yard is not too large; a typical city lot. He has a push mower with gas provided and said it takes approximately 25 minutes to mow. We have set up the care calendar for Mondays every other week. However, Rich does not care what day of the week or even what time of the day, whatever is best for the volunteer. When volunteering, choose the Monday of the week you will be helping. If you would be willing to help with this, or if you know of anyone who might be interested, the instructions for the website are below.

- Please go to the website lotsahelpinghands.com
- Find a community (St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church Zawatzke or zip code 54495)
- Click on Join and complete the required information and then click on Request to Join at the bottom of the page. The information will be forwarded to the administrator (Cynde Joosten) for approval.
- You will receive an email telling you that you have been approved. Click on the link St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church Zawatzke. You will be directed to the website. There you will have the opportunity to volunteer when and where you can. All you have to do is click on a red rectangle on a particular day on the calendar and it will take you to the site showing what the need is for that day. When you volunteer, the rectangle turns to purple. You will receive a reminder in your email a day before the date for which you have volunteered.

The other person needing assistance is Dick Lucht. He would like someone to help him with painting. Dick is 88 years old and has ALS, so he is unable to do the work himself. If no one volunteers, he will hire someone to do the job. If you can help, please contact Dick directly at 715-423-5973.



Weekender Camp Celebrates 25 Years

Weekender Camp is celebrating its 25th anniversary. If you have attended camp in the past, you are invited to a celebration on Saturday, Sept. 9. There will be an evening meal, worship service and campfire. You are also welcome to attend the entire weekend. You can bring your RV or tent, or you can stay in a cabin. For more information or to register, please contact Kent Schroeder at 715-421-4202 or knks@wctc.net.

Weekender Camp is held every fall at Camp Alexander on Lake Nepco in Wisconsin Rapids. Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade participate in activities like nature hikes, games, Bible activities, crafts, canoeing, archery and more. The camp is put on by the Lutheran Boy & Girl Pioneers.

Have Fun & Support Christian Education

If you like to get outdoors, there are two great opportunities in September to have fun with your friends and family while supporting Christian education at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) in Kronenwetter. Funds raised at both of these events will go towards the high school's tuition assistance fund.



Wildcat Open Golf Outing

The 23rd Annual Wildcat Open will take place on Saturday, September 16 at Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon. This golf tournament is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 9:00 am. The cost is \$75 for those that are 19 years and older and \$45 for those that are 18 and under. The cost includes green fees, a meal and your cart. You also have a chance to win wonderful door prizes and to share fellowship with other supporters of Christian education.

For more information or to download a registration form, visit nlhs.org/wildcat-open. You can also request a registration form from the church office. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, please contact NLHS by Sept. 1.



Family Fun 5K Run/Walk

The 11th Annual Family Fun 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, September 23. NEW this year – Chipped 5K. Registration is \$25 for individuals and \$75 for families. The fee includes t-shirts and a meal following the races. Medals are awarded to the fastest male and female runner. A Church Challenge award will be given to the church with the highest number of participants. For more information or to download a registration form, visit nlhs.org/nlhs-run-walk-ride.

Fan Your Flame

We often try to get through our days by our own strength. In the end, we are left burned out, bitter and out of control. But there is always hope. Flock 2017 is a retreat designed to be a time of renewal in nature and God's Word with other Christian women. It will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center November 3-5. There are flexible ticket options: You can come just for the main program on Saturday, come for Friday night and all-day Saturday, or stay the entire weekend. Besides speakers on the topic of the Spirit of Power, Love, or Self-Discipline, there will be a campfire, special music, worship and time to relax. For more information, visit www.holyhenhouse.com. **Tickets are on sale only through August 31, so check it out today!**



Is There a God?

A WhatAboutJesus.com article on whether or not God exists.

The Bible doesn't try to prove that there's a God. It simply assumes that there is. People who ask this question are usually looking for a logical proof that God exists, and there have been many attempts to construct one over the centuries.

Let's begin with another question. "Does this world have a meaning or a purpose?" The two questions are closely connected. If the universe is here intentionally—in other words, if it has meaning—there must be somebody or something who "meant" it. On the other hand, if the universe is nothing more than one massive accident, that would seriously damage the argument that there has to be a God.

Most people can see the problem with the second view. Think of it this way. Suppose you and I are hiking together in a forest. We come upon a tree with an indentation in the shape of a heart on it. Inside the heart are more indentations in the shape of these letters: TREVOR LOVES TIFFANY. You remark that somebody carved the design into the tree—probably Trevor, who wanted to impress Tiffany.



I argue, "How do you know? Grubs, woodpeckers, or lightning could have done that."

You say that since grubs and woodpeckers can't spell, in my scenario the design would be a completely chance event. The odds would be astronomical against a chance event producing a design with a message that makes sense. It's a lot easier to think of somebody carving the design into the tree on purpose.

I answer, "But the 'sense' that the design 'makes' only exists inside your head. Objectively, that design is nothing more than some indentations on a tree. You can't prove that a person exists who meant to put it there."

How impressed would you be with my argument?

Most people understand that the odds against this world being a product of blind chance are astronomical. The beauty and purposefulness of nature are one reason. The spiritual dimension of a human being is another. Atoms crashing into one another just can't explain love, kindness, humor, or pleasure in what's beautiful or true. Above all, how could a meaningless universe produce a being (me) who cares about meaning? If there is no point to the universe or to my own life, then how did the idea that there should be a point get inside my head?

In the end, if I were determined to keep doubting that there is meaning (and therefore a God), how could you prove to me that there is? Think back to the tree in the forest. The only way to really convince me would be if Trevor came around the bend in the trail and you introduced me to him.

That's what happens in the Bible. In it, the writers introduce us to God, the Author of all things. And the message isn't just that he loves "Tiffany." It's that he loves you and me—more than we will ever know.



Many people have questions about Christianity; they wonder about what God says and does. Some of these questions you might have asked yourself. The WELS website, WhatAboutJesus.com, can help you find answers.

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday, Aug. 20
At 10:15 a.m.



Melissa Christenson
will share her experiences
from her recent mission trip
to Southeast Asia.

Follow the Synod Convention

WELS' 64th biennial convention is being held at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., July 31–Aug. 3, under the theme “Our Great Heritage.” More than 400 delegates—including pastors, male teachers, male staff ministers, and laymen—representing congregations across the synod come together to adopt a ministry financial plan (or budget), which describes in detail how WELS will use the financial resources God provides to carry out his work. Delegates discuss and vote on convention resolutions, helping set the stage for work that will take place over the next biennium.

During the convention, news articles, video updates, and convention photos will be posted throughout the day at wels.net/2017synodconvention. Plus, live coverage of meetings, missionary presentations, and the opening worship service will be streamed. Each evening, an issue of “Together” will be delivered to subscribers as a wrap-up of the day's events and a look ahead to the next day. (Subscribe to “Together” at wels.net/subscribe.) WELS' Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages also will be active each day.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through July 16, 2017



Called home to heaven:
Donna Burgeson

Current

- In memory of Chris & Jennifer Kidder's grandma, Catherine Kidder, given by David & Robin Koeshall

Mortgage

- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Elaine Martin

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Edna & Faith Haferman

Stephen Ministry

- In memory of Pat Grosskreutz' daughter, Teresa Horgan, given by Susie Dempze

St. Paul's Hospitality Committee

- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Joan Hafermann

Counting Our Blessings

- The mission work in China
- Our school volunteers & donors
- New member Becky Doro
- Baptism of Jack Aaron Radtke, son of Jeremy & Samantha Radtke
- To date, special gifts to pay down the principal of our mortgage have reduced the length of our mortgage by 3 years.



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
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Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 46

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
August 2017 edition

Upcoming Events

Mission Sunday with

Sunday, July 30

Mission Presentation
by Melissa Christenson
Sunday, Aug. 20 at 10:15 a.m.

Mighty Fortress VBS



July 30-August 3

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424