



St. Paul's EPISTLE

August 2018 edition

God Makes His Church Grow, No Matter Who Cares for the Seed

by Pastor Lucas Proeber

Around this time of year, you always see more sprinklers and watering systems, especially with the weather we've been having. We have to provide water to crops and plants because, without it, they'll die. Water can bring life, but sometimes we need people to get water where it needs to be. Farmers keep a close eye on their irrigation systems and gardeners watch their flowers closely so that they can get exactly the right amount of water to their respective fields.



The Apostle Paul talked about a process similar to gardening. But, his field was a little different than rows of corn or a bed of petunias. The seed he brought with him was found in the gospel message of full and free forgiveness found at the cross of Christ. Paul writes, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:6-9 NIV11).

We are at a very unique point in our ministry, much like the Corinthian church was. We have so many new faces to learn and get used to. These new faces can be used by Satan to turn the Church against itself, just like he did in the Corinthian church. But, these new faces are united in carrying out the "one purpose" Paul talks about.

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God's House. Your Home.

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**Sunday worship
at 9:00am**

www.stpaulswr.org

God Makes His Church Grow Continued from pg 1

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

- 1 Cor. 3:7

You see, it doesn't matter who plants the seed of faith and who waters it; just as long as someone does it! What an amazing thing that we lowly sinners "are co-workers in God's service." Yes, you can plant the seed of faith by inviting friends and family to church. You can water the seed that has been planted in the hearts of others as you encourage each other in the love and grace of Christ. This ministry of planting and watering is mine, but it also belongs to every single person who has the seed of faith planted in their hearts. God waters that seed daily with his message of grace so that you can refresh others with that same message.

You know what the best part is? It's not on us to make seeds grow. The end result of faith is all in the hands of our gracious God, "who makes things grow." So, plant some faith-seeds this month. Find some sprouts of faith you can refresh with the message of full and free forgiveness. Then leave it to God. He will bless our planting and watering in ways we can't even imagine.

Little Lambs News

By Mrs. Carole Melso

The Little Lambs of St. Paul's have been enjoying a great summer! I am so grateful for the awesome staff that has kept things running smoothly during our director transition. Mrs. Kellie Jensen as our new assistant director, and Mrs. Gerri Shudarek, who handles the scheduling, have both been such a blessing here!

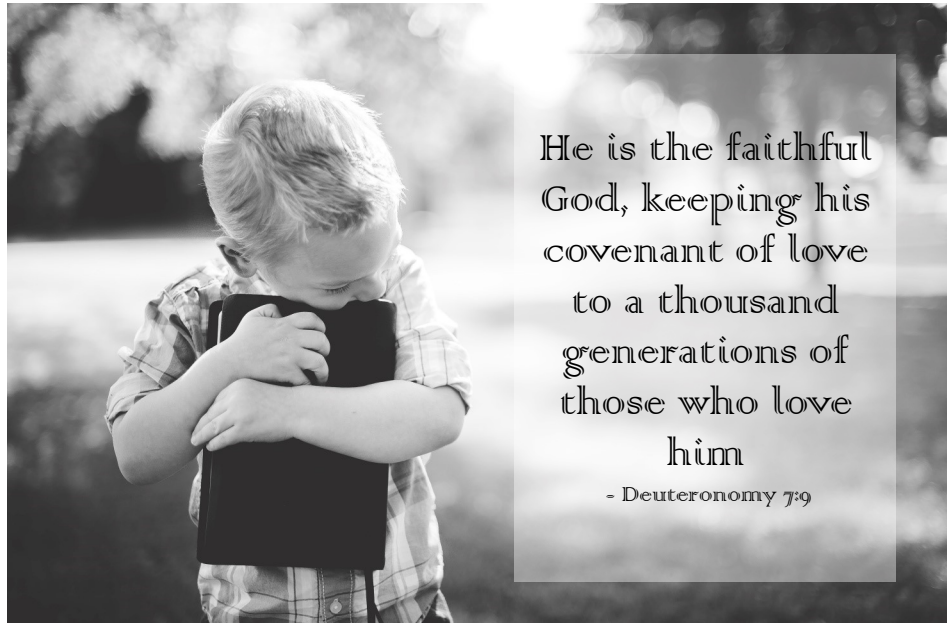
The children have been enjoying the splash pad across the street during these hot weeks, and our school-age group was able to attend a Rafter's game and are planning a trip to go mini golfing. The teachers have been singing songs, planning fun craft activities and enjoying the summer weather. God is good! I pray that he will continue to bless our Little Lambs center with faithful teachers and lots of children ready to have fun and hear about their Savior.

Please look for an updated wish list coming out soon.

Thank You for Filling the Pantries!

By Jan Peronto

In recent weeks we collected groceries, paper products, cleaning supplies, and Scrip gift cards for grocery stores and restaurants to welcome all four new families of called workers at St. Paul. Thanks to you, Scrip sales were brisk for a couple weeks as members sought to graciously welcome our new friends. Each called worker family received over \$200 in Scrip gift cards and more than four bags of groceries and paper products. I had the pleasure to see their smiles and hear the thank you's so I pass on their grateful words to you. Keep up the good work of buying Scrip for your everyday needs to continue supporting our church and school!



From Our New Principal

By Mr. John Melso

Frequently I am asked how many students are enrolled this year at St. Paul's, so here it is - 108,000. You read that right - 108,000 students. Seems like a lot? Actually it might be significantly low. Let me explain. In Scripture God says, "*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*" (Deuteronomy 7:9, also in Exodus 20:6 and Deut. 5:10) As we teach a child the saving message in God's Word, we are not only teaching that child but also that child's children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and ... The impact of the Christian education taught at St. Paul's Lutheran School is beyond the ability to count. All the effort and cost to provide Christian education is worth it. It reaps eternal benefits to thousands. To God be the glory!!!

The 2018-2019 school year will surely be a year of change. There will be many new faces. Pastor Proeber was recently ordained and installed, four new teachers will be installed soon, and several new families are enrolled at St. Paul's. As of right now, we have 108 seats that will be filled with preschoolers through 8th graders. At the installation service at 9AM on Sunday, July 29, you will have the opportunity to greet our new principal and teachers if you have not met them already. They are already at work preparing for the new school year. In fact, the first faculty meeting has already taken place. It was determined that Mr. Melso will teach grade 1,2, and 3 math. This will provide additional time for Mrs. Obsuszt and Mrs. Fiecko to teach reading and language arts. We want to make sure that all third graders are good readers. Students learn to read in kindergarten, first, and second grade. They read to learn starting in 3rd grade. It is our goal that students be proficient readers by 3rd grade. Pastor Proeber will teach 7th and 8th grade catechism and Mr. Quint will teach 5th and 6th grade catechism as well as Christ Light. More information about those changes will be shared with school families as we get closer to the start of school.

Over the course of the school year there will be many and varied opportunities for St. Paul's members to get involved in school activities. We want everyone to have the opportunity to be a part of our ministry to families. Keep a look out for volunteer requests when they are published or when you receive a tap on the shoulder. In fact, you can get started right away by including the faculty, families, and school leaders in your prayers as they work diligently to share the message of salvation to all who pass through our doors.



St. Paul's will be serving at The Neighborhood Table on Sept. 13.

What is SWEPS?

By Judy Anderson

SWEPS, the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf, located at 331 12th Avenue South in the former Reynolds Hardware store location, exists "to identify those in South Wood County who experience food insecurity, provide them food and everyday essentials in an atmosphere that promotes dignity and respect, and to foster community engagement and cooperation in the everyday struggle against hunger" as stated in their mission statement.

As part of this community engagement, St. Paul's serves about four times each year for a week at a time. Hours are Noon to 4 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 4 to 7 pm on Tuesday. On each of these days, 4-5 people "shop" for clients who have been preapproved for services. Volunteers shop from a predetermined list that varies according to family size, available foods, and client preferences. Sometimes additional tasks, such as packing bulk foods, sorting, shelving, etc., are done when time allows.

SWEPS is also a Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin member agency. To help keep the shelves stocked, Feeding America linked SWEPS with local retailers through its "Direct Connect" program which enables them to collect food directly from local stores. Food donations are also accepted from individuals, organizations, and food drives, such as the USPS food collections.

In 2017, SWEPS served an average of 504 households per month. (A household is limited to just one visit per month). This equates to an average of 1288 people served each month. Daily about 25 orders are filled. More and more households are seen each month.

This is one of the ways that St. Paul's Willing Workers help to serve our community. However, volunteers are not limited to just members of the Willing Workers! Included in each of the orders filled is a card that lists our church location, time of services, special invitations to events such as Advent, Lent, VBS, etc., and a Bible verse as a means of outreach to the community at large.

SWEPS is staffed largely by volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved in this vital ministry, please contact Judy Anderson at 715-423-5922 or 5JAnderson@charter.net. Our next week of service is August 6-10.

Walk through the Prophets



After taking a look at the short book of Jude, our women's bible study will delve into the Minor Prophets. As a group, the last twelve books of the Old Testament are called the Minor Prophets, but that is not because they are unimportant. They are merely shorter than the books called the Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. While they were speaking to the people of Israel, the prophets also expose our sin, instruct us in God-pleasing living, and testify about Jesus Christ. You are invited to join the study on Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. in the Resource Center. Each lesson is free standing, so you can miss if you must and not be "lost". All women are encouraged to come! If you like, you can come early and get some exercise by walking in the gym.



Bring in your donations
by July 31.

Stuff the Desk

St. Paul's is collecting school supplies through the end of July for the Stuff the School Bus event. This event takes place during Lunch by the River on August 2. A related event takes place later that month. It is called Stuff the Desk. This is when the school supplies are distributed. All families in financial need qualify.

If you or a family you know could benefit, please complete the online application at www.uwswac.org/stuff-desk or call 211 to apply over the phone. You must register by August 3. School supplies will be distributed on August 18 at Lincoln High School. Students who pre-registered will be mailed a postcard, which lists the time when they should pick up their supplies.

24th Annual Wildcat Open

All proceeds benefit the
NLHS Tuition Assistance Fund



Pine Valley Golf Course
Saturday, September 8
1:00 pm shotgun start

Tournament Information

Four-person Scramble

Singles, Doubles, and Triples welcome.

Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart,
chicken meal and chance at door prizes.

For more info call
Northland Lutheran High School
715.359.3400

Northland Lutheran High School
12th Annual



5K

Run/Walk

September 15, 2018

10:00 am

Northland Lutheran High School
2107 Tower Rd. Kronenwetter

9:00 am: Sign-in & Registration

10:00 am: Chipped 5K Run/Walk Starts

11:30 am: Lunch, Awards & Prizes

Join us for our 1:00 pm: Homecoming Soccer Game

Church Challenge Award given to the church with the highest number of participants

All proceeds benefit the Northland Lutheran High School Tuition Fund.

\$25 - Individual

\$75 - Family – immediate members

Price includes: shirt & lunch

Register before August 24th to guarantee a shirt

www.tandhtiming.com




Ride for Life



You are invited to the SOUL Ride motorcycle event this August 18th! Enjoy a scenic ride through Southeastern Wisconsin while supporting the life-saving mission of WELS Lutherans for Life! The day will include morning refreshments and lunch, along with spiritual encouragement and fellowship with the supporters of the ministry. Participants will meet at Morning Star Lutheran Church in Jackson at 9:00 AM.

Not close to Jackson, WI?

Ride Virtually and still make a difference! Funds raised from the SOUL Ride will directly support clients of WELS Lutherans for Life. To register and learn more visit soulride.org or call (414) 727-8176.

Counting Our Blessings

- We can trust God to grow our seeds of faith
- Summer weather
- 108 student registered for school
- The testimony of the prophets
- Full pantries
- All of the pastors who took part in the ordination service
- Opportunities to serve our community



LUTHERAN MINISTRIES' **RECOVERY RETREAT**

finding hope amidst pain and suffering

Across the country, substance abuse, pornography addiction and struggles with mental health issues are soaring. Currently, WELS churches lack sufficient programming and resources to address these needs with solidly Lutheran spiritual resources. Lutheran Recovery Ministries has responded with RESILIENT Recovery groups and now a recovery retreat for WELS members. The goals for the retreat are to provide a positive spiritual experience for WELS members who are: (a) in recovery from a substance abuse disorder, pornography addiction or a mental health disorder; (b) have a loved-one in recovery; or (c) struggle with any habitual sin; AND equip attendees to develop and improve recovery ministries in their home churches.

The Lutheran Recovery Ministries' Recovery Retreat will be in Phoenix, AZ on October 26-28. The theme is Finding Hope Amidst Pain and Suffering. There will be sharing meetings (both mixed and according to need), breakout groups, Law and Gospel presentation, guided prayers, songs, a Sunday service, socializing and lots to eat! The organizers are keeping it somewhat intimate with 50-60 attendees.

The total cost for the retreat is \$162 which includes four meals and accommodations. Complete the downloadable registration form at www.wels.net/events and send it to the retreat organizers. Any questions about the Lutheran Recovery Ministries' Recovery Retreat for WELS members can be emailed to resilient@crosswalkphoenix.com.



The pastors at Pastor Proeber's ordination service.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through July 15, 2018

Current

- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Inge Johnson
- In memory of Elaine Zuege given by Huntz & Marilyn Link, Stephanie Bathke
- In memory of their mom & dad, Ted & Leona Ironside given by Richard Ironside and Iris (Ironside) Bottensek
- In thanksgiving for our new pastor given by Gary & Judy Stensberg

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Ron & Georgene Provost, Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Tom & Barb Reitz

Mortgage

- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Jack & Pat Fluno

School

- In memory of Richard Lucht given by John & Nancy Werner

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Elaine Zuege given by Edna Haferman

In the Mailbox

Thanks for making the worship services available online. It was especially meaningful to take in the installation of Pastor Proeber. God bless your ministry together.

Pastor and Sharon Baur



Another Rafters Game

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Saratoga has organized a WELS Night with the Rafters for Sunday August 5. The game is at 4:05 p.m. and there is a Harry Potter bobblehead giveaway that night. Tickets are \$12 and include a ballcap, hotdog, and drink. For more information, please contact Good Shepherd (715-325-3355) or the Rafters ticket office (715-424-5400).



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
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Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
August 2018 edition

Upcoming Events

TEACHER INSTALLATION
Sunday, July 29 at 9:00 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S SERVING AT SWEPS
August 6-10

OPENING SCHOOL SERVICE
August 28 at 6:30 p.m.

SPLASH CANYON VBS



July 29—August 2
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Lucas Proeber • 989-780-3184 • pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org