



St. Paul's EPISTLE

February 2018 edition

National Marriage Month

By Pastor Baur

It has been said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation." If that is true, where is our nation headed? Our families are hurting. Instead of permanence in relationships, we see convenience. There is more talk about what we get out of marriage than what we put into it. The success rate of marriage is 50/50, which sadly is the same outside the church as it is in the church. Where is the Church headed?

Since February is National Marriage Month, we are reminded again of the blessing of marriage, especially Christian marriage. Of all the different diagrams and descriptions I have run across to define Christian marriage, none shows it better than the triangle. Put Christ on the top of the triangle. Then put the husband on one side of the base and the wife on the other.



What is the goal of each spouse? It is simply to get closer to Jesus and as they do so, what happens? They get closer to each other. It works because our love for Christ impacts our love for each other.

The alternative is described with a single straight line. This time put the husband on one end and the wife on the other. And so what does each do? The husband pulls on his end trying to get the wife over to his way of thinking. The wife then pulls on her end trying to get the husband over to her way of thinking. What happens? You know it as a tug of war. Both pull until the rope breaks or the other gets tired and lets go of the rope.

So which picture best describes our marriages? Do you see the blessing of growing closer to each other as you grow closer to Christ. Or is it more like a rope that is ready to break or be let go.

Honor marriage in special ways this month. Thank God for the positive examples of marriage that we have grown up with. Congratulate those who have reached milestones in their married life. Grow closer to Christ, and you will grow closer to each other. Honor marriage. God still does.

God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

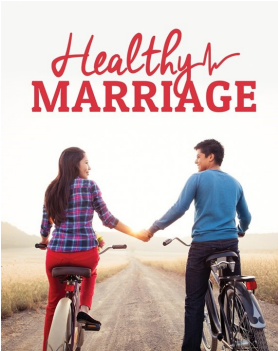
www.stpaulswr.org

God's Way Is Best

God's plan for the family is that a man and woman marry, that they raise children in a godly home, and that parents not divorce. Studies have shown that God's way is best.

- Married adults live longer lives, have better health, and report greater personal happiness.
- Children raised by a married mother and father perform better in school, have fewer addictions, fewer teen pregnancies, and less trouble with the law.
- Single motherhood is the greatest cause of poverty among women and children.
- Married adults have more wealth and financial stability.

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.—Psalm 18:30a



Couples Getaway

March 9-11

in La Crosse, WI

Learn to appreciate your spouse, gain trust & manage conflict.

www.wels.net/adult-discipleship

Take the Couples' Challenge

February is National Marriage month, and February 7-14 is National Marriage Week. During that week, we encourage couples to strengthen their marriage by taking the couple's challenge to eat, talk and play.



In our busy lives, all too often we don't make time for the most basic of social functions -- eating together! Be sure to make time to sit down together and share a meal for two. Try to even share the preparation -- and the clean-up! If you haven't got time to cook, how about a take-away, or a romantic meal at a local restaurant? Take the time to eat face to face, not in front of the TV!



What does your daily communication as a couple consist of? Organizing the family and home, questions about the kids, what needs to go on the shopping list? Or perhaps some of the big decisions of life -- whether to move, what new car to buy, your health or ailments?

When was the last time you sat down and just talked about "you" -- the challenges of life, what's motivating you, what's dragging you down, how it feels to be you -- or perhaps your hopes and dreams for your future together? Make some time this week to sit down together just to "talk"!



When we first fall in love, life always seems to be full of fun -- but as the years go by, sometimes we forget to play together! Why not make some time to do something together you both enjoy -- something as simple as going for a walk, watching a movie together, taking a dance class, or spending an evening in your local pub or a jazz club. For the truly adventurous, think para-gliding or a zip line! Maybe just curl up together in front of a fire, and read stories to each other. Whatever it is, try and find something you can both take part in, and which will remind you of the fun times in your relationship!

From nationalmarriageweekusa.org. Find more marriage tips and ideas on their website.

People of the Passion

The passion of Jesus Christ was all about people. Jesus suffered and died for all kinds of people. All kinds of people were there; all kinds of people took part; and all kinds of people stood by and watched. What do we know about these people? Each of our midweek Lenten services will center on a key person or people and their roles in Jesus' death and resurrection—from Judas to Pontius Pilate to the mob on Good Friday. We will ask you to put yourself in their places. Imagine that you are there—a part of the passion of Jesus Christ. See what that tells you about his sacrifice.

Our midweek services begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Choose from two times, 3:30 & 6:30 p.m. A supper will be served between the service, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Please note that no Monday night service will be held during Lent.

Breakfast in a Backpack!

The Willing Workers are spearheading a community outreach project to provide meals for low-income families in the area. They say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but what if Mother Hubbard's cupboard is bare on Saturday morning? That's where "Breakfast in a Backpack" will come in handy. We will be collecting breakfast-type items like cereals, oatmeal, breakfast bars, fruit cups, dried fruit; anything in a box or can (no glass or juice boxes, please) that could make someone's breakfast a great start to the day.

The backpacks will be distributed by Ann Lepak through the Nekoosa School District to provide backpacks filled with nutritious weekend breakfast meals for families to help stretch their food budgets. The program currently serves about 30 families each weekend. Look for the display in the Welcome Center and bring in your donations Feb. 1-19.

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

The Willing Workers, in conjunction with the South Wood County Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) and *The Family* radio stations, will be collecting personal hygiene items for people in our area. The drive will run during the month of February. A collection box will be in the Welcome Center to accept the donations.

All hygiene-type items are needed, including cleaning supplies, paper products, hair care items, diapers and wipes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and basic personal care items. Most urgently needed items include **unscented** deodorants, razors, toilet tissue, soaps of all kinds, and feminine care products. A more complete list of these much-needed items will be posted on the collection box.

Please join with us in sharing these items with those in need. As God has richly blessed us, may we also be a blessing to others.

Counting Our Blessings

- Christian Education
- Baptisms of Martin William Baur, Ridley Maelynn Dampier, and William Lorenz Meister
- Jesus died for all kinds of people, even people like me.
- Wedding of Nancy Athnos & John Koch Sr.
- Having food for breakfast
- Soap, deodorant, toilet paper
- Marriage

Classroom Highlights



Learning the first letter of our names

3K & 4K - by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years! We've been getting back into our regular routine, getting outside when the temperatures allow, working on writing, and moving our bodies to increase our large motor skills.

As you may have already heard I received a divine call to teach Kindergarten at Grace Lutheran School in St. Joseph, MI. If you are not aware of what a divine call is, a divine call is when the Holy Spirit leads a congregation to call a pastor or teacher to serve in a particular ministry in their congregation. It is not a position that is sought out or interviewed for by the person who is called. As the called person, I hold the responsibility to deliberate my gifts and talents to determine where the Lord would like me to serve Him. It

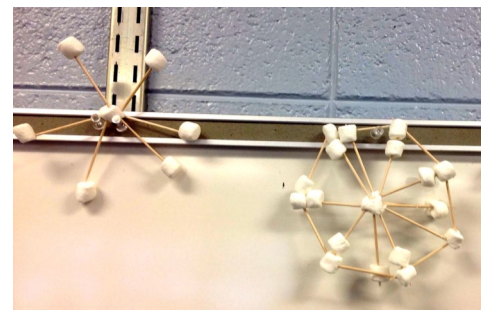
also does not necessarily mean that we will be leaving, but it is a possibility. If I were to accept, I would stay on in my call here at St. Paul's until the end of June. Please keep me and my family in your prayers over the coming weeks as I deliberate. Please, also, keep the members of Grace and our church, school, and childcare center here at St. Paul's in your prayers as I deliberate where the Lord would like me to serve Him and His kingdom.

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

We found in our two science units, winter and our five senses, a common theme: God's unique design. In winter we learned that God is able to make every snowflake special and one of a kind. We made snowflakes and discovered that all of ours were unique too, but not nearly as intricate as the real thing. (Magnified snowflakes are "ooh" and "aah" inducing.) In our five senses unit, we learned that God made each one of us special and one of a kind, too. One of the easiest ways to see this is in our fingerprints. We looked at our own "designs" and compared them to others'. What an awesome God we have!

We have been equally busy in reading and math too! We have just started to form word families to look for patterns in words. In math we have been creating different kinds of patterns. We have been exploring counting by 2's. We learned that all of those numbers end in either a : 0,2,4,6,8. We then extended the idea into evens and odds. So, now we can tell you whether a number is even or odd no matter how big.

Looking to the future, we will celebrate our Christian education. Soon after, we will celebrate the love that we know because of our God. Using that as a segue, this teacher is looking ahead for some needed supplies. If you have any pictures related to school activities that would look good in our yearbook, please email them to engetrish@outlook.com by February 1st. Also, if you have any oatmeal canisters available for our Valentine's mailboxes they would be appreciated. Thank you!



Some of our snowflakes.



Classroom Highlights

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

We are coming up to the end of the 2nd quarter. The students have been working very hard and continue to make progress. In Christ Light, we have been talking about how God uses us to encourage one another like in the story of Queen Esther, and how we need to have faith like Daniel in the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. We learn how God can use all of us in many different ways and that we just need to trust in Him at all times. We have wrapped up our Social Studies units and have started our Science. We are talking about habitats and environments. We will continue with Science through the 3rd and 4th quarter. Both classes are busy learning the different parts of speech. The 2nd graders have been working hard learning how to write 2 point paragraphs. They are doing a nice job with this. We will begin working on the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition. The student's handwriting has all improved so much since the beginning of the year. I am confident that they all will do a great job with this challenge.

3rd-4th Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

Days sure seem to be flying by in the 3rd/4th grade classroom. 3rd grade math has started tackling the wonders of single-digit multiplication and division. We will wrap up all our multiplication facts this year as we add to the base started in the second grade. 4th grade math is also tackling division but at a whole different level. We have just started two-digit division, and there is plenty remaining in the future. The 4th grade students are close to finishing their review of cursive, yet the 3rd graders are just starting their cursive work. We will be participating in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest this January. Mrs. Roecker is finishing up science this month by looking at different parts of our earth: dirt, soil, rocks, etc. She will begin social studies towards the end of the month. In English, we are almost through the eight parts of speech. This will help catapult us into using direct and indirect objects as our sentence writing gets more complex. As we wrap up the month of January, we encourage all of you to join for some of the Christian Education Week activities.

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

A new year dawns as we find ourselves about half way through the school year. The last of the presents have been unwrapped and the Christmas decorations are back in storage. But the news of Jesus's birth still warms our hearts as we inch ever closer to the end of another school year. In Word of God class (formerly known as "Christlight"), we have finished our lessons in the Old Testament and will be focused on Jesus's life and ministry for the remainder of the year. We have started our study of U.S. history and we continue to study each state individually as well. In science we have been focused on earth science, including a look at biomes and ecosystems. Part of that study included designing our own food webs. Next, we will conduct an investigation of habitat by examining owl pellets. Owls swallow their prey whole and regurgitate the hair and bones in pellet form. The pellets are collected, sanitized, and wrapped by distributors and sold for use in the classroom. Students "unravel" their pellet, separating out the skeletal remains of their prey. They then will display the bones on a piece of black construction paper. Stop by room 108 in February to see what they've found!

Classroom Highlights

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

Happy (frigid, warm, cold, oh come on now and make up your mind already) New Year everyone! What a strange January for us Wisconsin-ites and, no, this time I'm not talking weather, rather Packers. For the first time in what seems like forever the January newsletter finds us out of the playoffs and without General Manager Ted Thompson. Whether or not this is a good thing remains to be seen. In the meantime, we'll all be learning how to pronounce the name Gutekunst!

January also brings us to the halfway mark of the school year and finds us with approximately one month remaining in the basketball season. We still have one remaining home game which is scheduled for January 26th. It will be our official kick off to "Christian Education Week" with two games at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. against Our Savior's of Wausau. The following week of January 29 - February 2 will also include exciting dress-up days for the students as chosen by our 8th grade class:

Monday: Pajama Day (one stuffed animal or blanket can be brought)

Tuesday: Super Hero / Cowboy Day

Wednesday: Dress-up Day (dress nicely – we have chapel)

Thursday: Crazy Day

Friday: Green and White / Jersey Day

As we look back at the "old" year we can't help but recall the wonderful job our 7th-8th grade students did as narrators for our children's Christmas service – to God be the glory. It is almost hard to fathom that it took place over a month ago! With the numerous activities that will be taking place both inside the classroom and out, we are certain that it won't be long until we are looking back at January and forward to March. May our gracious God be with us and bless us in this New Year!

Christian Education Week

We are again celebrating the blessing of Christian education at St. Paul's Lutheran School. We have been blessed with over 100 years of Christian education. Below you will find a list of different activities going on during the week. If you have not been able to make it to any school activities in a while, this would be a great time to see some of the blessings in your school.

Book Fair Dates: January 26th - February 4th

Shopping Hours:

Friday-1/26: 5:00-7:00pm

Sunday-1/28: 8:15-9:00am, 10:00-11:30am

Monday-1/29: 3:30-5:00pm, 7:30-8:00pm

Tuesday-1/30: 1:00-2:00pm, 3:30-5:00pm, 5:30-7:30pm

Wednesday-1/31: 7:45-8:45am, 3:30-5:00pm

Thursday-2/11: 1:00-2:00pm, 3:30-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm

Friday-2/2: 7:45-8:45am, 3:30-5:00pm

Sunday-2/4: 8:30-9:00am, 10:00-11:30am

Special activities:

St. Paul's Basketball Games – Friday, Jan. 26 at 5:00 & 6:00pm

Story Time (for ages 2 yr.-2nd grade) – Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 6:00-7:00pm

3rd-8th Grade Corn Hole Tournament – Thursday, Feb. 1 from 6:00-7:30pm



Calling Another Teacher? By Principal Engelbrecht

On Monday, January 8th, the St. Paul's church council presented an approved school board recommendation to call a full-time, 3rd & 4th grade teacher. The proposal read as follows:

3rd & 4th Grade Full-time Teacher Call Proposal

- Call a full-time 3rd/4th grade teacher. Additional duties would include teaching either 3-8 music or 3-8 art.
- Move Principal Engelbrecht back to half-time teaching and half-time principal. Teaching responsibilities would be determined by faculty to fit needs of the school.



Over the last few months, the school board has met with the school faculty and myself to discuss what the needs of St. Paul's school are. The main response from the teaching staff was providing the principal position more time to get work done. Curriculum development and improvement, developing outreach ideas/plans for the school in coordination with the church, discipline in the school, and long range planning are some of the areas needing more time and focus.

By calling a full-time 3rd & 4th grade teacher and moving me as principal back to half-time teaching and half-time administration, the school would be returning to the same size teaching staff St. Paul's had in 2006 when I accepted the call to serve at St. Paul's, and our enrollment was 91 students in grades K-8 and 35 students in 3K and 4K. The projected enrollment for 2018-2019 is 97 students in 3K-8th grade and 20 students in 3K/4K. (Since 2006, the public schools have started offering preschool, which has caused our numbers to drop.)

Five years ago, we reduced our teaching staff by one position by not replacing Mrs. Duehlmeier when she retired. Mrs. Engelbrecht moved back down to teach Kindergarten, Ms. Smith moved down to teach 1st/2nd grade, and I took over 3rd/4th grade. In 2013, I did receive principal release time to help with getting principal work accomplished, but at the same time more teaching responsibilities were given back to Mr. Quint and Mr. Pahl when I no longer taught 5th-8th grade English and Mr. Pahl took over as athletic director. Over the years, the amount of principal release time has fluctuated as follows: 2013 – 6h 50mins, 2014 – 4h 50mins, 2015-2017 – 8h 50mins.

Overall, the goal of this request of St. Paul's congregation is to help improve the school and grow. We want to incrementally grow and make sure we manage the growth to match the congregation's ability to support growth. As a faculty, we ask members of St. Paul's to think and pray about this proposal over the next few weeks. There will be an open forum at 10:15 a.m., following the 9:00 a.m. service, on Sunday, January 21st, and another open forum at 7:30 p.m., following the 6:30 p.m. service, on Monday, January 29th.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through January 14, 2017

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Marilyn Smolarek given by Friends & Family

Mortgage

- In memory of Don Schierland & Carl Bathke given by Stephanie Bathke

Pastor/Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of her cousin, Herb Helle, given by Edna Haferman

School Computers

- In memory of Neil Parker from Divine Word given by Ann Parker and family



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Phone: 715-421-3634
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February 2018 edition

Upcoming Events

Christian Education Week
Jan. 28-Feb. 3

Breakfast in a Backpack Drive
Feb. 1-19

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive
February 1-28

District Pine Car Derby at St. Paul's
Saturday, Feb. 10

People of the Passion



Midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays, Feb. 14-Mar. 21
3:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424