



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

July 2017 edition

## Pray for Patience

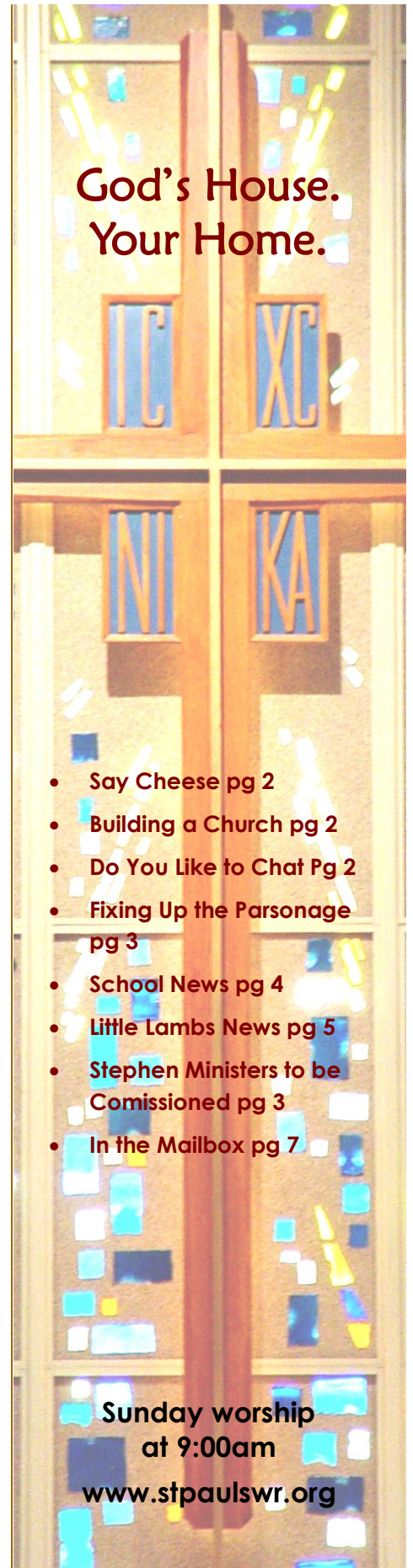
By Pastor Baur

A dear friend of mine once made this statement. "I never pray for patience." This surprising statement came from the mouth of a faithful and well-seasoned Christian lady. My curiosity led me to ask what led her to that conclusion. She said, "I never pray for patience because I am afraid what the Lord will send to teach me." Do you notice something about patience in that line? It is not idly waiting for something to happen. It is not just killing time. Patience is not passive. Instead, it is how we actively deal with the circumstances as we wait for a certain outcome. It is the perseverance to stick with it even when the outcome is not in sight.

That means that patience is taught as we experience the tougher occasions in life. It is enduring through whatever comes our way with an attitude that doesn't complain, but trusts that God is still in charge. Case in point. You may say that for the past year we have been waiting for another pastor to accept the call to serve in our midst. We say that calls for patience. Much patience, because a year is an awfully long time. After all, how much patience would be needed if a new pastor arrived in a week or two? And so, we pray for patience and the Lord answers that prayer by teaching us in ways we would have never imagined or asked for. (Which one of us would ask for a vacancy that lasted over a year?) While we are patiently waiting, God is patiently teaching us.

He is teaching patience as we give up our timeline as to when the call will be answered and trust his time. He is teaching patience as we struggle to understand why the obvious person we chose is the one he didn't chose. He is teaching patience as we recognize that he is still in control and we are not.

Do you still want to pray for patience as we wait for another pastor, or are we afraid of what the Lord will send to teach us? Once again, patience is not idly waiting for something to happen. It is not just killing time. Instead, it is how we actively deal with the circumstances as we wait for a certain outcome. It is the perseverance to stick with it even when the outcome is not in sight. So pray for patience, and see how the Lord will answer our prayer.



God's House.  
Your Home.

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Sunday worship  
at 9:00am

[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

## Say Cheese!



Our first submission:  
Charles & Rachel  
Schroeder

While you are on vacation this summer, be sure to take a family photo and send it to the church. We are collecting photos of families and individuals to put in our church database. This will make it easier for a new pastor to learn people's names and faces. You can submit your photos electronically ([churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)) or bring in a hard copy for us to scan.

We are hoping to collect enough photos to also print a church directory. We have had a lot of changes in our church family since the last directory was published. Babies have been born, friends have gone to heaven, and new people have joined the church. A pictorial directory is especially useful for a bigger congregation like ours, where it can be hard to put a name with a face. So we would appreciate your participation in this project.

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## Building a Church

by Mikayla Obsuzt



Look for Mikayla's model in the  
Welcome Center.

In Religion 9 up at Northland, you get assigned two big projects throughout the year. One project for each semester. For the first semester project, we were in groups and we had to build a downscaled model of Noah's Ark, but for the second project, we were given many options. Most of those options being models of the tabernacle and the major objects inside of it, but there were a few that were more personal. A few being writing your own Christian song and building a model of your church and the significant features in it.

When we got this assignment, I knew right away that I wanted to build the model of St. Paul's, I started working on it right away. That night I came home and drew a 3-D picture of exactly what I wanted to build. From that point, we bought the wood and supplies needed to make the church. I started to build the model as soon as possible but before building the final replica, I used cardboard to make a smaller model to work off of as I was building. Building that model took a day or two and right after finishing that I started building the real thing. That process took a while but once I built the exterior started, I molding and painting all of the bricks and interior pieces. Then came the main things in the church, like the altar. I assembled everything together and plugged in the stain glass lights and it was done.

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## Do You Like to Chat?



We would like to add a couple people to our shut-in visitation team. You would visit 3-4 elderly people once a month and just chat. Share news from church and encourage them in their faith. If God gave you a social nature and listening ear, please consider serving in this manner. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carol Newsom at 715-424-2608.

## Fixing Up the Parsonage

by Jeremy Buck

Work on the parsonage is moving right along. It is exciting to see the transformation that our new pastor will be able to enjoy. There are things happening all the way from the basement to the main bathroom. The basement bathroom is nearly complete. The previously water damaged walls have been replaced and it has been textured and painted. The new vanity is in place and waiting for the arrival of the faucet. A new circuit breaker box has been installed to allow for expansion and all circuits tracked down for labeling. Some new valves and an air separator are going on the boiler.

Upstairs the majority of the demolition is complete. We ran into some problems in the laundry room bathroom, where a slow leak at the base of the toilet rotted out the floor over the years. This has been repaired and is ready for the next steps towards completion.

Several women of the congregation helped figure out a layout that would make the kitchen area more family friendly and inviting. The new layout will be more open and the entire area will flow together, including the play area next to the kitchen. The kitchen is completely bare. All the cabinets are removed and the soffits have been removed to make room for the taller cabinets. Some of the cabinets are here but not ready to install yet. Work on the install will begin soon. There are new recessed lights that will be installed as well.

A big job coming up is the flooring. There is a lot of it, and it will be on-site in the next couple days. If you have experience with glue-down vinyl plank flooring, please contact me.

Mike Paul has been indispensable as the "general" on the project. It would not be possible without his leadership

### The Work In Progress



## School News

By Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

By God's grace, St. Paul's has wrapped up another school year. It was a year in which we focused on who and what our "Treasure" is. We are reminded by the apostle Matthew in chapter 6, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This is a great reminder as we hit summer vacation to keep our focus on our Treasure and to keep Him as part of our weekly worship life and daily devotional life. As families travel this summer, do not forget how easy it is to find a church in the area you are visiting. Just log on to [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net), click on Find a Church/School, type in the city and state, and it will produce a list of churches in the area. Most of the names in the list will also act as a link to the church's website which will help you find service times and the church address.

We start the summer months with an enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year at 114 students (3K-8th). This is the highest enrollment St. Paul's has had since 2006-2007. We praise God for the blessings of new students and families He continues to shower down on our school. Please continue to pray for the school during the summer as we prepare for the next school year. We will open the new school year on Monday, August 28th, with our opening service.

We have a couple of projects to work on during the summer months. First, we will be putting up a fence around the Little Lamb's playground. Last summer we removed some of the parking lot and planted grass to increase the size of the playground. The other project we will be tackling is updating the wireless capabilities at St. Paul's. We will be installing two new access points, which will improve the connectivity of our wireless signal.

Finally, as many of you know, Mrs. Obsuszt will continue working on her synod certification. She is currently enrolled in two classes at Martin Luther College (MLC). Also, in January, I started a master's program through MLC. I will be working towards a master's degree in administration. I completed my first course this spring on curriculum development. I will start putting what I learned in the class into action this summer and in the upcoming school year as we begin work on our Social Studies curriculum. This summer I am taking a class on school leadership. In all, I will have to complete 30 classroom credits and a six-credit project to graduate. I have seven years to complete the program.



Little Lambs on their first summer outing.

# Little Lambs News

By Mrs. Hannah Mueller

Summer care is off to a GREAT start! We have an awesome group of staff for the summer and our transition from the school year into summer went smoothly! Some of the things we're looking forward to this summer are the splash pad opening across the street, our new playground fence being put up (which means our new equipment goes up), and attending a noon Rafter's game. Our school-aged children will have frequent field trips to break out from our regular routine, so check out Little Lambs' Facebook page to see what we're up to. We've already been on one field trip to the Wisconsin Rapids Zoo for the United Way Inner Wisconsin's Children's Book Giveaway event. We also checked out some animals, had a picnic, and got some free books in the process.

Our Little Lambs wish list was also recently revamped. We knocked out over half of the items a couple years ago but we are still in need of several items and some new ones that have popped up. Over the summer there are more garage sales, cleaning out, and more free time. If you would like to donate an item or money to go towards an item, check out our wish list or speak with Hannah Mueller. We ask that items that are donated be in good to excellent condition. Thank you!

God's blessings on a happy and safe summer!

## Little Lambs Child Development Center and Preschool 3K-4K Wish List

### Discoverers (6wks-1yr) Room

1. Infant books (soft)
2. Wall mirror with bar support
3. New crib mattresses (8)
4. Curtains

### Explorers (1-2yrs) Room

1. "Hands On" puzzle toys
2. Sensory objects
3. Soft toddler-sized chairs
4. Dollhouse items and accessories (Toddler appropriate)
5. Car rug
6. Curtains

### Inventors (2-3yrs) Room

1. Fabric for bulletin board
2. Shelving unit for art supplies
3. Sensory objects

### Preschool

1. Big books
2. Book display shelf
3. Body pillows (2)
4. Moon sand
5. Totes for Prop Boxes
6. Small mirrors (4)

7. Funnels (large)

8. Sifters

9. Flashlights (4)

10. Measuring cups and spoons

11. Fur

12. Measuring tape (2)

13. Road signs

14. Architectural books

15. Sculptures of buildings

16. Small water fountain

17. Specimen sets

18. Art depicting Jesus with children or as shepherd

19. Interactive projector



### Preschool Kitchen/Storage Room/Misc.

1. Wood Laminate Lockable Tall Storage Locker (2)

2. Pots and pans

3. Bowls (small)

4. Dishwasher

5. Outdoor balls (various sizes)

6. Tricycles/scooters

7. Wagon or stroller that is able to seat 4

8. Stroller that is able to seat 2

9. Highchair with lap belt (2-3)

10. Batteries (various sizes)

11. Sandbox sand (3 bags)



## Stephen Ministers to Be Commissioned

On Sunday, July 16, eight members of our church family will be commissioned into a special ministry of care and concern for others as Stephen Ministers. This rite of commissioning culminates a period of extensive training and preparation in the caring ministry through a program developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis. Our Stephen Ministers have studied and practiced skills in such areas as dealing with feelings, crisis intervention, asserting oneself with gentleness and firmness, and numerous other topics. They have been prepared to help people who are experiencing problems in their lives. After commissioning, these Stephen Ministers will be assigned to minister in our congregation and community, working with people who are experiencing such life crises as hospitalization, retirement, financial setback, the loss of a loved one, or any of a number of other difficulties people face in daily living.



Called home to heaven:  
Karen Herman  
Robert Hafermann Sr.

This is our second class of Stephen Ministers. Those completing the most recent training are: Kathy Braun, Gina Caldwell, Todd Ferkey, Janet Heister, Dawn Kracht, Gail Kretschmer, Jesse Moennig, and Greg Paul. We thank God for their gifts of caring and listening. Their ministries will increase greatly the overall ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ at St. Paul's. Please keep these people in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to their care receivers.



### Vacation Bible School

**July 30 - August 3**

**6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**Free Dinner at 5:30 pm**

Youth & Adult Bible Study

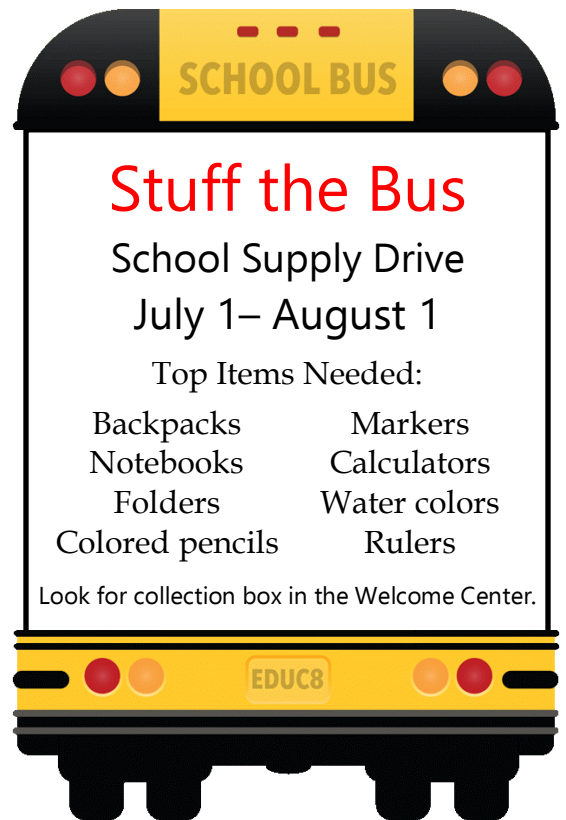
Traditional VBS for K-6th grade

Preschool VBS

Free Childcare for under 3 yrs old

**Register at [www.stpaulwr.org](http://www.stpaulwr.org)**

**or call 715-421-3634**



## In the Mailbox

Pastor Jim and Gail Mumm thank the members of St. Paul's Congregation for your Christian friendship and kindness shown to us during the thirteen months of Pastor's vacancy ministry. We also thank you for the wonderful farewell dinner. The food was great and the Christian love was wonderful! With warmed and happy hearts we say, "Thank you so very much! May the love and blessings of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you on earth and forever in heaven!"

With Christian love,

Jim Mumm



## Counting Our Blessings

- Another chance to learn patience
- Our Stephen Ministers
- Skilled workers on the parsonage project
- Our "Treasure"
- New member Colette Zimmerman
- A growing school
- Summer weather
- Baptism of Walter John Dickerson, grandson of Brian & Sue Johnson
- Five people taking Knowing Christ Class

## Special Gifts and Memorials

*Through June 11, 2017*

### Current

- In memory of Robert Hafermann Sr. given by Linda Pollnow

### School

- In memory of Jean Hafermann's mother given by Joan Hafermann and Tom & Gayle Bartelt
- In memory of Joyce Camacho's sister given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt

### Mortgage

- In memory of Robert Hafermann Sr. given by Cheri Weiss
- In memory of Karen Herman given by Nancy Hoppe

### School Technology Fund

- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Bob & Jean Hafermann

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Robert Hafermann Sr. given by Susie Dempze and Ruth Taggatz
- In memory of Terry' parents and Sandy's father and in appreciation of Pastor Mumm's service at St. Paul's given by Terry & Sandy Krause

### Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Karen Herman and Jean Hafermann's mother given by Tom & Barb Reitz

### St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Verne Jepson and Joyce Camacho's sister given by Edna Haferman

### Choir

- In memory of Robert Hafermann Sr. given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt, Carol Brown, Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Mike & Marilyn Foley, and Irv & Sharon Vollert



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
311 14th Ave S  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2402

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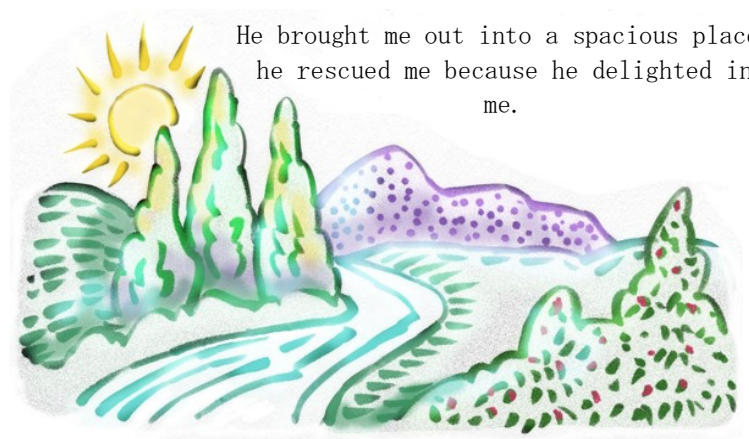
Phone: 715-421-3634  
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org  
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## Upcoming Events

**Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive**  
July 1-August 1

**Mission Sunday with  
Professor Matthew Doebler**  
Sunday, July 30

**Mighty Fortress VBS**  
July 30-August 3



He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in  
me.

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424