



St. Paul's EPISTLE

July 2018 edition

We Welcome a New Pastor!

We rejoice that the Lord has called a new pastor, Lucas Proeber, to lead our congregation. Lucas was born on November 15, 1990 in Milwaukee, WI to Leonard and Laurel Proeber. Ten days later, he was baptized at Woodlawn in West Allis, WI. In 1994, his father accepted a call to teach music at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) in Saginaw, MI, where they have lived ever since. Lucas attended elementary school at St. Paul's, Saginaw. He then attended MLS and graduated in 2009. From there, he went to Martin Luther College (MLC) and graduated in 2013.



After graduating MLC, he took a year off from school. It was then he met his wife, Amy, who grew up in Racine, WI. They met while working together at a Starbucks in Oak Creek, WI. They were married on July 2, 2016 at Grace, Milwaukee. Soon after, they headed down to Austin, TX to complete Lucas' vicar assignment and then returned to Milwaukee for the final year of Seminary training. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in May 2018.

Lucas is the youngest of five with four older sisters. Amy is the fifth of six children with three brothers and two sisters. Lucas and Amy enjoy exercising together, drinking coffee, eating sushi, listening to all sorts of music, watching movies, and soaking in Packer football.

The Proebers will be moving to Wisconsin Rapids on June 30. Pastor Proeber will begin his work on July 1, but will not be preaching until after his ordination. We will have a special worship service on Sunday, July 15 at 4:00 p.m. for his ordination and installation. Pastor Dennis Valleau will conduct the liturgy, and Pastor William Brassow will preach. Other area WELS pastors have been invited to participate in the laying on of hands.

This is an important event in the life of our new pastor and this family of believers, so we hope everyone will try to attend. A reception and refreshments will follow the service.

God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org

A Full Teaching Staff

As we announced in our last newsletter, the Lord has blessed us with a complete teaching staff for the fall. Mrs. Destinee Fiecko, Miss Rachel Haugly, Mrs. Carole Melso, and Mr. John Melso have all joined our staff. They will begin their work here on July 1. They will be installed during the worship service on July 29 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in thanking God for our new teachers and making them feel welcome.

Our school staff is pictured below. The new staff members (from left to right) are: Carole Melso (3K-4K), Rachel Haugly (K), Destinee Fiecko (3rd-4th), and John Melso (Principal). They join our remaining teachers: Karen obszut (1st-2nd), John Quint (5th-6th) and Randy Pahl (7th-8th).



Getting to Know... Miss Rachel Haugly

Miss Rachel Haugly has accepted the call to serve as our kindergarten teacher. She is a recent graduate of Martin Luther College, and this is her first call. Rachel has lived in Fond du Lac her whole life, because her father, David Haugly, is a pastor there at Faith Lutheran Church. In 2014, Rachel graduated from Winnebago Lutheran Academy. She continued her education at Martin Luther College with an elementary education major and physical education minor, and she graduated from there in May.

Rachel has three older siblings. One of her brothers is a Lutheran high school teacher, and the other is a physical therapist. Her sister is a nurse. Rachel enjoys spending her free time outdoors and keeping up with all of the Wisconsin sports teams. She looks forward to seeing what Wisconsin Rapids has to offer.

Getting to Know...The Melsos

Mrs. Carole Melso has accepted the call to serve as our Early Childhood Ministry Director, teaching the 3K-4K class and overseeing the Little Lambs Childcare ministry. Her husband, Mr. John Melso will serve as our principal and also do some teaching.

John and Carole met at (Dr.)Martin Luther College and married shortly after graduation. They received calls to teach at Immanuel in Fort Worth, Texas, where Carole taught grades K-2 and John taught grades 3-8. Carole stepped down from teaching to raise their two oldest sons Eric and Tyler. During the Melsos last year in Texas, Carole began a preschool program there.

After 8 years in Texas, John accepted a call to start a new school in Beverly Hills, Florida. John initially taught grades 1-8 but taught fewer grades as the school grew. While in Florida, their sons Kyle and Jacob were born. Carole started a preschool program shortly before leaving for Williamston, Michigan, where John became principal and 7th-8th grade teacher. Carole started her third preschool program in Williamston. In 2008, John accepted a call to Christ the Lord in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Carole worked for a couple years at a local childcare center before receiving a call to be the early childhood director and preschool teacher at Pilgrim in Menomonee Falls.

John and Carole's oldest son Eric is a pastor starting a new church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His wife, Jennifer, is an MLC trained teacher but presently is working as a substitute teacher in Chattanooga area public schools. Second son, Tyler, is a part-time meteorologist and full-time geographic information systems specialist. His wife is getting her teaching credentials at Wisconsin Lutheran College to become a science/math teacher. Third son, Kyle, is a Spanish teacher and tutor at California Lutheran High School. Youngest son, Jacob, is a junior in pastoral studies at Martin Luther College.

John's hobbies are car repair, fishing, playing softball, and watching football and hockey. Carole enjoys hiking, cooking, and is an avid reader. Put your worries to rest, the Melsos are Packer and Brewer fans. They are looking forward to serving in Wisconsin Rapids and getting to know the people at St. Paul's.

A Pantry Shower

To help out our new called workers and make them feel welcome, we will be holding a Pantry Shower to stock their cupboards. You can bring donations of canned goods, paper products and other items to the church over the next couple of weeks. You can also give gift cards for local stores, so they can pick out their own items. And with the busyness of moving and settling into new jobs, gift cards for local restaurants would also make good gifts. You can drop off your donations in the Welcome Center. These gifts will be divided among the new called workers.

Reminder: Use St. Paul's scrip to purchase your gifts. You will be blessing our called workers and supporting the school at the same time!



Never Alone

– 2018 WELS International Youth Rally

“...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” - Matthew 28:20



On June 26, St. Paul's Youth will be traveling to Bowling Green State University in Ohio for this year's WELS International Youth Rally. Four teens from our congregation will be in attendance: Alyssa Antoniewicz, Wyatt Jensen, Mikayla Obsuszt and Karli Rickaby. The rally runs from June 26 – June 29. The youth will have an opportunity to attend educational and unique workshops, have meet-and-greets with WELS world missionaries, college reps and members of Koiné, and also perform with Koiné in a youth rally choir. In addition, they will have professional nightly entertainment. This is a fun, educational way for our youth to meet other WELS youth from all around the country and have the opportunity to put their love for Jesus into action.

School Supply Drive



The community's annual Stuff the School Bus School Supply Drive is held in July. St. Paul's serves as a collection spot for this drive. School supplies of all types are needed. However, those items in greatest need this year are: backpacks, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, water color paints, glue sticks, glue bottles, and scissors. This is a chance for us to care for the needy in our community. The school supplies will be distributed to children in the school district, who are from low-income families. There will be a collection area in the Welcome Center beginning July 1. (Please note that notebooks and folder should be solid colors. To help the students stay organized, many classrooms assign a color specific to a subject. For instances everyone's math notebook and folder might be red.)

Be a Part of a Wild Ride

REGISTER NOW!



stpaulswr.org/vbs

You can take part in sharing the Gospel message in the fun and memorable way. Become a member of our Vacation Bible School staff. At Splash Canyon VBS, God's children of all ages will learn the good news that God is with us and keeps His promises to us on life's wild ride!

Many volunteers are needed to make the program run smoothly. We have positions that fit everyone's gifts, abilities, and schedules. Whether you are creative or organized, like to work with children or prefer to be behind the scenes, we have a job for you. You can be involved full or part time, whatever suits your schedule. To volunteer, contact Greg Paul (715-424-0449 or gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com) or come to one of the VBS meetings listed on our calendar.

Life is full of thrills and spills! We don't know what's around the bend, but God does! Help us share that reassuring message.

Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity

By Garth Perry, congregational president

It's easy for us to become complacent now that we know we are going to have a pastor. We need to remember that ministry is not just the pastor's and teachers' jobs. Ministry is everyone's responsibility. In order for ministry to be done well, everyone in the congregation needs to use their God-given talents in service to each other and to the community.

First Corinthians chapter 12 dives deeper into the topic of spiritual gifts. I encourage everyone to take some time to read the entire chapter. The 2012 New International Version of the Bible uses the header "Unity and Diversity in the Body." The Holy Spirit has granted each one of us spiritual gifts and enabled us to use them "for the common good" (verse 7).

In this chapter, Paul compares our bodies to the Christian Church. There is one body with many members. Each church member/body part has a specific purpose but is used for a single mission – to spread the good news of salvation found only in the grace of God through the sacrifice of Christ in our place. For Star Trek fans, I want to point you to the Vulcan IDIC – infinite diversity in infinite combinations. The spiritual gifts that we are given can be used in many ways in the Church. Consider how you can serve.

I recently read a quote from Quincy Jones, a famous American musician who also had some wise advice to share: "Every day, my daddy told me the same thing. 'Once a task is just begun, never leave it till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all.'" There are large tasks and small tasks in the church. There are some that require a short amount of time and commitment while others may take a longer commitment.

In addition, ministry could go in many different directions. However, without a unified and organized approach, ministry will not be effective. We need to walk together as a congregation with a single unified purpose. Our mission statement says it well – reaching out with the love of Jesus one heart and home at a time. The Leadership Council exists to help unify all areas of the ministry of St. Paul's so that we can walk together. Speak with one of the members of the Leadership Council to see how you can serve.

Counting Our Blessings

- A new shepherd for our flock
- A full teaching staff for the fall
- Our diverse spiritual gifts
- The baptisms of Savannah Kay Hildebrandt and Hayden Thomas Derezinski
- To date, our Cheerful Givers have paid over \$550,000 in extra principal on our mortgage

Registration Open for Weekender Camp

The Lutheran Pioneers are holding their annual Weekender Camp at Camp Alexander on September 8-9. Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade can join Lutheran Pioneers and participate in this fun outdoor event. Depending on their age, campers will enjoy nature activities, archery, sailing, canoeing, Bible activities, campfires, crafts, and more. Campers will stay overnight in cabins, although families are invited to bring tents and campers if they wish. A Saturday-only option is available. The cost is only \$35 if you register before August 14. Contact Kent Schroeder for more information: 715-421-4202 or knks@wctc.net.



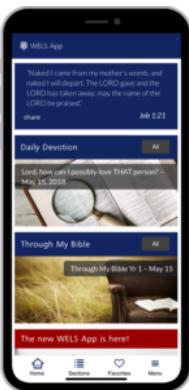
Called Home to Heaven
Richard Lucht

Women's Retreat in Tomah



The first ever WELS Coulee Women's Retreat will take place in Tomah this August. The focus of the retreat is on how women can mentor each other, support congregations with their skills, and be resources for each other. The weekend kicks off with an optional driving tour of Amish Country on Friday, August 10, and continues with a retreat program on Saturday, August 11, from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Early-bird registration is only \$35 and runs through July 1st. The fee will increase to \$40 after July 1st. Your fee covers the program and lunch on Saturday. For a complete schedule and online registration, please visit the facebook event at facebook.com/stpaultomah/events. This retreat is a collaboration between St. Paul Tomah's Women in God's Service and Holy Hen House.



wels.app

Get the New WELS App

WELS released a brand-new version of the WELS Mobile app. The WELS App offers a quick and easy way to get wels.net-based devotions, news, and synod information from your mobile device. Daily devotions, Bible readings, weekly worship helps, military and teen devotions are just a sampling of the Bible-based content available for your regular spiritual growth and encouragement. Also included are call reports, WELS Yearbook data, videos, and wels.net Q&A content. New features in the WELS App include favoriting, sharing, and expanded content. More new features are in the works.

The new app can run safely and consistently on many more devices/platforms. Because it is simply a website, it can run on older and newer devices and systems. This allows more people to take advantage of great Bible-based content. Give the WELS App a try and tell others about it. Enjoy the experience and the beautiful messages it carries. Simply visit <https://wels.app> on your mobile device.

A Retreat for Senior Christians



The 2018 Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) convention is being held on October 10-12 at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. The Osthoff Resort is an impressive building complex overlooking pools and gardens surrounded by woods with the lake in the distance. Elkhart Lake is also the home of the famous Road America racetrack. The board has arranged a tour of the Road America facility.

This will be an impressive and rewarding convention. Since we will be in Elkhart Lake, near the racetrack, the theme for the coming Convention is "Finish Your Race". The speakers and section leaders will share insights and encouragements so Christian seniors can run the race the Lord has prepared for them. For more information, visit wels.net/events or contact the church office.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through June 17, 2018

Current

- In memory of Pastor Baur's mother given by Inge Johnson
- In memory of John Lemke given by Inge Johnson
- In thankfulness for their grandchildren, Ian & Savannah Hildebrandt given by Tom & Sue Kulhanek
- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Bob & Katie Schalow
- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Larry & Veronica Klish, Dan McCarville

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Mike & Judy Anderson, Mike & Marilyn Foley, Barb Manz
- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Betty Prebbanow, Barb Manz
- In memory of their parents given by Terry & Sandy Krause

Mortgage

- In memory of Richard Lucht given by Edna & Faith Haferman, Mike & Judy Anderson, Vernon & Betty Meyer, Jerry & Barb Blum, Stephanie Bathke, Huntz & Marilyn Link, Dolores Zager, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, and other Friends & Family
- In memory of her husband Tom given by Donna Bushmaker

School

- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt

Pastor Teacher assistance Fund

- In memory of Scott Reichert given by Edna Haferman
- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Edna Haferman

Stephen Ministry

- In memory of Bev Churchill given by Susie Dempze

A Banner Stand

- In honor of Pastor and Sharon Baur and all of their years of ministry at St. Paul's given by Justin & Roxann Herman



VERY EXCITING BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, AUGUST 6 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

9:00 – 11:45 AM (ARRIVE 8:45-8:55)

AGES: 4 YEARS OLD – 6TH GRADE

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10611 STATE HWY 13 SOUTH

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494

CALL 715-325-3355 FOR MORE INFORMATION

In the Mailbox

I am awed and overwhelmed by the tremendous send off we received. It was a day to say goodbye, but more importantly a day to thank God for the ministry he allowed us to have a partnership in.

As I looked at the many familiar faces, some from the past and others from the present, it sparked memories of joys we shared together, but also the sorrows and challenges of life. Each instance spoke to the power of God's promises and his grace. God's Word still works and these celebrations testify to that profound truth. It was a wonderful day, a wonderful way to conclude pastoral ministry.

So thank you for the preparation and work that made the day so special. Thank you for encouraging words and generous gifts. Thank you for the wonderful reminder that "our labor in the Lord is never in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58).

In Christ,
Pastor Baur, Sharon and family



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

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Phone: 715-421-3634
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July 2018 edition

Upcoming Events

RAFTERS FAITH NIGHT

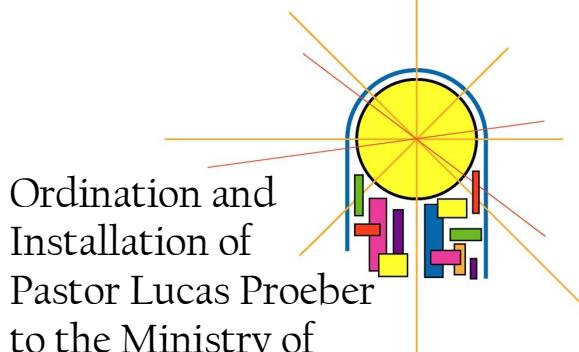
Sunday, July 1 at 4:05 p.m.

TEACHER INSTALLATION

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

SPLASH CANYON VBS

July 29-August 2 ~ 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Ordination and
Installation of
Pastor Lucas Proeber
to the Ministry of
Word and Sacrament

Sunday, July 15 at 4:00 p.m.