



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

June 2017 edition

## Service or Serve Us

By Pastor Baur

Service or serve **us**? What best explains your view of ministry. On the one hand there is service, that which is done to meet the needs of others. On the other hand there is serve **us**, that which is done to meet our needs. How do you view ministry? There is no getting around the fact that ministry is all about serving. In fact, the word ministry means service. As we carry out ministry here at St Paul's, you appreciate and depend on being served. You are served with the life-creating, life-sustaining Word of God. You are served as you receive Christian counsel when parts of your life are falling apart. You are served in church and the classroom. You are served, and you are blessed by it.

Not only are you served, but you and I are also here **to serve**. We offer our services to one another. Service can be a casual greeting or ongoing comfort. Service can take place in the balcony with all the technology equipment or musical instruments. Service is sweeping and cleaning. Service is putting out the communion ware. Service is what Christians do.

Serving is good, but sometimes our service can become serve **us**. It is an attitude that thinks that ministry is there mainly for us. It is driven by what's in it for me. We are a consumer-oriented society, and this can spill over into ministry. It can affect how we serve.

What if this view is applied to times of the worship service? How would it be approached? Would you see it as how to best serve God and others, or how it best serves **us**? Is our rationale to want the times we are used to, or times that best serve others? That can mean giving up that which is most comfortable to us. It may mean we may have to come a little sooner or come a little later than we are used to. It may mean that we have to give up the pew we have sat in for years. It may mean that we have some adjusting to our schedule.

Service is ministry and ministry is service, but we dare not let service become all about serve **us**. Like Jesus said, "The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many." His service will turn serve **us**, into service.

Beginning June 4 — Only one service at Sunday at 9:00 a.m.  
Midweek service on Monday at 6:30 p.m.



God's House.  
Your Home.

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Beginning June 4  
Sunday worship  
at 9:00am

## Parting Thoughts From Pastor Jim Mumm



**Farewell for  
Pastor Mumm**  
**Sunday, June 4**  
**at 11:30 a.m.**  
**Bring a salad**  
**or hot dish**  
**to share.**

First of all, thank you for the privilege to serve our God and Savior with you for a year and a month. I have been very impressed with the sincere Christians at St. Paul's Church. Your Christian faith and love shines from your faithfulness in Worship, Bible Study and in serving the LORD God in many ways at our worship services, Bible studies, youth and adults fellowships, in the maintenance of our facilities, and in the day by day business operations of our church. Thanks be to God, St. Paul's Congregation is blessed with many devout Christians who are a true light of God's love to each other and to the visitors who come to our church for worship and for day care, pre-school, Christian grade school and Sunday School.

On Mother's Day, I mentioned a devout Christian woman from Clearwater, Florida, who through faith in Jesus Christ has passed from this life to the everlasting life in heaven. Gretchen Lewis was blessed with a wondrous faith in and love for Jesus Christ as her dear Savior, Lord, and Friend. For many years, during her earthly journey, Gretchen sent daily e-mails to pastors, teachers and other Christians with a quoted Bible verse or Hymn verse. Her last e-mail was a paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 13:11, which said, "Finally, brothers and sisters, REJOICE! --- encourage one another, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

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"Finally, brothers and sisters,  
 REJOICE! ---  
 encourage one another,  
 be of one mind, live in peace.  
 And the God of love and peace  
 will be with you."  
 - 2 Corinthians 13:11

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Gretchen's prayer for us is also my prayer for all the members of St. Paul's Congregation. I pray all of you will faithfully hear God's Word and pray to Him in your homes and at your church. I pray, by the power of God the Holy Spirit, all of you will trust in the LORD God, the Father and the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit, as your Creator, Savior, and Faith-giver. I pray all of you will REJOICE to know and believe that, through faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are God's loved, forgiven and saved children and His heirs to inherit the gift of everlasting life in heaven. I pray all of you will encourage each other to be faithful to the LORD God and His Word and encourage and comfort each other in those times when tribulation comes into your lives. I pray all of you will be united in the Teachings of God's Word and in dedication to live according to His Commandments. I pray God's love for you will empower all of you to sincerely love and care for each other and to live in peace and harmony with each other.

I assure you, because the LORD God says it is true, through faith in Him and His Word, He will be with us, bless us and make us a blessing on earth, and at His right time will take us to live with Him forever in the perfect happiness of heaven. Jesus Christ promises us, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). Our Savior promises us, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28). Jesus our God and Savior promises us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

## WELS Night at Witter Field

Join WELS members from around the area on Saturday, June 10, for a fun evening of fellowship and baseball at Witter Field. The Wisconsin Rapids Rafterz will be playing the Madison Mallards at 6:05 p.m., and the game will be followed by a fireworks show. This is an event your entire family can enjoy. Or you can bring a friend! Tickets are \$12 person and include a bleacher seat, hot dog, soda and Rafterz baseball cap. Sign up in the Welcome Center or contact the church office at [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634. Reservations are due by May 25.

## Be in the Parade

We will once again have a float in the Cranberry Blossom Festival parade. The float is one way we promote our Vacation Bible School in the community. As we walk along the parade route, we will be distributing candy to children and flyers about VBS to adults. The parade route is less than a mile and half, and children are welcome to walk with their parents. Little ones can also ride in the float. If you would like to walk in the parade, please contact Greg Paul at [gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com) or 715-424-0449. Lots of small individually-wrapped candy is needed for this event. (No chocolate, please. It melts in the hot weather.) Please bring your donations to church by June 16.

## School Cleaning Day

With school coming to an end, it is time to give everything a good scrubbing. On Wednesday, May 31, we will have our annual School Cleaning Day. All of the school families have been asked to pitch in to make the work go faster, but congregation members are also welcome to help.

We will start in the hallways, cleaning the walls, shelves, and cubbies. Then, we will move to the classrooms, where the walls, cupboards, windows, light fixtures, desks and more need to be washed. Finally, the desks and other loose items will be moved into the hallways, so the carpet can be cleaned at a later date. We are also looking for people to work in the gym cleaning the bleachers and the area underneath them. The work begins at 4:00 p.m. and continues until 8:00 p.m. Come when you can. Your help is appreciated.

## Be Part of Mighty Fortress VBS!

God's children of all ages will learn that in Jesus, the victory is won at Mighty Fortress VBS ~ July 30 - August 3. AND, every child will hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil and that God gives us that victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! At Mighty Fortress VBS, as VBS staff you can live out the theme "In Jesus, the victory is won" as you share the message and the fun with kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. For more information, contact Greg Paul at [gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com) or 715-424-0449. Join us to see how in Jesus, the victory is won!

## Counting Our Blessings

- The chance to worship together as one faith family
- Pastor Mumm & his ministry among us
- The baptism of Cade Owen Peronto
- A beautiful school facility
- Our musical heritage
- Our 8th grade and high school graduates

Save the Date



Vacation Bible  
School  
July 30-Aug. 3



## St. Paul's School News

### 3K & 4K News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

We have finally made it through the alphabet! We'll be spending the rest of the year reviewing all of the letters we've learned throughout the school year. This month we finished up some secular Easter projects and celebrated NAEYC's Week of the Young Child. The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Each day has its own theme: Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday (our favorite), Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. We hope to make this a special event every year. We also made some splendid gifts for our moms for Mother's Day and our 4K students had a blast at the George W. Mead Wildlife Area with grades K-2.



Reminder: 3K/4K's last day of school is Thursday, May 25th. Closing service and 4K graduation will be on Thursday, May 25th at 6:30pm. Our school picnic is at 11:30 on Friday, May 26th. Mrs. Mueller will take the 3K/4K children from childcare to the picnic on that day. Please let her know if you have questions! This has been such a wonderful group to teach this year!

### Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

Another year is almost done. If you are like me, you look back and wonder, "Where did the time go?"

We have witnessed much growth lately. The green beans we planted to see the parts of a plant have flowered and then produced actual beans. The caterpillars we observed made chrysalises and broke free into butterflies. Our bodies have grown and developed as we witnessed during the presidential fitness testing. Our minds have definitely matured as well over the course of the year as we listen to our class read to us or tell us the time on the clock. Most importantly, our faith has grown.

We have covered the Bible from Genesis to Acts. We have heard the passion of our Lord and learned about his vast love for us. We have prayed for one another and forgiven one another.

Now it is time to take that Kindergarten set of skills and move on to the next phase. They will always have a place in my heart, but more importantly, they have a place set aside for them in heaven. Thank you God for another successful year.



### 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News – by Mrs. Karen Obsuszt

Wow! Only a couple weeks left of school. It is hard to believe. We have grown so much physically, spiritually, and mentally. Our latest adventure was the field trip we just took. The 1st and 2nd grade just went on a field trip to the George Mead Wildlife Center. We explored three different habitats. The children went on a nature scavenger hunt through the forest. Then they discovered the different bugs that lived in the pond and did some pond digging with nets. We talked about the grasslands and used nets to see what bugs we could find. By the end of the day the children did a lot of walking and the Lord blessed us with dry warm weather. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and we can say the bus ride back was a little quieter than the bus ride there. We had a great time.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

We are wrapping up the school year with a blast. The 3rd grade students have finally finished up the single-digit multiplication and division facts. This now leads them into the dreaded two-digit division! 4th grade is following suit with finishing up their work with two-digit division and three-digit multiplication. This gives them time to focus on fractions for the rest of the school year. They will be working on simplifying, converting, and reducing fractions. Wisconsin history is coming to a close also. The class has been looking at the different parts of government: judicial, executive, and legislative. We will be traveling to historic Point Basse in Nekoosa on May 19th to get a closer look at what life was like for early settlers in Wisconsin.

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to Mrs. Wendy Blum for organizing Staff Appreciation Week. She put a lot of work into the week, and she had the students organized with a couple of projects for their teachers. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who came in during the week to help with recess and lunch; it was very much appreciated.

### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. John Quint

I'm happy to report that our 5th and 6th graders (and their chaperons) had a great time in Green Bay on our spring field trip. We toured the National Railroad Museum and spent some time (and money) at the Lambeau Field Atrium and Pro Shop. We also enjoyed a day in the sun at the Northland Track Meet at D.C. Everest in Wausau. By the time you read this, our annual outing to Mt. Olympus Water Park will be over and, most likely, a complete success as usual.



Just a follow-up note to last fall's Soles for Jesus shoe drive. I've accumulated enough shoes to warrant another drop off run in June. If you have any shoes in good condition that you would like to donate, please drop them off in room 108 or at the church office by the end of the school year. Thank you!

### 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. Randy Pahl

If you would like to get a taste of what the last month of school entails for grades 7&8, MAY-be you should read the following: National Day of Prayer service with skits, Northland Lutheran High School Grade School Track Meet, Staff Appreciation Week, Safety Cadet trip, Confirmation, event coordinators for grades K-4 track meet, last week chapel prayers, Graduation, Closing Service and last day of school activities. Sprinkle in the wrapping up of all areas of academia and it is no wonder why students and faculty alike look forward to some well-deserved time off in the weeks which follow.

In our classroom we are close to finishing all of our studies for 2016-17. Our Christ Light lessons have encouraged us in the proper handling of issues regarding adiaphora, while in government we have been very "judicious" in our study of the U.S. court system. In 7th grade math we have followed Pythagoras in making the "right" decisions regarding triangles with 90-degree angles. Algebra, meanwhile, has found us trying to make sense out of rationalizing a denominator by using its conjugate, as well as four ways to solve quadratic equations. And, finally, science has shown us why the weather is so unpredictable in Wisconsin "whether" we like it or not!

And, with that we wrap up another school year. MAY it be that God would always be with our departing 8th grade students in their walk through this life. Members of the graduating class of 2017 are as follows: Ashton Bredda, Kaleigh Buck, Carson Hacker, Ellie Kracht, Karli Rickaby and Josie Roach. We pray for God's richest blessings to be upon them until we are gathered together, once again, in our heavenly home!

## Catching Up with the WELS Hymnal Project



Various subcommittees of the WELS Hymnal Project continue to make progress on the development of the synod's next hymnal. The hope is that the hymnal will be available for purchase in 2021.

As part of the hymnal's development, the subcommittees have been giving congregations an opportunity to use and review samples of the materials developed so far. By the time these testing efforts conclude, every congregation in the synod will have had the opportunity to participate in one way or another.

This summer, the WELS Hymnal Project will be publishing online the current list of *Christian Worship* and *Christian Worship: Supplement* hymns, indicating which hymns have been selected for inclusion in the next hymnal and which ones have not. All members of the synod will have the opportunity to offer feedback on this preliminary list.

Learn more about the hymnal project at [welshymnal.com](http://welshymnal.com).

Please keep Melissa  
and her family in  
your prayers.  
Melissa will be in  
Southeast Asia from  
June 9-19.

## In the Mailbox

I would like to thank all of the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School for the prayers and donations for my upcoming mission trip to Indonesia with Kingdom Workers. I appreciate your support and generosity. I am truly blessed to be part of such an amazing Christian congregational family.

Melissa Christenson

Mr. E

I just wanted to share with you and your fellow teachers all that Logan has accomplished during his high school career. He is graduating on May 14th as Salutatorian of his 156 member class. He has been given many awards that speak to his integrity, strong work ethic, and character. Logan has been a member of student council, FBLA, student ambassadors, link members (mentors to incoming freshmen), National Honor Society, and Varsity club. He has been named to the Academic All-Conference teams for both Tennis and Golf. He has been given the Coaches award for golf, was picked to attend the I-8 Conference Leadership Summit and will be attending the National Leadership Conference for FBLA this summer. He was even voted Prom King last weekend! Logan was accepted for direct admission to the UW-Madison School of Business and will start there this fall.

I have been told by many of Logan's coaches and teachers that he is the kind of kid they never have to worry about. He does the right thing even when no one is watching him. He shows respect for his teachers, administrators and his peers. Todd and I know a great deal of thanks for Logan's character comes from the formative years he spent at St. Paul's. He was immersed in an environment there that both stimulated his intelligence and fostered his integrity, but most importantly gave him strong Christian values to do the right thing, to work hard, and to know that with God all things are possible. I know that as he's gotten older, Logan has realized the true value and blessing of the education he received at St. Paul's.

We often watch St. Paul's services online and have enjoyed the Christmas service especially. Please know that we continue to keep everyone up there close in prayer.

Laura Schoen (*The Schoens are members who are currently living in Illinois.*)

p.s. Lianna has also done very well. She is still more social than Logan, has a 4.2 GPA and has such a kind heart it's a joy to those around her.



Logan in 8th grade

## What is Going on in the Synod

Want to know what has been going on in the synod over the past year? You can now view 2017 Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM) online. It summarizes the activities of each area of ministry, contains the proposed ministry financial plan, and shares items for consideration at the synod convention. This information will help guide the 400 delegates to this summer's convention.

Some items in this year's BORAM:

- A recommendation that we declare fellowship with the East Asia Lutheran Synod, the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia, and the South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission in Hong Kong.
- A proposed long-range plan entitled "Our Great Heritage" that will extend to 2025.
- The ministry financial plan provides funding for a director of discipleship who will oversee the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry and the Commission on Adult Discipleship as well as an additional Christian giving counselor in the second year of the biennium.

To read the 2017 Book of Reports and Memorials, visit [wels.net/2017synodconvention](http://wels.net/2017synodconvention).



Synod Convention  
July 31-Aug 3

## Special Gifts and Memorials

*Through May 14, 2017*

### Current

- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Jerry & Barb Blum and Randy & Pat DeBoer

### School

- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Vernon & Betty Meyer

### Mortgage

- In memory of Jeff Gast's father given by Robert & Katie Schalow
- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by David & Robin Koeshall and other Friends & Family
- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Larry & Carol Newsom, Ron & Georgene Provost, Elaine Martin, and Anita Simenson

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Jack & Pat Fluno, Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Pat Schade, Bill & Elaine Wittrock, Barb Manz, Kathy Jackson, Mike & Judy Anderson, and Jack & Pat Fluno
- In memory of Karen Herman given by Barb Manz and Jack & Pat Fluno

- In memory of their mothers on Mother's Day given by Ron & Georgene Provost

### Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Neil Wittrock, Karen Herman and Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Tom & Barb Reitz

### St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Family & Friends
- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Faith & Edna Hafermann Sr.

### Handbell Choir

- In memory of Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Larry & Veronica Klish

### Debt Reduction

- In memory of Robin Koeshall's sister, Cindy Menden, given by family and friends of Robin Koeshall

### Organ Maintenance Fund

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Carol Brown and other Friends & Family

### Choir

- In memory of Jeff Gast's dad and Bob Hafermann Sr. given by Sue Bobrowski





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  
June 2017 edition

### Upcoming Events

School Cleaning Day  
Wednesday, May 31 - 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Farewell for Pastor Mumm  
Sunday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m.

WELS Night at Miller Park  
Saturday June 10 at 6:05 p.m.

Cranberry Blossom Parade  
Sunday, June 18 at 12:00 p.m.



Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424