



St. Paul's EPISTLE

June 2018 edition

Wrestle with God

By Garth Perry

I find myself asking the questions, "God, why are you not listening? Why are you not hearing my prayer and giving me an answer?" I believe God is teaching me, and frankly all of us at St. Paul's, a lesson in the power of persistent prayer. Sometimes we have to keep on praying and understand that God's timing may not be the same as ours and He may not give us the answer we are looking for. However, He does promise to hear us when we pray.

As I was considering the power of persistent prayer, my first thoughts were drawn to the story of Jacob wrestling with God. Jacob would not let go until the "man" he was wrestling with blessed him. Genesis 32:22-32 (ESV):

The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

This happened at a time where Jacob was really afraid. He was going back to see his brother Esau. He had cheated Esau of his birthright and blessing. He feared for his life. What did Jacob do?

the Lord hears
our persistent
prayers

Continued on pg 2



God's House.
Your Home.

- Answers to Prayer pg 2
- Train Up a Child pg 3
- School News pg 4-6
- Blessings & Announcements pg 7

Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org



Wisconsin Lutheran
Seminary
Call Day Service
May 24 at 10am

Watch at
livestream.com/wslsive

Continued from pg 1

He prayed fervently and humbly asking God to deliver him from his brother. Later, what you just read above happened. Jacob wrestled with God! Maybe God is providing us the opportunity to wrestle with Him. We should pray persistently and pray boldly knowing that God hears our prayers and promises to bless us and His Church.

The parable of the persistent widow is another example of the power of persistent prayer. In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells us a story of a widow who wanted justice. Over and over again, she would go back to the judge and he would give the same refusal to her request. But, he finally did grant her justice because she kept going back to him persistently.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (ESV)

What a great lesson from Jesus on the power of persistent prayer. Jesus himself promises that the Lord hears our persistent prayers and grants them. Let us faithfully continue to pray – not only that God would send called workers to our church, but also for those who are already serving among us. God hears our prayers and answers when the time is right and according to His own perfect plan for us. Wrestle with God in faithful prayer and He will bless us.

Answers to Prayer

The Lord has answered our prayers by providing us with a complete school staff for the next school year. Our newest additions are John Melso—Principal, Carole Melso—Childcare Director, and Rachel Haugly—Kindergarten Teacher.



Miss Rachel Haugly was assigned to us as a spring graduate from Martin Luther College. She grew up in Fond du lac, where her father is a pastor. She has three siblings.



Mr. & Mrs. Melso currently live in Brookfield and serve at two different WELS schools in the area. They have four grown sons and two daughters-in-law.

Train Up a Child

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" Proverbs 22:6. This verse of scripture is a very familiar verse used in Christian education. In fact, you will find it on the first page of St. Paul's parent handbook. It simply puts into words what God has asked parents to do for their children. For over 100 years, St. Paul's Lutheran School has existed to partner with parents in accomplishing this lofty goal with their children. Christian education is something St. Paul's takes very seriously for the youth of our congregation. During those 100+ years, there have been many faithful servants who have entered St. Paul's classrooms to present the scriptures to the children sitting before them.

I would like to make special mention of the dedicated called workers the Lord has blessed me with as fellow servants of the Word: Connie Burow, Karen Duehlmeier, Brook Hilber, Dave Brown, Randy Pahl, Trisha Engelbrecht, Lexie (Smith) Tangen, Hannah Mueller, Sue Schachtschneider, Elizabeth Roecker, Karen Obsuszt and John Quint. Your dedication to your Lord and to your classrooms has made my life much easier as I never doubted whether or not the Word was being used throughout the day in your classrooms, or whether or not your students were receiving everything they needed in their other classes. Together, with the blessing of the Lord's hand, we have seen the ministry of the school flourish at St. Paul's. I am confident with the remaining called workers plus the addition of the new called workers being guided by the Lord, the school ministry of St. Paul's will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

As I look back at the last 12 years, I am thankful and humbled the Lord has chosen me to be one of those called servants. It has been a true pleasure and honor serving the students, families, and members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. I have found great joy working with many of you directly within the school and church in a variety of ways: school board members, church council, VBS, librarians, band and piano teachers, organists, technology people, substitute teachers, Tuesday and Thursday morning Bible Studies, lawn mowers, snow shovelers/plowmen, janitors, kitchen staff, secretaries, ushers, plus the hundreds of volunteers who have tried to make my job at St. Paul's easier. I hesitate to even try to put a list together because I am sure I will forget someone or some activity along the way. So, if I have worked with you and your activity didn't make the list, I do truly appreciate you. This list also provides ample evidence that it takes the whole church membership to make the church and school run smoothly.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of St. Paul's who have continually prayed for the students, families, teachers, and the general well-being of the school. Your prayers have not gone unheard nor unanswered. We see the blessings of your prayers each day as we enter our classrooms. I implore you to continue praying for your school and your church as the Lord ushers in a new chapter in the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. May the Lord continue to bless you!

In Christ,
Mr. Jon Engelbrecht



A Casual Farewell for Our Teachers

Sunday, June 10
Worship at 9am
Picnic Dinner at 11am
Brats & Hotdogs
Games & fun



A special thank you
to Jean Olari.
She served as the head
cook for our school
lunch program for 5
years. At the end of
the school year, she
will be moving on to
other endeavors.

School News

3K-4K News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

I can't believe we are almost done with this school year! Time has really flown but that tends to happen when you're having fun. Our 3K and 4K students have been busy this month working on sorting, exploring how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, we planted flowers in little pots for our playground, and we learned about rhyming words and practiced finding them in our story books. After our science week and learning about how things grow, our class has also taken an interest in watching portions of Planet Earth. The shark parts were our favorite. We are currently working on being authors and writing our own stories.



Before we know it, our 4K students will be graduating and moving on to Kindergarten! Similarly, this summer I will be moving on to Kindergarten at my new call at Grace Lutheran School in St. Joseph, MI. I struggle to find the words to describe how important my ministry here at St. Paul's has been to me and how much I will miss working with you and your children. God has given me the privilege to serve you and share God's saving message with you and your children in the classroom and as director of Little Lambs. Not many people get the privilege to teach the children they first heard about when their mother was expecting them, then to see them grow and develop from infancy into big school-aged kids. That will forever be a special part of this ministry that I will hold dear to my heart. I know that the new pre-school teacher and Little Lambs director, Mrs. Melso, will be a great blessing to you as I know that you will be a great blessing to her.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

7th-8th 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, Northland Lutheran High School Grade School Track Meet, Staff Appreciation Week, Safety Cadet trip, event coordinators for grades K-4 track meet, 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 2017-18. With Pastor Baur's early departure for retirement (ahhh, doesn't that sound sweet) we have been spending our extra classes together studying the Lord's Prayer in greater depth. U.S. History finds us down to our final few presidents including our newest addition of #45. 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, in science we have been "digging" in and trying to get to the "root" of the problem while studying the plant world!

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 2018 are as follows: Olivia Bredda, Riley Buck, Mia Tristan and Cora Zwicke. We pray for God's richest blessings to be upon them until we are gathered together, once again, in our heavenly home!

School News

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

I would like to use this final newsletter as my "swan song". I frequently remind my kiddos that we are one big kindergarten team that works together. I also am working as part of a team with all of you. This team has been amazingly supportive throughout the past 12 years. (it really *does* take a village to raise this teacher)

So THANK YOU to...

- those who were willing to jump right in to personally support me (some were even willing to set up my china hutch)
- those who prayed for me (over, and over, and...)
- those who saved me from the anxiety of recording music for, well basically, everything!
- those who kept me on top of deadlines (ironically, even the one for this newsletter)
- those who came to every school performance and many practices to make sure all the technology worked (there are sooo many buttons in the balcony)
- those who donated their time, talents, and treasures to our students (keeping track of misplaced books, or serving food to kids who are just going to spill it, or cheerfully cutting and copying papers)
- those who cleaned up after our little ones (who you'd think were too small to make messes of *that* magnitude)
- those who entrusted their precious children to my care and occasional wisdom
- those in the trenches with me who still throw a kind smile my way when I tell yet another student story
- those more experienced students who not only give guidance to the younger ones, but also still give their "old" teacher hugs and high-fives
- those who make sure our building is safe and keep things in working order
- and finally (I KNOW, enough already), to my principal who assists me 24/7 (I think I may have used the "squeaky wheel" philosophy a few times over the past years)



It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve my Lord through, and with you.

In His service,
Mrs. E.

School Cleaning Day



Lots of hands are needed on Wednesday, May 30, to deep clean the school. We will be cleaning the walls and coat racks/lockers in the hallways. Then, the desks and other furniture will be cleaned and moved out of the classrooms. Finally, the cabinets, lights, windows, and anything else in the classrooms will be cleaned. We also need a couple of people to wipe down the bleachers and clean under them. If you can help for a couple of hours between 3:00—8:00 p.m., it would be appreciated. Bring a bucket and rag or sponge!

School News



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

The school year is coming to a close and the Lord has blessed us in so many ways. We just finished with the Presidential Fitness testing. The students were tested in many different areas. They ran the mile run, shuttle run, curl ups, push ups and the sit and reach. There are certain times and standards to achieve presidential standings, national and then participant levels. All the students worked very hard at this. We were blessed to have the 7th and 8th graders to help us while the students ran the mile. They stood on each corner and helped time and keep track of the laps. What a blessing it was to have the older students help us.

Again, we are blessed in so many ways. I would like to also thank everyone that participated in Teacher Appreciation Week. I especially would like to thank Wendy Blum for heading everything up. I would also like to thank our librarian, Ms Henke. She comes in each week for the students and is so kind and helpful. Thank you for helping them. I would like to thank Mr. Young, Mason Young's dad, for volunteering in the library every Thursday. Mr. Young has volunteered to come in and help the students search for books while I help the students with the computers.

We are also blessed to have a full teaching staff for next year. Our prayers have been answered. We know that all things work for the good of those that love the Lord and it is all in God's timing.

We have many blessings in our classroom also. In Science we are finishing up our unit on weather. We have studied the different clouds, what a meteorologist is, the different types of weather watches and many more things. This is perfect timing for this time of year with the possibility of severe weather. The 2nd graders have finished their Reading books and are focused writing paragraphs in their Shurley English. They have written beautiful paragraphs about their mothers. The 1st graders are doing an amazing job with finishing up with their Reading books and have been working on contractions, doubling consonants and many other skills needed for 2nd grade.

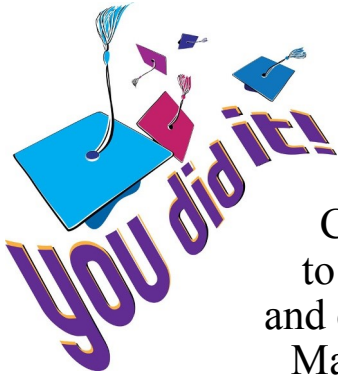
God's blessings on your summer.

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

I've heard it said that the school year, like an old clock, is "winding down". The school year in the month of May, however, seems to rather be rolling down a steep incline and coming to a sudden stop on May 25th. The extra activities have been ongoing. On May 3rd, the 5th and 6th graders took their annual spring field trip. The students toured the House on the Rock in Spring Green, WI. After an early lunch, we toured the house (which is really the house and a gatehouse, each built on a rock outcropping, as well as the Infinity Room, which projects out over the forest some 200 feet!). The tour continued with a series of museums/collections, displaying everything from a steam calliope to a giant fiberglass whale.

We finished the day with supper at Culver's in Reedsburg. Last Thursday, May 10th, the 5th through 8th graders attended the Northland Lutheran High School Track Meet. This Friday, May 18th, the 5th through 8th graders will attend the Safety Patrol Congress in Wisconsin Dells. The students will spend the day at Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park with other safety patrollers from across the state. This annual event is a thank you to the students for their participation in daily afternoon safety patrol at our school. And, by the way, we're still doing some schoolwork, too.





Congratulations
to our high school
and college graduates!
May the Lord bless
your future plans!

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through May 13, 2018

Current

- In memory of Pastor Baur's mother, Lyla Baur, given by Linda Pollnow

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Pastor Baur's mother, Lyla Baur, given by Huntz & Marilyn Link, Kathy Jackson, Carol Newsom, Vernon & Betty Meyer, and Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Larry Newsom given by Phil & Lynnette Wilson
- In honor of Pastor Baur given by David & Robin Koeshall
- In memory of Robin's mom, Doris Rehman, given by David & Robin Koeshall
- In memory of Robin's grandmother, Ina Knuth, given by David & Robin Koeshall

Mortgage

- In memory of Pastor Baur's mother, Lyla Baur, given by Elaine Martin

Pastor Teacher assistance Fund

- In memory of Pastor Baur's mother, Lyla Baur, given by Edna & Faith Haferman, Tom & Barb Reitz, and Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Janet Heister's grandson given by Tom & Barb Reitz

Boiler

- In memory of Jim Dempze given by Susie Dempze



**ST. PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

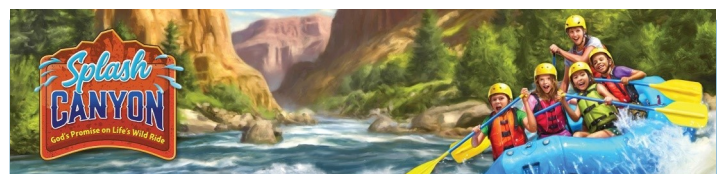


JOIN THE
RAFTERS FOR FAITH DAY

SUNDAY, JULY 1ST @ 4:05 PM

TICKETS \$12

ORDER FROM CHURCH OFFICE BY JUNE 15.



VBS - July 29-Aug. 2

Register Now!

stpaulswr.org/vbs

Counting Our Blessings

- The work of Mr. & Mrs. Engelbrecht and Mrs. Mueller within our congregation
- Answered prayers
- Our new staff members
- Teen Confirmands: Tiera Altmann, Riley Buck, Sarah Edict, Kaitlyn Hafermann, Matthew Higdon, & Mia Tristan
- The baptisms of Meilah Christine Champeau and Braxton Joel Servi
- Summer weather



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

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 46

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
June 2018 edition

Upcoming Events

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Friday, May 25

SCHOOL CLEANING DAY
Wednesday, May 30

RAFTERS FAITH NIGHT
Sunday, July 1

SPLASH CANYON VBS
July 29- August 2

FAREWELL "PICNIC"

Sunday, June 10
at 11:00 a.m.
brat & hotdogs
games & fun

