



St. Paul's EPISTLE

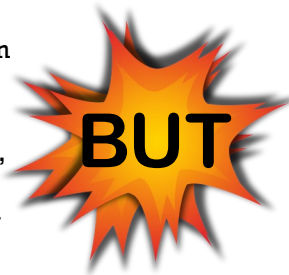
June 2019 edition

The Power of a Three-Letter Word

By Pastor Lucas Proeber

We've all heard something like this: "Oh, I'd love to go to your party (or event or first date or anything else), BUT I have other plans." That stings a little when you're on the receiving end of one of those quick switches. There are worse ways that little word can be used, though—perhaps after you slave over a meal or a special project for a loved one: "Wow, that was nice, BUT it could have been a lot better." Ouch. Something you poured your heart and soul into turns into something that tears your heart out and squashes it on the floor. "Listen, I love you, BUT this just isn't going the way I had hoped." "Yes, the cancer is gone, BUT we found something else."

This little three-letter word packs a big punch, doesn't it? It can make your heart instantly drop down into your stomach and bring on that feeling of illness that's in the same neighborhood of shock. Why do I bring this uncomfortable feeling up? I think, in a way, this little exercise helps us feel a small dose of the grief God goes through when we use this three-letter word in our relationship with him.



"I know church is important, BUT Sunday is the one day I get to actually rest." "I'd love to take fifteen minutes to read my Bible each day, BUT there are so many other things I could accomplish with that time." "Dear Lord, thank you for listening to my prayers, BUT you didn't get it exactly right." "I know God's Word is clear that what I'm about to do is sinful, BUT I just have to do it to be happy. He'll understand why I'm doing what I'm doing."

God is grieved when we make excuse after excuse for our sin. He hates hearing us tack on conditions to our promises. He doesn't like it when we are ungrateful for his mercies which are new and boundless every morning. When we add that little three-letter word on to our discussions with God, things can get ugly pretty quickly.

BUT, that's only half the power of this punch-packing conjunction. In Romans 3, one of the most powerfully positive uses of this word is presented to us.

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Reaching out with
the love of Jesus.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30 AM

www.stpaulswr.org

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“But

now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known...[which] comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

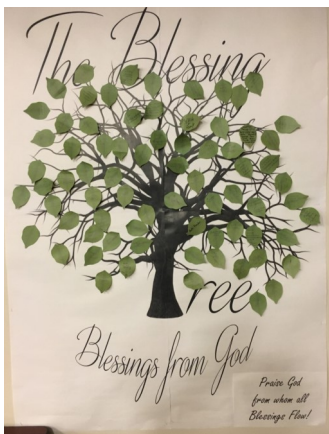
- Romans 3:21-22

Paul builds the case through the first two and a half chapters that “there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 3:12b). Just nine verses later, though, we come to this beautiful sentence: “BUT now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known...[which] comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (Romans 3:21-22).

That’s powerful, isn’t it? God’s powerful grace negates our sin and renders it powerless over our lives and over our eternity. So, that influences the way we work this word into our vocabulary. “Yes, I know you hurt me, BUT I still forgive you, because that’s what God has done for me through Jesus.” “I really want to do what I know is wrong, BUT I also know how grace compels me to live.” “I might be busy, BUT God’s Word is the most important thing I will ever have in my life; I want to make time for it.” “The answer to my prayer might not be what I was expecting, BUT God must have something better in store for me.”

Three letters. That’s all it takes to pack a powerful punch. God has shown you how he uses this word to show his powerful love for you. How will you use it in your life?

The Blessing Tree by The Stewardship Committee



It would be hard to walk into the Welcome Center and not see that large leaf-covered tree on the wall. Just as in spring the bare branches of a tree burst forth with new leaves, so did the Blessing Tree start with bare branches that with each passing week were soon overflowing with many new leaves.

The purpose of the tree was to first provide an opportunity for us to identify all the blessings that we have received. While our culture might tell us that we need a new car, or a new cell phone, or more TV channels, it is wise for us to pause and realize just how much God has blessed us with already. Many, many blessings were added to the tree in the first weeks.

The third week shifted from identifying the blessings to focus on giving thanks for the blessings received. We should daily give thanks to God for all that he provides for us each and every day.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to write down your blessings, your lists, your thoughts as a very visible reminder to Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.

Live Generously

Join us immediately following 2nd service on June 9th for 30 minutes. Matt Casper with Thrivent Financial will be sharing about the opportunities we have through Thrivent to make a lasting impact in our families, church and community. Learn about your benefits as a Thrivent Member and how to use them to benefit the church.

Not a Thrivent Member? No problem! Come and learn how Thrivent can help you meet your financial goals while living more generously! Matt will also be sharing about some educational workshop opportunities that are available to our church.

Refreshments will be provided! We are looking forward to seeing you!



With the Lord Richard Lau

Are You Ready for Some Summer Fun?

Finally, the cool, dark days of late winter are yielding to green grass, bright sunshine and mostly warmer temperatures. Soon another school year will become a memory and our thoughts will shift to summer fun.

Children's Festival Booth Brings out the Smiles

We participated in the Wisconsin Rapids Children's Festival in late April. A huge thank you to Carole Melso and Kellie Jensen who planned our booth. Their efforts made many children and parents smile. With the event theme of Birthday Party, children enjoyed playing with multi-colored rice in sensory tables and crafting birthday crowns. Also a special thank you to John Melso, Fred Camacho, Pastor Paul, Randy Pahl and Janet Heister who welcomed our booth guests. During this event, we met several new families, 43 of which shared their contact information with us, and expressed varying interest in our ministries. My personal experience was that all individuals approached asking for their contact information said "yes"! Not a single person said "no"! We have new relationships to nurture with 43 families! You all know this could not be accomplished without divine intervention, the Lord is truly blessing our work at St Paul's. Splash Party postcard invitations have already been mailed to these 43 families.

Splash Party – Saturday, June 15, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Locate your swim suits and favorite beach towels! Everyone is invited to our Splash Party! This Children's Outreach Event is planned to make use of the serendipitous placement of the community Splash Pad across from our property to help meet prospects. There will be games and activities for all ages and food and drinks will be served. We think you may especially enjoy the Water Balloon Launch Game. Did I mention that Pastor Proeber will be the target?!?!?

We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help make this event a success. Please stop by the Volunteer Boards in the Welcome Center to identify a way you can help in any of the following areas:

- ◇ Build or Create a Game/Activity
- ◇ Allow us to Borrow Items (please label so we can get back to you)
- ◇ Event Day Help
- ◇ Set Up & Clean Up
- ◇ Welcome Table
- ◇ Food Prep & Service
- ◇ Game/Activity Chaperone or Coordinator
- ◇ Be someone who seeks to welcome our Guests

Please bring your lawn chairs, including extras if you have them. Also, bring along any family favorite lawn games.

Lastly, please pick up some Splash Party postcard invitations from the Ministry Table to share with your family, friends, and neighbors and let them know we all would love to meet them or to see them again at this event!

Vacation Bible School

"Let's Build An Ark" Vacation Bible School will be July 28 through August 1. A VBS dinner will be served at 5:00 pm and the VBS program will run from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, an earlier schedule from past years to better serve families with small children. Volunteering for VBS is truly an enriching experience to see the joy in the eyes of children learning about God's Promises. Please consider volunteering, as a successful VBS event requires many helping hands. We hope to welcome back the experience of past VBS volunteers and add some new faces and talent, too. We will be announcing a Kick Off Planning Meeting soon.

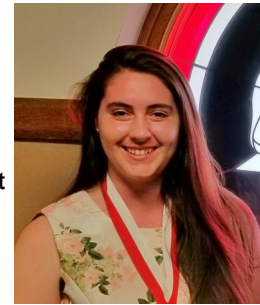
Please contact any Children's Outreach Ministries Task Force member with any questions, suggestions or ideas. Task Force Members: Emma Schroeder, Janet Heister, John Melso, Kent Schroeder, Linda Pollnow, Pastor Proeber, and Laurie Meister.



New Teacher Assigned to St. Paul's

by John Melso, Principal

On Saturday, May 18, the assignment committee of the WELS assigned Martin Luther College graduate, Josie Avery, to serve as a middle grade teacher at St. Paul's. Josie is from Burlington, Wisconsin where her father serves as principal at St. John's Lutheran School. She grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin and attended Shoreland Lutheran High School.



Miss Avery's teaching assignments are yet to be determined. We had requested a 7th and 8th grade teacher but were willing to take a middle grade teacher if an upper grade teacher was not available. Mr. Melso, Mr. Quint, and Mrs. Fiecko all have experience teaching upper grades, so we have a lot of options in filling Mr. Pahl's teaching duties. Miss Avery has gifts for teaching math, so we will look for ways to use her in that way.

Miss Avery will begin her ministry in July. We'll let you know if there are ways you can help welcome her to St. Paul's. Until then, keep her in your prayers and our faculty as we plan for next school year.

Anxiety and Lawn Mower Parents

Copies of the summer edition of Parents Crosslink magazine are now available. Digital copies were once again sent to day school parents. A few paper copies are in the information racks near the church mailboxes.

The cover article is titled, *Anxiety and Lawn Mower Parents*. I hadn't heard the term "lawn mower parent" prior to reading the article. I'm more familiar with the similar analogy "snowplow parent". Both terms refer to a parent who smooths the way for their children. The question for parents is whether it is better to prepare the path for the child, or prepare the child for the path. The writer of the article contends that lawn mower parents who strive to spare their child anxiety, actually prevent their child from fully developing coping skills to manage challenges effectively. Read the article. I'll think you'll find it interesting.



Little Lambs/3K-4K News – by Mrs. Carole Melso

Summer care starts on June 3rd.

THANK YOU to the Slinkman family for donating a climber for our playground. The kids love it!

Wish List: Playground wood chips, Riding toys, Sand toys, Playground play house, Playground balls, Any arts/crafts materials, Infant swing (indoor type)

A big THANK YOU from our Little Lambs' teachers for the wonderful teacher appreciation week. We are grateful to have you all as part of our Little Lambs' Family!

Classroom Highlights

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

The year is coming to a close. It is hard to believe that we have finished another school year. We have so much to be thankful for. I am thankful for all the volunteers that have helped throughout the school year. We have had helpers throughout the year that I would like to thank. We have had volunteers helping in the library, people making copies, and gentlemen cleaning our classrooms and so many more people to be thankful for. Thank you also for all our volunteers during teacher appreciation week. It was wonderful to have our lunch hour off to have some time to regroup.

I am thankful for those that helped with our BOGO Book Fair that we just wrapped up. We took in another \$916.55 in sales. Thank you to everyone who shopped the book fair and especially those who volunteered to help with it.

The students have been working hard to finish all of their material in 1st and 2nd grade. We have been busy writing paragraphs and writing book reports. In Christ Light we have been talking about how God has given us many different talents and how we should not waste them. The 1st and 2nd graders are both writing in cursive in handwriting.

I am excited to announce that this past week the 1st and 2nd grade class has been blessed with Mr. Noah Panzer, a MLC student and a former Northland graduate. He spent an entire week in our classroom doing his Early Field Experience as he is training to become a teacher and thinking after graduation of going back to school for his masters in administration. The students loved having him in the classroom. He taught a Reading lesson, Christ Light, and did devotions with the students. What a blessing to have this opportunity.

We went on an exciting field trip to Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells. We had an amazing time. Our tour guide was able to get the animals to talk to her. We saw tigers, monkeys and were able to feed llamas, deer, and giraffes right out of our hands. Thank you to all the volunteer chaperones.

I will be starting my last Synod Certification class June 4 and finish the 3 credit class June 14th. It is a face to face class in Appleton, Wisconsin. I would like to thank the congregation for supporting me throughout this process. It has been challenging at times since they give you 6 years to complete, and I will be completing the Synod Certification in 3 years. Thank you again for your support.



Field trip to Timbavati Wildlife Park.



Mr. Noah Panzer from MLC helps with recess.

Classroom Highlights

Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugly

Christ Light: Jesus has now ascended into heaven 40 days after he has risen from the dead. We will finish off the school year by learning how God wants his people to share his word to all people!

Guided Discovery: In Guided Discovery, we have spent time learning about insects! This class loved learning about those little critters. We investigated that insects have 6 legs and 3 body parts. The class loved drawing insects with chalk at recess.

Reading: We know all 26 letters now. What an accomplishment! They are ready for first grade!

The highlight of the month: Field Trip to Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells.



Fun at the Timbavati Wildlife Park in Wisconsin Dells.

3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mrs. Destinee Fiecko

Well it's certainly hard to believe we're already wrapping things up for the year! My first school year at St. Paul's has been completely full of the Lord's wonderful works through all of you. Thank you for your support!

I want to thank the helpers and volunteers that give of their time in service to the church and school. My particular thanks go to those people who have made such an impact helping me with prep work and papers. You know who you are, and I am SO THANKFUL to you! I am also extremely grateful to the amazing crew that work so hard to keep our facilities clean. You are rockstars!

In Science class we are finishing out a unit on our largest organ, skin. We even fingerprinted the class this week, and studied how awesome God's work is in even the tiniest details of our bodies.

In Word of God we have studied through the early acts of the apostles, up to Philip and the Ethiopian. Watching God's plan of salvation spread through the world in history is always a thrill of mine.

We have put away the basals in Reading and are finishing the year with novel studies. 4th grade is reading *Shiloh*, and 3rd grade is reading *Stone Fox*. Pick up a copy and read along with us!

Finally, thank you to everyone who heard my plea to park away from the kickball diamond - we are using it every day that it's not raining! My students are grateful for the room to run.

May Jesus bless and keep you this summer, and always.

Classroom Highlights

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

The 5th and 6th grades have been on the road this month. We took our annual spring field trip to Manitowoc. We visited the Lincoln Park Zoo in the morning and enjoyed lunch in the reptile building. (That didn't sound right at all, did it?) In the afternoon we toured the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, including a 45 minute walk through the USS Cobia, a World War II era submarine that is similar to the 28 submarines that were built in Manitowoc during the war. The next day we tried to figure out how they got those submarines to the Atlantic Ocean without the St. Lawrence Seaway (it hadn't been built yet). Ask a 5th or 6th grader if you want to know the answer! Last Friday we went to the Dells and spent the day at the Mt. Olympus Theme Park. The students go for free as a thank you for their service as Safety Patrollers this year. As the end of the school year approaches, we will wrap up reading class by enjoying a murder mystery, *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. Students will also be reading the last of their nine independent books. Cultural Studies will finish with *Peso's World Tour Game*, a fun review of the countries we studied this year.



Students at the
Lincoln Park Zoo

Bowling
in Plover.



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

It certainly has been a unique end of the school year which has been directly affected by our snowy winter. Due to the loss of a number of school days in February (and April!) we have added more days in May to academia than in recent history. However, there are numerous "other" activities that have recently taken place or still need to occur some of which include: Staff Appreciation Week, Bowling in Plover, the Safety Cadet trip to Wisconsin Dells, Confirmation essays and Confirmation, the Closing Service and Graduation, plus last day school activities. Sprinkle in the wrapping up of all areas of "normal" classroom activities and it is no wonder why students and faculty alike MAY look forward to some well-deserved time off in the weeks which follow.

We are also closing in on the conclusion of all our studies for 2018-19. Our Christ Light lessons have encouraged us in our interactions with one another (and all people); 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 2019 are as follows: Ian Antoniewicz, AnnaLeigh Hillemeier, Bree Kaehn, Layla Matthews, Brianna Obsuszt, and Brandon Van Stedum. We pray for God's richest blessings to be upon them until we are gathered together, once again, in our heavenly home!

Council Highlights by Garth Perry, President

This report will provide a brief summary of some of the key topics discussed at the monthly Council meeting. This summary does not include all items discussed by the Boards or presented at the Council meeting. Full board reports and minutes are available in the church office. As always, please speak with a member of the Leadership Council if you have any questions.

Counting Our Blessings

- New members:
Bill Eichhorn,
Tara Voda &
Jamie Voda
- Our Teen
Confirmands:
Ian Antoniewicz,
Lilly Higdon,
Bree Kaehn,
Ben Klingforth,
Brianna Obsuszt,
and Brandon
Van Stedum
- A new teacher
- 43 new outreach
contacts from
Children's
Festival
- Summer
activities
beginning

- ◆ To better coordinate ministry at St. Paul's, all requests for door offerings or special projects should be presented to the appropriate board and approved by the Leadership Council.
- ◆ Parsonage 2 on Lily Lane has been unoccupied for some time. Repairs are needed primarily for the flooring and mold remediation. The Council approved expenditures of up to \$10,000.
- ◆ Randy Pahl, Pastor Proeber, John Melso, and Garth Perry have been discussing ways in which Randy would serve if he accepts the part-time staff minister call.
- ◆ Pastor Proeber discussed options for adopting a Bible translation at St. Paul's. The synod's Translation Evaluation Committee favors a different version than the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). Pastor Proeber recommended spending more time reviewing translations before adopting a specific translation for use at St. Paul's.
- ◆ The director of food services for WRPS requested the use of our facility during days of inclement weather this summer. The Board of Properties will work with the director following the guidelines of the facility use policy.
- ◆ The Board of Lutheran Education is discussing presenting an end of year evaluation survey for parents to provide feedback on the school. Further details will be provided in the future.
- ◆ The Board of Lutheran Education, Board of Outreach, and Pastor Proeber discussed the outcome of the Children's Festival. There are several interested families – both in the school and in Bible class activities. The Board of Outreach reported that 43 families shared contact information for follow-up.
- ◆ There will be a Splash Party on June 15. Details have been posted in the Welcome Center.

Note from the Treasurer by Kevin Meister, Treasurer

The current fiscal period is less than six weeks from ending, and the final draft of the proposed 2019/2020 budget is being completed for subsequent presentation to the voters on June 9th. During this process of developing the next budget, a review was made of the impact of the various stewardship efforts, namely, the Grace of Giving effort. The level of ministry support during the first third of this year was compared to the same period for the prior 3 years. What was learned is that your support for the ministry of St. Paul's has shown a notable increase of 12% following the Grace of Giving effort. Similarly, a review was also made of the expenses associated with our ministry during this same time period, and this shows an increase of an even 5%. A check of government statistics revealed a cumulative inflation rate over the past 5 years of 7.8%.

Voters Meeting
Sunday, June 9
at 9:15 AM

Parsonage 2 Repairs by Fred Camacho, Board of Properties

Through the recommendations of the Board of Properties, the Council has decided to proceed with the restoration of Parsonage 2 on Lily Lane. The parsonage is close to 35 years old and has had only minor improvements or upgrades. It is fair to say it requires a moderate facelift for the pastor (and his family) that our Lord has chosen to be our associate pastor.

What needs to be done? Since September of 2018, the Board of Properties has made several inspections of the home resulting in several recommendations. Needed upgrades:

- 1) Cleaning carpeting in the four bedrooms.
- 2) New wood flooring in the kitchen, dining room and living room (These require replacement due to water damage.)
- 3) To somewhat upgrade the kitchen, replacing cabinet doors and countertop as needed.
- 4) Carpeting in the lower level to be professionally cleaned.
- 5) Laundry room will need some work to remediate mold issues.

When Sharon Baur was diagnosed with ALS it was understood some modifications would need to be made for ease and comfort of living. Devices necessary for movement were installed. This will necessitate minor repairs consisting of filling screw holes and painting.

The Board of Properties has proposed a budget of \$10,000.00 to accomplish the above. These repairs need to be accomplished before the Board will recommend occupancy.

Further repairs that would be nice: Repair of the deck (decking, railings, and stairs) and perimeter fencing. Currently, this is not a safety hazard. However, repair will be needed within a couple of years.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Current

- In memory of Marvin Raasch's sister, Carol Ziebel, given by Huntz & Marilyn Link
- In memory of her mother Doris Rehman given by Robin Koeshall
- In memory of Vic Kulhanek, Sally Johnson, Randy Pahl's dad, and Rich Lau, given by Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Richard Lau given by Inge Johnson, Gary & Judy Stensberg

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Marvin Raasch's sister, Carol Ziebel, given by Edna & Faith Haferman
- In memory of Carol Newsom's brother-in-law given by Edna Haferman

Pastor/Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Ken Knapp given by Ron & Georgene Provost

Endowment Fund

- In memory of Richard Lau given by Stephanie Bathke, David & Robin Koeshall, LaVern & Delores Becker, Jack & Pat Fluno, and other friends & family
- In memory of Sally Johnson given by friends & family

Outreach

- In memory of Ken Knapp given by Larry & Veronica Klish

The Board of Elders is looking for contact information on the following long-absent members: Andrew Paape, Marc Staton, Amanda Zwicke, and Justin Zwicke. If we can find no way to contact them, they will be recommended for removal from membership. However, their membership can be re-instated. If you have any information, please contact the church office.

To schedule your photos for the new church directory, either call the church or visit our website www.stpaulswr.org and tap on Schedule Your Photo Session.





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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June 2019 edition

Upcoming Events

- Church Directory Photos
June 5-8 & 12-15
- Live Generously Presentation
June 9 at 11:45 a.m.
- Baby Bottle Campaign Ends
Father's Day ~ June 16
- Serving at the Food Pantry
June 17-21



Pastor Lucas Proeber • 989-780-3184 • pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org