



St. Paul's EPISTLE

March 2018 edition

See You in Church

By Pastor Baur

I joined the YMCA way back when. In fact, my family has been members of it as long as I can remember. Nice building. Nice people. (At least most of them.) But I never go. Maybe someday I will go, but for now, I can exercise at home. That is, if I want to or need to.

Tell me, how would you respond to such a statement. Doesn't it sound a little ridiculous to say, I belong, but I never go.



Did you know that I have heard a similar statement? It goes like this. I joined that church way back when. In fact, my family has been members there as long as I can remember. It's a nice building. Nice people. (At least most of them.) But I never go. Maybe someone day I will actually go to church, but for now, I can pray at home. That is if I need to or want to.

Somehow, people view the first scenario as ridiculous, but when it comes to the church, it sounds reasonable. People see the need to workout when they understand their weakness and want to be stronger. However, until they see the importance, they find it easy to stay away, usually with the justification that they can exercise at home. In reality, they seldom do.

The same is true of the church. Usually its members don't appreciate the need to go unless there is a sudden catastrophe or loss. After all, that is what the church is there for, right? But what about gaining strength to deal with the days ahead? What about forgiveness to deal with the guilt of the past? Church is the place where you consistently learn what is yours through faith in Jesus. That is why you don't just belong. That is why you go there.

Over the past years, it has been noted that fewer of our fellow members are in church. We have missed them. So here is an encouragement to spend time with your church family. See you in church.

God's House.
Your Home.

- **More Changes Ahead** pg 2
- **Buy Easter Flowers** pg 3
- **Together We Shine at NLHS** pg 3
- **Spiritual R&R for Combat Vets** pg 3
- **School News** pg 4-6
- **Online Tools for Spiritual Growth** pg 7
- **Your Gifts, God's Blessings** pg 7

Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org

Buy an Easter Flower

You can help beautify church for Easter morning. Just purchase a potted Easter flower or green plant for the Decorating Committee. After the plants are used for worship, they are yours to keep or give to a friend.

There is a flower chart in the Welcome Center, which lists the flowers they will be using in this year's display. Take an envelope from the chart. Fill it out and place your payment inside. You can put your envelope in the offering plate or turn it into the church office.

Your plant or flower can be picked up after the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday or later that week. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Mallek at 715-424-1055.

If you would like to help the Decorating Committee get ready for Easter, join them on Saturday, March 31 at 9:00 a.m. They will be busy taking down the window coverings from Good Friday and setting up the Easter morning decorations.



Together We Shine at NLHS

You are invited to join the celebration at Northland Luther High School (NLHS) on Sunday, March 4. Their Together We Shine event has a casual, open house format that allows you flexibility on when you arrive and how you participate. Enjoy a catered chicken dinner. Be entertained by talented students in the gym. View student artwork in the main hallway. Make bids in an exciting silent auction. See demonstrations in robotics, solar energy and STEM class. There is even a Future Wildcat Room for younger children.

The open house runs from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. For details pick up a brochure from our Welcome Center or visit nlhs.org. Reservations are needed by February 28. Celebrate the ministry of NLHS, where you "shine like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life." (Philippians 2:15-16)

Lent/Easter Concert
at NLHS

Sunday, March 18
At 3:00 p.m.

Spiritual R&R for Combat Vets

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is honored to host a "Combat Veteran Spiritual R&R" on May 4-6 at Camp Phillip near Wautoma, WI. This retreat is open to WELS/ELS veterans since 1991 (men and women) who have post-traumatic stress related to their service. The Bible studies, discussion, activities, and worship will target this spiritual enemy.

The wounds of war run deep; especially the ones unseen, in the heart and mind. Guilt is real and relentless. Christian warriors will come together to hear of God's grace and mercy that binds what is broken, heals what hurts, and destroys the spiritual enemy.

There is NO COST to the participants. All expenses are covered by LMSG. To learn more about this retreat or the ministry of LMSG, visit lutheranmilitary.org.



School News

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

Dull, Drab, February? Not in Kindergarten!

Who doesn't like a good reason to celebrate? We find them in droves. We started off our month celebrating Christian Education Week; the reason our school exists. When the Bible speaks of faith like that of a child, they could have been speaking about us! That sounds like a fabulous reason to celebrate. Our faith really bonds our class together. It is also comforting to know that all "my" children are in God's family.

Next we moved on to Groundhog's Day. We voyaged into animals' winter habits while appreciating the holiday for what it is...another reason to spice up a long winter.

One week later we celebrated...the 100th day of school! We have grown and developed so much since day 1. It's one of the reasons being a Kindergarten teacher is so rewarding. You are able to watch your students bloom while being showered with hugs...which leads us to the next holiday, Valentines' Day! This year Valentines' Day shared the honor with Ash Wednesday. This occurrence helped to strengthen my main theme: We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

We finish off the month learning about our country for President's Day and taking a field trip.

So, if winter is getting you down, come join us in Kindergarten! It might even be nice enough for "outdoor" recess.

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

We have been very busy in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom. We were very thankful to have the opportunity to celebrate Christian Education Week last week, but we still were able to stay plenty busy in the classroom.

In Reading, the 2nd graders have completed their first book report. We have learned about capturing the main idea, their favorite characters, their favorite quote and writing down who the author is. They even had the chance to illustrate their favorite scene of the book. The 1st graders are continuing to work on their phonics skills and they read a story about a map. Then they were able to draw a map of either their house or bedroom. They had a good time with this. Look for these maps in their graded papers.

In Spelling, we made flash cards for our spelling words and then we got to quiz each other. This was a fun way to learn with our friends.

In Christ Light, we are learning it is necessary to feed our soul just as we need to feed our body. We also talked about the importance of baptism and even Jesus was baptized not because he had to be, but because it was part of God's plan. Many of the student's expressed interest in becoming baptized.

In Science, we have been learning that there are 7 continents and the names of them. We even have a song to go with them. We also learned there are 5 oceans. We even made volcanoes erupt.

In Music, we are in small groups creating our own songs. Our songs go from a slow tempo to a fast tempo.



School News

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

Rats, mice, birds, and shrews have invaded our classroom! Fortunately for us, it's just the skeletons. We just finished our owl pellet investigations and the students are now creating a display of the bones they discovered in their pellet. Stop in and see them! They are another reminder of the beauty, intricacy, and diversity of God's creation!

The month of February has brought much uncertainty to our classroom and our school. The loss of half of the full-time staff has left us pondering what the 2018-2019 school year will bring. We anticipate many changes to our school. The one changeless thing, of course, is God's care and mercy, which he showers on us in ways we sometimes don't even realize. I ask for your continued prayers and support as the remaining staff tackles the difficult challenges God has placed before us in the coming months.

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

A “heart-filled” greeting is being sent your way from all of us in grades 7-8 in this month of February. We certainly hope you had a “love-ly” month thus far; one in which you had the opportunity to share the love of your Savior with all those whom the Lord has placed in your lives!



At the time of the writing of this article, the basketball season has not yet officially drawn to a close. On February 2nd we wrapped up Christian Education Week with away basketball games against St. Peter's of Schofield. On Saturday, February 24th, St. Paul's will be heading up to the Northland Lutheran Grade School Tournament. We would like to send out a great big THANK YOU to Mrs. Chelsie Thuecks and Ms. Jess Kruger who faithfully served as our coaches once again this season. And, finally, congratulations to our girls, boys, coaches, parents and fans for a wonderful year of representing St. Paul's Lutheran School!

Also, in February, we have been busy academically. In our Christ Light lessons we have been engaged in discussions surrounding our prayer lives and why the Lord might sometimes tell us to “wait” for His time. Algebra class has been filled with multiple ways of solving equations with two variables, while 7th grade math begins to take more and more and more and ... steps in preparation for next year's algebra course. In science we crawled inside a cell and barely escaped from the mighty mitochondria, while in history class we are specifically delving into a study of the presidents and revisiting Mr. Brown's song – “Carter, Rea-, Carter, Rea-, Carter, Reagan, Bush” (for those of you former students).

And, finally, with the news of the Lord moving Mr. E and Mrs. Mueller to accept their Divine Calls to St. Joseph's and Onalaska, we also extend a “heart-filled” thank you for their years of faithful service here at St. Paul's. May the good Lord continue to bless them (and us) in the ministry of feeding His lambs!!!

School News

Corn Hole Tournament

We had a new event during this year's Christian Education Week, a cornhole tournament. We had 14 teams sign-up for the inaugural tournament. There was a variety of skill levels ranging from the first time corn bag tossers to the seasoned veterans who have perfected their craft in the backyard in years past.

The teams were divided up into two, seven team round-robin brackets. This gave everyone six matches to determine who would play for 1st through 3rd place. The first place team was 6th grade student, Rose Paul, and her Uncle Brody Knutson. Second place was secured by 7th grade student, Nick Leberg, and his dad, Scott. The 3rd place match was a family affair. The 3rd place team was 4th grade student, Matthew Vollert, and his mom, Kari. They defeated big sister, 5th grader Macy Vollert, and their dad, Jared.

All in all, it was a very successful evening enjoying a couple hours of fellowship between school families. We look forward to the tournament next year.



When We Are There

By Macy Vollert – 5th Grade

When we are there in our final home, with our Savior, Our Sovereign Lord,
 We will need no money, no clothes, nothing but our gracious Lord.
 There will be no work, for we will be with our Lord, and we will be resting with
 Jesus in our everlasting home. Yes, I can imagine what
 It will be like. There will be no suffering or pain, but we will
 Be greeted by the Lord and reunited with our loved ones.
 It will be perfect, and we will be in paradise.
 When we are there, a faith shall we share.

These poems were the winners of the Helen Kroening Memorial Poetry Contest. Each winner was awarded a prize of \$50.

God's Gift

By Henry Woltman – 6th Grade

God loves you and me, he died up on the tree.
 He shed his blood on Calvary that we all may be free.
 Free from eternal death, free from sin and shame.
 Free to live forever to call upon God's name.
 We can call in time of trouble,
 He'll listen when we're sad.
 He'll be there when we need him to save us from the bad.
 God loves you so very much, accept him now today.
 Kneel down and close your eyes, and this what I say.
 I am sorry for my sin, forgive me Lord today.
 I want to live for you, to live for you always.



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Upcoming Events

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP
MARCH 25-APRIL 1**

Palm Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday at 3:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday at 12:10 & 6:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday at 7:00 & 9:30 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
Sunday, April 29 at 9:00 a.m.**

**PASTOR BAUR'S FAREWELL
Sunday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m.**



Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424