



St. Paul's EPISTLE

March 2019 edition

A Restoration Project By Pastor Lucas Proeber

I'm not much of a mechanic. I have a brother-in-law who knows everything there is to know about cars, so I've picked up some car knowledge here and there just from talking to him or seeing his posts on social media. One of his favorite things to do is find old parts or an old chassis to bring back to life. He refurbishes and renews parts that may have been sitting in a barn for years with no maintenance whatsoever. When he's finished with them, they not only work; they work and look and run better than they ever did before.



But something else I've learned about that kind of work: it doesn't happen overnight. In fact, it takes an enormous amount of time and patience. My brother-in-law knows that, but that doesn't make the process go any more smoothly or quickly. There are certainly bumps in the road. I'm sure there have been days when he would've rather not started the project or when he would rather give up and move on to something easier and more rewarding.

Do you sense that same thing can be said about our congregation? You could say that, for a period of about two years, due to circumstances that no one (other than God) could have foreseen, St. Paul's was like a car that had no maintenance, no checkups, no repairs. Anyone who has worked closely with cars knows that a couple years of no maintenance spells trouble for a car. Metals rust, fluids need changing, dents occur, parts just stop working—and they all affect how efficiently the car runs.

Apply that to the church: there are dents in people's hearts, perhaps from a bad experience or a soured relationship; some aspects of ministry were left sitting idle, simply because people didn't know how to continue that aspect without pastoral guidance; some people entirely withdrew from church and stopped giving of themselves because they didn't see a point in being part of a congregation that didn't have a "mechanic" to conduct "regular maintenance."

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God's House. Your Home.

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**Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

www.stpaulswr.org



“Restore us,
O God;
make your face
shine upon us, that
we may be saved.”
- Psalm 80:3

A Restoration Project continued from pg 1

(I'm using broad generalities. I realize there were ministries that continued and became quite strong through this time. Thank God for his continued work through you!)

I'm not God; I can't promise instant miracles like turning water into wine or raising the dead to life or making a large mortgage disappear with a flick of the wrist. But perhaps God has brought me here to be a spiritual mechanic—to use the tool of the Word of God to smooth out those dents, to get those parts that were more idle running again, to find the pieces that fell off the chassis entirely, to strengthen the parts that still work the way they always have.

This is a big vehicle we're a part of here at St. Paul's. There's no way, barring a miracle, that we can get up and running to full speed as quickly as we would like. It takes time and patience to refresh ministries; to call back the lost and disengaged; to heal from past hurts, whatever they might be. It also takes wisdom and selflessness to acknowledge and determine what is going to glorify God the most in our unique circumstances. To put that another way, not every car uses exactly the same parts to function properly—especially when you're restoring an old car, you will probably have to decide what works best for what you want the car to do. We must look at why we are here and what we can do to best serve that purpose.

While we continue to move forward, continue to pray. Pray for patience when you don't see immediate changes or results from things that are being done. Pray for me, that I might be a faithful “mechanic.” Pray for wisdom in how you can use your gifts and abilities to help all our ministries get back to full speed.

Finally, no matter what we do, God has our course all lined out for us. Pray for God to bless our efforts and to show us how best to serve each other and those in our community with his gospel message. Because without his gracious blessing and gospel message, nothing else we do matters one bit.

Counting Our Blessings

- Faithful volunteers who keep our sidewalks and parking lots clear of snow
- Attendance at Sunday Morning Bible Study is up
- Christ died for our sins
- Music—in worship, at school, in concerts
- Soap, deodorant, toilet tissue, etc.
- Times for fellowship

Lent Begins March 6

Join us for midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays, from March 6 through April 10. This will give you an extra opportunity to focus on Jesus and his sacrifice for our sins. The theme is “Three Words of Truth” with each service focusing on a three-word phrase from Jesus' passion and resurrection. There is a service at 3:35 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. with supper serviced in between.

To spread out the work involved in our fellowship suppers, we ask that all members pitch in to help. We've divide the congregation into three teams with each team serving twice during Lent. There is set-up, serving, and clean-up work to be done before, during, and after the meal, so help as it fits your schedule. If your last name begins with the letters A-J, please help on March 6 & March 27. If your last name begins with the letters K-O, please help on March 13 & April 3. If your last name begins with the letters P-Z, please help on March 20 & April 10. We also ask that you bring bars or another dessert to share. We hope you enjoy this time of fellowship and service.

From the Principal

A lot of activity is planned for the month of March. Keep an eye on the calendar and announcements regarding Opera for the Young on March 5 and Kindergarten Roundup on March 9. New Sunday Bible Class topics begin in March as well. For a change, Mr. Melso will conduct Bible study the first two Sunday's in March. Lenten services begin on March 6. Grades 7-8 will sing in church on March 17. Finally, spring break will give students and staff a week off at the end of the month.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the book fair. Thank you for all who made purchases. We were able to raise just over \$2,500 for the library. Special thank you to Mrs. Obsuzt for heading the event.

We are taking applications for next school year. Currently enrollment is open for returning students and members of St. Paul's. Open enrollment to the public will begin in March. **NOTE THAT PRSCHOOL IS ALMOST FULL.** You can apply online at StPaulsWR.org/school.

Classroom Highlights

3K-4K News – by Mrs. Carole Melso

Our unit of study on Polar Animals was a good fit with our weather these last few weeks. The students enjoyed learning fun facts about polar bears, beluga whales, arctic foxes, reindeer, etc. We were able to include lots of practice on some of our basic skills including sorting by attribute, comparing more/less, counting, letter sounds, and social skills. We are practicing our song to sing in church on Feb. 24th. Hope you can join us!



Please note that Registration for our 3K and 4K program is open now. We are filling up fast and open enrollment to the public will begin on Feb. 25th. If you are interested in applying please go to our website www.stpaulswr.org/school. That will bring you to an online application form. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugley

Christ Light: This month we have learned about the birth of Jesus. I know we just finished the celebration of God's Son, but the stories were planned out for now. The Kindergarteners were excited to hear about Jesus' birth again. Also, we started hearing about the miracles that Jesus performed.



Guided Discovery: It's been hard to get to our Guided Discovery with all these snow days, but we've had some fun reading Dr. Seuss books last week. The Kindergarteners are getting the hang of rhyming.

Reading: We are up to knowing 16 letters now. As a result, the Kindergarteners are on full throttle to reading all by themselves. Only 10 more letters to go before they know all 26 letters. How Exciting!!!!

Classroom Highlights

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

Book Fair: We had a very successful Book Fair despite our wintery weather. Our final sales came in at \$2,594.38. We will be able to use 50% of that to purchase new books for our library. Thank you to everyone who was so willing to help out this year.

Science: In Science we have been busy classifying, predicting, measuring, and observing. We pretended to be scientists and ended the unit with an experiment. We used vinegar and baking soda to make a balloon inflate over a plastic bottle. Then we wrote about what happened. Our hypothesis was accurate. There was chemical reaction that took place.

Handwriting: We have been practicing for the Zaner Bloser Handwriting Competition for the past couple weeks. Colton Bain is our 2nd grade winner and Elysia Chapman is our 1st grade winner.

Christ Light: We are reminded just like when Jesus turned water into wine and when He healed the official's son, nothing is too big or small for him. We are his children and he loves us. 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Reading: We have been working on writing 2 point paragraphs in 2nd grade. In 1st grade we have been writing paragraphs with a web outline. We also are continuing to build our reading chains in our classroom. For every 10 pages in a chapter book or every picture book the student gets to add a link to their chain. Our room is full of paper chains from the ceiling. Then we do a class reading party when we reach a certain level.



Join us for
Opera for the Young
Tuesday, March 5
at 9:30AM

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

Our focus in 5th and 6th grade during the last month can be summed up in one word – Theatre. The highlight of February was a grade 5-8 field trip to Wausau East High School to see a performance of Big River. Big River is a musical adaptation of the Mark Twain classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The music and lyrics were written by Roger Miller. Professional actor/singer Jay Pierce played the lead and Middle and High Schoolers from the Wausau area rounded out the rest of the cast. St. Paul's alumnus Wyatt Jensen (NLHS class of '19) had two speaking parts as well as a singing/dancing part in the chorus. They practiced for three months to bring this play to the stage. We had an awesome time!

Next month (March 5, weather-permitting), we will have our biennial visit from the Opera for the Young company. Students in grades 5-8 will be participating in the original children's opera, Super Storm. Come and join the fun! Special thanks to Mrs. Fiecko for preparing our students for the show.

Classroom Highlights

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 8th we wrapped up Christian Education Week with away basketball games against St. Peter's of Schofield. On Saturday, February 23rd St. Paul's would 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, Ms. Jess Kruger, and Mr. Jon Blum who faithfully served as our coaches 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 how we faithfully serve our God and others with our time, talents, and treasures. Algebra class has been filled graphing linear equations, similar as to how they will be done in high school. 7th grade math has begun taking more and more and more and ... steps in preparation for next year's algebra course. Science has revolved around the study of the sun; while in government class, a closer look at Amendments one, four, and fourteen have kept us busy figuring out the difference between rights and responsibility.

With Ash Wednesday (March 6th) just around the corner, may the yearly journey to our Savior's cross keep your hearts and minds focused on our awesome God during the days and weeks before us.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m.

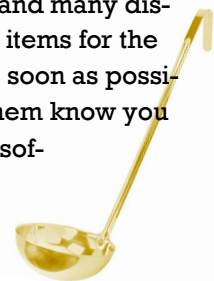
If you have a child entering kindergarten next year, please plan to attend the Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. Our principal will answer your questions about our school while your child enjoys some fun activities with the kindergarten teacher. Meet other parents and see the classroom. Please let us know if you will be coming by calling the school (715-421-3634) or emailing the principal (principal@stpaulswr.org).



TOGETHER WE SHINE

Sunday, March 3 ~ 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Northland Lutheran High School's (NLHS) annual Together We Shine event has a new twist this year: Each congregation is preparing a large roaster of soup to serve at the buffet, and diners will vote on the best soup. A Golden Ladle Award will go to the best soup, and an Empty Bowl Award will go to the first soup gone. The rest of the afternoon will include presentations, performances, a silent auction, and many displays. If you are able to donate items for the auction, please contact NLHS as soon as possible. Please call or email to let them know you will attend (715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org).



Attention: **YOUR** prayers have been answered with a **"YES"!**

Thank you for **YOUR** prayers following the January communications about our Children's Outreach Ministries. What a tremendous blessing to have **YOUR** prayers answered with a **"YES"!** St Paul's now has a Children's Outreach Ministry Task Force and not one, but *two* co-leaders for the Children's Festival Event on April 27!

Our Task Force members of Janet Heister, John Melso, Kent Schroeder, Linda Pollnow, Pastor Proeber and Laurie Meister have met and began the 2019 planning process. We have decided against pursuing an Easter for Kids this year with the close timing to the Children's Festival. We will plan an Easter for Kids in 2020. Our goal is to have a plan of events spaced throughout the year that allows us to invite prospects to successive events. With this goal in mind, we decided to create a new outreach event called Summer Splash Party for the month of June. The repeating Trunk-or-Treat event was also merged into our calendar.

I'm very excited to share the terrific news that Carole Melso and Kellie Jensen have volunteered to lead the **Children's Festival** event on Saturday, April 27! Our Lord provides! This festival is a free event for families of our community co-sponsored by the Child Care Advocates Council and the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools. The goal is to make many different experiences available for children of our community. Under the "Birthday Celebration" theme, Carole and Kellie will be developing a plan for the St. Paul's booth activities. This is a terrific opportunity to increase awareness of the blessings of St Paul's in the community we serve. If you are interested to assist with this event, please contact either Carole, Kellie or any member of the Task Force.

As the calendar turns to June and the children are done with school (how many snow days?!?), it will be time to find your swimsuits and favorite beach towels! We are planning to make use of the serendipitous placement of the community splash pad across from our property to help meet prospects. Saturday, June 15 has been selected for the **Summer Splash Party** event. The Task Force will be developing a plan and identifying volunteers for this event. Please share your ideas to make this an extraordinary outreach event with any Task Force member.

Vacation Bible School has been set for the week of July 28. The Task Force will be exploring possible altered hours enabling an earlier ending time than 8:00 pm to better serve families with small children. We will advise as soon as the final schedule is identified.

While we are developing specific plans for specific outreach events, the Task Force is also discussing and identifying key elements that will make children's outreach events as successful as possible. In our last meeting we agreed to a set of roles and responsibilities we accept as Task Force members. At our next meeting we will use some team tools along with the varied and rich experience of our Task Force members to identify the "needs" of prospects that if "met" are more likely to result in a prospect returning to St. Paul's for any reason. The learnings from these team tools will then be used to improve our event plans.

So, what can you do?

Please pray for our Task Force. Pray that we grow into a high functioning team that honors our Savior, as we tap into the diverse skills and knowledge of our team members and others in our church body. Pray the collective effort of our Task Force will be blessed with results surpassing what individuals could achieve. Please also pray for Carole and Kellie as they develop the plan for the St Paul's booth at Children's Festival. Pray that their fresh ideas and approach will be blessed with plentiful fruit.

Is it possible our Savior is moving your heart to volunteer for Children's Outreach Ministry? To date we have nine Event Volunteers for our six planned events and many more will be needed. We are grateful to those who have already volunteered and look forward to learning how you may be able to help support this ministry focused on bringing the Good News of our Savior to the unchurched in our community.

Please call or email me to volunteer or ask any questions you may have.

Laurie Meister

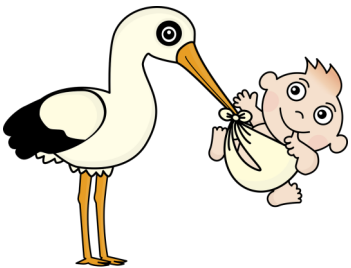
715.570.9560 ~ meisters.kclm@gmail.com



Community Hygiene Drive

Imagine not having toilet paper or deodorant. Hygiene and cleaning products can be expensive, and they are not covered by Food Share (formerly Food Stamps). To someone in need, toothpaste and soap can be a real blessing. Our community is collecting items like these for local crisis agencies. This frees up money, so they can use their limited funds to provide qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve.

Through March 10, we will have a collection box in our Welcome Center. The most urgently needed items are laundry soap, trash bags, shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care. Many other products are needed as well. A complete list is posted on the donation bin. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.



Our childcare has openings for infants. Contact Little Lambs at 715-421-3634 or littlelambs@stpaulswr.org.

MY GIFT OF SERVICE TO GOD

Look for this box each month in the newsletter highlighting a way you can volunteer your time and talents at St. Paul's. This month, consider volunteering in our school by choosing one of the following activities:

- Photocopy handouts for teachers
- Put up or design a bulletin board
- Help serve hot lunch
- Read to kindergarteners
- Help monitor recess or lunch hours
- Laminate and cut out items for teach-



MLC Choir in Wausau

The Choir from Martin Luther College of New Ulm, MN is on tour this March. On March 22, they will have two performances in the Wausau area. At 12:45 p.m. they will be at Northland Lutheran High School. That evening at 7:00 p.m., they will be at St. Peter Lutheran Church – the Schofield campus. You are welcome to attend either performance.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through February 17, 2019

Current

- In memory of Pat Heideman given by Jack & Pat Fluno

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Sam Henke, brother of Charlotte Carlson & Rosie Oesterreicher, given by Jeanne Jackson
- In memory of Tom Venus' father, Judy Pahl's father, Jerry Blum's sister, and Linda Pollnow's mother-in-law given by Mike & Judy Anderson

Altar Guild

- In memory of Jack Koch given by LaVern & Delores Becker

School

- In memory of Jerry Blum's sister, Lois Wainwright, given by Tom & Barb Reitz, Jerry & Barb Blum, Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Sarah Higgins and John & Dawn Higgins
- In memory of Rosie Oesterreicher & Charlotte Carlson's brother, Sam Henke, given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Judy Pahl's father given by Vernon & Betty Meyer

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Tom Venus' father, Lloyd Brock's mother, Jerry Blum's sister, Judy Pahl's father, and Linda Pollnow's mother-in-law given by Edna Haferman



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Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
March 2019 edition

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday Worship
March 6 at 3:35 & 6:30 p.m.

Open Forum on the Call
March 17 at 9:15 & 11:45 a.m.

MLC Choir in Wausau
Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays
March 6 - April 10
3:35 & 6:30 PM

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