



St. Paul's EPISTLE

May 2017 edition

Be Faithful

By Pastor Mumm

Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, says to His believers, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev. 2:10).

On the third Sunday of May, 2017, nine teenagers at St. Paul's are scheduled to confess their faith in the LORD God. They will confess their Bible-based faith in the Father as their Creator and Preserver; in the Son, Jesus Christ, as their Savior from sin, death and damnation in hell; and in the

Be faithful,
even to the point
of death, and I
will give you the
crown of life.

- Revelation 2:10

Holy Spirit as their faith-giving Counselor who inspired chosen believers to write the Books and very words of the Holy Bible. They will also promise to be faithful to the LORD God and to His Teachings and Commandments. These teenagers were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and instructed in the major teachings of His Holy Word. By God the Holy Spirit, they were called to and offered the saving faith in the LORD God and in His forgiving love and salvation which was earned for them by the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is somewhat easy to confess our Christian faith and promise to be faithful to the Lord and His Word, but it is very difficult to sincerely believe in Him and to be faithful to Him and His Word. The forces of evil are daily at work to destroy our Christian Faith and to lead us into false beliefs and wicked ways of living. The devil and his demons are real! Our sinful and rebellious nature is real! The unbelieving people of this world are real! Left to ourselves, these forces of evil will overpower us and we will be unfaithful to the LORD and His Word and may even lose the Christian Faith and Salvation!

Continued on pg 2

God's House.
Your Home.

- Pastor Baur Plans for Retirement pg 3
- Open Forum on Service Times pg 3
- Going to Chile pg 3
- School News pg 4-5
- Do We Wisely Love Our Children? pg 6
- Join the Email Prayer Chain pg 6
- Endowment Fund Committee pg 7

Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am

www.stpaulswr.org

Be Faithful continued from pg 1

All thanks and praise to the LORD our God! We need never be alone in our battle against the powerful forces of evil. The Almighty LORD is with His believers! His inspired Word tells us, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6).

The LORD our God has given us the weapons of His love, His Word, His Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and of prayers to Him in our daily battles against the forces of evil. As we faithfully and wisely arm ourselves with God's Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit will keep us in the true and saving faith in Jesus Christ and empower us to be faithful to His teachings and commandments. If we foolishly fall into sinful thoughts, words and actions, by means of the Good News of God's love and salvation, the Holy Spirit will empower us to repent of our unfaithfulness. By means of the Good News about Jesus and His salvation, the Holy Spirit will preserve our Christian faith and faithfulness.

We must, however, be on our guard against the lies and false teachings of the devil and his deceived followers. We must wisely and faithfully read and hear God's Word, partake of the Lord's Supper, and pray to the LORD our God for His help and protection. By the faith-giving and faith-preserving power of God the Holy Spirit, we can and will say "No" to the forces of evil and say "Yes" to the LORD and His teachings and commandments.

Jesus Christ, our Savior and God, has defeated Satan and the other forces of evil in this world. Our Savior died in full payment of our debt of sin and physically rose from death to life in victory over the forces of evil. With Jesus as our Savior, we can face and overcome the devil, the unbelieving people of the world, and our own sinful natures.

God the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write these words, "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all --- how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32). May we face the forces of evil with faith in Jesus as our God and Savior. We will then say with confidence, "God is for us and nothing can stand against us!"

A Prayer for Our Confirmands

Dear Father in heaven, we come to you in prayer on behalf of the nine teenagers who, on May 21, will confess their Christian Faith and promise their Christian faithfulness at St. Paul's. Please empower them to sincerely believe in Jesus Christ as their God and Savior and in the teachings of Your Word. Please empower them to faithfully hear and read Your Word; to partake of the Lord's Supper; and to call upon You with prayers of thanksgiving and of requests for Your help. Dear Father, please be with them and send Your holy angels to guard and keep them safe from the evil forces of the devil and his deceived followers. Please bless them with Your love, forgiveness, and with everlasting life in the perfect happiness of heaven. Please empower them, out of love for You, to live Christian lives and to be Your lights of love, truths and salvation. We ask You to protect and bless them in the sacred name of Jesus Christ who is our only Savior and is the one, true God with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Our 2017 Confirmands

Kaleigh Buck
Tyler Derringer
Carson Hacker
Laura Klingforth
Ellie Kracht
Morgan Overturf
JaVae Poteat
Karli Rickaby
Josie Roach

Counting Our Blessings

- New Members
Meghan Steffens,
Gordon & Sharon
Strehlau and
Arnold Payne
- Our confirmands
- Those doing the
Lord's work
locally and across
the globe
- Our pastors
- The Lord listens
when we pray.
- Mothers

Pastor Baur Plans for Retirement

My brothers and sisters in Christ

As many of you are aware, there have been health issues in my family. Five years ago my wife Sharon was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Initially we thought she would only live for 18 months or so, but months have turned into years. Even though she has lost many of her abilities, she continues to be an encouragement with her words and example. In addition, perhaps not as well-known is my recent diagnosis of the early stages of Parkinson's disease. It is yet another neurological disease that affects body strength and movement. So far the medication that was prescribed has seemed to produce positive results.

These more recent revelations or realizations have made me realize how fickle and fading future plans can be. It has reminded me how mortal we are and that life is shorter than our initial perception. Since life is getting short, we focus to make sure that the important gets done and the special gets enjoyed. All these perspectives tend to direct life's decisions. So after prayerful thought and family input, I wanted you to be aware of my future plans so you can better prepare for the ongoing ministry at St. Paul's. After serving among you for over 30 years, I plan on retiring from the pastoral ministry at the end of June, 2018. Hopefully this information will give us more time to better plan for future staffing as well as future ministry.

God bless you all,
Pastor Baur

Open Forum on Services Times

Pastor Mumm will complete his time of service with us at the end of May. We are unsure of our ability to get another vacancy pastor. Therefore, we are having an open forum between the services on Sunday, April 30, to discuss consolidating to one service on Sundays and moving midweek service. The Council is suggesting having worship on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. with Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend and give your input.

Going to Chile



Your prayers are requested for Ron and Barb Wolff, members of our church family who are on a mission trip in Chile, South America. Since their retirement, Ron & Barb have served the LORD as members of the Builders for Christ, a division of the WELS Kingdom Workers. They have helped build church and school buildings throughout our United States, in Germany, and now in Chile.

In June, another member of our church family, Melissa Christenson, will be traveling to Southeast Asia to promote literacy and to spread the Gospel message. Melissa is a young mother of three.

If you are interested in helping to build churches or schools or in assisting in Gospel outreach at mission congregations in the USA or in other countries, please consider the Christian work being done by WELS Kingdom Workers and Builders for Christ. You can serve for a week, a month, or a longer period of time. For more information, visit www.kingdomworkers.com or call 414-771-6848.

St. Paul's School News

3K & 4K News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

Our preparations for our play paid off! Stone Soup was a great success! In addition to working on our play, we've been busy working on learning about counting, number recognition, spring, and about our Savior's suffering, death, and resurrection. We even started working on learning our phone numbers and addresses and continued working on our letters A through W.

Summer care is coming up quickly. Please return your summer care request form as soon as possible! There is no registration fee for current Little Lambs families!



The school children perform *Stone Soup*.

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

Like you, we are enjoying SPRING in our classroom. The season is full of New Life, which is why it's the perfect time to celebrate Easter. Many Kindergartners are hearing the "story of Easter" for the first time. They already knew that Jesus paid for our sins on a cross, but that was as far as their knowledge went. There is a reason it is also known as the Passion History. The sorrow and joy are inescapable. It has been delightful to see their spiritual growth over the course of the holiday.

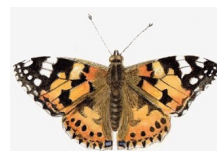
We have also been seeing new life in our science lessons. We did a unit on growth. We have been watching our bean plants grow as we learn what each part of the plant does. We are also now learning about life cycles as we watch our caterpillars grow and change. We too are growing and changing. This spring has been a learning experience for us!

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

Our spring has been very eventful. We have released our butterflies. The children got to see the entire change from larva to chrysalis phase to the butterflies. They were beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies. The students were happy to release them and watch them fly away.

We also just finished the St. Paul's talent show. The 1st and 2nd grade class danced to a variety of music we titled it, The Evolution of Dance. If you didn't have a chance to attend, you can still see it because it was live streamed on our website. The website is stpaulswr.org. Click on Warch Worship LIVE and then click on St. Paul's Got Talent. The students did an amazing job. I am so proud of them.

We will be testing for the Presidential fitness test. The students are tested in a variety of areas including strength, flexibility, and endurance. With everything wrapping up, we can be certain of one thing and that is that Jesus has Risen and our sins are forgiven!



3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

The wonderful world of 3rd and 4th grade is heading down the home stretch to the end of the school year. As we have traveled this road the last month, math has become challenging. We have almost finished our multiplication facts in 3rd grade, which also means we have almost finished all our single-digit division facts! Now, we get the fun task of looking forward to two-digit division! 4th grade has not been much easier. We have been working on two and three digit multiplication problems. Two-digit long division looms in our future. We have taken an indirect look at indirect objects in English. Finally, we wrap up our month by taking a look at important people and places in Wisconsin during our social studies class. Each student had to pick a person or place, compile research data on their choice, and then make a presentation to the class with visual aids. The class did a wonderful job.

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

I'm happy/sad to report that nearly two dozen eggs gave up their lives for science. As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, our 5th and 6th graders (and their teacher) used their knowledge of simple machines (levers, pulleys, inclined planes, etc.) to build Rube Goldberg devices with the goal of cracking an egg or popping a balloon. The students did an excellent job on their machines and many spectators enjoyed the destruction and mayhem. * * * Our annual spring field trip is coming up soon. On Friday, May 5th, we will be trekking to Green Bay to tour the National Railroad Museum. We'll also make a pilgrimage to the hallowed ground of Lambeau Field. * * * As the end of the school year approaches, we will be wrapping 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 Travel Game*, a fun review of the countries we studied this year.

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

If you recall our article from the March newsletter we told you about the "madness" that was about to take place before Spring Break and boy were we right! Below is a recap of the two main events that took place...



At the Spelling Bee on March 23, first place went to 5th grader Riley Fairbanks. Second place was captured by 8th grade student Ellie Kracht. Third place was awarded to Bree Kaehn from grade 6.

At Northland's Academic Challenge, 1st place finishers included the following: Ashton Bredda, Carson Hacker, Riley Buck and Trayce Hacker started us out by locking up team honors in the science competition for grades 7&8. Also securing a 1st place in the Bible Bowl for grades 5&6 was the team of Brianna Obsuszt, Ian Antoniewicz, Dakota Jensen and Halle Matthews. The 5&6 grade team of Riley Fairbanks, Lexi Nowak, Rose Paul and Emma Schroeder grabbed the gold in geography. While on an individual basis it was Ian Antoniewicz (grade 6) who out-spelled everyone in grades 5&6.

Finishing in 2nd place for the overall championship for grades 5&6 was the team of Brianna Obsuszt, Ian Antoniewicz, Dakota Jensen and Halle Matthews.

And, finally, in the spelling competition, Josie Roach (grade 8) grabbed the 3rd place medal, while the team of Bree Kaehn, Layla Matthews, Makahla Pagel and Aubrey Tristan also earned a third place finish in the Bible Bowl for grades 5&6.

Congratulations to all of our students for doing an outstanding job of representing our school!!

Well, were we right or what? With May lurking just around the corner we know that we will have much more to report on next month. It is our hope and prayer that the knowledge of a risen Savior brings you joy and peace that passes all understanding!

Do We Wisely Love Our Children?

By Pastor Mumm

Most parents love their children and want to do what is good for them. They wish to give their children love, food, clothing, shelter, education and happiness. Most parents, however, do not wisely love their children. Why? Because they give their children earthly and temporal good things, but often neglect to first and foremost give their children God's spiritual and everlasting good things.

Many children, who were loved by their parents, will hate their parents forever as they live forever in the horrors of hell. Their children will weep and say to their parents, "Why didn't you teach us to know and believe in the true God and His love, forgiveness and salvation! Why did you neglect to bring God's saving Word to us in our home and at our Christian church and at a Christian school or Sunday School? You gave us earthly treasures, but you deprived us of the everlasting treasures of God's Word and His love, forgiveness and salvation!"

If we wisely love our children, we will have them baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; we will teach them God's Word in our homes; we will faithfully worship the LORD God at our Christian church and in all things strive to set a God-pleasing example of living before them; and we will have them attend a Christian school and/or Sunday School.

The true and saving faith in Jesus Christ is given to and preserved in us and our children by God the Holy Spirit. He comes to us and our children by means of Holy Baptism and the reading and hearing of God's Word. Through faith in Jesus Christ, and only through faith in Jesus Christ, we and our children have God's love, forgiveness, power to live a God-pleasing life, and everlasting life in heaven. We starve ourselves and our children to death, to spiritual and everlasting death, if we neglect to faithfully hear God's Word with them in our homes and at our Christian church.

How happy our children and we will be in heaven. In heaven, our children, grandchildren and other people, to whom we have given God's Word of Love and Salvation, will love us. They will thank God and us for bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His teachings to them. They will say, "Thank you Dad and Mom and Grandpa and Grandma for teaching us to know the true God and His forgiving and saving love in Jesus Christ. Thank you for setting a Christian example of faith in Jesus, love for Jesus, worship of Jesus and living for Jesus."

May we wisely love our children and be an everlasting blessing to them!

Mother's Day
is May 14.



Let the little
children come to
me, and do not
hinder them, for
the kingdom of
heaven belongs to
such as these.

- Matthew 19:14

Join the Email Prayer Chain

At worship we pray for people in the congregation who are ill or have had loved ones pass away. You have good intentions of praying for them throughout the week. However, by the time you get home you can't remember who was mentioned. If that sounds familiar, then you may want to sign up for our email prayer list. We will send you updates once or twice a week, so you know who is in need of prayer. To be added to our list, just drop a note to us at churchoffice@stpaulwr.org. You can also sign up on our website. Look for the link on our Prayer Requests page.



On March 26,
the Lord called home
Neil Wittrock
at the age of 85.

Greetings from the Endowment Fund Committee

As a refresher, this committee was established to care for a specific fund called the Endowment Fund. This fund provides an option for giving to St. Paul's. Gifts are invested and the growth, or return, on these investments is used to support various ministries or projects at St. Paul's.

A few of the items that have been funded over the years were a new Smart Board for a school classroom, fresh woodchips for the school playground, sealing of the church parking lot, a new folding machine for the office, and funding for Stephen Ministry. Also, it should be noted that with a cheerful heart and love for God's kingdom, the Wally Johnson Estate contributed a gift of \$10,000 to the Endowment Fund. The growth from this gift will be distributed on a yearly basis to the school tuition assistance fund.

Our committee consists of four members: Stan Sukow - President, Ross Provost - Secretary/Treasurer, Marla Mueller, and Randy Pahl. We usually meet 3 to 4 times a year. During these meetings, we examine where the original gifts to the fund are invested and if any changes should be made. The gifts are currently invested in a WELS Investment Fund and a note at Northland Lutheran High School. Additionally, at our meetings, we consider possibilities and requests for distribution to support the Lord's work at St. Paul's.

If you have a project or mission that may need some assistance, please contact any of the members of the committee. We gladly accept ideas to consider for distribution, whether they be small, medium or large.

Also, if, after prayerful consideration, God leads you to give to this fund, please speak with one of the committee members. We look forward to serving you and doing the Lord's work, in order that His Kingdom may be furthered through each and every one of us.

In Christ,
The Endowment Fund Committee



Special Gifts and Memorials

Through April 16, 2017

Current

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Larry Ubinger and Barb Manz
- In memory of Jim Manz, who would have been 80 this month, given by Barb Manz

School

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Vernon & Betty Meyer

Mortgage

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Carol Newsom, Mike & Judy Anderson, Larry & Veronica Klish
- In memory of Max Hoppe given by his family

Cheerful Givers

- Robin Koeshall's sister, Cynthia Menden, given by Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Sue Bobrowski

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Robin Koeshall's sister, Cynthia Menden, given by Tom & Barb Reitz

Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Edna Haferman

Handbell Choir

- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt

Easter Flowers

- In memory of Alvin Haferman given by Edna & Faith Haferman
- In memory of Arthur & Eleanora Henke, Arnim Henke, Leila Loechler, Ray & Ruth Stake, Elmer & Margaret Henke and other relatives and friends given by Nona Henke & Robert Stake



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
May 2017 edition

Upcoming Events

National Handbell Festival Concert
Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m.
at Lincoln High in Wisc. Rapids

National Day of Prayer Service
Thursday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Confirmation Service
Sunday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m.



Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424 · Pastor James Mumm · 608-780-7106