



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

May 2018 edition

## So Very Different, But Very Much the Same.

By Pastor Baur

There is a comment I have heard lately that simply says, "It's going to be real different around here next year." There is no getting around it. So much will be different. Look at the turn over when it comes to staffing in our school and preschool. We are losing our preschool director and principal and our Kindergarten teacher and part time help. To cover that lack of staff, we will call to fill the vacancies. How many will be filled and when they will be filled, only God knows. In addition to the school we have been calling for pastoral staff. Two years of waiting and praying has not filled the position and when I step down just weeks from now, it may be before the last vacancy is filled. It is going to be different. It will not be the same as we say good bye to familiar faces. It is will be different as we say hello to new faces as we welcome new staff. There is no getting around it, things will be different.

That is OK, isn't it? New faces come with new perspectives; fresh minds are filled with fresh ideas. We are not locked into doing things the same way as before. Every person has different strengths. Each person has different insight. There is no sameness in how God created us all. Once again, it is going to be real different around here next year.

No matter how things are different, there are some things that never change. We will still have a need for Jesus. We will continue to experience the Lord's love and forgiveness. There will still be comfort from the promise that God makes to us. That will remain the same. And so amid the changes that will take place, the same message will be preached and taught. The only difference is it will be shared by different people. What a blessing for all of us. Things will be different around here next year, that we can be sure of. So very different, but very much the same.

Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will never pass away."

—Matthew 24:35



God's House.  
Your Home.

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**Sunday worship  
at 9:00am**

**[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)**

## New Faces... In the pulpit



God's timing is perfect. Just as Pastor Baur is retiring, the Lord has provided another pastor to help us through our vacancy. Pastor Dennis J. Valleau is retiring to the Rome area this spring. He has expressed a willingness to lead our worship service two Sundays a month and serve in other ways one day a week. Many of you met Pastor Valleau when he first preached for us on April 8.

Pastor Valleau provided the following summary of his life: He was born in Milwaukee in 1950, where he was baptized. Later in life he was confirmed at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in West Allis.

Pastor Valleau married his dear wife Claudia in 1974, and together they served St. John's Lutheran Church in Baraboo during his vicar year. After graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1976 they moved to Allentown, PA, where he served Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Allentown and Ascension Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, PA.

In 1978 he began to serve St. John's Lutheran Church in Allegan, MI. During some of the time there, he also served Christ Lutheran Church in Holland, MI, and served as Circuit Pastor as well as in several conference and synodical positions.

In 1988 he began to serve St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City, MN, where he served until 2015 when he accepted the call to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wabasha, MN, and Grace Lutheran Church in Nelson, WI. While serving at Lake City he also served as the first Circuit Pastor for the new Eagleview Circuit.

Pastor and Claudia have three children: Charles (Chelsea) Valleau (children Trinity, Wyatt, and Evelyn), Michael (Rebecca) Valleau (children Bethany, Kendra, Evan, and Naomi), and Amanda (Dan) Kreuter. All live in the Twin Cities area.

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## ...In the classroom



The Lord has blessed us with a teacher for our 3rd-4th grade classroom. Mrs. Destinee Fiecko is a 2008 graduate of Martin Luther College. She served St. Peter's Lutheran Tiny Treasures Preschool in Mishicot, WI from 2009 to 2011. Mrs. Fiecko then served Immanuel Lutheran School in Manitowoc, WI, from 2011 to 2013. She is currently teaching in the public school system in Marshfield.

Mrs. Fiecko's husband, Bryan, works for the Menards store in Marshfield. The Fieckos have two small children, Thatcher & Ruby. For the time being, the Fieckos plan to keep their home in Marshfield, and Mrs. Fiecko will commute.

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## ... In the parsonage?

While we will continue to call for a Lead Associate Pastor, the voters have also asked our district president to look for a graduate from the seminary to fill our second pastoral position. Seminary graduate assignments will be announced during a service at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary on Thursday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. You can watch the service online at [livestream.com/WLSLive](http://livestream.com/WLSLive).

## Farewell to our Pastor

Pastor Martin Baur is retiring from full-time ministry. He came to St. Paul's in 1985 after serving four years at Valley View Lutheran Church in Helena, MT, so he has served our congregation for 33 years. Pastor Baur will be preaching his final sermon at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 6.

In thanksgiving for his service to us and to the Lord, we will have a farewell luncheon following the service. People are welcome to greet the Baur family after the service. The luncheon and program will get underway around 11:00 a.m. We ask that everyone attending the luncheon bring a dish to pass – a casserole, a salad, or a dessert. If you are able to help with set up, serving, or clean up, please contact Randy Deboer at 715-423-9638 or patmdeboer@gmail.com.

The Willing Workers placed 3 X 5 cards in all of the member mailslots. These are for sharing a memory, Bible verse or word of thanks with Pastor & Mrs. Baur. These notes will be compiled into a scrapbook and presented to the Bours as a gift.

We hope you will join us for this special event.



A farewell for Mr. & Mrs. Engelbrecht and Mrs. Hannah Mueller will be held on Sunday, June 10. Tentative plans include brats & hamburgers and a corn hole tournament. Be sure to save the date!

**SAVE THE DATE!**



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



**JOIN THE  
RAFTERS FOR FAITH DAY**

**SUNDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 4:05 PM**




**Be part of Splash Canyon VBS!**  
July 29-Aug. 2

Life is full of thrills and spills! We don't know what's around the bend, but God does! As staff members for Splash Canyon VBS, you have fun and share that message with the kids! We have many ways to be involved full or part time that suit your schedule and interests.

Call Greg Paul at 715-424-0449 or email [gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:gregorystevenpaul@yahoo.com) for more information.

## School News



Our Preschool and Kindergarten students perform "The Tale of the Gingerbread Man."

### Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

What an April! These kiddos are keeping me on my toes. We started the month with a field trip at Northland Lutheran High School learning about seeds. We had a biology lesson that tied to a Bible lesson about planting the seed of faith on four different types of ground. We also planted seeds which will grow in the community garden.

We moved on to preparing for our play. This year we performed "The Tale of the Gingerbread Man" for an adoring crowd. Pleasantly, this class enjoyed being in the spotlight and even hammed it up a bit, which I prefer over having a terrified cast of actors.

Next we celebrated the Week of the Young child. A local artist came and guided parent and child to create a canvass painting together. The process helps us have a meaningful experience while creating artwork to hang that reminds us of this time together.

All during the month I as teacher had to keep digging into my wide toolbox of teaching materials. These kiddos are so motivated that I am digging out first grade lessons for them in both reading and math. They have a bit of a competitive nature too at this age. We are constantly setting goals and breaking them. For example: the record for reading 30 sight words right now is 13 seconds; our record in gym is catching 37 bounce passes; in math we are at math fact level 46 from the first grade curriculum, but a previous class made it to level 50 so we NEED to beat that level too; we even set the record for the most teeth lost in one year. Last year we lost 31 teeth, this year we are already up to 32! (to name a few goals we are keeping track of)

The good news with all of these goals, is that we know we are a team. We work together to make each other better. We have teammates and partners almost all day long. And this is just April! Stay tuned for our accomplishments in May.

## School News

### 1st-2nd Grade News

– by Mrs. Karen Obsuszt



Some of Our Students at Plant a Seed Day.

Well, although it seems more like winter than spring, we had our spring field trip. We went to Northland Lutheran High School for Plant a Seed Day. Although, the weather was colder than anticipated the Northland students and staff did a great job with all the younger children indoors. There were 99 K-2nd graders in all from our school and other WELS schools. We made homemade pizza, played games with all the kids in the gym, planted seeds, had a short Biology lesson on seeds, had a devotion in the new chapel, and then we got to eat the pizza we made for lunch. We have been told that we will be invited back to Northland to pick the produce in the summer or fall from the Giving Garden. We had a great time.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

April has been an exciting month for the 3rd and 4th grade students. April is always highlighted by our “St. Paul’s Got Talent” show. This year the students put on a wax museum exhibit. Each student had to choose a famous historical person who might be in a museum somewhere. Students then had to do research on the important contributions their person has done for the United States. On the night of the talent show, each student dressed up to represent their historical figure, had a speech prepared to give to people who stopped by their exhibit, and prepared a background which contained a picture and other important facts about their historical person. It was a great success.

On April 18th, the class took a field trip down to Miller Park. The CBS TV station 58 out of Milwaukee was putting on a science fair for students around the state. The focus this year was on severe weather in Wisconsin. Students learned how tornados are formed, the importance of staying away from downed power lines, the effect the sun plays on weather, and many more interesting severe weather facts. After the main presentation, the students were able to walk around the concourses of the stadium and learn more about severe weather with several hands on exhibits. We then were able to watch the Brewers defeat the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 on a two run home run by Eric Thames. It was a great day!



Chase Leberg as President Kennedy.

# School News

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

Guess who's coming to dinner! Our state study has concluded in Regional Studies, and we are now focused on American history. The Civil War has ended, and we are fast approaching World War I. The students' end-of-the-year project will be to plan a dinner party for eight famous people from American History. Each historical figure has to be seated next to someone who did not live during their time period, yet they need to be able to share at least one topic of discussion. (In my example, I have Sacajawea seated next to George Washington Carver and Sally Ride. Carver, a world-renowned botanist, will be talking about all the new plants Sacajawea and her group discovered during the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Sally Ride and Sacajawea will compare notes on exploration of the unknown).

We just started our last in-class chapter book in reading class. We're reading Zilpha Keatley Snyder's *The Egypt Game*. Students are also finishing their 8th independently read book.

In May, we will be traveling to the House on the Rock in Spring Green, WI, for our annual field trip.

## 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 in the next month and boy were we right! Below is a recap of the three main events that took place...

### March 22 = Spelling Bee – Grades 5-8

1st place went to 6th grader Riley Fairbanks (for the 2nd consecutive year!)  
2nd place was captured by 8th grade student Mia Tristan  
3rd place was awarded to Dakota Jensen from grade 6



Our Spelling Bee Winner

### March 23 = Northland's Academic Challenge – Grades 5-8

It was nothing but 1st place finishers this year which included the following: In 7th grade Ian Antoniewicz captured the top spot with his instrumental piece on the saxophone, as did 6th grade student Mitchell Kracht on the glockenspiel. Also, 6th grader Dakota Jensen was the individual winner for the Geography Bee.

In team competition grades 5-6 saw championships secured by: Emma Buck, Halle Matthews, Jamie Meister and Emma Schroeder in Science, while the team of Dakota Jensen, Mitchell Kracht, Koen Roach and Henry Woltman won the Bible Bowl, Team Challenge and tied for 1st place overall !!!

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

### April 13 = Talent Show – Preschool-Grade 8

This event is always a hit with adults, students and children alike! The band and hand bells performed, as well as individual instrumentals, piano and vocal solos. There was the ever popular preschool/ kindergarten play as well as art, science and historical displays. All-in-all it was another talent-filled evening executed by our awesome students!

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!



## In the Mailbox

Dear Christian Friends,

I want to thank you for your prayers, cards and visits while I am recuperating at home. I am getting stronger every day with the Lord's help. I am so thankful for his blessings, and God's blessing to you all.

Elaine Martin

### Counting

#### Our Blessings

- Our unchanging Lord God
- Retired Pastor Valleau
- Our new teacher, Mrs. Fiecko
- Pastor Baur's 33 years of service at St. Paul's
- New member Melissa Brock

To St. Paul's Congregation,

We would like to thank everyone who donated money to St. Paul's Youth Group at the Easter Breakfast through the freewill offering. We would also like to thank the anonymous donor that so generously gave money to help cover the cost of the Youth Rally. We appreciate everyone's generosity. Words cannot express how grateful we are, just as it says in Romans 8:28, "and we know that God works for the good of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose." We are very excited to have the opportunity to attend the Youth Rally in Ohio and appreciate everyone's effort in making this possible.

In His Service,

Wyatt Jensen, Alyssa Antonewiecz, Karli Rickaby & Mikayla Obsuszt

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the abundance of food you collected for the Backpack for Kids program. Currently we fill 29 backpacks full of food for each weekend of the school year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,

Mrs. Ann E. Lepak

## Special Gifts and Memorials

*Through April 16, 2018*

### Current

- In memory of Joe Feaster given by Randy & Pat DeBoer
- In memory of Hjalmer Hanson given by his wife Suzan Hanson, Jack & Pat Fluno, Earl & Judith Reu

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Carol Newsom's husband, Larry, given by Bev Churchill, Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of John Lemke given by Ron & Georgene Provost

### School

- In memory of Cheryl Woltman given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson
- In honor of Vern Meyer's 90th birthday given by Scott & Cindy Gasch

### St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Cheryl Woltman given by Kent, Kristie & Emma Schroeder

### Handbells

- In memory of Marilyn Sigler's mother given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt



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

### Upcoming Events

**PASTOR BAUR'S FAREWELL**

Sunday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m.

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Friday, May 25

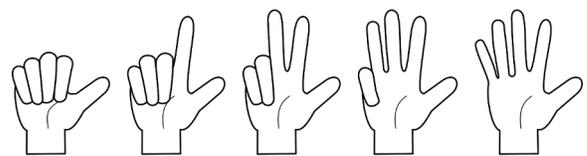
**FAREWELL FOR TEACHERS**

Sunday, June 10

**RAFTERS FAITH NIGHT**

Sunday, July 1

### Prayer at Your Fingertips



National Day of Prayer Service

Thursday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m.

(Led by our 7th & 8th grade class)

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424