



St. Paul's EPISTLE

November 2016 edition

Are We in the Last Days?

By Pastor James Mumm

Jesus Christ tells us that this universe and our earth will suddenly come to an end and all people will stand before Him for judgement. On that Last Day of this world's history, Jesus will say to everyone who has repented of their sins and trusts in Him as true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit and as the only Savior from sin, death and eternal damnation, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world" (Matthew 25:41). Then, God will destroy this sin-corrupted universe and earth. The Apostle Peter was inspired by God the Holy Spirit to tell us, "But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10).

Jesus warns us about the lifestyle of unbelieving people in this world's last days. Our Savior says, "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increases in wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:10-13). Jesus also tells us that the Last Times will see wars, famines, earthquakes and many destructive events in nature and in human society.

Are we in the Last Times of this world's history? It would appear that we are, but the early disciples of Jesus, some 2000 years ago, also thought they were living in the Last Times. Only God knows how long He will permit this present world to exist. Jesus clearly teaches us that no human being knows the date of His return to this earth as the Judge of all people and of the destruction of this world. Jesus tells us, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36). Even Jesus, in His humanity, limited Himself from knowing the exact day and hour of this world's sudden end.

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God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am

www.stpaulswr.org

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:25

Are We in the Last Days? Continued from pg 1

The date and hour of Judgement Day, this world's Last Day, should not be our big concern. Our big concern should be, “Am I ready and am I preparing my loved ones and other people for the hour of death and the Day of Judgement?” And we should be ready and we should be preparing our loved ones and other people for the hour of death and the Day of Judgment! We are ready as we faithfully hear God's Word, receive the Lord's Supper and, by the blessings of the Holy Spirit, trust in the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior, the Holy Spirit as our Faith-giver and strive to believe and live according to God's teachings and commandments. We are ready when we trust in the fact that Jesus Christ earned our forgiveness and an eternal home for us in the new and perfect heaven and earth. We are ready as we daily repent of our sins, trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and strive to walk in His ways of love and truth. Jesus tells us, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).

Dear Father, help me to be ready for the hour of my death and the Last Day of this world's history. Please help me to faithfully hear Your Word, repent of my sins, trust in Jesus as my Savior, believe Your teachings and live according to your commands. Please help me set a Christian example of love and faithfulness to You and Your Word before my loved ones and other people. Please give me the faith, love and courage to speak to my relatives and friends about You and Your forgiving and saving love and mercy in Jesus Christ my Savior. I pray for these blessings in the Name of Jesus Christ, who is the true and only God with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



We will be serving
at the food pantry
Nov. 14-18.

To volunteer,
contact
Judy Anderson at
715-423-5922 or
5JAnderson@charter.net

Just Imagine

Just imagine that you were told that your child could not attend school because he/she did not have any shoes. Just imagine if you were turned down for a job because you did not have shoes to wear to work. Just imagine that your spouse's feet had serious infections because she had no shoes to wear. This is not hypothetical – this happens often in Africa, and has a major impact on men, women, and children. YOU can make a difference in a person's life. Your donated shoes (new and gently used) will change lives in Africa! We will be collecting shoes for "Soles for Jesus", a Milwaukee based non-profit. All sizes and types (men's, women's, children's) are accepted. Donations of new shoelaces as well as cash to defray shipping costs are welcome as well. There will be collection boxes set up in the Welcome Center and School hallway from October 30 through November 13. Cash can be dropped off at the church office or room 108. Please contact John Quint at 715-712-0016 with questions.

St. Paul's School News

Preschool News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

October has been a busy month! Our field trip to Down on the Farm was a success! A big thank you to all of our chaperones who helped make it a wonderful time! This month we also learned about fire prevention, our five senses, and apples. We have also been working on learning about our letters and have made it through letters A, B, C, D, and E.

Coming up we will have our Reformation Party on Monday, October 31st to celebrate Reformation and Halloween. Children may bring a costume to change into and a treat to pass. Please no nuts. If you have questions, please speak with Mrs. Mueller!



The preschool class at Down on the Farm.

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

In this world of social media it may be assumed that people are more social than ever. I may be old school, but I miss actually using my phone to talk to people or watching all the neighborhood kids get together as they play inventive games until they were reluctantly called in for supper.

Teachers are also seeing that trend in children. They are not generally getting as much "social" time as in years past. To that end, curricula have been built for teachers to actually teach social skills along with the 3R's, reading, writing, and arithmetic as the saying goes. I have attended continuing education classes based solely on this topic and have included this additional subject to our daily load, and reaped the benefits.

We start by realizing that we are all uniquely made by God with our own set of strengths, which God wants us to share with others. Kids like the idea of being a specialist and therefore, a teacher to others. Then we learn how to be a friend and how to ask to join a group who is already at play. We learn about different kinds of feelings and how to recognize what our friend is feeling from body cues. We also work with how to deal with two uncomfortable feelings specifically, anger and fear. The list of other social skills goes on...

School is a very social setting and so is the world. Our children need these skills in order to share God's word.



Remember save boxtops and milk caps!



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

1st and 2nd grade is flying by. We have been learning about faith and forgiveness in our Christ Light. We are so thankful that God does not keep a record of our sins and our sins are wiped clean by Jesus' blood. We have finished our first test in Social Studies. We are on to learning about Early America, Native Americans, and Citizenship. Just in time for voting. In Reading, the 1st graders have been working on words ending in -ed and -ing. They have also been doing a great job on contractions. The 1st graders are very excited to have just passed on to the next reading book in their reading series. The stories are now getting a little more challenging. They like that. The 2nd graders have been busy classifying sentences with adverbs, adjectives, subject nouns, verbs, and article adjectives. The 1st and 2nd graders are working very hard and it is always a blessing to see their light shine for Jesus.

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

We have had an exciting month. On Friday, October 14th, we were able to take a field trip to the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery and a cranberry marsh. While we were at the fish hatchery, we learned all the different life stages of a fish. We also learned how the workers at the hatchery work together with the State of Wisconsin in providing fish for different lakes and rivers. This also provides for the economy in the tourism aspect during the year. We had the opportunity to look at fish eggs all the way up to brown trout that are 8-10 years old. The students and adults had fun feeding the big trout.

After we were done with the hatchery, we traveled to a cranberry marsh outside of Nekoosa. St. Paul's member, Andy Reitz, then gave us a tour of a cranberry marsh that was in the middle of the harvest. We learned all the different parts of a cranberry plant. We were also able to see workers moving cranberries in a marsh. We finished the tour by watching how cranberry growers clean and sort their cranberries. At the end of the tour, the cranberry grower provided all the students with a Ziploc bag of cranberries to take home. It was a fun day to learn how God provides for his people in so many different ways and to marvel at the beauties of his creation.



The 3rd & 4th grade visit a cranberry marsh.

Trunk
or
Treat



Monday, Oct. 31
4:30-6:30pm

Come for treats, chili & warm drinks
plus a special gift for each family.

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

The 5th and 6th grade students are settled in as the school year is almost two months old. They are busy with their studies, including reading a chapter book on their own each month and finishing up their first Cultural Studies independent projects, which will be on display in and around our classroom starting November 1. The 5th graders are about halfway through the Old Testament in their Word of God studies. Moses and the Israelites have just received God's Law at Mt. Sinai. In science, we are studying the earth's resources and will be doing a lab on oil spill clean-up in the near future.

Special thanks go out this month to Mrs. Sue Kulhanek, who substituted for me on October 13th and 14th. Believe it or not, this was the first time I had ever taken a sick day as a teacher. Maybe that's why I had to make it such a dramatic one. As most of you already know, I went into the ER with a rapid heartbeat (203) on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 12. After being stabilized here in Rapids, I was admitted to the cardiac unit at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. After a battery of tests, my arteries were found to be clear, but I suffer from SVT, an electrical problem that causes sudden rapid heartbeat. It is now being controlled by medication, although surgery may be required in the future. I thank you all for your prayers on my behalf.

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

"We are having a great school year!" That is the sentiment being echoed by our upper grade students. What a joy it is to have these wonderful children in our classrooms. Collectively, we cannot believe that we are already closing in on the end of the first quarter of the year. The Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference and Trunk-or-Treat are just around the corner, as is our annual trek up to Northland Lutheran High School for their "Wildcat for a Day" on Friday, November 4th.

The volleyball season has officially drawn to a close. After a few last minute adjustments, we were able to finish out the season with more home matches than ever! We would like to thank our coaches, Mr. and Mrs. Mueller, as well as our players, for all of their hard work, dedication, and effort to make for a great season! And, believe it or not, basketball practices will soon be under way.

In addition to all of the above, things are progressing very well in our classroom. Christ Light finds us completing our look at the creation of the world, the fall into sin and the redemption won for us by our Savior, all of which ties together nicely with our first chapters of Earth Science. In history we are beginning to lay the foundations for our government. We have begun dealing with "like" terms in Algebra, which is very "similar" to the end of 7th grade math. Speaking of which, our 7th graders have committed to memory the perfect squares up to 625 (if I remembered correctly).

And finally, with Reformation Day closing out our month, we thank our Heavenly Father for faithful servants like Martin Luther whom He used in the past, as well as those faithful servants who still serve Him in His kingdom today. May we all remain ever-faithful to His Word!



Lutheran Pioneer Lock-in ~ Friday, Nov. 4 at 6:00 p.m. through Saturday Nov. 5 at 11:00 a.m.

The kids will be enjoying games, crafts, movie, snacks and lots of fun with friends in the evening, will sleep in the gym, and will have breakfast along with more fun the next day. The kids will need to bring blankets, pillows and an air mattress (if you have one) for sleeping in the gym. If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to contact Shelly Antoneiwicz at 715-424-0505 or johnandshelly@charter.net.



Willing Workers Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 5

9am-noon

Sunday, Nov. 6

After worship

Apple Pies Are Ready!

We have unbaked frozen apple pies (both crumb top and double crust) ready for sale. They are 10 inch, deep dish pies for \$11 each. Proceeds from these and from the Bake/Craft Sale on Nov. 5-6 will go to purchase a new copier for the church and school office. We encourage you to pick up some pies now, and also to contribute some of your specialties (pickles, jams, sauces, cookies, candies, breads) to sell. Most importantly, come to the sale, fill your cupboards and freezers with these wonderful homemade items, and help us purchase that much needed new copier.

Put Advent by Candlelight on Your Calendar!

Advent by Candlelight is on the calendar once again! Final plans are being made for the annual event, and we invite all women of the congregation to bring their friends to this evening of music and fellowship. So think about inviting a friend, and if you have enjoyed the evening in the past, you know how much we appreciate our table hostesses - we would love it if you could help with this part of the evening. Watch for details in the bulletin as we get closer to December 4.



Baptized into
Christ:

Ian Hildebrandt
Hudson & Walker
Coenen

WELS Day with the Bucks



The Milwaukee Bucks are inviting all WELS members and their friends to the inaugural WELS Day with the Bucks at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, at the BMO Harris Bradley Center in downtown Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Bucks will be hosting the Brooklyn Nets. Special fan experiences are being planned, including watching pregame warm-ups and giving kids an opportunity to shoot a free throw on the Bucks court after the game.

The Bucks are offering WELS members up to 45 percent off the price of tickets. All WELS members will be seated together in three seating levels. The deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 11. To order tickets, go to bucks.com/buckspass and use promo code WELS.

Celebration of Life



The Lord called
home Doris Deck.

Medical advances and changing societal values raise new questions and challenges to Christian living. Christian Life Resources is hosting a Celebration of Life Event to train Christians to apply God's Word to the most challenging life and family issues of our time. You will be equipped with practical knowledge on a range of issues, from parent-child relationships to medical ethics, beginning of life to end of life. This unique, one-day event will be held on Saturday, November 5 at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI. The Keynote Speaker is Wesley Smith, will present in the afternoon on assisted suicide and will speak in the evening on human rights in bioethics. Find out more at www.clrevents.com or by calling 1-800-729-9535. Free childcare is available during the event for children ages 2-11.



We thank everyone who helped with the Mission Rally in October. Remember to ask God's blessings on Institutional Ministries.



Special Gifts and Memorials Through October, 16, 2016

Current Ministry

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family
- In memory of Brian Johnson's father-in-law, Jack Mattlach, given by Jim & Inge Johnson
- In memory of Elaine Martin's son, Gary, given by David & Robin Koeshall, and Inge Johnson
- Linda Jones' brother-in-law, Art Kazmeirczak, given by Barb Manz
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson, and Friends & Family

School

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family

Mortgage

- In memory of Elaine Martin's son, Gary Martin, given by Nona Henke and Robert Stake
- In memory of their brother-in-law, Art Kazmierczak, given by Gary & Linda Jones
- In memory of Doris Deck given by Nona Henke & Robert Stake

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Brian Johnson's father-in-law, Jack Mattlach, given by Kathy Jackson, and Barb Manz
- In memory of Doris Deck given by Barb Manz, Jack & Pat Fluno, Betty Prebbanow, Tom & Barb Reitz, Carol Brown, Sue Bobrowski, Betty & Vernon Meyer, Ruth Taggatz, Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Marla Mueller, Linda Pollnow, Carol Newsom, Bill & Elaine Wittrock, Mark & Hilde Henkel, and Friends & Family

Line of Credit Loan

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family

Parking Lot Lights

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Susie Dempze, Bill & Cynde Joosten, Barb Manz, Terry & Helen McAuley, Linda Pollnow, Gary & Teresa Schoenborn, Larry & Carol Newsom, Ruth Taggatz, David & Robin Koeshall, and Friends & Family

Youth Group

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family

School Security System

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Friends & Family



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Phone: 715-421-3634
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Upcoming Events

Willing Workers Craft & Bake Sale

Nov. 5 - 9:00am-noon

Nov. 6 - after each service

Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24 at 9:30 a.m.



"We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks;
your name is near.
People tell of your wondrous deeds."

Psalm 75:1, NRSV

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