



St. Paul's EPISTLE

November 2018 edition

To the Ends of the Earth...Really?

by Pastor Lucas Proeber

You've heard this phrase/title a lot lately. If you haven't, you will. *To the Ends of the Earth* is the most recent WELS-produced movie which focuses on outreach and ministry to those who have not heard the gospel of Jesus yet. The title comes from Acts 13:47, where two pastors named Paul and Barnabas are speaking with some naysaying Jews. "For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

But, did you know that this phrase is used a lot more than in Acts 13? And that it's actually used more in the Old Testament than in the New Testament? That's an interesting fact, especially when you usually think of God being concerned solely with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament; the New Testament is supposed to be the outreach part of the Bible, isn't it?

Not so fast. The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament. That's why we see verses like Isaiah 48:20, "Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, 'The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob,'" and Psalm 22:27, "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him."

God has always wanted all people to be saved; just read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 for proof of that. But, does God mean that we have to reach every last corner of the earth with the proclamation of the gospel? What about hidden tribes of peoples in Africa or South America? What about the peoples whose language hasn't been mastered by anyone else? How can we get the gospel message to the ends of the earth if we can't communicate with people? It would be nice if God could send the Holy Spirit for a reenactment of the Day of Pentecost, when the apostles started speaking in languages they never learned before.



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God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org

CountingOur Blessings

- God wants ALL people to be saved, even us.
- Nine members attended the School of Outreach
- Pumpkins, apples, and beautiful fall leaves

To the Ends of the Earth...Really? Continued from pg 1

Honestly, we don't need that sort of spiritual revival. We simply need to renew our trust in God every day. Last month, I passed on a message from another pastor who gave examples of God speaking and reality resulting. God has spoken through his prophets and apostles; through his pastors and teachers; through his children and his servants; and, most importantly, through his Son. Through all of these messengers, no matter when they speak, the message remains the same; and the goal remains the same: to take the gospel message of sins forgiven to the ends of the earth. How far is that? Let's not worry about that. Let's just keep reaching as far as we can go with the good news in every way possible until God tells us otherwise. God bless you in your mission field as we build up to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

To The Ends of the Earth Events

Women Walking in the Word—Tuesdays at 9:45am

This small group study is designed to evoke heartfelt discussion in a safe environment. It will help you to treasure the gospel, even if we have known it for many years. You will learn to show that you truly trust God's gospel promises by living joyfully and by sharing him with a fallen world. The study begins on October 23 and last four weeks.

Sunday Morning Bible Study—Sundays at 10:15am

This study of Paul's missionary journey will help you understand the purpose and power of sharing the gospel around the globe—beginning with people nearby. It begins on November 11 and lasts six weeks.

Advent by Candlelight—December 2 at 6:00pm

Set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus your mind and heart on Christ through the story of Lydia. Reservations are required for this event. Look for more information in the coming weeks.



C18 is a synod-wide effort to reach one million souls this Christmas. Start thinking about who you will invite.

Beginning in your Backyard

As a Christian, you know the joy, peace, and hope of being sure your sins are forgiven and eternal life is yours. You want others to know this as well.

But, perhaps—like many Christians—telling others about Jesus is daunting. What do I say? How do I say it? What if I don't have answers to people's questions?

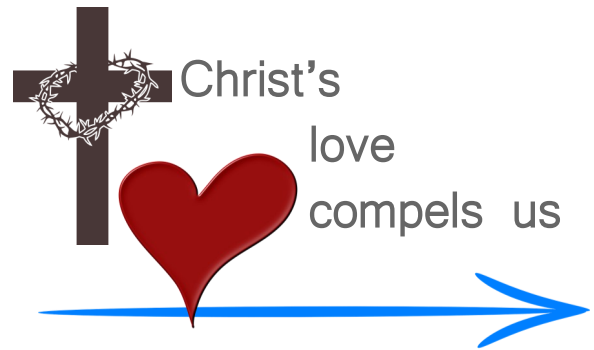
During the Interactive Faith Bible study these very questions and concerns will be discussed. Pastor Eric Roecker, director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism, will use video vignettes from the new movie *To the Ends of the Earth* to guide the discussion. These lessons will make you more confident in your conversations with those who do not yet know their Savior.

You can join the Bible study online at wels.net/interactivefaith on November 7, 14, and 28 (6 & 8 p.m. CST). Lord willing, through the Word and this study, the Spirit will embolden you to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, beginning in your backyard.

Grow and Go

By Mr. Garth Perry, Congregational President

"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)



Earlier this month, a small group of St. Paul's members attended a workshop titled "School of Outreach." It is designed by the WELS Commission on Evangelism. We heard about how other WELS congregations are spreading the gospel message to all the earth. One of the key points I took from the workshop is the reason for our mission-based mindset for ministry as sanctified believers. Christ's love compels us to do ministry.

The word compel has an interesting connotation. It could leave a bad impression if not understood correctly. To "compel" someone usually means to force or to pressure someone to do something. However, in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he is reminding us that seeing how much Christ loves us, we want to love and live for others rather than ourselves. As sanctified believers, we are a new creation. Jesus loved us and died for us and now we want to live for him.

What does that mean for you as a member of St. Paul's, and not only as a member of our church, but also a member of the holy Christian Church (with a capital C – meaning all believers)? One pastor put it this way: We are not the "frozen chosen." We should not let the busyness of the world get in our way of telling others about the love Jesus has for them. The School of Outreach reminded us that our goals as Christians should be to preserve and to proclaim the Word of God. We are to grow in the Word (nurture) and to go with the Word (outreach). God's Word is the instrument to bring the message of salvation to others.

A long-range planning task force will be meeting in the coming months to discuss how St. Paul's can grow and go. We will be discussing the various ministries in the congregation and the opportunities we have for ministering to our community. We will be discussing how we can help members accomplish ministry and how we can increase the number of members doing ministry. Look for more information on this in the future.



Where is your old band instrument?

You are probably not ready to think about Christmas yet, but our Decorating Committee plans ahead. Their plan this year includes incorporating brass instruments into the Christmas decorations. If you have an instrument that you would be willing to lend to them for a few weeks, please contact Veronica Klish at spdbuggy@wctc.net or 715-421-3607



Classroom Highlights

Preschool News – by Mrs. Carole Melso

God has blessed us with an exciting month filled with fun fall activities! We learned to name the parts of an apple and helped cut up apples to make applesauce. We brought in leaves from our yards at home and matched them to our leaf chart. We made leaf prints and shape books too! Our favorite fine motor activity was hammering golf tees into our big pumpkins. It took lots of concentration and muscle to pry them out with a pliers. On "Pumpkin Science Day", we measured pumpkins, predicted whether they would float or sink, and pulled out all of the slippery seeds. We are listening for beginning sounds and recognizing numerals during our small group time sessions. One of our favorite songs has been, "Our God is So Big". It reminds us that God can do anything for us just like he did for Moses in the Bible lessons we are learning.

Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugley

Christ Light: We have learned about Joseph, Moses, and the Ten Commandments.

Guided Discovery: We have learned about transportation, exploring, health, and pumpkins.

Reading: We have learned letters Cc, Oo, Gg, and Aa.

Sight Words: We have learned a, I, the, go, to and see.

Special Events: We took a field trip to the PAC to watch Pinkalicious!!

Message from Ms. Haugly: The Kindergarteners would love to have congregation members read during their morning snack. (10:15-10:30) Books will be provided or brought from home. Come and show how fun reading can be!!!



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

It is hard to believe it is already October. The 1st and 2nd graders went on a field trip to watch the Eau Claire Children's Theatre perform Pinkalicious Musical at the PAC. It was based off a children's book. The children really had a lot of fun. The students in both 1st and 2nd are working on their writing skills. The 2nd graders have taken their skills one step further with starting to write paragraphs with editing their work. In Social Studies we have been talking about directions on a map, parts of a globe, regions, and climate. We see God's handiwork in the four wonderful seasons that he has blessed us with. We have used the beautiful fall leaves to make leaf animals for art. Feel free to walk down our hallway to enjoy some of our art work.

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

As October draws to a close, we mark the end of the first quarter of the school year. In Cultural Studies, we've been talking about the Middle East, both past and present. In science, we are now discussing organisms and cell structure. Our science activities will focus learning how to use a hand lens and a microscope. We have a laboratory-quality binocular microscope in our room that will be getting a lot of use in the near future. It has a built-in digital camera that allows us to capture images digitally and display them on the Smartboard. We have made several interesting and creative art projects which are on display on the hallway wall opposite our classroom. Each project is ranked by the 7th and 8th graders and "ribbons" are awarded for first, second, and third. A teacher's choice ribbon is also awarded from time to time. Our class ranks the grade 7-8 projects and those projects are on display across from Mr. Pahl's room. The grades 3-4 projects are ranked by both 5-6 and 7-8. Those projects are shown in the Pre-school hallway across from the math room. Come check them all out!

Classroom Highlights

3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mrs. Destinee Fiecko

Things we've learned this month:

Word of God: We have been studying God's providence for the Old Testament Israelites as we learned about Isaac's family and the line of the Savior, through the Ten Plagues and Pharaoh's release of their captive nation.

Language Arts: So much has been packed into the last few weeks. I just love when the students make connections in what their learning with the world around them! Here are the things we've been focusing on: loads of new vocabulary words; story elements like characters, setting and plot; distinguishing point of view; predicting outcomes; parts of speech; journal writing and using story starters; and lots of different spelling patterns - including words with silent letters!

WI History: The students have been fascinated by our study of early Native American groups in our state. Have you been to Aztalan? We've been reading about the Mound Builders and that historic site. We've also discussed how archaeology teaches us about the past, and have really delved into the issues of respect for God's creation and the concept of no waste.

Life Skills: So many important life skills are being taught and reinforced in the classroom, including time management, keeping a tidy area, empathy and kindness, and responsibility.

Fun Stuff: We love playing along with Boomwhacker songs, and enjoy our daily Zumba and "Brainercise" activities. It's hard to believe, but soon we'll be starting our Christmas service parts!

Other: 4th graders have been MAP testing throughout the last two weeks. I am eager to use the results to influence my instruction and focus our energies on any gaps the testing reveals.



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 2nd.

The volleyball season has officially drawn to a close. Enjoying competition against our other four area WELS schools, including a few triangulars and tournaments, made for a unique and enjoyable season! We would like to thank our coaches, Ms. Haugly and Ms. Kruger, as well as our players, for all of their hard work, dedication, and effort to make for a great season!

In addition to all of the above, things are also progressing very well in our classroom. Our religion curriculum 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 the 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!

Be Intentional

By Mr. John Melso, Principal

You don't lose weight by saying "I want to lose weight." You lose weight by having a specific goal – "I want to lose 10 pounds" – and then adopting specific habits, e.g. "No more cookies and ice cream except on special occasions." In other words, you get to your objective by focusing on the means: "How will I lose 10 pounds?"



In the same token, we don't strengthen our faith and the faith of our family by simply saying, "I want my family members to have a stronger faith." We set specific goals and adopt specific habits and routines. "As a family we will go to church every Sunday." "We will have family devotions before bedtime X number of nights a week." We set spiritual habits and routines that will keep us on track. We know that the Holy Spirit works through the Gospel, so we create routines that regularly give us touches with that Gospel. Remember, the main thing in life is to keep the Main Thing the main thing. Living with intention is one useful method in doing just that.

WILLING WORKERS

Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday
November 3
9:00am-Noon

Sunday, Nov. 4
After the service

Come See All Our Goodies:

Pies, Potato Soup, Chicken Chowder,
Lots of Homemade Canned Goods,
Bars, Cookies, Cranberry Items, Cakes,
Cookbooks, Books, & Craft Items

In the Cafeteria



Don't Miss It! Bring a Friend!!!

Hurricane Relief

When Hurricane Michael made landfall, Amazing Grace, Panama City, Fla., took a direct hit. The church and parsonage suffered extensive damage, as did several members' homes, along with the entire community. WELS Christian Aid and Relief has mobilized relief trailers from Mobile, Ala., and Jacksonville, Fla., to assist in cleanup and recovery efforts. Members of the local WELS congregations in Florida and Alabama are eager to help out once it is feasible to go into the affected areas. WELS have also made funds available to local pastors to provide immediate aid to those in need and to purchase needed supplies. Efforts are underway to provide temporary housing for those displaced from their homes.

To support WELS Christian Aid and Relief hurricane relief efforts, you can donate online (select "Hurricane Disaster Relief" in the designation field) or send it to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, N16W23377 Stone Ridge Dr. Waukesha, WI 53188, and designate it for the "Hurricane Fund." If you'd like to volunteer to help with clean up and repair work, visit wels.net/relief and fill out the volunteer form.

In the Mailbox

Thank to everyone for the cards, prayers, and words of comfort at the death of my mother. During this time of upheaval and change in my life, it is an encouragement to be surrounded by brothers and sisters who share my faith in an unchanging God. I am grateful for the time my Savior gave me with my mother and for him bringing me into this family of believers.

In Christ,
Judy Stensberg

We want to share a very grateful thank you for all the kind words, cards and memorials that were extended after Pete's sudden and tragic accident. Saith Matthew 24:36 "But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." Thank you again.

Linda and Gary Jones

Thank you to the 28 people that served at The Neighborhood Table on Sept. 13. Thank you to all who made cookies for our dessert. We served 223 meals. The collection was \$278.00. Thank you for that. It covered the cost of the food and hall expense. Praise God for His goodness that we had a successful and enjoyable time serving Him.

Sincere thanks
Edna Haferman

Dear Edna,

A very big thank you to you and all the wonderful volunteers from the church for sponsoring The Neighborhood Table meal. Our guests enjoyed a hearty meal and so many delicious treats!! Your generosity & time are greatly appreciated! :)

Thank you again,
Robert Hamm
TNT Meal Coordinator.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through October 14, 2018

Current

- In memory of Linda Jones' brother, Pete Petersen, given by Sue Bobrowski, Huntz & Marilyn Link, and Stephanie Bathke
- In memory of June Wotruba given by Sue Bobrowski, Ronald & Jenny Stowell, and other friends & family
- In memory of Judy Stensberg's mother given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Donna Stensberg, St. Paul's Faculty, Huntz & Marilyn Link, Stephanie Bathke, Sue Bobrowski, and Barb Manz
- In memory of Gene Szelagowski given by Barb Manz

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Jackie Miller given by Bill & Elaine Wittrock
- In memory of June Wotruba given by Carol Newsom

- In memory of Judy Stensberg's mother given by Gil & Bev Pecher and Carol Newsom

School

- In memory of Jackie Miller given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt
- In memory of Judy Stensberg's mother given by Vernon & Betty Meyer

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Linda Jones' brother, Pete Petersen, given by Edna Haferman
- In memory of Judy Stensberg's mother given by Edna Haferman

Decorating Committee

- In memory of Judy Stensberg's mother given by Larry & Veronica Klish

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Jackie Miller given by Edna Haferman



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Upcoming Events

Willing Workers Craft & Bale Sale
Saturday, Nov. 3 - 9:00am-noon
Sunday, Nov. 4 - 10:15am

Thanksgiving Worship
Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 6:30pm
Thursday, Nov. 22 at 9:00am



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