



St. Paul's EPISTLE

October 2016 edition

Octoberfest, Lutheran-Style

By Pastor Martin Baur

Once a year those of German heritage gather together to celebrate October fest. It is a time to recognize and rejoice in a common ethnic background with all its customs and traditions. You may hear the um pah pah of a polka band, you may taste some of the traditional foods and wash it all down with the obvious beverage of choice. It will be such a good time that even the non-German will join in the party and maybe even learn a German word or two like "bier" or "Aufwiedersehen." Octoberfest is a great time to celebrate together.

So what is Octoberfest, Lutheran-style? It is also celebrated in October on the 31st of the month. It also has its roots in Germany. It is also celebrated with some traditional music, (sorry, no polka's this year), there is also a beverage of choice, (it must be coffee) and believe it or not, there are even non-Germans that attend. By now you recognize Octoberfest, Lutheran-style as Reformation.



This year we recognize and rejoice that 499 years ago, a monk by the name of Martin Luther posted 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church. This door was the local bulletin board of the day and there he stated 95 issues where he questioned whether the church was faithful to the word of God in its teachings and traditions. He was looking for a Bible-based discussion to find answers to his questions. At the very heart of the theses was whether forgiveness could be bought with a piece of paper called indulgences or was it the generous gift of God's grace. He never set out to establish the Lutheran Church, but that his church return to the basic Bible truth that salvation is by God's grace alone. What a reason to celebrate. Think of the confidence of knowing we are going to heaven. Salvation is not bought by us; it is because of Jesus.

That is why every year on October 31st we have our own Octoberfest, Lutheran-style. We may not have your beverage of choice, we may be lacking an um pah pah or two, we may not even be German, but no matter our heritage, we do have God's grace and that is something worth celebrating.

God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am

www.stpaulswr.org

Mission Rally at St. Paul's



Learn all about new mission opportunities at home and abroad in a special bonus issue of Forward in Christ. Request a free copy for by contacting Northwestern Publishing House at 800-662-6093 ext. 5613; nphperiodicals@nph.wels.net; or nph.net/fic.

Find out more about WELS mission work at wels.net/missions. There you can read articles and blogs; watch videos; and download mission maps.

On Saturday, October 1st, we invite everyone to attend the Fall Mission Rally. We are part of the Wisconsin River Valley District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), and our Willing Workers group is hosting this event. Our theme is Living Water – Living Word based on I Corinthians 3:7 “...neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

You may have read the flyer in your mailbox, but if you did not these are the details: It is a daylong event, beginning with registration and fellowship at 9:00am. There is a \$3 fee that goes to the LWMS group for mission projects. There are morning and afternoon speakers, and a lunch (freewill offering) served by Willing Workers. There is child care if needed. (Call 715-424-1827 so that we can provide a sitter.)



The focus of this day is Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries (WLIM). Pastor Mark Wenzel, a prison chaplain, will be the featured speaker. That Sunday is also our Mission Festival, and Pastor Charlie Iles from WLIM will be our guest pastor. We encourage you to come and learn about and pray for our mission efforts in North America and around the world and to support those missions with their offerings as we share the privilege and responsibilities of the work our Lord has called us to do. This is primarily a women's event, but **interested men are always welcome**, and several pastors and other men usually attend.

The LWMS is made up of mission-minded women of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) as well as women belonging to congregations that share fellowship with WELS. Spring and fall, rallies are held in our churches. LWMS was formed in 1964 and today counts approximately 900 member congregations organized into 60 circuits across the United States, Canada, and the West Indies. Every woman in a member congregation is by virtue of her church membership a member of LWMS. If you do not have a “Mite Box”, a little cardboard box to fill with coins to support missions, you can pick one up from the table across from the mailslots. These mission offerings along with the monies given at our monthly Willing Worker meetings are brought to these biannual rallies.

The work of LWMS is urgent. Though we may have the knowledge and comfort of Jesus' gift of salvation, millions of souls do not and are in despair. Every day we have the opportunity to give people the greatest gift, the gift of their Savior. As the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the early Roman church,

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
 And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
 And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
 And how can they preach unless they are sent?
 As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’

It is "That" Time Again!

One hundred (yes, 100) pie crusts are already made, just waiting for your trees to provide us with the next step! If you have extra apples, or have a neighbor with apples to share, we would love to have them. All profits from these pies support projects right here at St. Paul's, so donations ensure that the production cost is as low as possible.

We will soon be asking for peelers to come to the dining room and help us produce those great apple pies. They will be unbaked and frozen, ready for you to give as gifts to a helpful neighbor or just to have in your own freezer for that day you want a "homemade" treat. They are big 10 inch pies, either double crust or crumb top and cost \$11.00 each. You can order ahead and get them as soon as we make them, and we will have more available at our Annual Bake/Craft Sale.

We will once again be making soup for sale by the quart. We will be making chicken chowder and potato soup again this year, so if your garden has produced extra potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, or cabbage we would be happy for your donations of those also.

The Annual Bake/Craft Sale will again be held on the first Saturday in November. We will be reminding you again to come and purchase some goodies, but now I would like to ask you to consider donating some of YOUR goodies. If you have made jams, jellies, soups, salsas, pickles, and sauces we would love to have you bring some to sell on that day. So set something aside, and share for a good cause. If you make small craft items, they also are popular for people to purchase. And then, when it is actually "sale time" we hope you could share some of those special cookies, breads, cakes, candies or pies that your family loves. The more donors we have, the more fun it will be to shop on that Saturday, and of course, St. Paul's will benefit from our purchases.



Willing Workers
Craft & Bake Sale
Saturday,
Nov. 5
9:00-Noon



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

Volunteers and Candy Needed

Give out treats in St. Paul's parking lot.
Add to the fun by decorating your car or dressing in costume.

Save the Date:

38th Annual WELS
National Handbell
Festival

April 29-30, 2017

Hosted by
St. Paul Lutheran Church
at Lincoln High School
Wisconsin Rapids, WI



St. Paul's School News

Preschool News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

Welcome back! Our school year has gotten off to a great start! Our first month of school we've been learning our daily routine, learning about one another and our classroom, and comparing the summer and fall seasons while creating lots of fun projects. Towards the end of the month we'll start learning the letters of the alphabet and learn a new letter every week!

We'll be heading to Down on the Farm on Tuesday, October 4th. We'll be leaving school around 8:45am and returning by 11:30am for lunch. Please have permission slips with payment in by Wednesday, September 28th!



Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

Here we are in a new year with a fresh start, just getting our feet wet as we prepare to really dive in. This year we have 12 kindergartners, all uniquely made by God, each with his or her own set of strengths and needs.

At this point in the year, we are still getting to know one another. I am learning about each student's skills, personality, and background; the fresh kindergartners are learning about how school works. Kindergarten is slowly turning into what you probably experienced in first grade. We are constantly raising the bar for what kids should do academically, as well as socially after school when our five-year-old children start their extracurricular activities.

With all that busyness, it's so wonderful that we have the opportunity to learn about our God and what he has done for us. It is fantastic that we pray together for our wants, needs, and show thankfulness for all he has done. Recently we thanked God that one of our moms was okay after falling on broken glass. We are learning from our Bible lessons the importance of trusting God in everything just like Abraham trusted when he was told to use Isaac as a burnt offering. We are also learning the importance of forgiving one another just as Christ forgave us. Ah, yes, it feels good to be forgiven for our mistakes. What a difference this year will be because God is our focal point.

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

We are off to a great start in 1st and 2nd grade. We are learning to daily check our assignment checklist and cross off our assignments when we turn them in. Of course, this is all a learning process and we are still adjusting. In Reading and English, we are learning about nouns, verbs, and what makes up a proper sentence. We have had our first spelling test, which for our 1st graders was a new experience. We have been very blessed to have 7th and 8th grade helpers and Mrs. Blum in the library to assist us during computer time. In Social Studies, we are learning about North America and different landforms. In Music, we have been learning about different instruments and the sounds they make. We are very busy in 1st and 2nd grade.

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

“And it is off to the races!” Boy, has the school year started fast. There are plenty of smiley young faces sitting in the desks of the 3rd and 4th grade classroom. This year we have 19 students in the classroom, with two new students added to the bunch. We praise and thank our God for bringing them to us. As we begin the year, we are reviewing many of the concepts that were learned last year, but at a faster pace to get to the new stuff awaiting us.

Another new face this year is Mrs. Elizabeth Roecker. Mrs. Roecker is teaching science and social studies this year in the 3rd and 4th grade classroom. The students really seem to like her. Recently, we have been looking at how our ear works. It is truly amazing how God has constructed our bodies and given us the different abilities to “hear” His Word. We thank and praise Him for the wonders of our bodies. We ask that you continue to pray for all of us in the 3rd and 4th grade classroom.

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

The new school year is off to a great start! We have 19 students this year in the 5th and 6th grade, 12 in grade 5 and 7 in grade 6. This is the largest 5th and 6th grade class we’ve had in quite a while, up from 12 students last year. New to our school are 5th graders Mikayla Christenson from Peshtigo, WI, and Riley Fairbanks from Oak Creek, WI. * * * New in the classroom this year is an Apple Ipad that I’m using to make use of the school electronic grading system, “Thinkwave.” Once I learn to use it properly, entering and calculating grades should be faster than previous years. The system eliminates the need for mid-term reports, as each child’s grades are available to their parents 24/7. * * * My surgery on August 25th to remove a cyst from my vocal cords went well. My voice still gets a little strained by the end of the week and singing is still difficult, but full recovery is anticipated by the end of October. I thank you all for your prayers on my behalf.



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

With September 1st came the opening of a new school year and there were plenty of smiling faces up and down our hallways. But enough about the parents, we even had a few of our students happy to be back! And speaking of returning, we are happy to report that all of our 7th grade students from last year have returned for their 8th grade year here at St. Paul's. They are: Kaleigh Buck, Carson Hacker, Ellie Kracht, Karli Rickaby, and Josie Roach. New to our 8th grade this year is Ashton Bredda. Also new to our classroom, but not to our school, are 7th graders: Olivia Bredda, Riley Buck, Trayce Hacker, Mia Tristan and Cora Zwicke. We are blessed to have these fine young students who we are certain will let their lights shine as examples for the entire student body!

The volleyball season is off to a roaring start as we held our annual tournament back on Sept. 9. A huge thank you to all who helped out and made it a tremendous success! From the coaches and players to the parents and volunteers (including Mr. Todd Ferkey and Mrs. E who were our referees) we couldn't have done it without you. Our St. Paul's squad is comprised of 8th graders Kaleigh Buck, Ellie Kracht, Karli Rickaby and Josie Roach; 7th graders Mia Tristan and Olivia Bredda; 6th graders Bree Kaehn, Brianna Obsuszt, and Makahla Pagel, as well as our coaches Mr. & Mrs. Mueller and Mrs. Obsuszt.

So, as you can see, we are off to a busy start to what we hope will be a successful year. We continue to ask for your support and God's richest blessings as we work together to raise the next generation of servants in the kingdom of our awesome God!

All-Era Pops Concert at NLHS

Homecoming at NLHS

Pep Rally
Oct. 7 at 7:00pm

Game
Oct. 8 at 1:00pm

At one time, Beethoven was the “hot,” “new” artist and composer of the musical world. In the Jazz Age it was Irving Berlin, along with George and Ira Gershwin. In the 50’s, you couldn’t escape Elvis! In the Punk era it was Talking Heads and Blondie. Now, Buble` and Beyonce` are the “hot,” “new” artists. Every generation has their favorites. The truly great last well beyond their era. Come hear some of the best of all time at Northland’s All-Era Pops Concert on October 16 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Music from a wide variety of composers and musical styles will be presented by instrumental and vocal groups associated with Northland Lutheran High School. The Concert will be in the NLHS gymnasium with fellowship time to follow.

Strengthen Your Marriage

Marriage, as God instituted it, is under attack. If you are looking for an opportunity to strengthen your marriage, come to the Three Strand Marriage Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 5 in Lake Mills, WI. Pastor Jason Ewart will talk about properly calibrating and pursuing your hopes and dreams for marriage. There will be breakout sessions on Praying for and with Your Spouse, Conflict Management, Making Your Money Behave, Raising Kids of Character and more. The retreat will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register for the conference, visit ThreeStrandRetreat.org.

If you are looking for a couples get-away, there are “Mysterious Marriage” Retreats coming up in October and November in Ontario and Oregon. For more information on these and other marriage retreats, visit wels.net.



“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”
- Ecc.4:12



When you carry the Bible, Satan gets a headache.
When you open it, he collapses.
When he sees you reading it, he faints.
When he sees that you are living what you read, he flees.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through September 18, 2016

Current Ministry

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Dennis & Carol Mancl, and Jack & Pat Fluno

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Betty Prebanow, and Mike & Judy Anderson

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Hazel Pagel & Stephanie Bathke's brother given by Tom & Barb Reitz

Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt, and Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Stephanie Bathke's brother, Garet Gee, given by Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Elaine Davis given by Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of Floyd Pagel given by Edna Haferman

Stephen Ministry

- In honor of Dale Kretschmer given by Rick & Sandra Hoffman



Thank You

Little Lambs would like to thank one of our member families for their generous donation! We were able to purchase a new carpet, a baby swing, and sensory balls for the Infant Room. We had enough money left over that we were also able to purchase another small rug for the Preschool Room. Thank you for your support in our ministry!

Hannah Mueller
 Director & Preschool Teacher
 St. Paul's Little Lambs Child Development Center



Parenting Resource

Visit forwardinchrist.net for articles written by parents, for parents. *Heart to heart: Parent Conversations* from *Forward in Christ* magazine is designed to be an honest forum for Christian parents to build each other up and support each other.

Heart to heart webcasts are also available on forwardinchrist.net and go into more depth on topics such as bullying, Christian discipline, and incorporating faith into a family's everyday life.

Counting Our Blessings

- WELS Prison Ministry
 - God's Grace
- 85 Students in our Lutheran School
- 17 Students in our Preschool
 - Christian Marriages
 - Beautiful Autumn Leaves





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October 2016 edition

Upcoming Events

LWMS Mission Rally
Saturday, Oct. 1 ~ 9:00am-2:30pm

Mission Sunday
Sunday, Oct. 2 ~ 8:00 & 10:30am

Trunk-or-Treat
Monday, Oct. 31 ~ 4:30-6:30pm



As for me,
I would **seek** God,
and to **God** I would
commit my cause.

Job 5:8

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