



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

October 2018 edition

## God speaks; Reality results

by Pastor Lucas Proeber

On September 17 and 18, I spent some time at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon for their annual symposium. A symposium is a fancy term for a conference at which pastors hear essays about a certain topic. This year's topic? *The Pastor as Shepherd-Leader*. I was blown away by the three essayists (all of whom are seasoned and highly-gifted pastors). Their papers all struck me to the core as I aim to be the best shepherd-leader I can be for you, the flock which God has entrusted to me. First of all, thank you for supporting me as I continue to attend such conferences and events; the experience is humbling and enriching.

I want to share the opening paragraphs of the essay presented by Pastor Jonathan Hein, "The Shepherd Leader at Work: Moving Forward," with you, though, because they do not just speak to me as a shepherd-leader; they speak to every one of us:

*God speaks; reality results. So, he says, "Let there be light." This was not a sanguine whisper, hopeful of what one day might be. It was the Almighty's declaration of what now was. "There was light." God speaks; reality results.*

*The boat "was nearly swamped" by the powerful storm. Men whose living was made on the water were drowning in dread, certain that soon they would drown literally. Then God spoke. "Quiet! Be still!" I remember one of my sons, then a frightened four-year-old hiding under his blanket, shouting roughly the same at a late-night South Carolina thunderstorm: "Stop! Quiet!" Nothing happened then. Jesus' "Quiet!" is different—more than an expression of anxious hope. Creator commands creation. The Divine declares and instantaneously, supernaturally, there was a new reality. "The wind died down and it was completely calm." God speaks; reality results.*

and God  
said, "Let  
THERE BE  
light"

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God's House.  
Your Home.

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Sunday worship  
at 9:00am

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



**Sunday, Oct. 14**

Open House

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Celebration Service

3:00 p.m.

Special guests  
and choirs

## God Speaks; Reality Results continued from pg 1

*The reality: Lazarus was very dead. Stand near the tomb and inhale. That tang is empirical evidence of reality. But at the tomb, God spoke. "Lazarus, come out!" Just like that, there was an entirely new reality. God speaks; reality results.*

Pastor Hein went on to discuss the reality that God has spoken to pastors, calling them to be shepherd-leaders. But, he speaks to you, too. I invite you to ponder the realities your God has spoken to you through the words of Scripture. Open your Bible and hear the forgiveness God speaks to you; see how God calls you his own dear child; see the purpose God gives you in an otherwise purposeless world. Remember, God speaks; reality results. Look for that in your life, your personal devotions, and in public worship throughout this next month.

## Do the unthinkable

By Mrs. Destinee Fiecko

As I was prepping for school this summer, the unthinkable happened. No, I wasn't chased by a bear. No, I didn't find a bill with Benjamin Franklin's face floating in my gutter. I was shown kindness. Immense, unthinkable kindness by a total stranger here in Rapids. Let me recount the day for you. I was making my 37th trip to Wal-Mart and DollarTree, grabbing every bit of organizational bins, buckets and boxes I could get my hands on to make the upcoming year a little smoother. Generally, DollarTree goers come to the checkout with a handful of items for which they could pay in coins if they really wanted to. Not me. This teacher waltzed up to the checkout lane with 30 white trays, 24 plastic baskets, two packs of giant clothespins, a miniature trash can and a few pom-pom garlands, just for good measure. My bill was well upwards of \$50, at THE DOLLARtree. (Only a teacher, amiright?) As I was rung up, the lady behind me, bless her wonderful soul, said she would pay for my items. (Cue slow motion in Mrs. Fiecko's brain.) I slowly turned to her, and said "no way!" "absolutely not!" and she and I argued (much to the other customers' dismay) about who would be paying for my haul. She was relentless - persistent in every way that she should pay for my items. "You're a teacher, aren't you?" she asked. "Yes", I admitted as tears began streaming down my face. "I was a teacher's assistant for many years, and I know exactly what you're going through. Please, let me help you." This woman - a complete stranger, in this world I so often strain to find any good in, restored my faith in people that day. Why did she do it? What could have possibly motivated her that day? Quite simply, love. Love of the profession possibly, but love for a stranger in an all-to-familiar rat race to get the room ready. As we shared a hug, I pledged to her that I would pay it forward. I am finding little ways to pay that kindness forward to strangers, but my biggest repayment today is by sharing this story with you, and asking you to be the start of someone's "unthinkable" experience. You and I have even more of a true motivator, showing love to others as Christ showed to us. I don't know if this stranger in the store was a Christian, but I do know she did a better job of showing Christ's love that day than I usually do. (Thanks be to God for his mercy!) This stranger was used by the Lord to reinvigorate me to be the salt and light in the earth, and I hope my story has done the same for you. Until next month...



Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

- 1 John 3:18

## Actions speak louder than words

By Principal John Melso

If you have a young child at home, try this some time. Tell your child that on the count of three you want them to rub their tummy. Then, start tapping the top of your head as you count one, two, three. Any guesses as to what will happen? In probably every case, you will see a child tapping the top of their head instead of rubbing their tummy. Why? Actions speak louder than words.

It is human nature to be imitators. Children grow up to be very much like parents. The acorn does not fall far from the tree. It is true that children imitate the spiritual habits of parents as well.

In 1995, the Swiss government added an extra survey to their 10 year census. The survey asked questions to determine whether a person's religion carried through to the next generation. It was found that when both parents attended church regularly, 74% of their children became church-goers. When dad attended regularly but mom did not, 67% of their children became church-goers. When mom attended regularly but dad did not, 39% of their children became church-goers. When both dad and mom were non-practicing, only 19% of their children became church-goers. Now these are just statistics, and they should always be taken with a grain of salt. Of course, they only address the spiritual habits of parents and children and not what is in the heart. But, they do point out the influence that parents, and especially fathers, have on the faith-life of children. It is what God had in mind when he inspired Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Parents, make diligent use of your parental influence. Remember, little eyes are watching.



### Counting Our Blessings

- The kindness for strangers
- New members  
John & Tammy  
Cordrey
- Parents who took you to church
- A generous synod that produces meaningful materials
- The wisdom & gifts of pastors across the country & world

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## To the Ends of the Earth

On October 19 at 6:30 p.m., we will host a showing of the new WELS movie "To the Ends of the Earth" in our sanctuary. The movie runs about 45 minutes, after which we will discuss how we can all utilize this movie as an outreach tool, especially with friends, neighbors, and relatives. We are planning on having plenty of popcorn popped and we hope to provide childcare for families with little ones, as well. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see how easily we can share the gospel message with our neighbors! Contact Pastor Proeber with questions or comments: [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634 ext. 13.

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## Trunk-or-Treat returns

We will once again hold a Trunk-R-Treat event at our church. On Wednesday, October 31 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., we will have cars parked in our parking lot, from which children can collect treats. More details will be coming our soon. Look for sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center, and start stocking up on candy! If you would more information, please contact Todd Ferkey at 715-421-2848 or [ktferkey@hotmail.com](mailto:ktferkey@hotmail.com).



## Classroom Highlights

### **Preschool News – by Mrs. Carole Melso**

We have had an exciting month learning about woodland animals and camping. It has been so much fun to weave our learning around the beautiful animals and nature that God has created for us! We especially loved "Going on a Bear Hunt", and learning about big words like Hibernation. We love being picked as the Leader of the Day, and we are learning about patience when we have to wait our turn. We are working on social skills such as using polite words, learning to share, and using our quiet voices inside. We have been counting, graphing forest animals, learning to identify letters and their sounds, and writing our names. We've created some great art projects too! One of our favorite songs has been "Grace" based on Ephesians 2:8. We learned that Grace is God's great love for us, the gift of heaven that we can't earn on our own. What a joy it has been to see those little faces light up during our Bible Lessons!

### **Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugley**

Can it be a month into school already? Wow, it sure has gone by fast. These past weeks have been full of new and exciting things for the Kindergarteners. In Christ Light, we started with learning about how God created the world and have started to learn about Abraham's family. The Kindergarteners are starting to learn their numbers and letters. They sure are excited and ready to keep learning. In Guided Discovery, we have spent each week focused on the following themes: seasons, colors, apples and farms. I pray that God continues to have his children grow every day.

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

The start of this school year has been off to a great start. The first and second graders are now getting into a routine. I am truly amazed at what a great bunch of readers I have. The first graders are busy learning the 5 parts of a sentence. They even have written some really good sentences on their own. The second graders have discovered the fun of journal writing. I haven't seen kids so excited in a long time to write in their journal. They even asked if they could write in their journals throughout the day. It is so important to not only find the love of reading, but a love for writing too. In Social Studies we are learning about landforms and maps. We also took our first spelling test. This went pretty well considering this is a new concept for 12 of my 19 students. As we continue to plug away at school, we are always reminded our Savior's forgiveness and love for us. We are blessed to be able to learn more about our Lord and go out and spread the news of His love.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mrs. Destinee Fiecko**

Things we've learned this month:

Word of God: Creation through the Abraham lessons

Language Arts: Lots of new vocabulary words! Predicting outcomes, using context clues, affixes (playing Scoot!), daily journal writing, practicing fluency, learning our vocab words in sign language! Capitalization and punctuation rules - a good writer does make.

WI History: Cardinal and intermediate directions, map reading, Wisconsin's five land regions (our first small group project - posters!), Wisconsin's climate, plants and animals, as well as invasive species (yikes!)

Life Skills: Goal writing, keeping a planner, managing a locker, ownership of choices and acknowledgment of the consequences of those choices

Fun Stuff: Canoeing, rock climbing and geocaching at NLHS! "Pop" art. Rock-Paper-Scissors Hula Hop

## Classroom Highlights

### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. John Quint

Our school year is off and running. Fifteen young people have taken up residence in the 5th and 6th grade room this year. We welcome two new 6th graders this year, Aaryn Liszt and Logon Sellnow. Both have been welcome additions to our classroom. \* \* This year, with the many changes in the faculty, our class schedule has changed somewhat. Our 5th graders no longer go to the 3rd and 4th grade room for Word of God and our 6th graders stay in the room as well instead of joining the 7th and 8th graders. We have also added a once-a-week 5-6 Catechism class. While Mr. Quint teaches 3-4 Art, the 5th and 6th graders have music with Mrs. Fiecko. \* \* I would like to take this opportunity to offer a big thank you to Mrs. Kulhanek who has “retired” this year from teaching art. Her work was greatly appreciated. \* \* Our classroom now includes a science work area which will soon include a laboratory quality microscope that the students may use for independent investigations. \* \* And finally, and most importantly, we remain focused on God and his plan of salvation. It remains central to all that we do this year and every year. May God richly bless our students, faculty, staff, and congregation!

### 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade News – by Mr. Randy Pahl

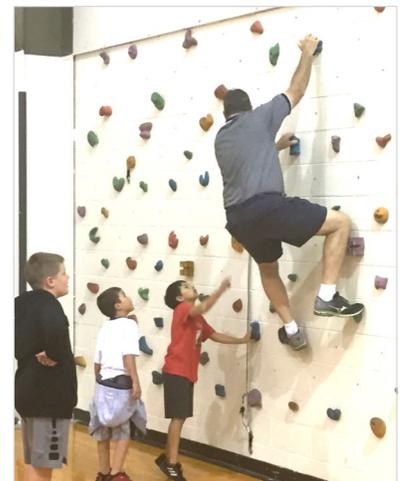
The beginning of our school year has started off a bit differently than in 2017. With plenty of new faces on the staff and our building in fine shape, we are truly thankful that we were able to start rolling already on the 29th of August. Also, we have a room filled with wonderful students, 18 in all!!! It is a blessing to, once again, have them grace our humble abode. Returning for their final year at St Paul's are 8th graders Ian Antoniewicz, AnnaLeigh Hillemeier, Bree Kaehn, Layla Matthews, Brianna Obsuszt and Brandon VanStedum. As for grade 7 we have 12 students, all returning letter winners from last season: Cameo Christensen, Mikayla Christenson, Riley Fairbanks, Dakota Jensen, Mitchell Kracht, Halle Matthews, Lexi Nowak, Rose Paul, Koen Roach, Emma Schroeder, Aubrey Tristan and Henry Woltman. We are grateful to have all of 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 have already participated in two triangulars and will be up in Medford for a B-Team tournament (a first for us) as well as the annual tournament which will be held at Northland Lutheran High School. A huge thank you to all those who have helped out to make our season a tremendous success! From the coaches, Ms. Haugly and Ms. Kruger, to the players and parents, we couldn't have done it without you.

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!



3rd & 4th graders explore the STEAM bins, guided discovery in Science Technology Engineering Art and Math.



Our principal demonstrates how to scale the rock wall at Northland Lutheran High School.

## Willing Workers - Serving St. Paul's with our Time and Talents

by Jeanne Jackson

How much do you know about "Willing Workers"? Have you been searching for a direction in your life to help serve God's Children? This is a year of change at St. Paul's Church and School and the Willing Workers are eager to expand our membership and our service.

St. Paul's Willing Workers hosted a "Get Acquainted - 101" meeting on Sept. 17th. If you were not able to come that night, please consider coming on Sept. 27th at 1:00 p.m. when we start our apple pie project. Or come in October, or any third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are open to all ladies, young to "more experienced." Join us and learn what the St. Paul's Willing Workers group has planned for the 2018-19 year and meet other women who are interested in becoming more active in God's work. The group meets once a month, no meetings in the summer, with additional time directed to special projects. We make pies and soup for sale in November as a fund-raiser for the church, head the Advent by Candlelight evening for women, support missions, help with school projects and congregational gatherings, and organize at least one community project each year.

The group is always open to fresh new ideas to improve our approach toward helping our church and school, to join with our sister congregations and the community. Community projects, hopefully, make others aware of who we are and how and whom we serve.

Come and get acquainted with other women of the congregation and school. Meetings are always in the Dining Room and last just a couple of hours. Occasionally we work on projects during the daytime hours and just ask that you volunteer for those as you are available.

Join us for **FUN - FELLOWSHIP - SERVICE**

## Make the Best Investment

by Mike Anderson & Norm Paul

Between now and Epiphany, you and I have a special opportunity to grow in faith and Christian service. This opportunity involves a series of 15 to 20 minute presentations following worship services. The twofold goal is to raise our love for, and investment in, the kingdom of Christ. The presentations are entitled "The Grace of Giving - My Best Investment." All who participate will benefit with a greater role in kingdom work.

Beginning in early October, segments of our membership will be invited to stay after worship for a presentation. Please look forward to your personal invitation to grow in the Grace of Giving.



Dear ladies,  
did you ever wish  
you were a princess?

Let's upgrade: **BE A KING!**  
It's not a child's fantasy; it's WHO YOU ARE.

**CHRIST MAKES "THE LEAST" KINGS**  
Matthew 25:34-36, 40

**LWMS FALL RALLY**  
Lutheran Women's Mission Society, Wisconsin River Valley Circuit

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
703 Flieth St., Wausau (715) 845-3253

**OCTOBER 13, 2018**  
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Childcare\* and a lunch are provided.  
\* RSVP to Our Savior's so they can arrange caregivers.

**Keynote Speakers:**  
Rev. Joel Gaertner: *Jesus Cares Ministry*  
Caleb Solofra\*: *Teaching ESL in Peru*  
\* Seminary Student and Northland LHS graduate

**Everyone is welcome.**  
Bring a daughter, a husband, a friend, . . .

\$3.00 registration at the door

Willing Workers is organizing a carpool to the LWMS Mission Rally on October 13. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office.  
715-421-3634 or churchoffice@stpaulswr.org

## New television schedule

Wisconsin Rapids Community Media (WRCM) has changed their schedule a little. Our Worship service will now be shown on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Sundays at 6:00 p.m. And they are now showing "Time of Grace" at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays. WRCM is channel for Solarus customers and channel 895 for Charter Spectrum customers. You can also watch our service at any time on our website: [www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org).



Deaths in Our  
Church Family

Eugene Szlagowski & June Wotruba

## Special Gifts and Memorials

*Through September 16, 2018*

### Current

- In memory of Mike Foley given by Gary & Judy Stensberg, Jerry & Barb Blum, Barb Manz, Jack & Pat Fluno, Randy & Pat DeBoer,
- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Gary & Judy Stensberg, Barb Manz, Stephanie Bathke, Inge Johnson, Vernon & Betty Meyer, Jack & Pat Fluno, Marilyn Link, Larry Ubinger, Randy & Pat DeBoer, Agnesian HealthCare, Family & Friends
- In memory of Eugene Szlagowski given by Inge Johnson, Jack & Pat Fluno
- In memory of June Wotruba given by Jack & Pat Fluno

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Carol Newsom, Marvin & Dorothy Raasch, Kathy Jackson, Gil & Bev Pecher, Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Mike & Judy Anderson
- In memory of Eunice Jackson given by Kathy Jackson
- In memory of Mike Foley given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson, Mike & Judy Anderson, Anita Simenson, Tom & Jan Peronto, Family & Friends, Rob & Lisa Mallek, Dale & June Kretschme, Carol Newsom, Marilyn Foley, Susie Dempze
- In memory of Eugene Szlagowski given by Kathy Jackson

### Mortgage

- In memory of Mike Foley & Naomi Pierce given by Nona Henke

### St. Paul's School Volleyball

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Scott & Kim Ahles

### St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by David & Robin Koeshall and Friends & Family
- In memory of June Wotruba given by Edna Haferman

### Boy & Girl Pioneers

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Friends & Family

### Willing Workers

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Friends & Family

### Debt Reduction

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Friends & Family

### Altar Guild

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Friends & Family, Larry & Veronica Klish

### Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Naomi Pierce given by Sue Bobrowski, Tom & Barb Reitz, Edna & Faith Haferman, Kent & Kristie Schroeder
- In memory of Mike Foley given by Sue Bobrowski, Edna & Faith Haferman

### Handbells

- In memory of Mike Foley given by Kent & Kristie Schroeder



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October 2018 edition

## Upcoming Events

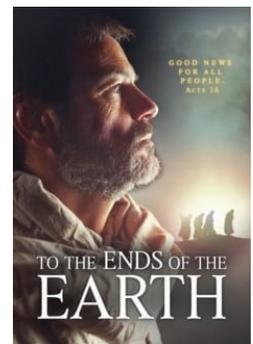
Mission Rally in Wausau  
Saturday, October 13

NLHS 40th Anniversary  
Sunday October 14

Trunk-or-Treat  
Wednesday, October 31  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

## MOVIE NIGHT

“To the Ends of the Earth”  
Friday, Oct. 19  
at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor Lucas Proeber • 989-780-3184 • [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)