



St. Paul's EPISTLE

September 2016 edition

Will All the Members of Our Church Receive the Gift of Eternal Life ?

By Pastor James Mumm

There is no question that every member of St. Paul's should receive the gift of everlasting life in heaven. All of our members have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. All of our children should be in the process of being trained-up in the teachings of the Holy Bible either at our Christian Grade School or Sunday School and in their homes. The teenagers and adults, who are confirmed members of our congregation, have studied the major teachings of the Holy Bible and should be reading God's Word at home and hearing it at church. They have made confession of their faith in the LORD God as their Creator and Savior and Faith-giver and in the teachings of His inspired Word. Our confirmed members have vowed to be faithful to the LORD God and to His teachings and commandments in their worship life and their everyday life.

The LORD God loves every member of our congregation and wants to give the gift of everlasting life in heaven to all of them. Jesus Christ tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:16-17). Every member of our congregation will be in heaven if they trust in Jesus Christ as their God and Savior.

There is, however, a big difference in being baptized, confirmed and knowing about Jesus Christ and in trusting in Him as our God and Savior. Trusting in Jesus as our God and Savior means we realize we are sinners who cannot earn, deserve or merit forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting in heaven. Trusting in Jesus as our God and Savior means we believe He is God who became a man in order to be punished for our sins and to earn forgiveness and heaven for us. Trusting in Jesus as our God and Savior means we are striving to turn away from every sinful way and false teaching and are striving to believe and live according to God's every teaching and commandment. Trusting in Jesus as our God and Savior



God's House.
Your Home.

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**Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am**

www.stpaulswr.org

means we sincerely ask our Father in heaven to forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake and sincerely dedicate ourselves to believe and live according to His Word.

True believers in Jesus Christ are forgiven and saved fully and only by God's grace and through faith in Jesus. True believers in Jesus Christ are empowered by His love to strive to do good works in accordance to His teachings and commandments. The Apostle Paul was inspired by God the Holy Spirit to write, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Consequently,
faith comes from
hearing the
message, and
the message
is heard
through the word
of Christ.

- Romans 10:17 (NIV84)

True believers in Jesus Christ realize they cannot in any way or to any degree earn, deserve or merit forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting in heaven. True believers in Jesus Christ trust in and depend completely on the Savior and His perfect life, vicarious death, and victorious resurrection for forgiveness of sins and salvation from death and damnation. True Christians, however, do sincerely repent of their sins and sincerely strive to believe and live according to God's teachings and commandments. The Apostle James was inspired to tell us, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). If we truly believe in and appreciate the love of Jesus for us and the salvation Jesus earned for us, we will love the Lord Jesus and strive to live a life of good works in accordance to His teachings and commandments. Jesus tells us, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15). Jesus tells us, "He who does not love me will not obey my teaching" (John 14:24).

Church members who only "know" about Jesus do not sincerely repent of their sins, trust in Him for salvation, and strive to believe and live according to His Word. Church members who refuse to faithfully worship Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit in their homes and at their church and carelessly break God's teachings and commandments may "know" about Jesus, but do not truly "trust" in Him or "love" Him.

The LORD God loves and wants to give the gift of everlasting life in heaven to every member of St. Paul's. He will give the gift of everlasting life in heaven to every member of St. Paul's who "trusts" in Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and Lord.

In His love for us and all people, Jesus Christ took upon Himself the agony of hell as He suffered and died for us on the Cross. Jesus Christ earned forgiveness for our every sin and life everlasting in heaven for every sinner. Sadly, there may be church members who only "know" about Jesus, but who do not truly "trust" in Jesus as their Savior or "live" for Him as their Lord. May we wisely and faithfully hear and read God's Word in our homes and at our church. May we humbly and confidently ask God the Holy Spirit to help us to truly know, trust in, love, and serve our Savior.

Holy Spirit, give us the wisdom to faithfully hear and read Your Word in our homes and at our church. By means of Your inspired Word, bless us with sincere repentance over our sins, sincere faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and sincere dedication to believe and live according to Your every teaching and commandment. Bless every member of our congregation and of all Christian congregations with true faith in Jesus Christ, true love for Him, and thankful obedience to His teachings and commandments. We pray to You, our divine Counselor, and to our heavenly Father, in the sacred name of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

For I was hungry and you gave me something
to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink.

~ Matthew 25:35

Help at The Neighborhood Table

You can help reduce hunger in our community by volunteering with St. Paul's at The Neighborhood Table on Thursday, Sept. 15. It is a very rewarding, fun experience. The Neighborhood Table is a nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers who provide free meals to anyone in need in an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect. There are about 375-400 guests at each Thursday meal.

Here's what will happen on our day. Meal prep begins at 12:30 p.m. The tables are set at about 2:00 p.m. To-go meal prep begins at 3:00 p.m. During the serving period (4:30 to 6:00 p.m.), we will need a greeter, plate scraper, dishwasher, dessert table host, servers and a dozen people to work the dining room. Clean up begins around 5:30, with everything being cleaned up and put away by 6:45 p.m. Figure out what job best fits you schedule and gifts, and then call Edna Haferman at 715-423-3776 to volunteer.

The Neighborhood Table is located at United Methodist Church, 441 Garfield Street, Wisconsin Rapids. To pay for the cost of food for the meal, a freewill offering will be taken on Sunday, September 21.



Let the little children
come to me...

SUNDAY SCHOOL

for 3-yr-olds through 8th grade
Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Your child will learn and grow in their faith
as they explore the Bible.

The first class is Sept. 11.

Sign up online at www.stpaulswr.org
or register on the first day of class.

Adults and teens can attend Bible study during the same period.

Meet Our New Teacher



Mrs. Karen Obsuszt has been called to serve as our 1st-2nd grade teacher. She will be installed during our August 28th worship services.

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Karen Obsuszt. I was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, by parents, Larry and Carol Tohm. My god-parents are Jim and Jeanne Jackson. I have one brother who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and one sister who lives here in Wisconsin Rapids.

I attended Concordia University, River Forest, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a specialization in Spanish. I have taught 2nd grade, 4th grade, 6th grade math, 7th and 8th grade Spanish, 3rd and 4th grade science and social studies.

I am married to Martin Obsuszt. We have been married for 17 years. I met Martin when I took my first teaching call to Cleveland, Ohio. We have been blessed with three beautiful girls. Olivia is 16 years old, Mikayla is 14 years old, and Brianna is 11 years old. We have one dog, Snickers, and two hermit crabs.

We have been members at St. Paul's for 12 years. I am currently working on my synod certification and am very excited to be the 1st and 2nd grade teacher at St. Paul's.

OPENING
SCHOOL
SERVICE

WEDNESDAY,
AUG. 31
AT 6:30 P.M.

Baby Boom at Little Lambs

The summer is flying by and the school year is just around the corner! Preschool orientation will be held on Monday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All families who are currently enrolled should have received a small packet in the mail with information and the Parent Handbook for the 2016-17 school year. Preschool's first day of school is Tuesday, Sept. 6. The Preschool classroom has had another update and is about ready to go!

This fall we are welcoming four new babies to our Infant Room! We are so excited to have these babies join us! With more babies comes the need for more baby equipment. One of our baby swings died and the carpet we were using for "tummy time" came to an unfortunate end and met the dumpster. If you have a **baby swing** in new to excellent condition, we'd be very interested in having it. **Classroom carpets** appropriate and safe for infants cost \$150-\$250+. Due to possible allergens and an infant's sensitive skin, we'd prefer to purchase this new. We are also still **looking for part-time staff** to assist us in our Infant and Toddler Rooms. Hours are very flexible. If you are interested in helping us work this very important ministry, would like to help us purchase a new rug, or have a baby swing available, please speak with Hannah Mueller!



Preschool room ready for the students.

A Note from Mr. Quint

Most of you are aware of the health issues I've been facing over the last several months. I wanted to update everyone and ask for your continued prayers for me and my family. I ended the school year with hip pain that required the use of a cane. My orthopaedic surgeon diagnosed my main problem as bursitis and treated me with a cortisone shot. So far the treatment has been effective as I have been off the cane since. In May, I became very hoarse and found speaking and singing very challenging. I was diagnosed with a cyst on one of my vocal cords. After a non-invasive treatment was ineffective, my doctor felt that surgical removal was necessary. I'll be having that surgery on August 25th. I do plan to be in the classroom by the first day of school on Sept. 1. Full recovery is expected 6-8 weeks. I thank you all for your prayers on my behalf.

School Offering Helps Local Mission

Dear students and staff of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School,

Thank you for giving your mission offerings to help our outreach efforts in the Stevens Point area. Our new building, called The Word, is currently being renovated, and is on track to be completed the week of November 7, 2016. We are expected to start spreading the word about The Word, which includes the good news of the Gospel of Jesus as Savior.

We thank God that He has moved your hearts to support the work of connecting the community of Stevens Point to Christ. We pray the Lord would continue to bless your ministries in Wisconsin Rapids as well. In Christ,

Jim Roecker, Pastor
Divine Word Lutheran Church

Changes in Our Church Family

Baptized this summer -

Aubrey Jean Knoll
Nora Johanna Eron

New members -

Sharon LaFontaine;
Jason & Melissa Christenson and their children
Mikayla, Vanessa & Julia;
Mary Crandall & her two daughters

Joined the Church Triumphant -

Hazel Pagel



Order School Spiritwear



T-shirts and
long-sleeved shirts

Order forms available
in the Welcome Center
and online.

Questions?
Contact Wendy Blum
wendy_blum@hotmail.com
or 715.421.9157

Schedule Change for Senior Services

* Please note the new times. *

The second Monday of the month

10:00 a.m. ~ Arborview Court
11:00 a.m. ~ St. Paul's Church
1:00 p.m. ~ The Waterford
2:30 p.m. ~ Bethel Center in Arpin

Ladies of Legacy



Women Walking and the Word will be using the *Ladies of Legacy* study this fall. Written by WELS member, Amber Albee Swenson, this study has 11 lessons on women in the bible with video introductions. It is a study for women in all stages of life: married, single, widowed, young adults or older women. Books are available for \$10. The group will meet on Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Jeanne Jackson at 715-424-1827 or jeannejacks@tznet.com.

Ms. Swenson has also written a study on well-known (and a few not so well known) moms in the bible. Maybe you have a group of friends who would enjoy going through this study with you. For information, visit biblemoms.com.

Online Bible Study Offered

Study the continuing importance of Luther's Small catechism for our homes, churches, society and culture in "What Does This Mean?" - an online Bible study offered by WELS Adult Discipleship. Rev. John Braun of Northwestern Publishing House will lead this study, which will be livestreamed twice on Wednesday nights from Sept. 21 until Oct. 26, at 6:00 & 8:00 p.m. The study will start with a brief history of the Small Catechism and explore its importance for Christian morals, beliefs, devotion and practical life. It will conclude with a discussion of its value for the next generation. For more information, visit wels.net/interactive_faith.

Other Studies Offered this Fall

Sunday Morning Bible Study
Sundays - 9:15-10:15 a.m.
In the Dining Room

Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays - 6:45-7:45 a.m.
at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
(250 W Grand Ave)

Midweek Bible Study
Wednesdays - 10:30-11:30 a.m.
In the Bible Study Room
Begins Sept. 7

Bible Book Group
Wednesdays - 6:30-8:00 p.m.
In the Resource Center
Begins Sept. 14

Men's Small Group
Thursdays - 7:00-7:45 a.m.
at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
(250 W Grand Ave)





Living Water —Living Word

LWMS Mission Rally

Saturday, Oct. 1 ~ 9:00-3:00pm
at St. Paul's in Wisconsin Rapids

Pastor Mark Wenzel will speak about WELS Prison Ministry.



Mission Festival ~ Sunday, Oct. 2

Pastor Charlie Iles from WELS Prison Ministry
will speak at the 8:00 & 10:30 services.

Put Your Harvest to Work

Fall is nearly here and so is the Willing Worker Craft and Bake Sale. Remember the wonderful pies and soups that we made last year? We will be making them again, but in the meantime if you are making pickles or jams or sauces, we hope you will donate some to add to the sale offerings. If you have potatoes, cabbage, onions, carrots, celery in your garden and would be willing to donate some, just bring it to the church office and they will direct you to the kitchen. We also will need apples, pumpkins and helping hands. Watch the bulletin for dates and times for pie making. It is good fellowship for a good cause. In the past the proceeds have been used to pay down debt or to fund a special project. Hope to have you join us!

Golfing for a Cause

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) will hold their annual golf outing on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon, WI. This golf tournament is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. You may sign up as a single, double, triple or foursome—all registrants will be assigned to groups of four if they are signed up in any amount less than that. Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, meal, and chance at door prizes. All proceeds benefit Northland's Tuition Assistance Fund. For more information and to register, please visit www.nlhs.org or call NLHS at 715-359-3400.



Make a List of God's Blessings and Thank Him for Them!

“Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—“

~ Psalm 103:1–2.

We might well make a list of the many blessings which we receive each day from the LORD our God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and thank Him for them. In your list you should be the many Christians at our church who humbly, joyfully, and willingly serve Him and our congregation of Christians.

- Each week, fellow Christians clean and maintain our House of Worship and Christian School with the many rooms, yards, playgrounds, and electrical and mechanical equipment.
- Recently, hours of time and talent have been given as thank offerings to the LORD in waxing floors and cleaning carpets.
- Each week members of our congregation use their musical talents and computer skills to enhance our worship services and to place our worship services and congregation information on the internet and on television.
- Each week members count and record worship attendance and the thank offerings given at our worship service, print and fold our worship bulletins, and tidy-up our pews and worship area.
- Each week members serve our LORD by preparing our church altar for our worship service, serving as musicians, choir members, soloists, and serving as ushers and greeters.
- Every month members serve on our Leadership and Education Committees, as Stephen Ministers, as Shut-in Visitors, as Lutheran Pioneers and Youth Ministry leaders, and on other committees which promote the preaching and teaching of God's Word, Christian love and fellowship, and outreach with God's Word into our community and world.
- Each week members teach God's saving Word in Bible studies, Sunday School classes and conduct devotions at various congregation meetings.
- Each year members teach God's Word, serve with crafts and recreation, and gather and prepare props and other materials at and for our Vacation Bible School.
- Each school day and for fellowship gathering our members prepare and serve food and drinks for the benefit of our students, members and guests.
- Each day pastors, Christian School teachers, the congregation president, treasurer and financial secretary, office secretaries, and other members do many important and helpful activities at our church to bring glory to God and His Word and Christian love and other good things to our children, adults and visitors.

Let's remember to thank the LORD our God for all of His blessings and on our list of things to be thankful for should be the many fellow Christians at our church who humbly, joyfully and willingly serve Him and us.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through August 14, 2016

Current Ministry

- In memory of Elaine Davis given by Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Stephanie Bathke's brother, Gareth Gee, given by Inge Johnson
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Inge Johnson, Jerry & Barb Blum, Bob & Joan Hafermann Sr., Vernon & Betty Meyer, Mitzi Casey, Dan McCarville, and Pat Schade

School

- In memory of Elaine Davis given by Vernon & Betty Meyer
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Anita Simenson

Mortgage

- In memory of Helen McAuley's sister, Rose Marie Wallace, given by Helen McAuley and Judy Lubeck
- In memory of Stephanie Bathke's brother, Gareth Gee, given by Stephanie Bathke, Gary & Linda Jones, Neil & Lois Wittrock, and Bob Kroll
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Stephanie Bathke

Line of Credit Loan

- In memory of Stephanie Bathke's brother, Gareth Gee, given by Gil & Bev Pecher and Huntz & Marilyn Link
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Carol Brown

Cheerful Givers

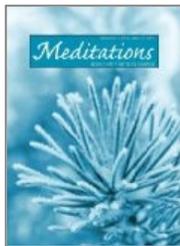
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Kathy Jackson

Student Assistance Fund

- In thankfulness of the true Word of God being taught at our school given by Larry & Veronica Klish
- In memory of Hazel Pagel given by Edna & Faith Haferman, Donna Stensberg, Gary & Judy Stensberg, Larry & Veronica Klish, and Bill & Elaine Wittrock
- In memory of Stephanie Bathke's brother, Gareth Gee, given by Gary & Judy Stensberg

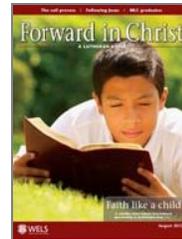
Decorating Fund

- In memory of Harold & Helen Nieman given by Don & Melissa Bork



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September 2016 edition

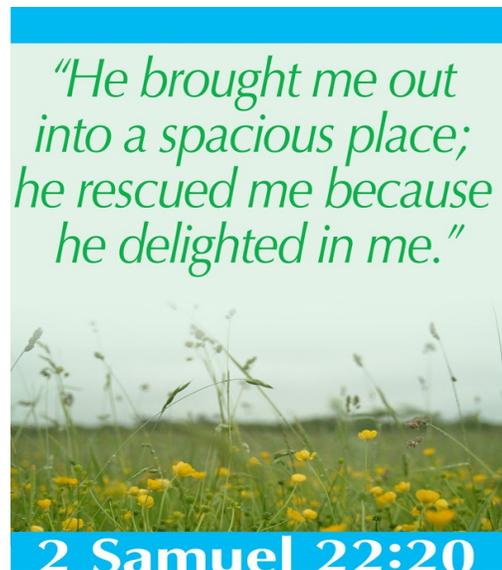
Upcoming Events

Opening School Service
Wednesday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m.

First Day of School at St. Paul's
Thursday, September 1

Sunday School Begins
Sunday, Sept. 11 - 9:15-10:15

Neighborhood Table
Thursday, Sept. 15



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