



St. Paul's EPISTLE

September 2017 edition

No Eclipse

By Pastor Baur



We have just experienced the long awaited astronomical event in a lifetime. For months now we have been prepped as to the best location to view it, the critical eye protection needed, and the predictable path it would follow. And if the weather was clear, if you were situated in the right place, at the right time, then for a couple minutes, you could experience a midday darkness in the midst of bright daylight. You would have seen a solar eclipse.

So what is an eclipse anyway? The word has its meaning rooted in the thought "to leave out or to abandon." During an eclipse, the sun, which should be brightly shining, seems to have abandoned, or left its place. All that remains is darkness. However, it is not the sun that has abandoned its location or left the area, it is the moon that has gotten between us and the sun, and momentarily it seems like the sun is gone. It doesn't last long, but in those couple of minutes the benefit of the sun, its warmth and its light disappear. It is the middle of day, the streetlights go on, and the crickets begin to chirp. What an eerie sight.

There is another eclipse that takes place. It happens when we let our schedules and interests eclipse our worship, our time in God's Word. It is when the things of life get between us and the Lord. There is a darkness that overshadows our life. There is an eerie silence. It is because there is something that is left out, and it changes everything.

Instead of an eclipse, enjoy the warmth of God's grace as it dispels the darkness and sheds light on the Lord's will for your life. That is what you can experience no matter your location and no matter the time of day. What an amazing sight, not once in a lifetime, but for a lifetime.

You are all children of the light and children of the day.

We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:5

God's House. Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org



For I as hungry and you
gave me something to eat
- Matthew 25:35

Help with the Community Meal

On Thursday, September 14, our church will take its turn preparing and serving the supper at The Neighborhood Table. This community meal serves about 275 people each week. Between 30-40 volunteers are needed to help with cooking, serving, greeting, and clean up. Most of the work takes place between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. (For safety reasons, volunteers must be over the age of 14.) Please contact Edna Haferman (715-423-3776) to let her know how you would like to help.

If you are a baker, we will also need about 50 dozen home-made cookies to serve as dessert. Please bring them to the church office on or before Sept. 13.

Comfort during Cancer



Cancer...a very scary word to hear and even more so, if it is your diagnosis. Where do you turn for comfort? Come to the Willing Worker's first meeting of the year on Monday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. to hear from Su Hanson. She is a cancer survivor and the founder of Comforter Ministry, a mission of comfort and compassion. This ministry reaches out to women with cancer with God's Word and the love of the Comforter through journals and quilts. Su will talk about her journey with cancer, how her ministry began, and the worldwide reach it has had since its founding. All members of the congregation, not just women, are invited to learn how you can be part of this comforting ministry. For more information on Comforter Ministry, visit www.comforterministry.com.

Sing in the Reformation Choir

Our church choir is looking at whether there is enough interest to participate in the joint festival choir during the Western Wisconsin District Reformation Celebration in Madison on October 29. They will be singing arrangements of the familiar hymns (A Mighty Fortress, Built on the Rock, and The Church's One Foundation) as well as a psalm arrangement. In late September or early October, we would attend one of the regional rehearsals in either Tomah or Schofield. A final rehearsal with the whole choir will take place at 2:00 on the day of the event.

If you have never sung with our choir before, you are still welcome to join for this event. If you are interested, please contact Kristi Perry at kristi_joy@hotmail.com or 715-423-6023. Or, you can just come to the first choir practice on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m.

The event organizers hope to have 200-300 WELS members singing in the festival choir for this special worship service, so please consider joining our group.

Western Wisconsin District Reformation Celebration

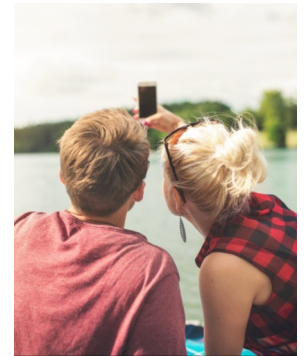


Sunday, October 29
Dane County Coliseum
Madison, WI

Festival Worship: 4:00
Special Hymn Sing: 6:00
Come early to visit displays
and vendor booths.

Say Cheese!

We are still collecting photos for our church database. We are looking for pictures of you and/or your family (a selfie will do), so our new pastor will be able to put faces and names together more quickly. If you do not have a suitable photo, we have someone who can take your picture on Sunday morning. Just contact the office to let us know you need this done. Otherwise, send your photo via email (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or bring in a printed photo that we can scan it.



Subscription Drive

We are holding our annual subscription drive for *Forward in Christ* and *Meditation* magazines. *Forward in Christ* contains biblically focused articles, insightful editorials, and news about Lutherans worldwide. This magazine is delivered to your home each month. *Meditations* is a devotional booklet offering daily Scripture-based studies of God's Word. They are clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayer for each day. This magazine is published quarterly and is delivered via your church mailbox. Both periodicals can be purchased through our church at a discounted prices. *Forward in Christ* is \$13.50 per year and *Mediations* is \$15.50 per year. Large Print *Meditations* are also available for \$19.10 per year. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the church office (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 714-421-634).

Go Digital

Forward in Christ is available in electronic form. Visit online.nph.net for more info.

Time to Hit The Book!



Join a Bible Study

Sunday at 10:15 a.m. - Sunday Bible Study
in the Dining Room

Tuesday at 6:45 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop

Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. - Women Walking in the Word
in the Resource Center

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - Bible Book Group
in the Resource Center

Thursday at 7:00 a.m. - Men's Small Group
at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop

Apples needed for apple pies!



If you have apple trees, we would appreciate your donations of apples. The Willing Workers will turn them into yummy take & bake apple pies, which will be available for purchase in October and November. Purchases of apple pies fund special projects around the church. Please bring your donations of apples to the church by Sept. 25.

A note on our worship schedule:



We will continue our current Sunday morning schedule until a new pastor comes on board and we are able to expand our ministry.

Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study at 10:15 a.m.
Monday worship at 6:30 p.m.

School News

By Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

Some people like to ask the question, "Where has the summer gone?" Even though it may seem like the summer went quickly, a lot of things have gotten done at St. Paul's.

First, I would like to thank Ron Schroeder for his tireless effort on cleaning carpets, scrubbing floors, and then waxing them. Ron puts in a lot of hours before the first person ever steps foot in the building each morning. Personally, I think he comes in so early so I do not bother him. Second, we have been able to upgrade the entire computer lab in the resource center. We were able to do this because of a generous memorial given to school. We replaced all the computers with new machines and were able to increase the capacity of the lab to 25 work stations. Next, we were able to put up a chain-link fence to enclose the expanded Little Lamb's playground. A special thank you goes out to Gary DeWilde, Jon Jensen, Steve Kaehn, Jean Olari, and Tim Olari for their hard work.

Those were part of the visible things you could see getting done at St. Paul's. But, there were things you cannot see being accomplished, too. Karen Obsuszt successfully completed two more of her synod certification classes. I was able to complete my second master's class. The registrar, Kristie Schroeder, has been working on updating the enrollment forms.

With the help of Northland Lutheran High school, we have a new school theme, "All in for Christ." The theme is based on Colossians 3:1-17. This may seem like a large section of scripture for a school theme, but I challenge you to go and read these verses. You will find a lot of ideas in the verses, but the verses do encompass what it means for a Christian to be "All In". This theme will focus our thoughts throughout the year in our classrooms and during our chapel services. We invite all of you who are able to come and join us for our chapel service. The service is held on Wednesday mornings from 9-9:30. Not only will you get a chance to spend some time in God's Word, you will get to see all the different musical talents in piano, handbells, and instrumentals.

Finally, I would like to invite all of you to join us for the school's opening service on Monday, August 28th, at 6:30 p.m. This is the official start to the school year. Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 29th, at 8:45 a.m. We will begin the school year with 109 students from 3K through 8th grade. The Lord has truly blessed us as we look forward to a new school year.



Our updated and expanded computer lab.



The fencing around the larger playground area was placed on the pavement to allow for easier lawn mowing and a safe space for the children to use riding toys.

Parsonage Remodel Nears Completion

by Jeremy Buck

The major parts of the project are nearing completion, and the parsonage is beautiful. Any family would love to use this space and entertain guests from the church. The majority of the flooring is complete including the office and front hallways. The family "playroom" and the kitchen now flow together beautifully. There is so much space in the new cabinets, and they look incredible. The overall effect is everything we had hoped.

There are still lots of small items to work on including sealing concrete block in the basement, reinstalling trim, cleaning, and other odds and ends. If you would still like to be a part of this amazing project, please contact Jeremy Buck at 715-697-6121.

A special thanks once again to Mike Paul. Without his dedication and hard work, this project would not have been possible.

After the project is complete and before the new pastor moves in, we will have an open house event some Sunday after the church service.



The remodeled kitchen and family room.



New flooring in the hallway.

In the Mailbox

We are getting settled in our new home here in Oshkosh. We have visited Living Water here and find it to be a good fit for us. We are thankful for the many years we spent as members of St Paul's and for the ministry we received there. We will miss you but we know that if we never see each other again here on earth we will be together singing praises to our LORD in eternity.

Your brother & sister In Christ,
Terry & June Jeffson



Childcare Workers

Full & Part-time. Flexible hours.
Possible summers off.
Contact Hannah Mueller
715-421-3634 ext. 15
littl lambs@stpaulswr.org

"We Can Do It"

by Garth Perry

During World War II, male enlistment in the armed forces caused a drastic loss in the mostly male dominated workforce. Between 1940 and 1945, the female percentage of the US workforce increased from 27% to nearly 37% and by 1945, nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

What does this have to do with the ministry of our congregation? One of the stars of the campaign to recruit female workers for the war effort was Rosie the Riveter. This was a fictitious character that represented a required adjustment due to unexpected demographic change. The slogan for this campaign was "We Can Do It." The government wanted all women to know that they could play an important role in the war effort. Both men and women were working together for a common goal – to win the war.

Perhaps you may feel like a "Rosie" wondering how you can make a difference. Now, I want to make clear that I am not specifically targeting women as a "Rosie." During that time period, some women did serve in the war effort and some men stayed home. Many men today also do not know where or how they can serve in the church. The point is that everyone played their part in the war effort then, and we each have a role to play now.

God gave us each gifts to be used in different ways but for the same goal – to win the war. We are not in a political war, but we are in a spiritual war against the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. We need to be daily in the Word studying it and applying God's Word to our lives. We need to pray daily for ourselves, our family, our church family, and all those who have not yet heard the Gospel message of God's grace. We need to encourage each other in Christian love.

Did you know that our congregation has seven ministry boards – Elders, Mission Outreach, Family Ministry, Fellowship, Worship, Lutheran Education, and Church Properties? There is much ministry work to be done in our church, in our synod, and in the world. As Christians, our goal is to share the Gospel message with everyone. How can you serve? The following boards still have no chairman: Mission Outreach, Family Ministry, and Worship. Those are just three ways that you can serve. Talk to Garth Perry if you are interested in learning more about serving as a leader on these boards.

While council positions require male leadership, there are several opportunities for women to serve. Women are encouraged to serve on committees, ministry teams, task forces, and in many other ways.

In Philippians 4:11, Paul writes, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." "We can do it" was the slogan in the 1940s. Our slogan is the same – "We Can Do It." We can work together with the Holy Spirit's guidance to spread the Gospel using the gifts God has given us.



Counting Our Blessings

- God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
- New members: Nancy Athnos and Jason Johnson
- 54 children attended VBS.
- We filled five boxes with school supplies for the community Stuff the Bus drive.
- Our Food Shelf is full plus we sent 7 bags of groceries to SWEPS.
- We collected \$752 for outreach in China.

In the Mailbox

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Paul's,

What a joy and a privilege it was to be with you just a few short Sundays ago! Thank you for the support and prayers you offer on behalf of your brothers and sisters in East Asia and the encouragement you are to our family. St. Paul's has always had a special place in our hearts. It's where we first experienced team ministry, small group Bible study, family Sunday school, and got to raise our young children with godly role models and mentors. We know that you have faced many challenges in the past, and continue to experience hardships in the present, but we rejoice to see the love of Jesus still shining through you. Your acts of service, kindness, and faithfulness to the Word bring glory and pleasure to the face of our God. He delights in you. And so do we!

Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

With love from your family in Christ,
Pastor Matt, Chris, Maddie, Sam, and Caleb Doebler



Called home to heaven:
Erma Rice
Darlene Fanning

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through August 20, 2017

School

- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Sue Bobrowski
- In honor of Vernon & Betty Meyer's 65th wedding anniversary given by Scott & Cindy Gasch
- In memory of Neil Wittrock given by Rebecca Hein
- In memory of Lisa Crump's sister, Arthamae Sadlemyer, given by Larry & Veronica Klish, Faith & Edna Haferman and Sue Bobrowski
- In memory of Darlene Fanning given by Larry & Veronica Klish and Sue Bobrowski

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Ron & Georgene Provost, Jack & Pat Fluno, and Ruth Taggatz
- In memory of Erma Rice given by Ruth Taggatz, Jack & Pat Fluno
- In memory of Darlene Fanning and Arthamae Sadlemyer (Lisa Crump's sister) given by Jim & Jeanne Jackson

Current Ministry

- In memory of Teresa (Grosskreutz) Horgan given by Pat Grosskreutz
- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Donna Stensberg and Barbara Manz
- In memory of Darlene Fanning given by Betty & Vernon Meyer

Mortgage

- In memory of Robert & Ida Rokus and their daughter Marilyn given by Grant & Marcia Mauk

Missions

- In memory of Donna Burgeson given by Bill & Elaine Wittrock

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Darlene Fanning given by Tom & Barb Reitz

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Darlene Fanning, Kristie Schroeder's uncle, and Arthamae Sadlemyer (Lisa Crump's sister) given by Faith & Edna Haferman



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Phone: 715-421-3634
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September 2017 edition

Upcoming Events

Opening School Service
Aug. 28 at 6:30pm

Choir Practice Begins
Sept 13 at 6:00pm

The Neighborhood Table
Sept. 14 ~ 4:00-6:30pm

Comforter Ministry Presentation
Sept. 18 at 6:30pm



Sunday School
Begins Sept. 17
10:15-11:15 a.m.

For children in grades K-6
Parents & Teens are invited to Bible Study

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424