Once again our society has revealed its level of respect for marriage. A U.S. District Judge recently ruled that the state’s prohibition of same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. This has once again stirred up a heated debate on what marriage is. It has evidenced that there is little respect for “one man, one woman, for life,” marriage.

Earlier this month another statement was made on marriage; it was included in a marriage ceremony. I was able to speak on God’s unchanging will for marriage with these words, “When God created the world, he brought man and woman together for marriage. With this relationship, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of children and put in place the basis for society.” This is marriage which the Lord has established from the beginning of time. This is marriage which deserves our respect.

So how much respect do we show? Is it only a matter of speaking against same sex marriage, or is there more? Consider this, our society has currently set a 50/50 survival rate for marriage. Not a convincing demonstration of respect. The sad part is the same odds are matched by those who confess Christian faith. We have shown the same level of disrespect as those around us.

That is true of married life and life before marriage. Respect for marriage is shown as unmarried couples save themselves sexually for the person they will someday marry. Respect for marriage is shown by not undermining it with a “living together” approach to marriage. That is how we show we respect marriage. At the same time husbands and wives demonstrate love for each other and by their actions they show respect for marriage.

As Christians, the Lord has called on us to do more than define marriage. He has asked us to demonstrate marriage. That is how we show respect for marriage.

As you go about your vacations this summer, do not forget that you can locate a WELS church by using the internet. Log on to www.wels.net and click on the church locator link at the top of the page. Type in your location and a list of congregations will pop up for you to use.
Fellowship

Do you know someone that could really use a little help on either a consistent schedule or when special needs arise. It may be a meal, a ride to an appointment, or maybe to get medicine or food items? The board of fellowship heard about an excellent website that helps keep a monthly calendar that organizes needs of an individual. This can be used by family members to provide specific needs of another family member in declining health, or by the entire congregation. It would be another way to show the love they have for a fellow Christian. We have heard of different individuals in the area that made use of the care calendar and have demonstrated its use. We feel it would be a blessing for the members of our congregation to be aware of it. You can go to the website, CareCalendar.org. To learn more about this great site, speak to a member of the board of fellowship. Randy DeBoer is the chairman. Thank You.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the LORD. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” - Romans 12:10-11-13

Worship at the Ballpark with Koiné

Members brought their friends and relatives for Worship at the Park on June 15. About 167 people gathered at Witter Field for worship, Koiné Church Band joined us there for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the worship service, the Rafters organization served us a delicious lunch of hamburgers, grilled chicken, brats, hotdogs, beans, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips and pop or water. The weather forecast for the day was rainy all day which would have put a damper on our worship. The only rain that did come was during the game for a brief moment. Thank you for all of the prayers for sunshine. One of the highlights of the day was the seventh inning stretch being sung by Noah Cook (nephew of Kent and Kristie Schroeder). The comment made by the Rafters helper was, “I didn’t know you could sing so well!” The Rafters couldn’t quite pull it out in the end, but everyone had a great time. We even had a bean bag toss competition before the game began. Brody Knutson and Nathan Jackson were the big winners. We thank the Rafters organization for helping us have a great time at the ballpark!

Summer Time at Little Lambs By Hannah Mueller

Summer care for Little Lambs has gotten off to a great start! The children have been enjoying doing fun activities (especially going to the pool) and hearing God’s word every day. We currently have 83 children enrolled for the summer and are projected to have close to 100 once school starts. Our new block fee schedule is also going into affect starting July 1st. This new fee schedule should help us with our budget and allow us to continue making improvements for our Center. The Lord has truly blessed our ministry at Little Lambs, not only in our growing numbers, but also by allowing us to make necessary improvements to our facility. The bathrooms in the Preschool Room were in need of a much needed ‘face lift’. They’ve been repainted and new countertops have been installed. I’d like to thank everyone who helped us in improving our facility with their God-given talents!

Little Lambs is always looking for help, especially subs. If you would like to serve the Lord in this way, please speak with me by emailing me at littlemambs@stpaulswr.org or calling me at church at ext. 15. Thank you for taking the time to consider helping in this way!

On behalf of myself and the staff, we hope you and your family have a happy and safe rest of your summer! Enjoy the photos of our kids!
Cranberry Fest Parade a Success

Once again we participated in the Cranberry Fest Parade on Sunday, June 22. This was a great way for us to promote our Vacation Bible School within the community. We passed out many flyers and all but a bucketful of the candy. Thank you to the many volunteers who participated by walking, riding, driving and setting up the float in the Welcome Center for promotion of our VBS. A special thank you to Dale Kretschmer for registering the float and making sure everything went smoothly while Gail was on vacation.

Gangway to Galilee

This year’s VBS has a nautical theme. Gangway to Galilee VBS will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus’ ministry there. By grace through faith, Jesus, God’s own Son our Savior, calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need now and forever. That’s amazing grace! There is a free supper each night at 5:50 p.m. and activities get underway at 6:00 p.m.

Registration is open for all ages.

Don’t miss the boat! Set sail with us to sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Plus, you’ll learn all about Jesus our Savior and His amazing grace! Can’t wait to see you there! Register online at www.stpaulswr.org, call 715-421-3634 or e-mail churchoffice@stpaulswr.org.

Connect Children with the Good News.

Every child needs to hear the Good News that Jesus their Savior calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need by His amazing grace through faith. At Gangway to Galilee VBS, you will connect children with the most important message of their lifetime: the miraculous story of what Jesus did for us that we could never do for ourselves. If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. You can be a kitchen helper, greeter, story teller, lead games, help with crafts, lead songs, care for kids under age 3, decorate, lead groups, or clean up. Call Gail Kretschmer at 715-325-5678 or e-mail mikegail@solarus.net for more information. Join us for an Amazing Grace Adventure! You can also find registration and volunteer sign-up forms on the VBS display table in the Welcome Center.
In the Mailbox

Thank you to our pastors and my St. Paul’s family for the prayers & get well cards and well wishes for my recent surgery. It meant a lot. God’s Blessings.

Barb Reitz

In June, 1984, at 28 years old, we survived my stroke, 30 years ago. God is good, so good to me. I give a prayer of thanksgiving that God allowed me to celebrate my 59th birthday on June 17th.

Pastor Baur, you arrived in WR shortly after I came home from my June-September stay in Marshfield. You came and prayed with us during a few years of rehab, and you watched me and my family grow in the Word while we were learning our new life in so many everyday ways. You answered our many questions by directing us to the right passage or by just listening to me, Den, Kevin and Kelli while we searched for answers to our doubts and fears not knowing what was ahead. We do appreciate the grace that the Lord has given us in good times and rough times. We thank you always.

Pastor Douglas, we appreciate that you too have been a part of our continued growing closer to God...59 & 60 and still learning. Wow! We thank you always.

We thank our family, our church family, and our friends for being here for us. My wish for you is that you will have the same peace that you have given me.

Debb Stensberg

Congregation & Council — St. Paul’s, Wisconsin Rapids,

On behalf of the congregations in both Adams and Mauston, we would like to thank you for your recent donation of $187. We used the money to purchase hymnals to continue our outreach efforts in Adams County.

St. Paul’s Church Council, Mauston & Adams
Special Gifts and Memorials
Given through June 22, 2014

Mortgage
- In thankfulness of their 56 years of marriage on May 31 given by Ron & Georgene Provost
- In memory of their fathers on Father’s Day given by Ron & Georgene Provost

School
- In memory of Terry’s parents and Sandy’s father given by Terry & Sandy Krause
- In memory of June Ellen Gatz, Linda Jones’ cousin given by Linda Jones, Art & Diane Kazmierczak, The Finup sisters: Dave & Sharon Kreutzer, P. James & Marilyn Hepp

Cheerful Givers
- In memory of Jim Dempze given by James & Cynthia Hiles

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund
- In memory of Al Leitner given by Edna Haferman

Wanted

New or used gas-powered push lawn mower. The Board of Properties is asking that someone prayerfully consider donating either a new or used push lawn mower for use in maintaining the church lawn. Please contact Brian Johnson with any questions.

St. Paul’s is once again serving as a collection site for the community-wide Stuff the Bus campaign. Bring your donations of school supplies to the church office. They will be distributed to families with financial need. Items needed: backpacks, 1” binders, loose leaf paper, notebooks and folders in plain colors, pencil boxes, pencils, pens, red pens, colored pencils, markers, crayons, highlighters, watercolor sets, calculators, pink erasers, pencil top erasers, compasses, scissors, glue sticks, and glue. These items are already going on sale, so you can pick some up at a good price!
We are receiving donated school supplies through August 6. The supplies will be taken to the Stuff the Bus event at Lunch by the River on August 7. From there they will be distributed to children in our area before school starts.
Important Dates to Remember

Independence Day—July 4
Office Closed

Voters’ Meeting—July 14
6:30 pm

Vacation Bible School—July 27-31
5:30pm Supper
6:00pm—8:00pm VBS

Vacation Bible School
for All Ages
July 27-31
5:30-8:00 p.m.