



St. Paul's EPISTLE

February 2019 edition

We've altered our service times; we will soon be offering more opportunities for Bible study; we are doing our best to analyze each facet of ministry so that we can encourage and touch the lives of as many people as possible with the message of the gospel. Yet, some people may have forgotten or might not understand the benefits of consistent worship with fellow, like-minded believers. The following article, which you can also find at 1thingmatters.com, helps us discover and recover what some of those blessings are. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did. I'll see you in worship! - Pastor Proeber

Hey Christian, Go to Church.

Posted on 1thingmatters.com | January 6, 2017

"If you don't go to church regularly, you're going to hell." "You can't get into heaven unless you're a regular church-goer."

Have you heard something along the lines of these statements lately? Didn't think so. I haven't either, because such statements are completely false (*If you have in fact heard them, shame on anyone who expressed them!*).

Nevertheless, what is alarming to me is a growing trend among Christians to set up straw man statements like those above, against which they then proceed to argue the point that Christians don't need to go to church to be Christians. It's a sort of "what we do during the week matters more than just one hour on the weekend" mentality.

Of course Christians don't need to go to church to be Christians! A building or a religious service don't make people Christians – faith in a Savior who lived, died, and rose again to solidify our salvation is what makes Christians. And faith in that Savior is all that will ever make Christians. Let's agree on this point and put it behind us.



Continued on pg 2

God's House. Your Home.

- **Marriage Retreat at Hotel Mead pg 2**
- **New Pictorial Directory Coming This Summer pg 2**
- **School News pg 3-5**
- **Your Heart and Joy Are Being Summoned p.6**
- **It's Retreat Season pg 7**

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

www.stpaulswr.org



“I rejoiced
with those who
said to me, ‘Let us
go to the house of
the LORD.’”

- Psalm 122:1

Counting Our Blessings

- A positive response to the change in worship times.
- Nine people attending *A People Close to God* class
- Our Christian School
- Sunshine on a winter day
- Christian marriages

Hey Christian, Go to Church. Continued from pg 1

But doesn't such faith in a Savior who lived, died, and rose again to secure our salvation also gravitate toward that same Savior? Don't faith's ears hunger to be filled with the good news of that Savior again and again? Doesn't faith's heart yearn to gather together with fellow believers to bear burdens, build up, and encourage one another as the Savior compels us to do? Don't faith's hands glory in giving back to the Savior its best offerings? Don't faith's failures crave forgiveness? Aren't all of these longings met in the hearing of Scripture, the remembering of my baptism, and my participation in the Lord's Supper, all of which happen together... at church?

No, Christians don't need to go to church to be Christians. But if I were to go on a search to find a Christian somewhere, wouldn't church be the ideal place to start? Wouldn't we expect to find Christians delighted to gather together wherever the Word of God is proclaimed?

It's been said that sitting in church doesn't make a person a Christian anymore than standing in a garage makes one a car. True, but at the same time, if I'm looking for a car, wouldn't a garage be a pretty reasonable place to begin my search?

Christian, go to church. Not because you *have* to. Because you *get* to. In Christ Jesus you have been set free and in church (worship) God extends to you an all-access pass to the unlimited riches of his grace and blessing, and you won't find them anywhere else like you will in church.

Marriage Retreat at Hotel Mead

Imagine a weekend away from the daily stresses of work, home, and kids. You and your spouse will grow together in your faith life, enjoy "date night" activities and uplifting music, and learn practical, relationship-building skills such as intimacy, structuring priorities, and applying God's covenant to marriage. You can experience this at the With This Ring Marriage Retreat on February 22-24.

The retreat is happening right here in Wisconsin Rapids at the Hotel Mead! So, you can save money and commute each day. Or splurge and spend a romantic night in the hotel. Pastor Proeber and his wife Amy have already signed up. Won't you join them?

This event is sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in De Pere. For more information, visit WithThisRingRetreat.com. Spots are filling fast, so sign up soon!



New Pictorial Directory Coming This Summer

Please join us for a free professional photography session and be included in the new St. Paul's directory. We need you to help make our directory complete! Photography starts June 6. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait, a free printed directory, and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Remember, this directory will not be complete without you!

From the Principal

Sunday, January 27 is Christian Education Sunday. In the church service, we have the opportunity to thank the Lord for the gift of Christian Education. Christian Education has been an important part of the WELS right from the start. At the first convention of the Wisconsin Synod in May of 1850, it was resolved that every pastor should "devote himself especially to the young and conduct a day school, and Bible and mission classes." Today, the WELS is the fourth largest private school system in the United States. For 169 years our schools have played an important role in the mission of the church.

We can give God thanks that the Lord has blessed St. Paul's Lutheran Church with a school for the entire 120 year history of St. Paul's. Interestingly, the Christian school was the sole reason for the establishment of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. We were established on the west side of the Wisconsin River to provide a shorter distance for students to travel to school. Immanuel Lutheran on the east side was simply too far away for the growing number of families living on the west side. We pray that the Lord of the church will continue to use St. Paul's Lutheran School as an important tool to reach the lost and keep the found in our community.

Classroom Highlights

3K-4K News – by Mrs. Carole Melso

It was great to get back to the classroom after our Christmas break! We have centered our themes around some "wintry" subjects this month. We had a blast creating our own unique snowmen pictures after being inspired by the book, *Snowballs*, by Lois Ehlert. We do miss having snow on our playground, but we made the best of it by pretending to ice skate on the slippery patches instead. The children have been so interested in our penguin unit! They are able to identify many of the species of penguins and have been giggling at all of the silly antics we see while watching penguin videos on our big screen. God has surely blessed us with some unique and wonderful animals to enjoy. We have been practicing our letter and number recognition skills and are doing a great job of listening for beginning sounds! We can often hear the students saying, b-b-b-ball or f-f-f-fish as they see words around the classroom. We are making use of a "quiet" corner where we have set up an igloo tent to be used for looking at books and snuggling with some of our polar pets (stuffed animals). It is such a joy to hear the children asking to sing some of their favorite songs, which often are our favorite Jesus songs. We love the song, "Grace", that tells us of God's great love for us and our song from November, "Give Thanks." Thank you to all who support our preschool program here at St. Paul's!

Kindergarten News – by Miss Rachel Haugley

Christ Light: This month we have learned about Jonah, 3 Men in the Fiery Furnace, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Queen Esther, and Job. The Kindergarteners were excited to hear these well known Bible stories again.

Guided Discovery: Since school has resumed, we took a full week to learn 8 facts about the state of Wisconsin. Do you know what the Wisconsin state flower is?

Reading: We are up to knowing 13 letters now. As a result, the Kindergarteners are on full throttle to reading all by themselves.

Message from Ms. Haugly: Happy New Year! Volunteers are still welcomed to come and read to the Kindergarten class. (10:15-10:30) Books will be provided or can be brought from home. Come and show how fun reading can be!!!



Classroom Highlights

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

We are now back into the swing of things after Christmas break. Thank you for all the Christmas gifts and blessings. We have just finished the 2nd quarter. We are halfway through the year. Time flies when we are having fun and learning as we go.

The 2nd graders have been learning the difference between an adverb and a preposition. We have also been working on writing book reports.

The 1st graders are learning the difference between common and proper nouns. We also have been starting book reports with 1st grade.

In Social Studies we have been learning about different cultures. We have learned that God has made us all different with unique qualities, but we need to respect each other even if we do things differently. In Japan they eat dinner sitting on the floor on pillows. In Africa they prefer to carry things on their heads. God is amazing how he has blessed us all in different ways.

We will be participating in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting competition this month. The students have been working hard all year on their handwriting and this is a way to let their hard work shine.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon, Jan. 25th – Feb. 3rd. Please come visit us in the St. Paul's Library. The hours will be Mon.- Thur. 3:30pm - 4:30pm; Fri. 3:30pm -6:00pm; and Sun. 9:00am-12:00pm.

3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mrs. Destinee Fiecko

Word of God: During this past Christmas season we took a break from our Old Testament study and looked at the early gospel lessons regarding the announcements and births of John the Baptist and Jesus. We studied up until Jesus' baptism, to coincide with the Epiphany Sundays of the church year. We are now back into the Old Testament, moving from lessons in 2 Kings through the minor prophets. I look forward to reading in awe at God's prophets hundreds of years prior, announcing intimate details of our Savior's birth, life and death. Being in God's Word with these young Christians is the most amazing time of the day!

Language Arts: With the new quarter, we continue to discuss and label parts of speech, but will now move into Seven Traits of Great Writing. I'm very excited to have the students feel more confident in who they are as writers, and produce some new pieces. In Reading, we are continuing to build on prior knowledge and look more in depth at character traits and author motivation. It's so neat to hear the students try to get in their heads!

WI History: We're finishing up our chapter on immigration in the early Wisconsin territory. The students had conversations with their own families, and then with the class, about our various backgrounds. We were all amazed to hear the many countries represented within our own little group. Quarters 3 and 4 will be geared towards Science, and there is much to look forward to in our study of God's creation this year.

In other news, please join me in praying for snow! The kids (and I) are tired of these very gray recesses.



Classroom Highlights

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

A new year dawns as we find ourselves more than halfway through the school year. The last of the presents have been unwrapped and the Christmas decorations are back in storage. But the news of Jesus's birth still warms our hearts as we inch ever closer to the end of another school year. In Word of God class (formerly known as "Christlight"), we have finished our lessons in the Old Testament and will be focused on Jesus's life and ministry for the remainder of the year. This year, 5th and 6th graders have their own Catechism class. We have already studied the Ten Commandments and will be taking a look at Baptism next. In social studies, we are studying the continent of Africa. In science we have been focused on chemistry, including a look at atomic theory, compounds and chemical reactions. We've learned that weird things happen when you add yeast to hydrogen peroxide. Our class size has been reduced to 14. Sixth grader Elisha Pahl has moved with his family to the Wausau area and is attending St. Peter's in Schofield. Upcoming events include a field trip to Wausau to see a play in which alumnus Wyatt Jensen has a part. We will also be preparing for our biennial visit of the Opera for the Young group. Watch upcoming newsletters for specifics.

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

Some of the latest discussions we have had in our classroom have centered around "weather" or not we have just returned from Christmas vacation or Spring Break! With the rather mild start to the New Year, it is hard to believe we still have a little more than four months of school to go. However, with all of the work and activities that still need to take place, we know that the time will pass by faster than it takes for the Packers to secure a new head coach!



A quick update for you on a couple of leftover items from January. First, our 5th-8th grade students took a collection to help Mr. Harris with the work he will once again be doing among the people of Laos (see January's Epistle). He was very moved and overjoyed when I personally presented this gift to him. He asked for our school's email and stated that he would send us pictures from overseas as he begins his 21st year of work among the Laotians! Also, we received more exciting news from Mr. Spranger regarding the "Hoop Shoot" competition (again, review January's Epistle). We were informed that our school finished in 2nd place overall thanks to the efforts of Aaron Volden, Macy Vollert, Adeline Blum and Wyatt Preston. We were awarded a trophy which is now being proudly displayed in our classroom. Feel free to stop on by to catch a glimpse of this award for excellence!

Finally, as we take a quick glance forward, January 27th is our official kick off to "Christian Education Week." As usual it will also include exciting dress-up days for the students as chosen by our 8th grade class. Be certain to look for this list around the building in the days to come. Until next month - may our gracious God be with us and bless us in this New Year!



Milk Moola Ending

Kwik Trip is discontinuing their Milk Moola program, because it has become expensive to administer. All milk caps must be submitted by March 31. So search your junk drawer for any stragglers you've been hanging on to and bring them in. You can drop them off in the office or in the milk cap bin in the school hallway.

Attention: Your HEART and JOY are being summoned!

Do you have a heart for working with children? Does it bring you joy when a young child learns about Jesus? If so, your time and talent will be appreciated for 2019 Children's Outreach Ministries!

My name is Laurie Meister and I am a member of the Outreach Committee led by Fred Camacho. I have volunteered to coordinate our 2019 Children's Outreach Ministry task force. These outreach activities will include, but are not limited to, these events: 1) our participation in the Wisconsin Rapids Children's Festival, 2) Easter for Kids, 3) Vacation Bible School, and 4) Christmas for Kids.

How are we planning to improve our Children's Outreach Ministries?

First, we would like to form a "Children's Outreach Ministries Task Force" that will meet periodically throughout 2019. This Task Force will 1) identify how best to conduct each event, 2) gather resources and 3) debrief and evaluate. The Children's Ministries Task Force will be advised by Fred Camacho and Pastor Proeber. It would be ideal if our Task Force could be 4-6 individuals, but more would certainly be welcomed!

Secondly, as we move through the calendar year, we will be looking for Event Volunteers to help us with the detailed planning and running of each event. Event Volunteers may help with tasks such as a) advertising in our community, b) decorating, c) art and crafts, d) leading bible lessons, e) teaching songs, f) event registration, etc, for each individual event.

What can you expect from me as the leader of this effort?

There will be verbal and written updates about our Children's Outreach Ministry Events. We'll share the dates of upcoming events and let you know if we have sufficient volunteers or are in need of more volunteers. We'll share the plan for each event. We'll also do our very best to communicate the count of prospect children and families reached at the conclusion of each event.

This year Lent begins on March 6th and Easter falls on April 21st, creating the fast approaching date window for our Easter for Kids Event. The Wisconsin Rapids Children's Festival has been the 3rd or 4th Saturday of April in the past 3 years. These two events will be our immediate priority to plan and resource with Event Volunteers.

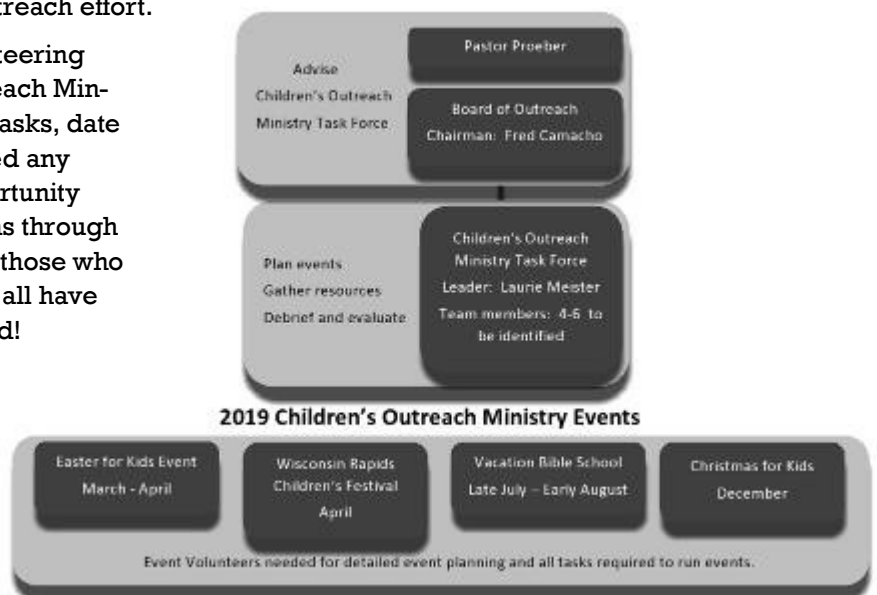
So, how can you help?

First and foremost, please pray for me, that I may provide God pleasing leadership for our Children's Outreach Ministries. Please also pray that volunteers will come forward from our church membership to nurture the faith of the children within our membership and help spread the Good News of our Savior to the unchurched children and their families from our community through this outreach effort.

Secondly, please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents to our Children's Outreach Ministries. We will have small tasks and larger tasks, date specific tasks and tasks that can be completed any time before an event. We are an equal opportunity volunteer group, accepting responsible teens through adults, men and women alike, essentially all those who are willing to carry out the responsibility we all have as ambassadors spreading His amazing Word!

Please call or email me to volunteer or ask any questions you may have.

Laurie Meister
715.570.9560
meisters.kclm@gmail.com



Christian Education Week ~ Jan. 28-Feb. 1

During the week of January 28 through February 1, St. Paul's Lutheran School is celebrating Christian Education Week. A Book Fair will be held Friday, January 25 through Sunday, February 3. Proceeds from the book sales will support the school library. Book Fair Hours: Fridays 3:30 - 6:00; Sundays 9:00 - 12:00; and Mon - Thurs 3:30 - 4:30. Home basketball games are scheduled for Friday, January 25 and Friday, February 1. Please join us and cheer on the Panthers. Games start at 5:30 on Jan. 25 and 5:00 on Feb. 1. Two games will be played each night.

We are hoping to get volunteers from the congregation, who do not have children in the school, to help out with concessions for the basketball games on January 25 and February 1. If you would like to help, you can sign up on the sheets on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.

It's Retreat Season

The winter months are a great time to getaway and focus on your spiritual life. There are lots of retreats taking place in February and March. Here are a few:

Men of His Word Conference
Feb 9 in Oshkosh
www.menofhisword.org

Women's Quilting Retreat
March 1-3 at Camp Phillip in Wautoma
www.campphillip.com

Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat
March 8-10 in Oshkosh
pathwaystochrist.org

Christian Leadership Experience
March 15-16 in La Crosse
www.christlead.com

Christian Woman Today Retreat
March 15-17 in Brookfield
www.christianwomantoday.org

Camp Phillip Women's Retreat
March 22-24 in Wautoma
www.campphillip.com

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through January 13, 2019

Current

- In memory of Pat Heidemann given by Alan Verjinsky, Jared & Kari Vollert, and Friends & Family

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Ivan Wilhorn given by Kathy Jackson
- In memory of Mara Joy, infant daughter of Kim & Pastor Ben Workentine given by Terry & Sandy Krause

Mortgage

- In memory of Pat Heidemann given by Lavern & Delores Becker

School

- In memory of Pat Heidemann given by Vernon & Betty Meyer

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Pat Heidemann given by Edna Haferman

Adult Co-ed Volleyball
Sundays ~ 2:00-5:00 PM
Starting Feb. 3



Men's Devotional
Basketball
Thursdays ~ 6:30 PM
Now thru March





St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
311 14th Ave S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2402

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 46

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
February 2019 edition

Upcoming Events

Christian Education Week
Jan. 28-Feb. 1

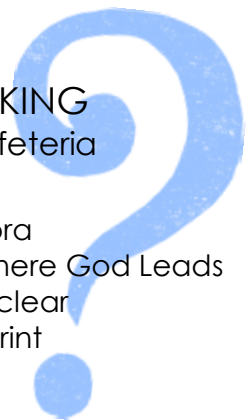
Pioneers District Pinecar Derby
at St. Paul's - February 9

Marriage Retreat at Hotel Mead
February 22-24

CHRISTIAN DECISION-MAKING

Sundays 9:15-10:15 in the Cafeteria

Jan. 27 – What Shall I Do?
Feb. 3 – Decisions and Adiaphora
Feb. 10 – Be Willing to Follow Where God Leads
Feb. 17 – Do Not Fear When Unclear
Feb. 24 – Freedom, Not a Blueprint



Pastor Lucas Proeber • 989-780-3184 • pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org