

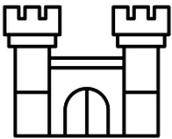


# St. Paul's EPISTLE

November 2021 edition

## THE CHURCH'S COMFORT AND SECURITY

*On the last day of October the Lutheran church gives thanks to God for all that he has given us through the Reformation. Many Christians have the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" running through their heads, a hymn based on Psalm 46. In his devotional commentary on the Psalms, Carl Zorn recounts some history of the Reformation and focuses on the comfort and security we have from this Psalm.*



"This psalm was entrusted to the chief musician and was to be sung by the Levitical choir, including *alamoth*, that is, youthful voices; soprano voices were also to be used. This psalm is a song, and what a marvelous song it is!"

In the year 1524, Luther, on the basis of this psalm, composed his mighty battle hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," also writing the melody we still use. When Elector Fredrick the Wise traveled to Augsburg to attend the imperial diet (meeting) there in the year 1530, he had Luther remain at the Coburg since Luther had been declared an outlaw by the emperor and had been excommunicated by the Catholic Church. Jonas, Spalatin, and Melancthon accompanied Fredrick on the last leg of his journey to Augsburg. In the Coburg castle, Luther prayed like Moses prayed in Exodus 17:8-13, while his coworkers fought on behalf of the Reformation at the diet. Veit Dietich reports: "Not a day passes that he does not devote at least three hours to prayer, three of the hours most suited to study. I was once fortunate enough to have overheard him at prayer. What spirit and what faith were in those words of his! He prayed as devoutly as one does who is talking to God, and with as much trust and hope as one who is speaking with an earthly father." In the Coburg, Luther often sang his hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." (Psalm 46:1-3)

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Reaching out with  
the love of Jesus.

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Worship  
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30AM  
Monday at 6:30PM  
[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

# THE CHURCH'S COMFORT AND SECURITY

Continued from pg 1

These are words of a firm, strong, and yet simple childlike faith. We are, after all, God's children through faith in Jesus Christ, his Son. And if we find ourselves in trouble or in great distress, isn't God our refuge? We will flee to him in confidence. Will any trouble be able to overwhelm us? The Almighty is our strength and ever-present help in time of need (2 Chronicles 15:4; Psalm 145:7; Deuteronomy 4:7). Since God is our refuge and strength, and his help is always with us, why should we be afraid, even when our distress seems too great for us to handle? Even if the powers of the earth are shaken, and the very mountains are falling into the seas from which they first rose (Genesis 1:9,10), and even though the waters of the ocean roar and seethe as they will on judgment day (Luke 21:25), and even if the mountains shake in all the commotion, why should we be afraid, O we of little faith (Matthew 8:23-27)? When our troubles are at their worst, God's help is closer at hand than ever (Luke 21:28). Raise your hearts and spirits to God! †



## A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

CW 200:1-4



A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done;  
Soon were our loss effected.  
But for us fights the valiant one  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask, "Who is this?"  
Jesus Christ it is,  
The almighty Lord.  
And there's no other God;  
He holds the field forever.

Though devil's all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done!  
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain,  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With his good gifts and Spirit.  
And do what they will  
Hate, steal, hurt, or kill  
Though all may be gone,  
Our victory is won;  
The kingdom's ours forever!

**REFORMATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 31.**



**Family Fun Night**  
**Friday, November 5**  
**5:00-8:00PM**  
 Pizza - Games - Snacks

## WE ARE ON THE SCHEDULE

Our Organ Restoration Fund continues to grow. In August, we made a down payment on the project. Our next goal is to reach the \$75,000 mark by April when Levsen Organ Company is scheduled to begin their work. We hope to raise this money through your generous donations. If we do not, we will be forced to seek a bank loan. So far, we have raised \$41,716. If you are a visual person, we need to fill in one and half more pipes on the display in the Welcome Center. Thank you to everyone who has given. Your continued support of this project is vital to avoid paying interest on a loan. †

# CREATING A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

By The Board of Worship

Picture this: you walk into a large banquet hall where you are set to celebrate a family reunion. You had been on the fence about attending because, for quite some time, you had become somewhat distant from most of your relatives. But your sibling convinces you to go, saying, "What's the worst thing that could happen? Give it a try and get reconnected."

How would you feel then if, after working up the courage to go, you got welcomed like an outsider? What would your reaction be if, throughout the entire reunion, you got treated like nothing more than an afterthought? And all this by your family, by people who claim they care about you. You would probably get angry at your sibling for convincing you to go; you would wish that you had never gone in the first place; you might even vow to never see your relatives again.

What's the point of this hypothetical situation? It's one way for us to remember that how we treat others matters; even the smallest thing can have a monumental impact. But that impact can be positive or negative, depending on (you guessed it) how we treat others, no matter where they're at in life or how long it's been since we've seen them.

That situation isn't entirely hypothetical, though. Unfortunately, people walk into churches to reconnect with or become part of a spiritual family every week, many times after being invited by a close friend or family member. But how are some greeted and treated? Like an outsider or an afterthought; and this by Christians who say that they care for and love others selflessly. Perhaps you've felt that way before but resolved to grin and bear it. For that, I commend you. But that's not an excuse for such things to continue; and that "grin and bear it" resolution doesn't come into everyone's minds. Some might get angry at the person who invited them; others could wish they never went, labeling the church as unwelcoming and unloving; still others would vow to never step foot in a church again; and so, further opportunities to share the gospel are missed all because of how members of a church greeted and treated a person or family.



This is why we, as a church, think about how we greet and treat others, especially on Sunday mornings. We want people—whether a member or guest, a frequent or infrequent worshiper, young or old, family or single—to know that they are welcome here. We want that welcoming atmosphere to be obvious from the second they step foot in the building all the way until they get back in their cars. To help us accomplish that, we are restarting the Welcoming Committee on January 2, 2022.

Those who have been members since prior to the pandemic will remember a similar greeter program. Some things from that will remain in place; however, we hope to improve on that solid foundation set by those who served in that capacity. It should also be said that welcoming others is not confined to a set number of people; we can all work together to create an atmosphere in which no one feels like an outsider.

There will be more information shared in the coming weeks leading up to January 2022. For those who want to be part of the Welcoming Committee, please indicate your interest by signing up at the Ministry Table. You may also contact the Board of Worship chairman Chris Williams (cawilliams56@gmail.com) or Pastor Proeber to sign up or ask any questions that you might have. †

## THE LATEST FROM SPORTS AND SPYS

by Staff Minister Randy Pahl

Greetings and welcome to November – WOW! They say time flies when you're having fun, so when you read the words below you know that we've been having a blast!

On the sports scene, our St. Paul's Panther girls' volleyball team took part in the annual tournament hosted by Northland Lutheran High School on Saturday, October 9. In addition to our Panthers, five other area Lutheran schools from Schofield, Rhinelander, Medford, Neillsville, and Eau Claire all participated in this event. While our girls picked up a "W" in the very first game of match one, it was St. Peter's, Schofield capturing the overall championship by winning

two straight games over St. John's of Neillsville. Congratulations to our coaches (Ms. Haugly, Mrs. Sellnow, and Mikayla Christenson) as well as our girls' squad as they were wonderful representatives of both our school and Lord!

Next, on Sunday, October 10, a group of ten high school age Christians gathered together around God's Word, pizza, and fellowship as our SPYs youth group kicked off the fall season. Pastor Proeber led us in a study on relationships between different pairs of people in the Bible then tied it together with the relations that we have with others. Also, some preliminary plans and ideas were discussed for the weeks and months ahead which

may include finding our way to and through a corn maze! After a bit of food and refreshments were enjoyed by all, we headed into the gymnasium for some volleyball and the pleasure of one another's company. We always thank God for the young people whom He has placed among us. May he continue to be with them and us as we look forward to serving Him and His kingdom!

And, finally, just a brief reminder from the October Epistle that we are still looking for a coach or two for the upcoming basketball season. Again, if you are interested please feel free to contact Ms. Haugly or me. †



St. Paul's School students perform experiments with magnets.



## THANKSGIVING MEAL



St. Paul's will once again be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Meal. This ministry provides a traditional Thanksgiving meal to those who can't afford one or have difficulty preparing large meals for themselves. No-cost, takeout meals will be available from 11:00AM to 1:00PM on Thanksgiving Day. (Home delivery will be available for those with mobility issues.) Reservations are required and will be taken Nov. 8-15 from 9:00AM-4:00PM. Pickup times will be assigned when the reservation is made. Just call 715-301-0066. Reservations will be limited. Last year, we served 530 meals and had to turn people away.

A big endeavor like this requires lots of volunteers. Help will be needed on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 24 and Thursday, Nov. 25 starting at 10:00AM. Tasks will include preparing food, serving, delivery, and clean up. They will also need donations of cookies and bars. (Please no pie, as it is hard to pack. Also no nuts.) To volunteer, please contact Nicole Sukow at 715-572-4629. †

## NEW OFFERINGS AT THE BAKE & CRAFT SALE

The Willing Workers have added a couple of new offerings to their take-bake selection of desserts. This year, they have prepared a small number of apple-cranberry pies and 8"X8" apple crisps. These are in addition to their delicious double-crust and crumb-top apple pies. All of these items are frozen and can go directly into your oven, so you can enjoy a warm dessert at any time. The desserts will be available at the annual Willing Workers Bake & Craft Sale on Nov. 6 & 7.

The Willing Workers are also baking pumpkin pies. People have had success with freezing these and saving them for Thanksgiving. They just need to thaw in the refrigerator.

Only one variety of soup-by-the-quart will be available this year. That is potato soup. If you would like to donate ingredients for the soup, please bring in your potatoes, celery, onions, or carrots by Nov. 3.

If you are donating baked goods, canned goods, crafts, or other homemade items, please drop them off on the Friday before the sale, Nov. 5.

Shoppers, to get the best selection be sure to come on Saturday morning, Nov. 6 from 9:00 AM – Noon. You will also be able to shop on Sunday morning after each worship service. Profits from the sale will help fund special projects in our church and school. †



## CHRISTMAS IS HERE AT DIME & DOLLAR!

By Jan Peronto

It's time to plan for the holidays with new decorations available now at Dime and Dollar Thrift Store! We have everything to make your home look new for the season fast approaching. Shop for ornaments, Christmas cards, tableware, candles, linens, outdoor decorations, and even apparel! We have cleared the shelves to display our very large collection and will restock daily with more. This is also the place to shop for gifts such as children's toys, glassware, and trinkets. Shop the lowest prices in town and shop early for the best selection. We are open from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM every weekday and open on Saturdays until 2:00 PM. Hours may expand in November. Dime & Dollar is located at 1351 8th St S in Wisconsin Rapids. Profits from the store benefit Northland Lutheran High School. †

Come celebrate the Savior's birth

Singing Songs  
Play Games  
Make & eat snack  
Make a Project

Register at [stpaulswr.org](http://stpaulswr.org) or call 715-421-3634

Ages 3-10  
Babysitting provided

**CHRISTMAS for Kids**

**Dec 4, 2021**

9:00 to 11:45 Lunch to follow  
St Paul's Lutheran Church 311 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S (across from splash)

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Save the Dates for 2022 VBS

Monday, July 25 at White Sands West Beach Pavilion  
Tuesday, July 26 at Sand Lot Park  
Wednesday, July 27 at Helen's House (Zoo)  
Thursday, July 28 at Robinson Park  
Sunday, July 31 at St Paul's "VBS Celebration"

Also save these Planning Meeting dates:  
Thursday, April 7 - Select program and plan advertising  
Thursday, May 5 - Develop a list of possible volunteers  
Thursday, June 9 - Determine decorations & update plans  
Thursday, July 7 - Finish decorations and finalize plans  
(There may be more meetings scheduled as needed.)

## IN THE MAILBOX



Thank you to the many people who sent cards and gifts to me after my recent accident. Thank you especially for your prayers. At times like this those prayers and your Christian friendship are greatly appreciated. God bless you.

Sue Kulhanek



To all my family and friends at St. Paul's, I wish to thank you so very much for all your thoughts and prayers, for healing, during my illness from April-June. Thank you, too, for your prayers when I had surgery in September. The cards I received were beautiful. The food you sent, during this time, was absolutely delicious. It was greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to both pastors for their many prayers and their calls they made from April-September.

Without all your thoughts and prayers, I am pretty sure I would not be here today.

May God bless each and every one of you!

Nona Henke



Thank you for sponsoring the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meal at The Neighborhood Table (TNT). We served 105 meals for take-out customers. The menu was a chicken fritter on bun with cheese, crinkle cut potatoes, mixed vegetables, pineapple tidbits with mandarin oranges and cookies for dessert.

Our guests, the Board members and all the volunteers for the Neighborhood Table appreciate your continued support and hope to work with you in person next year. Thank you again for sponsoring the meal on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and stay safe.

Mary and Rhonda  
Meal Coordinators

*St. Paul's held a door collection in September and donated \$474.00 to TNT.*



Thank you for the volunteers from St. Paul's Lutheran that helped at SWEPS during the days of 10/4 thorough 10/8. During those five days, 69 households were served for a total of 198 individuals including five new clients in South Wood County. We are also thankful for those who care about the well-being of our neighbors in this area.

Our needs are ongoing, so food and monetary donations are continuously and graciously appreciated. We also appreciate receiving paper and plastic bags. For those who ask, a "Current Needs List" is on our website [[www.sweepsantry.org](http://www.sweepsantry.org)].

It is faithful church volunteers who make everything possible by continuing to serve the growing numbers of clients here on the home front. With the longevity of the pandemic, the mill idling and the requirement of the continuance of the drive-through style service (through December), these volunteers are vital.

Thanks again, for your help at SWEPS and supporting those in our area.

Pat Barton  
Assistant Operations Manager  
South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf

*Early in 2020, TNT, SWEPS, and Rapids Family Backpacks joined forces to form Feeding Our Communities with United Services (FOCUS) to better deal with our community's food insecurity issues. Eventually all of these services will relocate to the new FOCUS location at 2321 West Grand Ave, across from the Wheelers dealership.*



## SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Through October 17, 2021

### Current Expenses

- In memory of Grant Meyer given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Bob Smolarek given by David & Robin Koeshall, Stephanie Bathke, James & Inge Johnson, Mark & Hilde Henkel, and Harvey Pierce
- In memory of Brody Knutson's mother given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Roger Gumz's mother given by Marilyn Link

### School

- In memory of Grant Meyer given by Peter & Linda Leder

### Hymnal Fund

- In memory of Grant Meyer given by Mike & Judy Anderson
- In memory of Alvin Haferman given by Edna Haferman and Faith Haferman

### Organ Fund

- In memory of her husband, Jim, and her daughter, Jessica Dupuis, given by Susie Dempze
- In memory of Grant Meyer given by Scott & Cindy Gasch, Marilyn Foley, Linda Pollnow, Joan Hafermann, Marla Mueller, Susan Janke, David & Robin Koeshall, and other Family & Friends
- In memory of Linda's brother, Pete, given by Gary & Linda Jones
- In memory of Germaine & Ronald Ahles and Neil Wittrock given by Tom & Debi Wittrock
- In memory of Roger Gumz's mother given by Bob & Katie Schalow
- In memory of Bob Smolarek given by Carol Newsom and Mike & Judy Anderson



## CATECHISM CORNER



God commands us to test every church. **What are we to examine as we evaluate different churches?**

*Matthew 28:19,20* Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to **keep all the instructions** I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.

*Acts 17:11* Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.

*2 Timothy 4:3,4* **For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine.** Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires.

*1 John 4:1* Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

*John 8:31* So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples.

Revelations 3:8-10 (Jesus praised the church in Philadelphia because it kept God's Word.)

Revelation 2:13-16 (Jesus faulted the church at Pergamum because it allowed false doctrine to be taught in addition to God's Word.)

- Luther's Catechism © 2017 NPH



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E-mail: [churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)  
November 2021 edition

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Trunk-or-Treat**  
**Oct. 31 ~ 4:30-6:30PM**

**Family Fun Night**  
**Nov. 5 ~ 5:00-8:00PM**

**Bake & Craft Sale**  
**Nov. 6 & 7 ~ 9:00AM-Noon**

**Veterans Day Observance**  
**Nov. 10 ~ 8:55AM**

Pastor Lucas Proeber · 989-780-3184 · [pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org)  
Pastor Peter Plagenz · 920-689-3036 · [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org)