



St. Paul's EPISTLE

February 2020 edition

The Winds of Change

Pastor Proeber spent Jan. 21-23 at the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership in Chicago . He asked that we share this blog from the Christian Leadership Experience blog, www.christlead.com/cle-blog.

The famous philosopher, Jimmy Dean once said, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." Of course, Jimmy Dean wasn't really a famous philosopher, but he was a pretty talented guy, a country music singer, television host, actor, and businessman. He was the creator of the Jimmy Dean sausage brand as well as the spokesman for its TV commercials. His viewpoint of change is a good one to remember when considering the future of our various ministries.

Jesus is the perfect example of the need to adjust practice, not principle. He knew that some of the people who needed him most, the outcasts of society, were not likely to wander into the temple to hear him share his message of God's love. So, what did he do? He went to them. He took his message "to the streets". As we ponder the new decade that stretches out before us, God's people need to figure out what changes we must make to share our message of God's love with all those who need it desperately. It may mean making more or better use of social media. It may mean expanding our ministry into the community itself, particularly the neglected among us. It may mean changing our environment and culture to appeal to young people, single parent families, or the needy.



Continued on page 2

Reaching out with the love of Jesus.

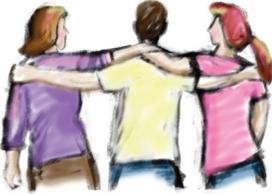
- Reaching out to the Least of These pg 3
- Hygiene Drive pg 3
- Help Host the District Derbies pg 3
- The Importance of Household Chores pg 4
- Christian Education pg 5
- Getting to Know Your School Board pg 5
- Willing Workers pg 6
- Scrip Notes Pg 6
- WELS Outing at Powers Bluff pg 7

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

www.stpaulswr.org

Continued from page 1

Of course, we know that adjusting our sails doesn't mean abandoning the boat. Jesus didn't change the message to accommodate the audience. God's laws and God's love haven't changed even a little bit since the beginning of time. James 1:17 "Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow." Unfortunately, too many churches today want to appeal to the masses by softening or disregarding God's expectations for us. Our world preaches acceptance, inclusion, and diversity. On face value, those things aren't bad. They may even be exactly what God wants us to do, but we can't do them by ignoring God's Word and will. God's commands are still his commands, not his suggestions!



Welcome Our
New Members:

Anna Christopher,
Caryn Van Pietersom
and her children
Emily & Olivia, and
Chris & Pam Williams

At one time, many of our services were conducted in German, women sat on one side of church and men sat on the other, worship was only on Sunday morning, men wore suits and ladies wore dresses, etc. Many changes have occurred over the years and they were all logical, necessary, or convenient. The same standard should apply today, especially if the change means more people being part of the body of Christ now, but more importantly, for eternity. This is the destination for which we should all be sailing!

Romans 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Contributor, Dan Kunz, Antioch Foundation

Catechism Corner

Why aren't we required to observe the Sabbath Day in the way the Old Testament people were?

Colossians 2:13,14,16,17 You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Therefore let no one pass judgement on you in questions of food or drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

Matthew 11:28,29 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.*

Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath. The Old Testament day of rest was a shadow of the perfect rest for our souls given to us through the Savior.

- Luther's Catechism



Our Midweek Lenten Services will focus on Luther's Catechism. Services are held on Wednesdays at 4:00 & 6:30PM beginning on Feb. 26.

Reaching Out to the Least of These

by Kent Schroeder, Board of Family Ministry

Last month we told you about our successful "Christmas For Kids". Our next event is a "Reunion Party" on February 1. The kids from Christmas for Kids and their parents have been invited to come to spend an hour and half for a devotion, craft, snack and game with the theme "Jesus Loves You." The intention of this event is to keep in contact with this group. We hope to grow the number of kids that participate in our youth outreach activities by keeping in contact with them and encouraging them to continue to attend events, bring friends, and hopefully also come to church services.



The morning of April 4 will be our next community outreach event - "Easter for Kids" for kids ages 3-10. This will be run the same way Christmas for Kids was. The time is 9:00 am to 11:45 am with a lunch to follow. We will be having a devotion /Bible story, music, craft, make a snack, Bible story review, and games. Work has started on getting promotional material ready for distribution into the community. We will need help doing this - from getting posters to businesses that would post them, canvassing with door hangers, sending out personal invites to past participants, to inviting your friends and neighbors to attend. We will also be looking for help the day of Easter for Kids with the activities. Watch for more information on volunteering. Please consider how you can help us with this outreach event.

Hygiene Drive

Willing Workers will be conducting a hygiene products drive in February for SWEPS, our local food pantry, which services hundreds of families each month. Large boxes will be placed in the welcome center for collection from February 9-16. Please consider giving from the heart this Valentine's Day by donating cleaning and personal care products such as dish soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, feminine products, and toilet paper.

Help Host District Derbies

On Feb 8th, St Paul's Pioneer group will be hosting the Tall Pine Girl Pioneer District & Whitetail Boy Pioneer District Pinocar Derbies. We are in need of help. We can use donations of food and supplies for the concession stand. Also we need help with concessions and help running the Derbies. Signup sheets for both of these are on the Ministry Table. We are also in need of a couple of people to help with judging the cars for craft. If interested please contact Kent or Kristie Schroeder (715-421-4202 or knks@wctc.net Your help is greatly appreciated.

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, Feb. 19

5:00-8:00PM

Games, Open Gym, Snacks

FREE pizza served at 6:00PM



The Importance of Involving Children in Household Chores

by Principal John Melso

In the January newsletter I wrote about developing spiritual habits that help parents fulfill their God-given responsibility of preparing their children for life in heaven by connecting them to the Word of God on a regular basis. This month I am providing information which will help parents fulfill another one of their roles, namely, preparing children for their lives here on earth. It just so happens to once again involve habits.

If you had the privilege of growing up on a family farm, you know a lot about chores and the impact they had on your future life. Likely, your contributions were integral to the success of the family business. I knew a business owner in Michigan that would ask two questions in every job interview. Did you grow up on a farm, and did you play sports? If they answered yes to both questions, he hired them on the spot. Developing work habits at a young age impacts future success in the work place. In fact, research from a well-known 75-year Harvard study examined what psychosocial variables and biological processes from earlier in life predict health and well-being later in life. Researchers found that children who were given chores became more independent adults.

(<https://www.verywellfamily.com/the-importance-of-chores-for-kids-1095018>)

In this article I've included a list of seven reasons why it is important for children to have chores. I found them on a website (<https://www.momentumlife.co.nz/stories/why-kids-should-have-chores>), so they are not my writing. I do, however, heartily agree with every one of them.

Consider these seven reasons why children should help out around the house:



- 1. Chores help teach life skills.** They're young now, but they won't be kids forever! Laundry, cooking and budgeting are just some of the skills your kids will need once they finally move out. These are also things that schools do not fully teach, making learning them at home even more important.
- 2. Chores help kids learn responsibility and self-reliance.** Assigning children regular chores helps teach them responsibility. Tasks that personally affect your kids, such as cleaning their room or doing their own laundry, can help them become more self-reliant at the same time. Your kids or grandkids may also take pride in being considered mature enough to take care of themselves.
- 3. Chores help teach teamwork.** Being a productive member of a team can be modelled for children through housework. Members of your family "team" are accountable to each other, and there are consequences when you don't meet each other's expectations. Learning these lessons at home, where mistakes are more easily forgiven, can help kids develop strong teamwork skills to use at school or work.
- 4. Chores help reinforce respect.** It takes moving away from home for most of us to fully appreciate all the hard work our parents did around the house. Our children are likely no different, but assigning them chores may help this insight come a little quicker. Kids may become more aware of the messes they make if they're tasked with cleaning up around the house, and more respectful of the work that goes into maintaining a home.
- 5. Chores help build a strong work ethic.** This trait is valued by teachers and bosses, so why not instill a work ethic in your kids from a young age? Chores are commonly tied to a reward, such as an allowance or TV time. Paying children for a job well done can also spark an entrepreneurial spirit, inspiring them to work outside the house once they reach their teens.
- 6. Chores help improve planning and time management skills.** It feels like there are a million things to do in the day, and fitting it all into our daily schedules is a challenge! Chores can help older kids and teens build good habits early. Juggling schoolwork deadlines, housework and their social lives helps them learn to set priorities and manage their time, important skills for the working world.
- 7. Chores give families a chance to bond.** People often lament that chores take up time they could be spending with their kids or grandkids. But chores can actually create special moments between children and adults. Little ones who always want to help will feel important and receive a self-esteem boost, and moody teens may decide to open up over a shared task.

St. Paul's Celebrates Christian Education Week

by Staff Minister Randy Pahl

Happy New Year from all of us to all of you and your families!!! We certainly hope that these first few weeks have afforded you the opportunity to get back into somewhat of a normal routine. That's because, before you know it, February 26th and Ash Wednesday will be upon us as we begin the six week Lenten journey to our Savior's cross.

By the time this article appears in our newsletter, our basketball season will be well under way. With a win on the road, a loss at home, and a cancellation due to weather, I guess we could surmise that we are off to an interesting start to say the least! Also, as a reminder, we will be wrapping up Christian Education Week on Friday, January 31st, with a pair of home contests against Our Savior's of Wausau. The B-team will get things underway with a 5:00 pm tip-off, followed by the A-team beginning at approximately 6:00 o'clock. It's "Parents' Night" and St. Paul's band will be performing as well as other activities that are sure to make for a fun and entertaining evening. If time and opportunity present itself, we'd love to see you there!



Also in the works for the beginning of Christian Education Week on Sunday, January 26th, the Northwinds choir from Northland Lutheran High School will be joining us as part of our 10:30 am worship service. We are also hoping that many of them will remain afterward to join our Youth Group for some food and frolicking in the snow as we sled on over to Powers Bluff County Park!

And, finally, 7th grade student Aaron Volden headed across the state to Eau Claire this past weekend for level 3 of the "Hoop Shoot" competition and took 3rd place in his age division. Congratulations Aaron.

Getting to Know Your School Board

by Martin Obsuszt

My name is Martin Obsuszt and I am a member of the Board of Lutheran Education. I grew up in Avon, Ohio. I attended Cleveland State University and graduated with both a BA and BS degree in Elementary Education and Social Studies/Political Science. I also earned my master's degree in Educational Administration (Principalship). I taught at St. Mark's Lutheran School in Cleveland, where I was fortunate to meet the lady and fellow teacher who would become my wife. I continued my teaching career in Belvidere, IL and Montello, WI, for 22 years, until I recently made a career change and am now working at Herman-Taylor Funeral Home, as a funeral apprentice.

I hope that my background in education will help St. Paul's Lutheran School to reach its full educational potential.

I am proud to say that I have been married to Karen, since April of 1999. Blessed with three beautiful daughters: Olivia, Mikayla, and Brianna.



Other Christian
Education Week Events
[Jan. 26-Feb. 2](#)

Book Fair
9AM-12PM Sundays
After school
on weekdays

Jungle Safari
Story Time
Thursday at 6PM
ages 2 yrs
thru 2nd grade.

Willing Workers Events Report

by Jan Peronto



LWMS National
Convention in Athens,
Georgia

June 25-28

You do NOT need to be a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society to attend, and both men & women are invited.

Learn more at LWMS.org

In early November, the Willing Workers conducted their annual bake/craft sale. The sale was a great success and all of the pies were sold out by Christmas. With your purchases, the sale provided over \$5,000 for specific projects in the church and school. About \$2500 was used to replace the old telephone system throughout the building. We will discuss the disbursement of the remaining amount in the near future but projects such as the new security system and television hook-up in the Welcome Center may be earmarked. Thank you again for your support through your purchases.

On December 8th, the Willing Workers sponsored the 17th annual Advent by Candlelight event for women entitled "An Evening With Isaiah". Nearly 100 women attended and enjoyed music, a blessed message, and a tasty dessert thanks to the help of a generous Thrivent grant. A freewill offering was taken that evening and divided between our Sunday school, school, preschool, and WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

St. Paul's Scrip Notes

by Deb DeWilde

As we close out another year we have a few things to share. First, thank you for using scrip! This program has **earned \$7,504.10 in rebates in 2019**. Our totals are only a bit lower than last year so it's nice to know that we are still keeping up a good pace. Please keep in mind that scrip rebates help to fund our school and may be used to offset tuition accounts. Each purchase may not seem like much but they do add up! Scrip may be used for such things as dining out, gas, groceries, department stores, online shopping – the list is endless with about 800 participating retailers.

As always, please request a copy of **your tax statement** for scrip via email, stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com, or just leave a note at the scrip desk and we will print it and put it in your mailbox. You may also print your statement by logging on to www.shopwithscrip.com/ and selecting DASHBOARD and then REPORTS and select Family Order Earnings Summary Report for 2019.

One last thing, managing our scrip program includes various weekly tasks. We process scrip orders every Sunday, distribute the cards every Wednesday and order and pick up our local cards throughout the week. It adds up to more hours than one would think but the program is definitely worth it! At this time however, we are in need of more **volunteers to sell cards on Sunday mornings**. We currently have three other volunteers that sell scrip on Sunday mornings. We recently lost three volunteers and will be losing one of our volunteers again for the summer. We have had a family volunteer to process the cards on Wednesdays and we are very thankful for the help. Our commitment on Sunday includes selling cards for roughly 15 minutes before and after each service. Please give Deb a call at 715-323-4028 if you would like to volunteer in any way to help with the scrip program.



Learn more about supporting Christian education with scrip, by visiting www.stpaulswr.org/scrip

Cheerful Givers Update

Through the end of 2019, our Cheerful Givers have given \$595,286. That is well over half a million dollars! Cheerful Givers was started in the fall of 2012 as an effort to pay off our mortgage early. In the seven years since then, these gifts have allowed us to renegotiate our loan to lower our monthly payments thus freeing up money for ministry.

Anyone can become a Cheerful Giver. Just mark "Cheerful Giver" on your offering envelope. Some people give a special gift in memory of a loved one; others give regular gifts to Cheerful Givers in addition to the usual support of the ministry.

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Monday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM**

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through January 19, 2019

Current

- In memory of Joe Feaster given by Randy & Pat DeBoer

School

- In memory of Jack Fluno given by Vernon & Betty Meyer
- In memory of her great granddaughter, Taylor given by Janet Heister

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Wilda Burdick given by Kathy Jackson

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Jack Fluno given by Edna Haferman

Endowment Fund

- In memory of Jack Fluno given by Mike & Judy Anderson

WELS Outing at Powers Bluff

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Marshfield invite everyone to join them on Saturday, February 15th for a morning of cross country (CC) skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, or downhill skiing (or even snow biking!?) at Powers Bluff County Park. The day begins at 10:30 AM with a devotion with area WELS members in the shelter. Then the outdoor fun begins!



Powers Bluff County Park is located at 6990 Bluff Drive outside of Arpin. The only rentals available are for tubing, downhill skiing, or snowboarding. However, cross country skis and snowshoes can be rented from The Sports Den in Marshfield. Please visit the Wood County Park/ Powers Bluff website for fees and snow conditions.

Please RSVP by calling or texting 920-655-8017 or email office@trinitymarshfield.org by Monday, Feb. 10.

Soup Cook Out and More

Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) will once again hold a Soup Cook-off at their Together We Shine fundraising event on Sunday, March 1. The first ten teams to register will prepare an electric roaster full of soup, and the assembly will sample and vote on their favorite. First soup gone wins the EMPTY BOWL AWARD! The favorite soup will win the GOLDEN LADLE.

You will certainly not want to miss our SILENT AUCTION! In the past they have auctioned off artwork, massages, clothing, electronics, services from local businesses, weekend getaways, gifts cards, Brewers tickets, and a Packers football. If you have any goods or services which we could auction, please contact NLHS.

Luncheon tickets are \$10 for adults (12 and up) and \$5 for children. RSVPs are appreciated: call 715-359-3400 or email nlhsoffice@nlhs.org. The event runs from noon until 3PM.



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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2402

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Phone: 715-421-3634
E-mail: churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
February 2020 edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junk Car & Pinocar Derbies
Sunday, Jan. 26 at Noon

Healthy Marriage Workshop
at Eron's Event Barn ~ Feb. 8-9

District Pioneer Pinocar Derbies
at St. Paul's ~ Feb. 8

Family Fun Night
Feb. 19 ~ 5:00-8:00 PM



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