



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

October 2020 edition

## WE NEED YOU!

### THE FIRST OF (HOPEFULLY) MANY MINISTRY FAIRS

By Pastor Proeber

As we continue to look ahead at how we will be planning in the weeks and months to come, we have an opportunity for you! In fact, there are many opportunities we will be putting before you in the form of an October Ministry Fair. This church, as with just about every non-profit organization, runs on volunteers. Sure, we have called workers (pastors, teachers, and a staff minister) and hired staff (childcare, office, and sanitation workers), but they can only scratch the surface when it comes to the number of opportunities that exist at a church the size of St. Paul's. And, really, one of the tasks given to called workers is "to equip [God's] people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12 NIV).

This is our hope with the October Ministry Fair: to empower and equip you to serve God, serve each other, and serve our community in a variety of ways. Perhaps you're new and not sure who to contact to get involved—this is for you. Maybe you've been doing the same thing for decades now and want to try something new—this is for you. It might be that you've never really volunteered for anything before and are hesitant to jump into something that you aren't too sure about—this is for you. Ultimately, the October Ministry Fair is for every member—young and old, new and seasoned, male and female, family and single...you get the idea.



### What to expect

Every Sunday in October (remember, we'll also have a worship series on four potential ministry "pillars" throughout October), there will be sheets available that, in some way, list all the service opportunities that currently exist at St. Paul's. Following each worship service in October, there will be information available on each opportunity. There will also be leaders and staff present to help answer questions about the different ministries. You will only need to fill out one sheet.

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Reaching out with  
the love of Jesus.

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Worship  
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30AM  
Monday at 11:00AM

[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

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By all means, if it's too much to do in one day, take the sheet home with you to pray over the ways you might serve and bring it back the next week.

What do we expect? Obviously, we hope to see you in worship in October, so that you can take time to not only connect with your Savior through his means of grace, but also so that you can be connected to the people and ministries of St. Paul's. We expect this approach will help simplify the volunteering process for you, for leadership, for called workers, and for new members who are looking to get plugged in right away. We expect that everyone will find a way to serve—from a biblical standpoint, serving is much like giving; it's not optional for the Christian. But we do well to remember that the only reason we can speak so strongly is because we have a Savior who has given so much to us and has served us so selflessly through his sacrifice for us. The least we could do is serve others with what our God has given us.

### A challenge

Those of you who were here last fall for our 10 for 10 emphasis might remember that we challenged ourselves to consider giving above what we had previously given through our offerings—and God has blessed that effort, even one year later! If we think of stewardship as more than just how we handle our money, but also how we handle our time and our efforts, then we can take a similar “challenging” approach to the October Ministry Fair.

I'm going to give you a challenge in the form of this question: How might God bless St. Paul's through your volunteered time and acts of service? Think about that between now and whatever Sunday you decide to fill out a service sheet. When that day comes, I want you to sign up for at least five service opportunities. Maybe that's easy for you. Fine; go for more. I'll also challenge you to challenge yourself—sign up for something you've never tried before. If you don't like it, you can always take your name off the list later. Plus, we hope to turn the October Ministry Fair into an annual event so that you can be updated on new ministry opportunities and leadership can be kept up to date on the interests of the congregation.

This is a large undertaking, but (as corny as it sounds) it becomes so much easier when we all work together and serve each other. I'm certain that our collective efforts will bring us closer to each other and closer to our God as we look to serve more effectively. Please direct any questions, comments, or concerns to me (Pastor Proeber) †

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF ST. PAUL'S



In October, our worship services will focus us on our core values — things we as a church family are passionate about and want to do well. These four Pillars (or P's) are:

**Praise:** We worship the triune God publicly and privately.

**Prepare:** We educate ourselves and others in what the Bible says.

**Participate:** We serve others with everything God has given us.

**Proclaim:** We tell others what God has done for us.

We do all these things because we have foundation in Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

In conjunction with the worship series, Pastor Proeber will lead a Bible class to further discuss how we can use these pillars in the most helpful way. The classes will take place at 6:30PM on the Wednesdays in October.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 3:11

# IS YOUR HOME A LEARNING PLACE

By Principal John Melso

Home is the primary place children learn. From the time a child is born until they graduate from high school, more than 85% of their waking hours are spent OUTSIDE the classroom and mainly at home. I've included a list of things you can do to promote learning at home. Check off those you already do. Consider implementing those you don't. Then, look for other ways to make your home a learning place.

## □ We have established daily routines.

By establishing daily routines, your child will get into a regular habit of getting work done. After your child gets into a rhythm, you can begin to observe and understand their behavior. This will help you adapt to their learning methods and help you understand when they might need encouragement or help.

## □ We have regular reading time.

Setting 30 minutes aside each day for reading might be the most important thing you do to help your child succeed in school. If you have a very young child, please note that studies show that the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

## □ My children have regular chores around the house.

Giving children regular chores teaches responsibility and self-reliance. Kids may become more aware of the messes they make if they're tasked with cleaning up around the house, and more re-



spectful of the work that goes into maintaining a home. Chores 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? Finally, chores teach teamwork. 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.

## □ I have a place to display my children's work.

When you display your child's work, you're showing your child support. This is a great way to boost confidence and self-esteem. Be creative. You don't need to go out and buy a bigger fridge.

## □ We cook together as a family.

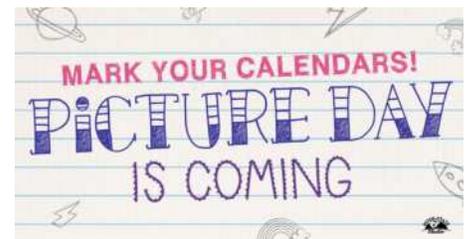
Cooking and baking involves a lot of measuring and other math and reading skills. And, the experience of creating meals with you can help build their self-confidence and lay the foundation for healthy eating habits.

## □ I take my children grocery shopping.

Although grocery shopping with children can at times be stressful, it is surely a skill all children will need to learn. You have an awesome opportunity to teach a number of skills. First off, have them help write the shopping list. They will build vocabulary and spelling skills. At the store you can model good shopping habits like saving money and making healthy choices. Having children put groceries away teaches sorting and categorizing skills.

## □ We play family games that use math.

Many games like Monopoly, Yahtze, and Sequence teach counting, sorting, and strategy. Students who play these types of games have a greater love for math. †



**Thursday, October 8**

# WELS CAMPUS MINISTRY CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

by Pastor Plagenz

While we may think of the year 2020 as being filled with challenges, this year certainly gives us opportunities to give thanks to God for his blessings. One of those occasions for thanks is in regard to WELS Campus Ministries. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of our church body serving college campuses in this capacity. Pastor Scott Wolfram of Divine Word in Plover and The Word in Stevens Point serves as the Chairman of the WELS Campus Ministry Committee. He wrote the following article which highlights this ministry and anniversary.



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ (Colossians 2:6-8).

Dear Friend,

It is no secret that the world is no friend of Jesus or his disciples. We see it throughout the pages of Scripture and we continue to see it today. While hollow and deceptive philosophies crafted by worldly human beings are certainly prevalent throughout our lives, a time of particular vulnerability is when young adults are away at a secular college or university. Pilate's question "What is truth?" echoes in a young Christian's ears. Many college students are exposed for the first time to a constant anti-Christian worldview.

The answer to the question "What is truth?" is Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, as revealed through his unchanging Word. WELS Campus Ministry helps students grow in their faith so that they can remain in and share Christ's love while they are in school and after they graduate. Campus Ministry supports full- and part-time campus pastors and provides financial assistance for many WELS congregations as they reach out to college students in their area.

Generous offerings from congregations and individuals currently support about 30 campus ministries

throughout the U.S. and Canada, serving and equipping hundreds of WELS and countless other collegians with the gospel. This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of WELS Campus Ministry and have an opportunity to glorify God for this blessing through a special thank offering that will help continue and expand the work being done.

Sharing Christ Jesus as Lord in campus ministry brings immeasurable joy. There are many stories to tell of walking with God's young people through the minefield of Satan's deadly traps while on campus and equipping them with the armor of God. There are so many reasons to praise God for the baptisms, adult confirmations, and weddings. We get to see students go on to hold leadership and service roles in WELS congregations after they leave college.

There is much work we can do together, and your prayers and special gifts will help many. Please consider supporting this important ministry with a gift today. These anniversary offerings will go a long way as Jesus leads us into the next 100 years of Campus Ministry. In particular, we would like to gather seed money for new campus ministry programs. To help in this expansion, a full-time mission counselor is being called to serve Campus Ministry.



Let's be grateful that we are able to serve the Lord by encouraging and uplifting the next generation! The future will be filled with opportunities to help even more congregations serve the collegians in their cities and towns by keeping them rooted and built up in Christ.

Overflowing with you in thanksgiving,  
Pastor Scott Wolfram  
Chairman, WELS Campus Ministry Committee

St. Paul's currently has about a dozen college students who are able to benefit from this ministry. If you would like to support WELS Campus Ministry directly, please contact the church. †

# A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Staff Minister Randy Pahl

Sunday, August 23, 2020, is a date that will always be cherished by my family and me!

In reality, it all began early in the year when plans were being put forward to have several events take place: 1) the ordination/installation of Pastor Plagenz was scheduled for March 29, 2) Palm Sunday on the 5th of April with Easter to follow and, 3) a celebration on April 26 of the Lord allowing me to serve Him and His people in the Called ministry. However, with the advent of COVID-19, a new schedule would now come to fruition, with five consecutive Sundays starting on July 26, that would be filled with the ordination/installation, confirmation, Easter 2.0, baptism affirmations and new members welcomed to our church family, and the 40th celebration.

Our Sunday began at 8:00 a.m.

with our first of two worship services. What a blessing it was for my brother-in-law, Pastor James Aderman, to be able to attend and share God's Word with us from the pulpit. He stated to me that one of the good things that did come out of the pandemic was that his schedule allowed him to be here, because back in April he would not have been available!

After a delightful luncheon, a "short" program followed with eight different speakers coming forward to share thoughts and memories, including out-of-towners Mr. Terry Stake, Mr. Jon Engelbrecht, as well as my sons Jason and Eric. A delightful DVD of pictures, put together by Mrs. Tama Drexler, was also shown. And, finally, five of my cousins and their spouses sang a little ditty to the tune of the TV show, "Cheers."

A HUGE thank you to Jan Peronto who spearheaded the entire event as well as all the people who worked behind the scenes making possible what might seem impossible during the pandemic! Also, to all of you, whether you were able to attend in person or not, thanks for the many well-wishes (written and spoken), cards and gifts given to my family and me. And, finally, to the congregation itself, THANK YOU for the beautifully engraved timepiece that is proudly displayed in my office!!!

Most importantly, what an awesome God we have who has allowed me to be his Called servant, beginning in 1980 in Manitowoc, WI, then in East Fork, AZ, and now here in Wisconsin Rapids these last 30 years!!! As I stated at the beginning of this article, and perhaps now you know why, August 23, 2020, is truly a date that will always be cherished!



# FALL MEANS PIES AT ST. PAUL'S

by Jan Peronto



## SAVE THE DATE

The Willing Workers are busy making food and craft items for the annual sale that will be held on November 7th and 8th. Homemade apple pies and canned goods are annual favorites worth waiting for so save the date now to come early for the best selection! You can participate by making some of your own baked goods or donating your craft items, too! Put your talents to work as we work toward a goal to improve our church and school with the proceeds from this fundraiser.

## HELP WITH PIE MAKING

Calling all men and women! Spend an afternoon with some Christian friends helping to make the most delicious pies in Central Wisconsin. We need washers, peelers, cutters, crust makers, and pie makers as we work to make crumb crust and double crust apple pies. Bring your own kitchen tools (knife, peelers, cutting boards, etc.) if you wish or just bring yourself to be a part of the pie making process. Sit and peel or stand and mix. We have a job for you! Look for the sign-up requests online or just show up. Put on an apron and a smile for the following work days at 1:30 in the cafeteria:

- Thursday, September 24th
- Wednesday, October 7th
- Wednesday, October 14th
- Tuesday, October 20th



# Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 31  
5:00-7:00 PM

Park your car in our parking lot and distribute treats to the



## DONATE INGREDIENTS

Please bring in donations of apples to the kitchen and clearly mark them as apples for Willing Workers as soon as possible. We need the apples for pies for the annual bake sale in early November, but we are starting to make them soon. Pies are then frozen unbaked for sale to bake at home after purchase. The process will take many weeks of work and the apples are needed throughout the next month.

Willing Workers are also making chili, potato chowder, chicken lasagna and other goods for the sale, so other food donations will be needed when the time comes to make these scrumptious soups. Please watch for notice of needs for other ingredients as we get closer to the end of October. Thank you!

## Mission Rally Goes Virtual

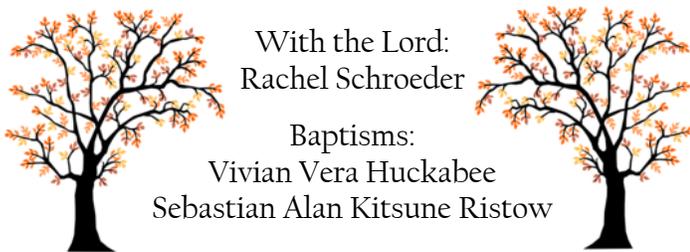
Our circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is holding their fall mission rally virtually. Details are not out yet, but the rally is scheduled for Saturday, October 17.



## REFRESH YOUR MARRIAGE EACH WEEK

Whether your marriage is great or struggling, God can use his Word to bless it. Beginning in October, you can receive weekly Marriage Moments videos via email or on facebook. The short videos highlight one biblical marriage thought with one follow up question for you to discuss with your spouse. No matter how long you have been married (or even if you are just engaged), these moments will refresh your marriage.

Subscribe at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/subscriptions> or look for videos on WELS facebook page



## SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Through September 13, 2020

### Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Gil Pecher's Birthday given by Bev Pecher
- In memory of Gil Pecher given by Huntz & Marilyn Link
- In memory of Betty Prebbanow given by Carol Newsom

### Mortgage

- In honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by Bill & Pat Stellmach

### School

- In honor of Randy Pahl's 40th anniversary given by Ruth Taggatz, David & Robin Koeshall

## CATECHISM CORNER



Both the law and gospel are at the heart of God's message to humans. While both are important, they are different in several ways.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN		
LAW	GOSPEL	
Written in heart and Bible	↔	Written in Bible only
Do! and Don't Do!	↔	Done by Christ!
Shows our sin	↔	Shows our Savior
Deserve eternal death	↔	Gift of eternal life
Tells us we <i>have</i> to do God's will	↔	Makes us <i>want</i> to do God's will
<p>↓ ↓</p> <p><b>Lead us to repentance and to believe in Jesus, who is our only hope of salvation</b></p>		
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October 2020 edition

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5 ~ Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- Oct. 17 ~ Virtual Mission Rally
- Oct. 31 ~ Trunk-or-Treat
- Nov. 7 & 8 ~ Bake & Craft Sale



## The Four Pillars of St. Paul's

[Learn more on page 2](#)

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