



May 2021

“Proclaim”

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

DATES

TO REMEMBER

May 2

11:30 AM
Quarterly Meeting

May 21

Last Day of School
Closing Service 8:05 AM
Early Dismissal 11:30 AM
Parents Must Transport Home

May 23

8:00 AM
Worship

9:30 AM
Examination of Eighth Grade Confirmands

10:30 AM
Worship
Eighth Grade Confirmation/Graduation
8th Grade Diplomas (Recognition of High School and College Graduates)

SPECIAL INFORMATION INCLUDED ON PAGES 4-6! PLEASE READ!

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From the Pastor

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy

I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow (Jeremiah 31:19).

We've all known loss. I've been with many of you in times of loss. Loss hurts. Loss, not surprisingly, can leave us feeling empty.

I don't know if any of us have suffered a loss that left us truly hopeless. Maybe you have. I pray that such a feeling has been remedied and continues to be remedied; sometimes those feelings keep recurring. If you have felt such loss and hopelessness, then you can relate to most of the people in this world, including Jesus' disciples.

Hopelessness occurs when there is nothing to look forward to, no remedy for our problems, no prospect of anything good happening. The death of a loved one is the most common source of hopelessness, but not the only one.

Jesus wasn't just loved by his disciples. They knew that he was the Son of God and the promised Messiah. Their hope of a blessed future was set on him. Then Jesus was arrested, tried, "convicted," and killed. He was dead. As the disciples looked on, there was no hope. There was no future. In utter disbelief and despair the disciples hid. They were afraid. They had no idea what to do next.

Let's not overlook the reason why they were in such despair. It wasn't that Jesus hadn't told them what was going to happen—what he had to endure. He had been very clear with them more than once, yet Peter had said, "Never Lord! This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22). While their sorrow would have been the same, they should have eagerly awaited the third day in view of the tomb. They should not have been hopeless. But they didn't believe Jesus' words. They didn't understand his promises. They didn't listen.

Yet, in their unnecessary despair, Jesus didn't leave his disciples hopeless. He came to them with forgiveness and peace. He brought joy, hope, and renewed purpose their lives—all the result of his rising from the dead. Jesus gave them what they needed.

If you feel empty and hopeless, Jesus has the answer. Jesus IS the answer. His death and resurrection guarantees that we are forgiven and at peace with God. These blessings also mean that in all things, even in our own sin, we can count on God to deal with us lovingly, in whatever ways we need, all with the goal of strengthening our faith and bringing us home to heaven.

The promise of our verse from Jeremiah has been fulfilled. God turns our mourning into gladness: when a loved one dies in Christ, we know that they live with Jesus and their body will be raised whole, glorified, and perfect forever. Whatever loss we may be mourning, God turns it to gladness by bringing peace to our hearts through his Word of love and forgiveness and showing us that there is hope for tomorrow. God gives us comfort and joy in Jesus to overcome our sorrow.

(Continued on next page)

Church News

(From the Pastor – continued from cover page)

While this is all his work, not ours, we can learn something from the disciples' situation. Listen to Jesus. Listen to his Word. Let it work in your heart with all its power, even if you don't feel like it. When you are suffering loss and despair, it is the one thing you truly need. God will bless you through it. He won't let you down. He will give show you Easter triumph so that you have Easter joy.



Baptized in Christ

Burkley Urban Vaassen – April 11, 2021



United in Marriage

Benjamin Snyder & Laura Frasca – April 17, 2021



Called Home

Freida J. Hagemann – April 20, 2021



In Memory

We gratefully acknowledge memorials and gifts to our ministry in memory/honor of the following members and friends:

John Mitchell
Art, Dorothy & Edward Lange
Marion Pagel
Elmer, Mikel & Gary Wells

EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION/GRADUATION



Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 23, in the 10:30 AM worship service. Examination will be held between the 8:00am and 10:30am service. The following 4 young people have grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, have been strengthened in their faith and are now ready to receive the Lord's Supper.

***Nia Anderson
Brooklynn Bolton
Olivia Olson
Olivia Peesel***

We pray that God will keep them faithful to him throughout their lives. Let us also do all we can to encourage these young people in their faith, as they continue to follow the path God has set for them.



St. Paul's Eighth Grade Class will also receive their diplomas during the 10:30am worship service on May 23.

We would like to invite **ALL** member graduates of high school, technical college or university to attend this service and be recognized also at this time. Refreshments will be offered after the 10:30 service in the school gym for all graduates and families.

More News

CEMETERY RULES REMINDER

With Memorial Day coming this month, the Cemetery Committee would like to remind everyone that all gravesite arrangements need to be placed according to the regulations posted on the signs in the cemetery. This makes it much easier to mow around. Items placed incorrectly will be removed and placed by the shed at the back of the cemetery. Thank you for your help in keeping our cemetery grounds neat.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS ENDS MAY 16

The last Sunday adult Bible study before the summer break will be May 16. Fellowship will still take place through the summer, but a time depends on what is decided for summer service schedules. We will put out the information as soon as a decision has been made.

April Birthdays

This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it...Psalm 118:24



1. Cooper Erie, Ronald Schnurr
2. Patty Grauvogl
4. Julie Kucher
5. Rhett Boldon
6. Jeff Peesel
7. Gary Pharo
10. Lindsay Hedler, Ben Menches, James Ott, Jr.
11. Brittany Clark, Marilyn Wasson
12. Alex Chouinard, Kelly Clark, Jacob Haase, Arlene Nelson, Nicholas Nelson, Olivia Schultz, Paige Solchenberger
13. Drake Demaske, Thomas Pagel, Andrew Scott
14. Emersyn Fry, Megan Gardehl
15. Matt Gardehl, Sandy Preuss
16. Chris Heiking, Mara Hubele
17. Travis Fry, Derek Roloff
18. Kris Burnstad, Ann Dorn, Tyler Hubele, Gary Talg
19. John Pagel, Barb Peesel, Jamie Solchenberger
20. Jessica McKendree
21. Nathan Degner, Andi Larson
22. Terry Kruger, Maureen Nelson
23. Tyler Peterson
25. Ella Boldon, Jacob Ott, Tyler Ott
28. Matthew Hagemann, Danielle Ott
29. Teagon Lando, Beth Reed
30. Haylee Fry

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry.
Please let us know and we will make the correction.

May Birthdays

This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it...Psalm 118:24

1. Danyelle Fry, Alan Scott, Dustin Solchenberger
2. Doris Herrewig, Amanda Lawrence, Gordie Ott, Jim Voigt
3. Jenny Miller
4. Ilda Schmidt, Kingston Schmidt
5. Liam Demaske, Camryn Hanson
6. Tammy Miller, MaryAnn Rasch, Lucas Voigt, Quinn Wafle
7. Robert Kennedy
8. Nathaniel Hagemann, Logan Mitchell-Carter, Brandon Pagel, Jody Strait
9. Brooklynn Bolton, Arvin Laubscher, Norm Smith, Jenny Wells
10. Kelsey Frisk, Hannah Heiking, Logan Rohn
11. Stacie Kopenhafer,
12. Sarah Hora, River Schultz, Brian Thompson
14. Virginia Thompson
15. Judith Ott, Linda Wildenradt
18. Joshua Hubele, Mick Ott, Zaiden Peek, James Weber
19. Ryan Hug, Rollie Schultz
20. Sally West
22. Bruce Rick
23. Brad Bolton, Becky Fassel, Merna Mittlesteadt, Sherise Vaassen, Dan Weber
24. Amber Fick, Korbin Wells
25. Mercedes Huebel, Ruth Schmidt
26. Jeanie Stittleburg, Vidalia Wolfe
27. Jim Raese, Chris Young
28. Jacob Pharo
29. Lynn Butler, Karen Ennis, Mike Young
30. Amanda Gehri, Amandus Wolfe
31. Debra Danklefsen, David Pagel, Abram Thayer

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry.
Please let us know and we will make the correction.



School Scoop

Celebrating 140 Years of
Christian Education

Normally, when we get to this time of the year we have students and teachers who are eagerly looking forward to the end of the school year. These have not been normal times. Students and teachers are eagerly looking forward to the last day of school this year because we want to get back to normal. While there are no guarantees, we are praying—and we invite you all to pray with us—that next year we will be able to do things as we normally have every other year that there hasn't been a pandemic.

While we are blessed to have been in person for the vast majority of the year and many students in many parts of the country haven't, we know that the times we haven't been in person have been a challenge. We thank our teachers and students for doing their best and our parents for dealing with it and remaining supportive.

As the year marches to a close, we celebrate our 8th grade students who are close to finishing their St. Paul's career and will go through the rite of confirmation. Both graduation and confirmation will be on Sunday, May 23rd in the 10:30am service. The examination will take place at 9:30 that morning.

While sports were a no-go this year, we are planning three different sports camps this summer for volleyball, basketball, and flag football. We are also looking forward to our new teacher, Mr. Corey Pieper, joining us this summer. He officially begins July 1st and will be installed in a worship service near that date. We will let you know when and we'll plan a warm welcome for him. He will be teaching grades 3-5 and serving as our athletic director. Mrs. Snyder will be moving to the Kindergarten room. This summer, you can go to Rock Springs and see if you can catch Mr. Pieper selling popcorn there with his dad.

While COVID has hit our upper grade room just now in late April, we are working to get everything accomplished that we need to by the time school ends on May 21st. We are on pace.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God give us a good summer, blessed with rest and productivity as needed.

Congratulations to the 2021 Graduates



Philippians 1:6 - I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



St. Paul's Lutheran School Eighth Grade Graduates

Nia Anderson
Brooklynn Bolton

Olivia Olson
Olivia Peesel

High School Graduates

Nicholas Bolton (Mauston)
Deena Degner * (W-C)

Sadie Bolton (MLPS)
Austin Schmidt (W-C)

Lance Thayer (W-C)

Vocational/College/University

Dayonna Bolton
Allison Mitchell
Austin Shore
Philip Snyder

Viterbo University
UW – Milwaukee
Viterbo University
Martin Luther College

Elementary Education
Accounting
Business
Ministry

* Valedictorian

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCH LEADERS!
PLEASE READ!**

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42-47).

Brothers and sisters,

These verses from Acts 2 give us a beautiful example of the power of the gospel in the hearts and minds of people. It’s tempting to think of the history of the early church that we read about in Acts and the letters of the New Testament as the “glory days” of the church. Or maybe we think back to the days of our own churches when the pews were fuller, the membership roster was longer, and there seemed to be more joy in our fellowship.

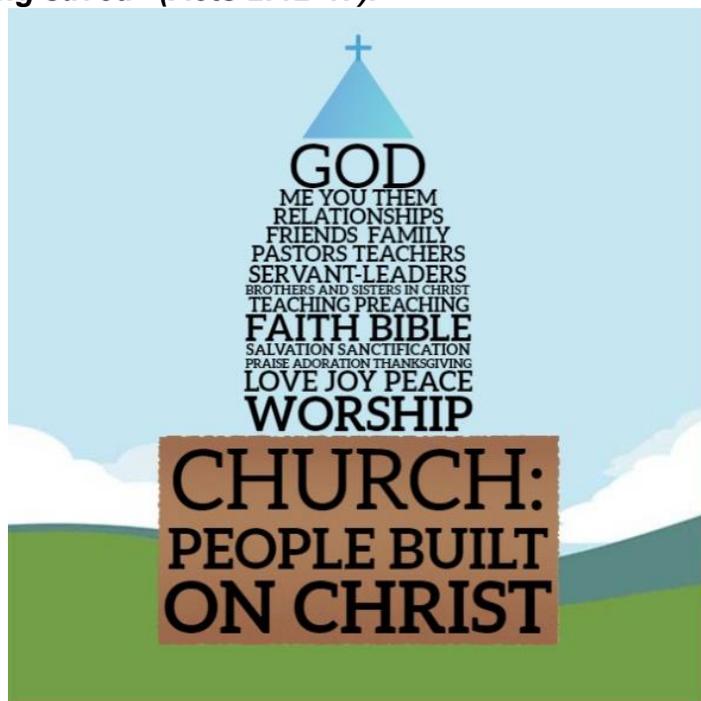
Times change, but God doesn’t. Circumstances change, but the Spirit’s power does not. Many things lose their efficacy over time, but the gospel’s power remains undiminished. God remains our Lord and Savior no matter what. This is part of the good news of Jesus’ redemption. It brings to mind the second verse of hymn 588, *Abide with Me*:

*Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!*

As you should know by now, we (meaning the leadership and many members of both congregations) think it is a good idea to join St. Paul’s in Wonewoc with St. Paul of Hillsboro. This is a big change for these two congregations that have existed independently for well over a century. There are hurdles to overcome to make this happen. The biggest hurdle, however, has already been overcome:

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28).

We are already one in Christ. We are brothers and sisters, family, that share a common bond, a common goal, and a common mission. The bond is Christ; the goal is heaven, which is already ours in Jesus; and the mission is to share the good news that Jesus is everyone’s Savior.



(Continued)

We want to accomplish two things with this letter:

- 1) To lay out simply the reasons for the merger—why we are doing this.
- 2) To offer a simple plan to move forward and invite feedback on it.

Why are we doing this?

As was said, times change—both for the better and for the worse. The “worse” includes the fact that we don’t have as many pastors available in our synod as we have had in years past. This year, only 28 men are graduating from our seminary. As of the beginning of April, there were 136 pastoral vacancies in our synod—positions that require a pastor to fill them—with 122 of them being full-time parish pastor vacancies.

Another “worse” is that the congregation in Hillsboro has been challenged in recent years for various reasons. Last year, the Wonewoc congregation received a graduate from the seminary. While the congregation could have benefitted from a second pastor before this, one of the reasons we pursued and received a graduate is because of the potential of merging with the Hillsboro congregation. While all of this is in God’s hands, humanly speaking it would be difficult for the congregation to get a pastor and then also to afford him.



Finally, while we can and will point out many other positives as time goes on, the main “better” we’d like to point out here is that we can do more together than we can do separately. What we’re talking about is, of course, gospel ministry. It’s why each congregation has existed for so long: to proclaim the good news of a Savior to a world full of sinners and to nurture those who believe with that same good news. There are opportunities to reach out with the gospel in both communities. Since we have good facilities in both locations, we should use them for ministry—together.

What now?

There are some challenges to joining together that we will have to overcome. How big they are depends largely on our attitude. Are we willing to make some concessions, to travel to the other location when necessary, to go along with majority decisions even if they aren’t what we prefer?

Again, while we want to be as accommodating as possible for as many as possible, *OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL IS TO SERVE EACH OTHER IN LOVE AND TO SERVE OUR AREA WITH THE GOSPEL.* This is the main thing.

Our plan is to start off by having a combined worship schedule for the summer. The initial suggestion is to have worship as it has been in Wonewoc at 7pm on Thursdays and 8am on Sundays, as well as worship in Hillsboro as it has been at 10:30am on Sundays. The only difference would be no 10:30 worship in Wonewoc. This seems to be the least disruptive option. Another option would be to flip the Sunday services and have it in Hillsboro at 8am and Wonewoc at 10:30am. The idea of three Sunday services is, at this point, unnecessary and would be difficult to work out. All of the church members of both Hillsboro and Wonewoc would be encouraged to worship when they want and where they want.



(Continued)

The *when* and *where* may not line up with what we'd like. If they don't, please make the effort to make it to worship wherever it is. As Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, where we worship doesn't matter; *that* we worship, and that we do so in *spirit* and in *truth*, does matter. Whatever is decided, it can and will be revisited in August to see if it's working or if a change is preferred, particularly with the new school year approaching and planning out the school children's singing schedule. Sunday School and Sunday Bible Study will also be decided on then. Times and places can be adjusted as time goes on and circumstances dictate.

Other things that are important but should be more easily figured out will be addressed during the summer and presented to each congregation. A name change possibility was mentioned. This is still on the table but not a necessity. The majority may decide simply to keep the name St. Paul. If this is the case, we would refer to each location as the Hillsboro campus and the Wonewoc campus of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Then, in August, the plan is for each congregation to vote yes or no for the merger.

In some ways, the joining of the congregations seems like a simple matter that makes sense. But we also realize that there are a lot of things to work out and that a merger will impact everyone. It may mean a little more effort on your part, including a little more driving at times than some of us are used to. To that point, I would simply ask us all to remember how blessed we are that we've had churches so close to us, unlike in some parts of the country where some Christians will drive an hour or more to make it to a church that preaches and teaches God's Word faithfully.

These are not decisions we want to force on anyone and we pray that they will be acceptable to everyone. Meanwhile, whatever questions or concerns you may have, please direct them to Pastor Limpert (608-462-7601) or Pastor Snyder (608-479-0778) or one of the servant-leaders of either congregation.

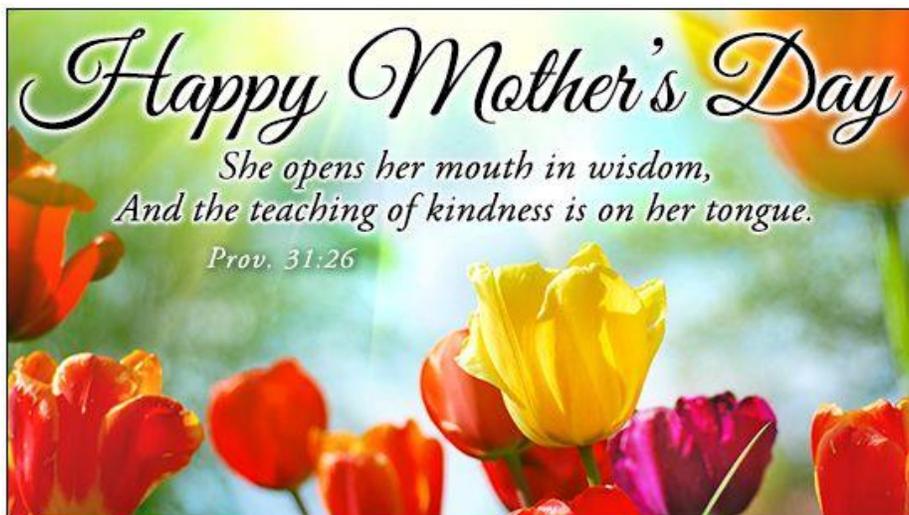
Above all, our prayer is that, should this merger take place, it will be a blessing and inspire more of us to participate not only in worship but in the greater life of the church, according to the gifts and time that God has given to each of us. We should expect great blessing in this because God promises to bless us always in Jesus and to bless all of our efforts to faithfully proclaim him as Lord and Savior of all.



Ephesians 4

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Eighth Grade Confirmation and Graduation will take place on May 23 at the 10:30 AM Worship Service. Examination will be held at 9:30 AM on that same day. Refreshments will be served in the school gym following the service. All graduates and families are invited.</p> 						1
<p>2</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship with Communion</p> <p>9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship with Communion</p> <p>11:30 AM Quarterly Voters Meeting</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Circuit Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Shut-In Visits</p> <p>1:30 PM Ladies Aid</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 AM Elders</p>
<p>9 Mother's Day</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> 	10	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM Panther Parents</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Shut-In Visits</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship with Communion</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	15
<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship with Communion</p> <p>9:15 AM Fellowship and Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>3:00 PM School Operetta</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>1:30 PM Care Ministry</p> <p>6:30 PM Trustees</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p> <p>Last Day of School Dismissal @ 11:30 AM</p>	22
<p>23/30</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM No Bible Class or Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>24/31</p> <p>5/24 Newsletter Article and Calendar Deadline</p> <hr/> <p>5/31 Memorial Day</p> 	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship with Communion</p>	28	29



Ready for today, in the tradition you trust

The new hymnal offers a comprehensive set of resources to cultivate a rich worship life in Lutheran churches, schools, and homes.

CHRISTIANWORSHIP.COM



The new hymnal and worship resources is on the horizon and scheduled for release to congregations and individuals in the fall of 2021.

These resources will include a hymnal for worship, a special edition for home, helpful accompaniments for musicians and many planning tools for leaders.

Christian Worship, the hymnal's name (just like our current title), will include the best of the time tested, beloved hymns as well as wonderful new favorites. The hymn arrangements will be geared toward the average singer. A great addition to worship will be the Christian Worship Psalter which has musical settings for all 150 psalms.

New service settings and tools for worship planners are also exciting additions to this hymnal. Technological advances will make service folder planning and visual aids easier to design.

If you would like to learn more, visit ChristianWorship.com for information, video presentations and updates.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church/school office will be open from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Monday- Thursday (excluding holidays) during the summer. If you need to contact Pastor or other faculty members, you can still call 464-3212. Someone is almost always available to take the call or you may leave a voice message and someone will return your call as soon as possible. Or you may email if you wish. Thank you.



—WELS—

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