

October 2020

# "Proclaim"

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Worship Times:

Thursday Evenings  
7:00 PM

Sunday Mornings  
8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Online Worship  
available on YouTube  
or by clicking the link  
found on our  
homepage

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## From the Pastor

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

***For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future.***

"Probably not what you were expecting, huh?" I've had that question or other similar statements directed towards me more than a few times over the last several months. It's not hard to see why people would ask me this question; you might have asked it or had it asked of you more often this year than any before. When someone has a major life event, such as graduating from a school, getting married, or starting a new job, we usually ask at some point that evaluating question: Was it what you were expecting? But this year it almost seems silly to ask a question like that. So little of what has happened in 2020 is what any of us could have expected or predicted.

Now, in looking back at these first few months of my ministry here at St. Paul's, I don't want to give the impression that I view it all through a lens of unexpected doom and gloom. Much of it has been what I had long been expecting and praying for as I looked ahead to becoming a pastor. The warm welcome my wife and I have received. The different opportunities for serving through preaching, teaching, and visiting. The continuing task of learning everyone's names and actually connecting those names to their faces, for which I ask your continued patience when my mind inevitably blanks out. It has in many ways, in most ways really, been a great start to my ministry and I'm looking forward to the work ahead.

But, of course, there is much that has been unexpected since my ordination and installation in July, as there has been much unexpected throughout the year. I certainly never expected my last year at the seminary to end in the manner it did, nor the changes Jess and I had to make in our wedding plans. The circumstances of this year have also brought unexpected tasks and challenges at the start of my ministry. Learning to recognize people by what I can see above their masks. Taking extra cautions and procedures into account in various aspects of church and school ministry. Wrestling with how best in love to encourage participation in the church while not burdening the consciences of those with concerns about their health or loved ones'. Maybe you can relate to these unexpected challenges.

Someone who was no stranger to unexpected circumstances in life and ministry was the apostle Paul. Here is just one example from his ministry.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

*(From the Pastor continued from p. 1)*

In Paul's letter to the Romans he detailed a plan to visit the congregations there on his way to begin a missionary journey in Spain. But this would come after he completed the task he was on while writing the letter: delivering a special offering to assist poor Christians in Jerusalem (Romans 15:22-33).

In the book of Acts, Luke tells us what happened in Jerusalem after Paul delivered this gift. Paul was attacked by a mob in the temple over false accusations, taken into Roman custody to await trial, remained imprisoned for two years in Caesarea until being sent to Rome on appeal, was shipwrecked on the way, and finally was placed under house arrest in Rome to await his hearing before Caesar (these events are recorded starting at Acts 21:27). Certainly not the plan Paul had in mind when he wrote to the believers in Rome. Maybe you can relate to unexpected changes to your plans.

Unexpected challenges and changes to our plans happen often enough that we are regularly told to expect the unexpected. But sometimes what confronts us in any given day is far beyond even our most imaginative unexpectations. When we find ourselves surrounded by change and uncertainty, when world events spiral around us and make it seem like everything may fall apart at any moment, when the unexpected is the norm and yet still manages to shock us with more, where do we turn? Where do we go to find certainty, stability, and expectations we can rely on?

We go to our eternal, all-powerful, and loving God. We turn to our Lord, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God never changes. God never grows tired. God never stops loving us. We look to God's Word, and there we find his many promises of comfort for us. Promises of protection. Promises of strength. Promises of a certain future. As the apostle Paul faced the many unexpected challenges in his life and ministry, perhaps the passage above from Jeremiah came to mind as he recalled the Scriptures.

God had his prophet proclaim these words to the people of Judah after they were taken away into exile in Babylon. Their nation, their lives, their very identities had been overthrown. If something as devastating as this had occurred, what did that mean for them? Were they no longer God's children? Could they no longer trust in his promises? God answered these questions by assuring his people that he was still in control, no matter how the circumstances of the moment might seem to say otherwise. Not only was God still in control, he had a plan. A plan to give them peace, hope, and a future, the very things it seemed the Babylonians had snuffed out.

This same God has also promised us that he has a plan for each of us, a plan to give us true peace, a certain hope, and a blessed future. God has planned for you to be his child forever, to dwell in the peace of heaven seated at the great victory feast of the Lamb. He established his plan on the firm foundation of Christ, who lived and died to make you God's perfect child. Christ who rose again and ascended into heaven to prepare your very own home, to set your seat at the table. God has promised you this inheritance as his child through faith. God never breaks his promises, and he always accomplishes his plans. No matter what you may face in coming months and years, or even just taking each day one at a time, you don't need to fear or lose hope. Whether expected or unexpected, all things are part of God's gracious plan to bring you to your heavenly home. Trust in the Lord; his plans will exceed even your greatest expectations.

*Pastor Limpert*

# Church News

## QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

The quarterly voter's meeting will be held on Sunday, November 1, following the 10:30 AM service. Items on the agenda will include membership changes, and other items. All members, voting and non-voting, are encouraged to attend.



### Baptized in Christ

Mavrick Gatlin Myers, Ryker Allen Meyers  
August 30, 2020



### United in Marriage

Rena Duell & Grant Stittleburg  
August 15, 2020

Stacy Garner & Jordan Schraufnagel  
August 29, 2020

Sarah Fick & Cody Hora  
September 19, 2020



### Called Home

Pamela J. Abbott  
September 25, 2020



### In Memory

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

Kyle Feldman

## CLEANERS NEEDED

We are in need of church cleaners from now until the end of the year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back entry. Please consider whether you might be able to help in this service. Thank you.

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Advent by Candlelight plans are on hold at this moment due to Covid-19 concerns. We will make a final decision on holding this event by November 1.

## October Birthdays



- 1 Caleb Olson, Olivia Peesel
- 3 Jordan Erickson, Carol Krueger, Lenaya McKendree  
Breanne Schraufnagel, Britni Schraufnagel,  
Julie Lankey-Smallwood
- 4 Sarah Schultz, Cooper Solchenberger,  
Maddox Solchenberger
- 6 Jessica Erie, TJ Mayer
- 7 Robert Pagel, Kathy Robinson
- 8 Caroline Apker, Michelle Pagel, Ryan Seager,  
Dean Wildenradt, Clayton Wolfe
- 9 Jayden Weiland
- 10 Kaden Brandau, Colton Raupp, Jerry Schultz
- 11 Daniel Eberhardt, Mark Preuss, Danica Rizzo,  
Jeff Young
- 12 Rollie Jasper, Anthony Ott, Mackenzie Snyder
- 14 Christopher Haase, Charles Pattridge,  
Roger Stanek, Barbara Young
- 15 Jett Behn, Marcus Mitchell
- 16 Jodi Lankey
- 17 Ryan Degner, Gracelyn Ott
- 18 Aubri Myers
- 19 Maddie Mitchell
- 20 Stephanie Frick, Shelby Gregory,  
Sandra Hagemann,
- 21 Shawn Lehman, Dan Oetzman, Marilyn Orth  
Brian Schroeder, Tammy Wells
- 22 Chuck Hubele, Jeff Schmidt, Gary Wells
- 23 Allen Bender, Leona Clark, Zach Preuss
- 24 Jenell Snyder
- 25 Denise Lawrence, Ryker Myers, Don Preston
- 27 Jordan Lehman, Gary Myers, Melissa Pauls
- 28 Thomas Anderson, Eugene Peesel
- 29 Elaine Hepp, Sophie Rauch
- 30 Carie Kopenhafer, John Mitchell, Anna Pagel
- 31 Lee Kucher

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

St. Paul's Lutheran School began on September 1, 2020, with an enrollment of 74 children in 3K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It has been a strange start to the year because of COVID, including students having to quarantine because of illness that wasn't COVID and several families who have had to deal with COVID. It's meant a change to how we do many things (lunch in the rooms instead of the church basement; drop-off and pick-up; temperatures taken every day). The students have handled it well, as have the teachers. There are currently no sports, no fall science and fine arts fair to look forward to, and some uncertainty regarding how we will handle the children's Christmas Eve service. It certainly won't be as we've normally had it.

One new thing this year besides the COVID protocols is the lighting. All of our rooms now have LED lights thanks to generous donations of time and money. The only exceptions are the main school office and the gym, but those are coming.

As we continue to aim for normalcy in a time that's far from normal, pray for us—our students, our teachers, and our parents—that we may continue to work together to give our children the best Christian education that we can.



## LWMS NEWS



Even though, the public gatherings for the LWMS organization have been cancelled since spring, there still have been many things happening in our support of missions. While the International Convention was cancelled in June, the LWMS partnered with the WELS mission board for an online event called TASTE AND SEE. Viewers were able to virtually attend convention services, special presentations by missionaries, and business proceedings. These will remain available throughout the year ([welstasteandsee.com](http://welstasteandsee.com)) and hopefully we can make use of them at times in our congregation and encourage members to view them at their convenience.

Our circuit executive board met a week ago and decided that it would be best to also cancel our fall rally that was scheduled for October. The board carried out some of the rally business so new projects were chosen and plans were made to continue our mission support. Our fall LWMS offerings will be gathered as usual - we had an envelope in our packet in August or if you missed that you may still add your offering until September 27<sup>th</sup>. The offering gathered this fall will be sent to Joint Mission Special Project - African Immigrant and World Missionary Conference. The special project chosen for our circuit this year is befriending the International students at St. Croix Academy in West St. Paul and MLC by means of personal letters. The KIDS C.A.R.E. project for this year will be Children's Ministry Outreach and more information will be shared on this in the future. \$40,879.56 was gathered for the Indonesia Early Childcare Education project last year and our children were also able to contribute to that.

We look forward to being able to gather as an LWMS circuit again in April for our Spring Rally in Mauston. Meanwhile, we want to continue to remember the missionaries that serve both at home and abroad in our prayers and with our gifts as we are able. Throughout the world many are facing these challenging and even perilous times without the comfort and assuring promises of a Savior who loves and has redeemed them. Be a missionary in your own world – keep spreading the good news of Jesus!

## A WORD ON STEWARDSHIP

God has blessed us in many wonderful ways throughout the history of our congregation. He has blessed each of us individually in many wonderful ways, too. Because we can grow lax in our faith, which also means growing lax in our fruits of faith, it's important for us to take some time regularly to consider our personal stewardship. It impacts not only us but people all around us, even throughout the world. Here is this month's message:

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6).

God's math is beautiful.

God's math may be confusing at times. When it comes to God,  $1+1+1=1$ . Jesus, who is fully human yet fully God, is one Savior, not two. When it comes to marriage,  $1+1=1$ . When you add up all Christians of all time, all those who trust in Jesus as their Savior from sin, we equal one body. It may be confusing, but it's beautiful.

There's math in today's verse that is beautiful, if not pretty basic. The trouble is that we tend to make it more about us than about God. What I mean by this is that we tend to look at this as a merit-based outcome rather than a piece of biblical logic that is overflowing with grace.

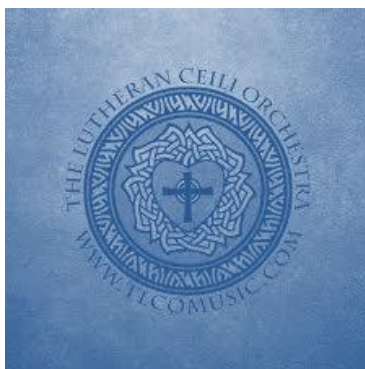
"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously." It makes perfect sense. If you farm or plant a garden, your harvest won't be bountiful if you don't plant enough seeds. The question is, what kind of sowing and reaping is Paul talking about here?

First, it's clear that the context of Paul's words is a monetary offering. Paul was gathering an offering for the Christians in Jerusalem who were under duress and in need because of a famine. But we would be missing a lot if we limited this to money. And despite the clarity of God's Word, because of our sinful nature, we can easily fall into the trap that I mentioned earlier, looking at it as a merit-based outcome--"if you give more, you get more"--rather than the outcome that will always be produced by our gracious God when we have faith in him as our Lord and Savior.

So what does this mean for us? It means that we can be generous--yes, with our money, but also with our time, with our abilities, with our emotions, with our love--without fear that we will run short or that our resources will be exhausted. God has promised that as we live a life of faithfulness that expresses itself in generosity, he will take care of us and renew us. He will give us a bountiful harvest. If we sow sparingly--again, not just when it comes to offerings, but with our time, with our abilities, with our love--how can we expect that there will be any kind of return on that?

Let's be clear that the point of all of this isn't how fat our pocketbooks come out on the other side of generous giving, but that God promises to bless us in many rich and wonderful ways. He already has! The second part of our verse literally says, "Whoever sows to blessings will also reap to blessing." This really addresses the "why." We sow not to be blessed but to be a blessing to others. With a God and Savior who is rich in love and mercy, we are guaranteed a harvest of blessing. God has promised this to us, not because of our great efforts but on account of our Savior Jesus.

As we think about our future, what we plan to do with what we have—what God has given us—let's remember this verse. Let's remember that God didn't put us here to have a comfortable life but to live our lives with him and in him, comfortable or not. He has made us his own through the redeeming work of Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Our future is assured. This is why we can live generously with great joy and without fear.



### TLCO HERE NOVEMBER 15

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 15. **The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra** will be here to lead us in worship. **TLCO** is a group of Christian musicians that specialize in a Celtic perspective on Christian worship. They were here last year in September and we are thrilled to have them returning. Tell your family and friends. A fish fry is also being planned for that Sunday. Watch for more information to come soon.

## More News

### Highlights - Annual Voters' Meeting - August 30, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 11:30am by Vice-President Sam Mobley.

Pastor Snyder opened with a Devotion from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12.

Minutes for the June 28, 2020 Quarterly Voters' Meeting were presented in print and accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Snyder.

1. Baptisms (1) - Leslie Rose Dampier.
2. 8th Grade Confirmation (6) (6-21-20) - Brady Baldwin, Kyle Degner, Iszak Elder, Brenenn Ott, Evan Pagel, Aria Schnurr.
3. Marriages (1) - Janice Pagel and Richard Barreau (5-9-20).
4. Funerals (4) - Ethel Ott (4-4-20), Patricia Dettman (4-27-20), Kyle Feldman (5-30-20), Edgar Laubscher (6-24-20).
5. Shut-Ins (18).
6. 2020 Average Weekly Attendance (Regular Services) - 140 (2019 - 163).
7. 2020 Average Weekly Attendance (With Special Services) - 161 (2019 - 195).

*Average Weekly Attendance is averaged minus the weeks of no service due to Safer At Home.*

Board of Elders'/Stewardship Report presented by Sam Mobley.

1. No Membership changes.
2. Services still being broadcast online and on DVD.

Board of Education Report presented by Troy Gander.

1. Have purchased cameras for classrooms.
2. LED lighting is being installed.

Principal's Report presented by Pastor Snyder.

1. School enrollment is at 74 students.
2. School begins Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> with Covid safety protocols in place.
3. Welcome Mrs. Becky Fricke, who will teach Kindergarten this year.

Cemetery Board Report presented by Steve Mitchell.

Steering Committee Report presented by Steve Mitchell.

1. Looking for more members.

Treasurer/Financial Management Report presented by Dale Wells/Bruce Schroeder.

1. General Fund Debt is \$45,686.15 as of 6-30-20.
2. Will be open to offers on Dutch Hollow Lake lot.

Unfinished Business.

1. St. Paul's Hillsboro congregation fellowship and service plan was presented. A motion was passed to accept the plans as presented.
2. New church audio is here, waiting to be installed.

New Business.

1. There is a vacancy on the Trustees that we will fill at the October Quarterly Meeting.

Discussion/Informational Items.

1. We continue to exploring the possibility of establishing an Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) program.
2. Plans are being made for our 150th Anniversary celebration for our congregation and 110th Anniversary celebration of our current church building.
3. The Board of Trustees is working to re-establish a building and ground review and planning committee.
4. Trees have been cleared along the bluff.
5. We have received \$2500 in lieu of the Charity Tractor Pull.

Next Quarterly Meeting: November 1, 2020 after the 10:30 service.

Pastor Snyder led the closing with The Lord's Prayer.

***You can view a complete transcript of minutes for this and other Voter's Meetings by calling the church office and requesting a copy. You may also obtain Board of Trustees minutes by doing the same.***

***(continued in next column)***



# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!</p> <p>PSALM 100:4</p>				<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship with Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship with Communion</p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship with Communion</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM Circuit Meeting – Reedsburg</p> <p>6:00 PM Anniversary Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM Shut In Visits</p> <p>TBD - Public School Catechism</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 AM Elders</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30 PM Care Ministry</p> <p>6:30 PM Panther Parents</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Shut In Visits</p> <hr/> <p><b>12:50 PM School Early Release</b></p> <hr/> <p>3:30 PM Mid Quarter Parent/Teacher Conferences</p> <p>TBD - Public School Catechism</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30 PM Mid Quarter Parent/Teacher Conferences</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship with Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p> <p>6:30 PM Steering Committee Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>140<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship with Communion</p> <p>9:15 AM Fellowship &amp; Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship with Communion</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 PM Trustees</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Shut In Visits</p> <p>TBD - Public School Catechism</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Fellowship &amp; Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Newsletter Article &amp; Calendar Deadline</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p> <p>TBD - Public School Catechism</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:05 AM Chapel</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>Make-Up Days for School</p>						









**St. Paul's**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

119 S. East Street PO Box 125

Wonewoc, Wisconsin 53968

**Return Service Requested**

**October 2020**

**TO:**

