



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

Christian Hope

This month I was blessed to be able to attend a conference called “Hope in a Secular Age.” What a timely conference as for many people hope begins to dwindle. With the struggling economy, wars and rumors of war going around in the world, and the struggle of every day life it is easy to begin to lose hope. With the rise of anxiety and depression in record numbers one could argue that hope has indeed been lost. This is why it is so important for us Christians to hold fast to hope and proclaim it. However while at this conference I was reinforced with two central truths about hope that we must hold in tension; Christians do not have a monopoly on hope, and Christian hope is distinct and different from other hope.

Indeed everyone in this world hopes for something- for hope is the eager expectation for an as of yet unfulfilled desire. As I am writing this I am hoping the Cubs catch up to the Brewers. I have read that Aaron Rodgers hopes to recover from his Achilles tear in time for the playoffs. Donald Trump is hoping to get reelected as president. Kids are hoping for good grades. Parents are hoping for security and protection for their children. Some of these hopes are more certain than others- I am more certain in my hope to make it home safely tonight than Aaron Rodgers is about returning for a playoff run. There are hopes that we have that we doubt more than we are certain of. Some have hope that science can defeat death for example. I am filled with doubt. Some think that with Civil Rights movements we can create a peaceful and just world in this life. Again I am filled with doubt. We doubt because the object of our hope is less certain- there is less evidence for these things to fill me with certainty.

As Christians we sometimes tend to think we are the only ones who have a certain hope, that we have a monopoly on it. We laugh and scoff at the world’s hopes, that there will be peace in our time, that a utopia can be created here on earth. Yet I do not know about you, but there are days where even my certain Christian hope is filled with doubt and uncertainty. There are days when I do doubt the forgiveness of my sins, when I wonder if Jesus is coming back. I do not hear Jesus speaking when I pray to him, and there are some days where he seems absent. Just like the hope of the world, the Christian hope is one that if we are honest, has moments of doubt. We cry out with a certain father “Lord I do believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24). We do not have a monopoly on certain hope-because our hope is not certain since it is plagued by doubt.

And yet our hope is indeed a certain hope. It is certain because we know that it indeed will happen. We do not know it because we believe it, but it is certain because of the character and nature of the one who we hope in. This is what sets it distinct. When I begin to doubt whether or not I am forgiven- all I need to do is look to the cross to be reassured. When I wonder if he is present and listening, I only need to go back to his word and be reminded of his promises. When I wonder if he is coming back, I only need to see the prophecies he has already fulfilled. Indeed our Jesus keeps his promises- which is why we can hope in him. Our hope is not certain because of our inner strength of said hope- but it is certain because of the one who gives us hope.

Why does any of this matter? Well it allows us to be honest in our conversations with our friends and neighbors who have different hopes than we do. We can relate with the doubts, the fears and uncertainty that they have. We are not aloof or not understanding what they are going through. We are able to walk alongside them in their journey of doubt. But then we are also free to proclaim our hope, free to proclaim the one who solidifies our hope when we begin to doubt. A future utopia or the defeat of death through science cannot solidify hope the way that Jesus can. So we join our neighbor in their doubt and uncertainty, and proclaim Christ who makes certain that which is uncertain. He comes and helps us in our unbelief and fills us with hope. We proclaim his story, we proclaim his Gospel. This Gospel will fill us with hope, and we pray that it will also fill the hope of those whom we walk beside.

Amen.

Pastor Josh

Bible Studies



Thursday Morning Bible Class

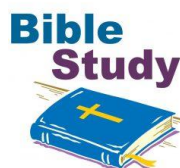
The “Minor Prophets” also called the “Book of the Twelve” are not less important prophecy, but simply shorter and more pointed prophecies. We are doing summary studies of most of these and during the month of October we will be taking a look at Zephaniah and Haggai. We begin with prayer requests, study the Word of the Lord, and have fellowship and encouragement as we gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The class runs from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday. You are welcome to join up at any time!

Men’s Bible Breakfast

The men have made their choice and we will be studying the book of Ruth for the next couple of months. The historical account in the book of Ruth took place during the difficult days of the times of the Judges. The book of Judges ends with this statement: “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” The book of Ruth helps us understand that, even in difficult days, our God is still at work, especially when it comes to His promise of salvation. So why not join with your brothers in Christ and take this spiritual journey through the book of Ruth together. We gather around 7am. We eat breakfast with the guys, pray, and then study God’s Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am. All men are welcome and we love to see new faces join us!

Multi Generational Bible Study & Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the Fellowship Hall for an introduction to the lesson of the day, as well as sing some songs. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the gym for a recap. We are following the Faithweavers curriculum from Group publishing and will be going through the book of Genesis this Fall. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God’s word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information!



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Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

Sunday October 1st at Noon



Celebration of New and Old

You are invited to meet our new church & school families, celebrate with those who have milestone birthdays, and rejoice with our recently baptized!

Enjoy a free lunch and short program in the St. Paul's Gym.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the narthex or contact the office.

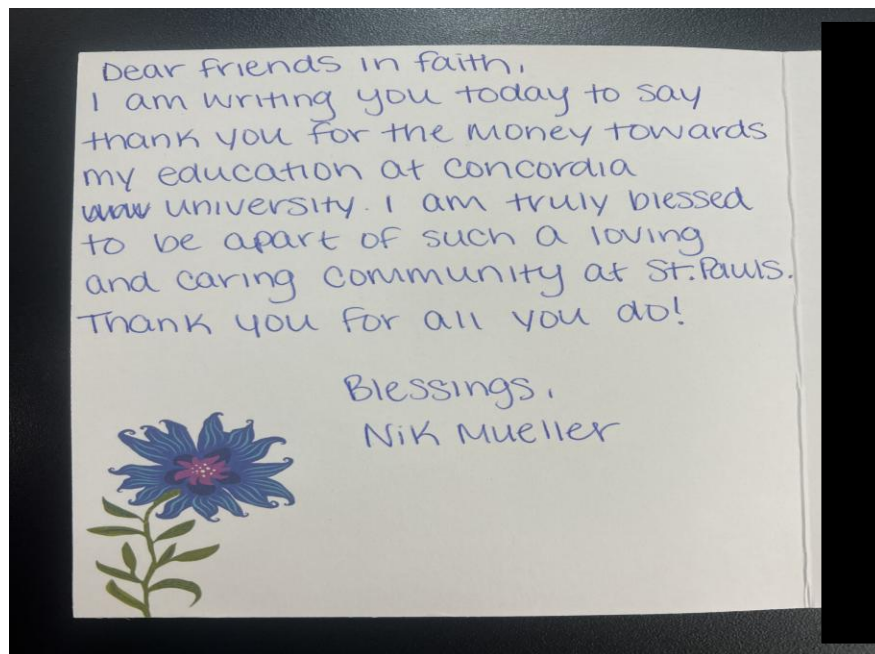
414-541-6250 / mary@splcwa.org

Praise the Lord!



Deaconess Carole King has accepted our Call to serve as our Director of Parish Music. She will be Installed on the weekend of October 14 and 15. If you wish to bless her in her relocation, we will receive gift cards in the Church Office.

Please continue to keep Carole in your prayers.



St Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for you incredibly generous support as I continue my studies at Seminary. It is wonderful to know how much support I have while I pursue God's calling in my life. This past year has been filled with many blessings and challenges, but your support reminds me of the goodness of God through everything.

I have had many great conversations with my grandfather, Charles Korn, over the last year. He has a passion for caring for pastors and has been one of my biggest encouragements while I am at seminary. It brings him so much joy to know that this student fund started by his father is helping care for me during my education.

I am now entering my second year of classes. My first year was amazing. I have had great professors, a great fieldwork church to learn at outside of the classroom, and have formed many great relationships with fellow classmates. I even had the opportunity to take a trip to Israel over summer and study the Bible in its original context. I have learned so much and am excited to grow even more in my abilities.

I thank God for you all and your generous support. I will continue to pray for you and the Ministry that God is working through your pastors and members. Please keep me in your prayers as I prepare for the ministry. Thank you again!

In Christ,

Garrett Anklam

*Thank
You*

Faithful Participants in God's Mission

(A three-week stewardship emphasis)

Through Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit calls us to be **Faithful Participants in God's Mission** “*to seek and to save the lost*” (Luke 19:10), and He empowers us to participate with our time, talents, and money in God's divine plan to bring salvation to all people who believe (Romans 1:17). Our Board of Stewardship will lead us through a three week stewardship emphasis this fall. The themes are as follows:

October 7-8 – Week Three: “We Are to Be Generous and Ready to Share”

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”
(1 Timothy 6:18).

Please pray for God's Spirit to move and plan to be engaged in becoming ever more “Faithful Participants in God's Mission.”



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Thank you Pastor Bender and Pastor Josh for all you do at St. Paul's in faithful service to God and His people! Your leadership, preaching and care are a blessing to all of us!

Help Needed For School's Chapel Families



If you ask current and past St. Paul's students what some of their favorite things are about going to school at St. Paul's you're likely going to hear CHAPEL FAMILIES as a common answer. This is a time where groups with students from each grade gather to complete an activity or worship together in chapel. This is a great opportunity to get to know students from different classes and grow in our school community and connections. Each year it has been tradition for each student and staff

member to receive a shirt, each group having a different color. **We're seeking help in funding the purchase of these shirts this year.** In addition to students wearing these shirts for each chapel family gathering, they are a great way for our students to get our name out in the community when they're worn outside of school. If you'd be willing to contribute to this special collection, please note "Chapel Families" on your check memo and/or offering envelope. If we are blessed with more contributions than the cost of our shirts, the money will be put towards our chapel family activities which in the past have included crafts for shut-ins, gifts for families, and decorating cookies. If you are a Thrivent member, contact us about applying their Action Team funding to this cause. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Jackson (danielle@splcwa.org), Sarah Zellmer (sarah@splcwa.org), or Natalie Schule (natalie.schulte@splcwa.org). Thank you.

School Musical October 27th





Ladies Groups



Widows Lunch



All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Open Flame (5081 S. 108th Street) on Wednesday October 11th at 11:00am.

Quilter's Patch

Where has the year gone??? It is already October, which means it is time to display our handy work in the church. We will be putting the quilts out the weekend of October 7th and 8th. On the 9th they will be boxed up, ready for their trip to Orphan Grain Train. If you are available on Monday mornings between 9:00am and 11:30am come share fellowship while working on a quilt.

Quilting dates for October and November are:

October – 2, 16 & 30 (Quilt packing day Oct. 9th)

November – 6 & 20



If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please call or text Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com

Ladies Guild

Just a few things to mention.

The Zone Fall Rally is October 21st at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church (9741 W Beloit Rd). Registration and coffee at 9:00am. Pastor Barry Ackers will provide a devotion and Lydia Beasley from the SOS Center is the speaker. Lunch will follow the meeting. In-gathering items are toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates and cups, plastic cutlery, individual snacks, workbooks (ages 7-11) and flashcards. We will have a box in the narthex if anyone would like to donate any of the above items. Items will be collected until Friday, October 20th.

There are new mite boxes in the narthex...Everyone is welcomed to take a box home and fill it with change, folding money or even a check....All money collected goes towards funding the national and district grants.

The schedule for meetings is :

November 27th

January 22nd 2024

March 25th 2024

May 20th 2024 (potluck)



For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell/text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell/text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com



Board of Missional Community



Reformation Festival

Step into history and join us for a Reformation Festival of games, fellowship, and a potluck feast on
October 29th, right after the 10:30 service at 12.

Our venue is the great outdoors at St. Paul's, but if the skies weep, we'll take the celebration to the gym. Get ready for games that would make Martin Luther himself smile! Bring a dish to pass, and let's savor the flavors of unity.

Together, we'll celebrate Reformation Day in a fun and memorable way.

See you there!



Emergency Pastoral Care

If you or your family has an emergency situation that needs pastoral care, please contact one of our pastors. Pastor Bender's cell is 217-779-7985 and Pastor Josh's cell is 608-290-9837. Pastor Bender's day off is on Monday and Pastor Josh's day off is on Friday. So please call the pastor on duty on those days. God bless us and be with us in all of the joys and burdens of life.

Sharing God's Bounty

Humble Stewards

As stewards, we are the recipients and caretakers of God's goodness, love, mercy, and grace. Stewards are managers of God's creation. We acknowledge God as the owner; therefore, we are to act not as owners but as managers because our lives and resources are simply on loan from him.

The book of Daniel gives an account of a man who failed to recognize God as Creator and provider and exalted himself. King Nebuchadnezzar, walking on the roof of "his" royal palace, surveying "his" kingdom, was overcome by pride as he announced, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty" (Daniel 4:30)? He thought he was asking a rhetorical question, but God condemned him to live like an animal as a consequence of his pride.

Pride is destructive. It destroys gratitude to God for all his kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent, but we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Pride has no place in the life of a servant. First Peter 5:6 reads, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time." It is God alone who can exalt us (Psalm 75:7). If Christ himself, God's only begotten Son, humbled himself, should we not follow his example and humble ourselves? Because Christ humbled himself, God exalted him (Philippians 2:9)

David, the shepherd-king, put our situation in proper perspective: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him" (Psalm 8:3-4)? The inference is that we are insignificant, yet David goes on to remind us of what we can be proud: "You made [us] ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under [our] feet."

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. Humility is the decision to "let God be God." We are stewards through humility. We are to honor God with what we have, what we are, and what he will make of us.

Whatever standard we, choose, be it tithing or some other, it must never be confused with the reason for giving. We give because God has blessed us and because we want with all our hearts and minds to return to God that which God has given. This is the motive.



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11

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Lutheran Hour Ministries - 2023 North & South Wisconsin LLL District Joint Convention

October 14 at Peace Lutheran Church 1228 S. Park Ave. Neenah, WI

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

Registration Opens at 8:00am

Convention begins at 8:30am with opening Worship Service and concludes at 3:30pm



St. Paul's Youth 2024 Houseboat Retreat July 14-19, 2024

House Boat retreat meeting- October 8th. We are super excited that this summer we are going to Branson Missouri for a House Boat retreat. This will be a wonderful time to grow in our relationships with God and one another. Any Highschooler who would like to attend is encouraged to come with one of their parents to our planning meeting October 8th after the 10:30 Church service in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided. We will go over what the trip will look like as well as the fundraisers that we will be doing to be able to go. Anyone of High School age is welcome to attend! See you there.

Lock In- October 20th. All 6th -12th graders are welcome to attend a lock in October 20th starting at 8:00 pm and ending at 8:00 am. There will be fun games, food, movies and devotions throughout the night. The more the merrier, so bring friends! Contact Pastor Josh for more information.

LuWiSoMo Fall Work Weekend – October 6-8, 2023

This is a great volunteer opportunity for individuals and families. Participants can arrive Friday evening at 7pm. No formal activities are planned Friday – it is a time to arrive, settle in and relax. We work all day Saturday on assigned work projects. A worship service and fellowship follow. More work projects are scheduled Sunday morning after breakfast before we all depart at 11am. See the camps website for more details. www.luwisomo.org



Concordia University Chicago – Careers For Christ - November 3 – 5

High School students interested in learning about LCMS professional church work careers are encouraged to attend this fun weekend. The entire weekend experience costs \$85 per person, which includes all activities, materials, housing, meals, transportation during the event and a Careers for Christ T-shirt. Register online at CUChicago.edu/C4C by October 21st.

BAGS, BEER, AND BITES FUNDRAISER


JOURNEYS
LUTHERAN
SCHOOL

Toss some bags at
our 1st Annual Corn
Hole Tournament!



Saturday, October 14th | 3-8PM

REGISTRATION: 3PM | TOURNAMENT: 4PM

JOURNEYS CAMPUS | 5425 S. 111TH STREET | HALES CORNERS

PLAYER ADMISSION: \$25 per person
(Competitive and non-competitive brackets)

NON-PLAYER ADMISSION: \$10 per person

*Craft beer provided by Brewfinity Brewing Co.
Both player and non-player registration comes with 2
tickets towards soda or beer purchase.*

GET TICKETS!



RAFFLE BASKETS | 50/50 RAFFLE | FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES

OCTOBER