

The Monthly Herald

September 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The “Dog days of Summer” are over and we are headed back into the regular routines that come with the beginning of the school year. In case you didn’t know, the “Dog days of Summer” is a phrase that goes all the way back to Caesar Augustus, describing the very HOT days at the end of the summer. Having a couple of days near 100 degrees about a week ago, it will be nice to enter the more temperate season of Fall.



It’s also wonderful to get back into important activities here at church!! Several Bible studies will be picking up again: Thursday morning Bible study, Men’s Bible breakfast, and a brand new intergenerational Bible study during the Sunday School hour. We will also have a special Parenting Class on the last Saturday of September and the first Saturday of October. Check out the Herald for information on all of these opportunities.

This time of year is also a great time to recommit to gathering regularly in God’s house to worship Him, to praise His holy Name and receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are often distracted in these latter days with all kinds of diversions in our lives. We need to hear the Word of our Lord once again, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) Seek God in worship. Seek His grace and mercy for your sins. Seek His will and give Him your burdens in prayer. Seek Jesus first and foremost, for only one thing is needed. (Luke 10:38-42)



I was just talking to a family who is laying to rest the body of their beloved mother who has now entered glory. One of the things they shared at the funeral planning session brought me back to my own childhood. They said that their parents taught them, as my own did, that “Missing church is simply not an option.” When I was growing up, going to church every weekend was simply a way of life.

Did I always want to go to church? No, not always! Did one of my siblings resist going to church, rebelling against her parents? Yes, she did! Week in and week out, did we go to church as a family? Absolutely!! We need to recapture that way of thinking. Every other activity is truly optional! Worshiping the living God, that’s the most important thing in life.



So let’s all get back in the saddle of proper priorities, seeking first those things that are truly most important!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Bender

Bible Studies

Thursday Morning Bible Class

It's time to gather again on Thursday mornings for the study of God's Word, for prayer, and for wonderful fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thursday morning Bible study will begin again on September 7. This Fall we will continue going through the "Book of the Twelve," the last twelve books of the Old Testament. If you want to read ahead, read the books of Nahum and Habakkuk. We will do a summary study of most of the last six books of the Old Testament, with a detailed study of the Prophet Zechariah. The class runs from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday. Hope to see you there!

Men's Bible Breakfast

Men's Bible Breakfast meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, September to May. Our first meeting will take place on Saturday, September 9. There are three topics to choose from: 1) "The "Rest" our Lord Provides", 2) the book of 1 Timothy, or 3) the book of Ruth. When we meet on September 9, we will have a short study of all three topics and then take the vote of which one to study. We meet shortly before 7am. We eat breakfast, pray over needs and thanksgivings, and study God's Word. We receive food for both the body and the soul! We end about 8:15-8:30am. All men are welcome to gather for a great time of fellowship.

Multi Generational Bible Study

& Sunday School

Sunday School starts September 17th. In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we will be having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the gymnasium 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!

Adult Instruction Class

A class covering the central teachings of the Christian faith will begin on Saturday, September 9. The class runs for 12 weeks and meets from 9:00am to about 10:15am.

This class is for those seeking membership or any Christian wanting to review the teachings of Christianity.

A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

Parenting with Love and Logic . . . and the Lord

September 30 & October 7, 2023

9:00 - 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall

Are you concerned about what's going on in our culture and world and how it will affect your children as they grow up? Do you want your children to make right choices, to be strong in the Lord, and to walk with Him all their days? Do you want additional tools to help your responsibility of raising your children? Then this class is for you. The class will include:

- ❖ Summary studies based on the book: "Parenting with Love and Logic"
- ❖ Scriptural truths that relate to raising kids in the faith
- ❖ Personal stories that give insight and understanding of our calling as parents

The class will be led by Pastor Bender, who along with his wife, Jo, has over 30 years of parenting experience. The Benders have raised five children, all of whom are still walking with the Lord and living in Christian marriage according to God's design. This class is intended to equip you to help your children make wise choices throughout their formative years so that when they leave home, they are founded and grounding in walking in the ways of Christ.

The two books that form the basis for the class are the Bible and the book: "Parenting with Love & Logic: Teaching Children Responsibility" written by Foster Cline and Jim Fay (third edition). Please purchase the book and even read ahead before class.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber

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

Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837

Save the Date

Sunday October 1st at Noon

Celebration of New and Old



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:

September 23-24 – Week One: "We Are Ambassadors for Christ"

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

September 30-October 1 – Week Two: "We Are God's Fellow Workers"

"For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

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."

Board of Missional Community

The Board of Missional Community is happy to once again invite you to "From One to a Many," a dinner event to make disciples who make disciples! "From One to Many" attempts a start at understanding why discipleship is so important and some first steps you can practically take. We even practice that same night together! The event will take place **Saturday, September 16th at 6pm**. Dinner and daycare provided. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Heather Sanchez, heather.loomans@gmail.com.

Attention!

St. Paul's Lutheran School is excitedly beginning a new drama department. Our children will be performing our school play, "Cactus Pass" on October 27 and 28. To put this production on we're looking for help. We're going to need help with building the set, collecting props, and costumes. To help defray the cost you are welcome to adopt a flat, which will be part of the wall of our set. Each flat will cost \$50.00. The plan is to save these flats for future productions. If you are willing to help in any way please contact me at katie.librizzi@splcwa.org or the school office.



Jerry Heimsoth Memorial Fellowship Golf Outing

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Brookfield Hills Golf Course

Arrive at 8:45 – Tee Times Start: 9:00am

\$40 per Golfer

Contact Bob or Terri Strysick (414-545-1308), or Barb or John Heimsoth (414-545-6618) for more information.



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.

Ladies Groups

Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Fortune Chinese Restaurant (located at 2945 S. 108th Street) on Wednesday September 13th at 11:00am.



Quilter's Patch

The kids are back in school learning new and exciting things. Maybe you would like to learn a little about quilting. If you are available on Monday mornings between 9am and 11:30am come share fellowship while working on a quilt. We are in the fellowship hall on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month.

Quilting dates for September thru November are:



QUILTING GROUP

September – 18th
October – 9th and 23rd
November – 6th and 20th

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

I hope all you ladies have filled out and sent your registration for the LWML South Wisconsin Fall Retreat. You also need to have hotel reservations made by September 10th. The retreat is September 29th and 30th in the Wisconsin Dells.

Check <https://lwml-swd.org/events/retreat> for details.

We are starting off the year with a potluck meal on September 25th, at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Come hear what's happening with LWML and help us plan activities, speakers and other interesting topics.

The schedule for meetings is as follows:

September 25th (potluck)
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



The Exalted State of Servanthood

Martin Luther, as professor of theology in the 1,500's wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully.

This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience.

How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ's purpose in coming to Earth: ". . . *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to "measure up" to what God expects. The Law never saves, never enables us, only shows us our shortcomings.

When we look at Christ, though, and how he lived his earthly life and what he has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those he has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

Time is a gift that is given to man.

We are to use it according to God's own plan.

To each he gives a measured amount; to each a directive to make it count.

Spend this gift wisely. Develop life's plan to the Glory of God and the Service of Man.



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

Youth News



St. Paul's Youth

2024 Houseboat Retreat
July 14-19, 2024

Parent and Youth Meeting, Sunday, October 8 @ noon (right after late service)

This meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall and a sub sandwich lunch will be served. At this meeting we will give some preliminary information about next summer's Houseboat Retreat. The theme of the retreat will be "**Real Life Relationships**" and will equip our youth to have healthy relationships with all people by following the teachings of our Lord. We live in a sinful, broken world filled with broken relationships and false ideas. Our young people need to be grounded in the Truth. That's the spiritual core of this retreat. There will also be fun times boating, tubing, swimming and building relationships with those on the retreat.

At the meeting, we will also discuss the fundraising process so that most of the costs of the trip will be covered and parents will only have to pay a registration fee for their youth. (If registration cost is a difficulty, we can help!) We will also share briefly information for upcoming events for the youth. Please plan to be in attendance and encourage your youth to be involved in youth group this year. *Youth are always welcome to bring friends along.* Hope to see you and your youth there!



Corn Maze September 17 Lindners Pumpkin Farms. 2:00 in the afternoon our youth

group will be going to Lindners Pumpkin Farms to enjoy some wonderful fall activities together!
Have your youth bring cash for the various activities. All 6th-12th graders are welcome! We will be meeting there at the farm, contact Pastor Josh for further information.

High School Movie Night September 30th Batman begins.

Following the Saturday night service we will be watching the first movie of the Dark Knight trilogy Batman begins. We will be discussing what it is that defines a person, as well as how to handle fear in a Christian way. The Reinhardt's have graciously opened up their home for this wonderful movie night, thank you so much! Boys bring snacks, girls bring drinks to share. Pastor Josh will be ordering pizza. Contact Pastor Josh or Jeff Reinhardt for an address.





Beloved in the Lord Jesus, you are invited to join me (on my 26th tour of the Holy Land Nour Tour.) A native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land for an experience of a lifetime to visit Israel for a spiritual NOUR-ishment. **We will depart from Chicago on June 24 and return on July 6, 2024**

During this 13-day NOUR TOUR You will experience the life of the land in new ways—sounds, smells, and sights of two civilizations the old and the new. You will stand at the crossroads of history—HIS STORY and know the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands; but more importantly your heart will be renewed with the love and truth of Scripture.

Along the way you will....

- Walk where Jesus walked
- Cruise the Sea of Galilee
- Climb the Mount of Olives
- See the Old City of Jerusalem
- Visit Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes
- Visit the Mount of Beatitudes
- Visit the site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose the 12 disciples.
- Walk the Via Dolorosa (Road of suffering) to the Church of the Sepulcher
- Stroll the Garden of Gethsemane
- Visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity
- And much, much more!

Along the way you will learn of the three “Cs”: 1. *Context* is **king**, 2. *Culture* is **queen** and, 3. *Christ* is the **CENTER!** We will do more than just visit sights. We will go off the beaten path and have personal and daily devotions and be spiritually NOUR- ishment. The Bible will be our map and guide. Experience the Holy Land—a place like no other. Please join me on this blessed adventure. The **price is \$4,900.00** p/p including: air fare from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy), tips, entry fees and all meals.

For further information contact:

Rev. Nabil S. Nour, Pastor, proud grandpa, and Foot Washer Phil. 1:6

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