

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc
Pentecost 8 – July 9/10, 2016
“Living as a Minority – The Power of the Gospel We Live”
Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

*This use insert for home study of the text for today,
and for personal assessment of your Profession of Faith*

This reading from Acts recounts the conversion of Saul – a hater and persecutor of Christians, to a most unlikely proclaimer of the Gospel now named Paul. Though we live more than 2000 years after the life of Paul, our lives are most similar. I would encourage you to read again the text for the day – look for similarities, differences, and how God has “converted” your life to be one for proclamation of the Good News the world has in Jesus Christ.

1. Our world of increasing hatred against others; ISIS, anti-semitism, Jews & Palestinians, racial and ethnic conflicts. Even in America we hear venomous voices against our politicians, law enforcement, our system of justice and more. Many Christians feel helpless in bringing about change.
 - Has it always been this way, and what now may be fueling the hatred?
 - As a Child of God, how do you deal with this growing hatred in talking with family and friends?
2. Leadership in our Synod has been very vocal in addressing the hatred and sin of our world and the direction these vices are leading all human nature.
 - What can you do on the congregation and local level to support and promote our Biblical position in this matters?
3. Saul's (Paul's) conversion was a life-changing event. It caused him to change directions 180 degrees in his life. Our conversion happened at our Baptism. It, too, was a life-changing event.

- How is your life different now through the power and work of the Holy Spirit through those waters?
 - How is our conversion an on-going event rather than a once – in-a-lifetime moment?
4. Paul went from persecutor to being persecuted. We too, were hostile to the work of God. Now we live changed lives in Jesus Christ.
- What persecution do you now face as a changed Child of God?
5. Each week in worship we have the opportunity to remember that life-changing conversion event as we dip our fingers into the Baptismal font. This is where we recall and experience God’s depth of grace, love and mercy.
- What connection does this action have with our confession of sins and the absolution pronounced in the worship service?
6. Paul knew his conversion changed the action part of his life. His future work and proclamation of the Gospel was for all people. He had work to do throughout the known world. He saw it as a way of life to be lived and walked.
- What do you see now as your action in service for all people?
7. Paul had great passion to unify the young and growing Christian Church. Satan worked hard through the Jewish leadership to destroy and end the spread of Christianity.
- How is Satan working today against the Church?
 - How do we as the Church today combat his (Satan’s) efforts?
 - How do we combat apathy of the Gospel in ourselves?
8. Living changed lives. That’s the foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ.
- Why is it important to “live” the Gospel?
 - How can our life affect that of our families?
 - How can we help others “live” the Gospel life?

St. Paul's Fellowship Coffee Hour



July 17!

(Mark your calendars for the 3rd Sunday of Every Month!)

July Hosts: St. Paul's Journeymen

Time: 9:15 am to 10:25 am

Stay after the 8am Service!

**Come a little early for the
10:30 Service!**

Where: St. Paul's school lobby & hallway
or outside by the lobby doors
on sunny days

Welcome new members & visitors!

Enjoy the fellowship
of our church members!

Coffee, milk, juice, water and sweet treats will be served



LWML South Wisconsin District 2016 — 2018 Mission Grants

As voted on by delegates attending the
2016 Convention on June 25, 2016

1. Church Without Walls—Deaf Ministry — \$16,500
2. Church Worker Student Grant — \$30,000
3. Veterans Helping Veterans in the Concordia University System (LCMS-Office of International Missions (OIM)— \$5,000
4. Refuge House Renovation (Place of Refuge Ministries) — \$20,000
5. Financial Asst. to Concordia Theological Seminary Clothing & Food Co-op, Fort Wayne — \$15,000
6. Widow’s Milk Mission Society — India (LCMS-OIM)— \$5,000
7. Free at Last Ministry to Women (LCMS-SWD Mission Office) — \$25,000
8. “Telling the Story” DVD Devotional Series for Shut-Ins — \$16,000

Two grants were tied for 9th place

9. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank — \$15,000
9. Teaching Children as Christ Taught Us (LSSES) — \$12,000
10. CLET Togo, Africa Seminary Dorms (partial) (LCMS-OIM) — \$1,600