

FEBRUARY EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND KINDER PLACE

FEBRUARY 2017

When All Else Fails, Read the Instructions

I always said that I was going to write a book someday and the title will be "When All Else Fails, Read the Instructions". **Proverbs 4:13, "Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life."** When I look back at many of the foolish decisions I have made, many of them resulting in painful lessons, I now notice that most could have been avoided by following Biblical teachings. The ultimate instruction Book on life is the Holy Bible, the very Word of God. Understand, it is so much more than that. It is the inspired Word of God without error. It brings people to faith and saves them through the Gospel. But it also tells us what a God pleasing life looks like. We learn directly through instruction and we learn from others mistakes. One of my favorite books for this is the Book of Proverbs.

Here we find Solomon recording his God given wisdom, wisdom to be passed down from parent to child, from teacher to student. With that being said, know that the Word of God does not change and that it is just as relevant for us today. **Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."**

So what I would like to do is share a few proverbs with you that speak to me. I follow each verse with a common practical quote. I thought this may be interesting and encouraging at the beginning of a new year. I hope this inspires you to dig further into the Book of Proverbs for its practical, every day wisdom.

Proverbs 13:20, "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

i.e. Your friends are like the buttons on an elevator. They will either take you up or take you down.

Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

i.e. Maybe the cure for crime isn't in the electric chair, it's in the high chair.

Proverbs 12:3, "No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved."

i.e. The mighty oak was once a little nut that stood its ground.

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Proverbs 13:7, “One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.”

i.e. A person is rich according to what they are, not according to what they have.

Proverbs 24:16a, “For the righteous falls seven times and rises again.”

i.e. Falling down doesn't make you a failure, staying down does.

Proverbs 11:5, “The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.”

i.e. Ability can take someone to the top, but it takes character to keep them there.

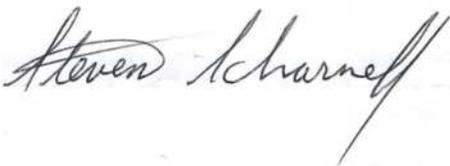
Proverbs 20:7, “The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!”

i.e. Our children are like mirrors—they reflect our attitudes in life.

I'll stop there. My prayer for you this New Year is to grow in love toward each other and certainly toward our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. None of this is even possible without His saving grace and mercy.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Steve Scharnell



CHURCH CARPETING

On behalf of Ladies Aid's 130th anniversary celebrated in 2016, we make a commitment to replace St. Paul's church carpeting, which is over 25 years-old. The estimates we received ranged from \$21,000 to \$24,000. This is in part due to whether we can recruit volunteers to rip up the old carpeting. This process will only begin when we have the full funding for the project. At this time, the Ladies Aid has gifted \$10,000 and we have received over \$2,000 in donations. We're already almost halfway there!

Samples of the new carpeting will be available for viewing in the narthex in the near future. God has blessed us so abundantly, we would like to do our part in beautifying His house of worship.

If your heart has been touched, you may make a donation to the "Ladies Aid Carpet Fund" and drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. A huge "thank you" to those who have given, either through a memorial or in-kind. *Continue to watch the bulletin for updates on funding.*

The Ever-Ready Adult Ministry Group invites you to a

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Rosati's Pizza - Friday, February 3rd, 5:30 pm—7:00 pm

RSVP to John Kelling by Thursday, February 2nd.

(262-549-2150—please leave a message)



STEPHEN MINISTRY PRESENTATION (SAVE THE DATE!)

- "I'm not feeling myself."
- "What is this? What is it doing here?"
- "I feel confused."



Should these statements made by a loved one be a concern?

Stephen Ministry invites you to come and hear Joni Barrie-Hoffman speak on Alzheimer's Disease. She is a certified Dementia practitioner. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, March 29th, at 1:00 pm following our midday Lenten Worship Service. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Scheuer at 262-354-0033. All are welcome!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

The Lord's Cupboard wants to thank all the volunteers for their time and talents and to the members of our congregation who made donations (food and money), bought gifts and said prayers for our community families that are in need.

On Monday, December 19th, we served 150+ meals, gave out 103 pantry food bags, packed 242 Christmas food bags including a ham and put 144 gifts under someone's tree! What a truly wonderful way to show others that God loves them!

Each of our volunteers are a true blessing whether they packed and handed out the food bags, made and served the food, delivered the food bags to the elderly and the gifts to Bethesda, decorated the bags (Mrs. Gerlach's kindergarten class), answered questions (all our incredible office personnel), came to sing (Mrs. Benes 3rd grade class), organized the gifts, went shopping for food and toiletries, cleaned up and had a smile on their face!

Thank you and God's richest blessings to you and your family in 2017!



SAVE THE DATE!



COMING IN MARCH—St. Paul's Ladies Aid will be sponsoring a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 31st. Monies earned will go towards the carpet fund for the church. We will need many helping hands for this event—please contact Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985) if you'd like to help in any way. Watch for more updates in the bulletins and newsletter. God bless and thank you!

LCMS Stewardship Article

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>9:15 am Bible Study</p> <p>9:15 am Public School Confirmation</p> <p>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry</p> <p>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>7:00 pm L.W.M.L.</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:20 pm Parish Choir</p> <p>6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study</p> <p>7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm TRIBE (Young Adult Bible Study)</p>	<p>6:00 pm Ladies Aid</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>5:30 pm Traditional Worship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>5:00 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>8:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>9:15 am Bible Study</p> <p>9:15 am Public School Confirmation</p> <p>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry</p> <p>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:20 pm Parish Choir</p> <p>6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study</p> <p>7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm TRIBE (Young Adult Bible Study)</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>7:30 am Journeyman</p> <p>5:30 pm Traditional Worship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>9:15 am Public School Confirmation</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-12th)</p>	<p>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:20 pm Parish Choir</p> <p>6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study</p> <p>7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm TRIBE (Young Adult Bible Study)</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>5:30 am Journeyman</p> <p>5:30 pm Traditional Worship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>9:15 am Public School Confirmation</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal</p> <p>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study</p> <p>5:20 pm Parish Choir</p> <p>6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study</p> <p>7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>7:30 am Journeyman</p> <p>5:30 pm Traditional Worship</p> <p>8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>9:15 am Public School Confirmation</p> <p>9:15 am Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9th-12th)</p>	<p>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training</p> <p>6:00 pm Stephen Leaders</p> <p>7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>				

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER



Ash Wednesday is on March 1st.

There will be a 12:15 pm worship service and a 6:30 pm worship service. Prior to the evening service,

from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, St. Paul's Journeymen will be serving dinner. The menu is as follows:

- Chicken
- Green Beans
- Mashed Potatoes
- Desserts
- Beverages
- (free-will donation)



Lutheran Women's
Missionary League

Lutheran Women in Mission

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Happy 2017 and Happy Valentine's Day to all! Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, February 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor O'Donnell will be our guest. Come and hear our plans for 2017, share fellowship and some "lovely" snacks. Please bring some pasta and/or pasta sauce for the Lord's Cupboard. All ladies are welcome—bring a friend with you!

When God looks for value, He assesses what's in the heart!



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptisms

Emory Barbara – daughter of Nicholas & Debra (Melvin) Young

Bryleigh Mae – daughter of Katelyn Kramer & John Goulet

Ayla Mavis – daughter of Alfonso & Christine (Bain) Flores

Archer David – son of David & Ashley Bain

Confirmation

Abigale Phelps

Affirmation of faith/beliefs

Jake & Kate Meyer, Max, Colton, Augie

David & Amy Kinsman, Noah & Genevieve

Released at own request

Karissa Thelen

Baptized 1839 Confirmed 1083

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 6th
Jean Vogel
Carole Werth

February 16th
Sandy Goetzke

February 7th
Caroline Bartel
Carol Fellin
Larry Hansen

February 17th
Nancy Wolter

February 18th
Ethel Vosburg

February 10th
Ralph Andrus
Roger Werth

February 19th
Don Gauerke

February 11th
Marcus Pankow

February 23rd
Anne Fait
Phyllis Schuck

February 13th
Nancy Ellsworth
John Tesch

February 26th
Judy Braatz
Karen Wilson

February 14th
Pauline Bemis

February 28th
Carolyn Nagel

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Beth Kieck	\$20.00
Gaby Guadagno	\$100.00
Martin Grubanowitch	\$25.00
Harriet Gooch	\$25.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
 262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Steven Scharnell 567.5001 x216

Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001

Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001

Principal - Jon Pickelmann 567.5001 x213

FAX 567.1207

Website: www.splco.org

RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
 Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
 & www.wtkm.com

THE KINDER PLACE

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
 Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
 2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
 ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Kinder Place
210 E. Pleasant St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

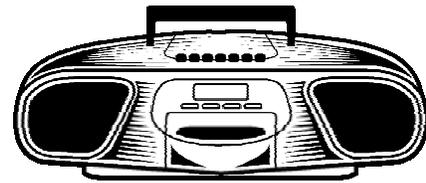
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A RADIO BROADCAST?



Our radio broadcast over WTKM is a very important outreach for our congregation. Below are the dates open for **2017**. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these Sundays. The cost is **\$95.00**. We praise God for this valuable community outreach.

Feb. 5	Apr. 2	Jun. 4	Sept 3	Nov. 19
Feb. 19	Apr. 16 (6 am)	Jun. 18	Sept. 17	Nov. 23
Feb. 27	Apr. 23	July 23	Oct. 15	Dec. 3
Mar. 12	Apr. 30	July 30	Nov. 5	Dec. 10
Mar. 19	May 14	Aug. 6	Nov. 12	Dec. 17

If you are interested in sponsoring a Broadcast please fill out the bottom portion of this page and hand it into the church office. Thank you. Any questions please call Heather in the church office 567-5001.

NAME _____

DATE- 1ST CHOICE _____ 2ND CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)
