

MAY EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

MAY 2018



From the Principal

Jill George

"The heavens declare the glory of God;" Psalm 19:1

Is God real? That is one of life's most fundamental questions that has been asked for millennia. The psalmist, David, answers this question with an absolute "yes"! In the beginning of Psalm 19, David points out the obvious physical manifestations of God's handiwork that we can see for ourselves. It makes me think of lying on the ground in Custer State Park, South Dakota, with 8th graders looking up at the night sky and being overwhelmed by the Milky Way and the millions of stars, too innumerable to count or comprehend. Or the "million dollar view" I have so often told students to look at out the 7th grade homeroom window on an early fall morning when the rising sun and fall leaves are casting their glow on the stone of Zion Episcopal Church which is reflected in the waters of Fowler Lake.

I see God's design on the faces of children who beam as they enter school each morning. I hear God's voice in the songs we sing and the prayers we speak in chapel each week and in the classrooms each day. David uses words like "declare", "proclaim", and "pour forth" to help us understand the magnitude with which God has created all these things.

But God has not relied solely on these visual displays to speak to us. His special revelation that speaks louder to us than stars in the sky and sun rises has been given to us in His word -- the Bible. It is here that we truly experience the richness of His creation.

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14

However, the Bible wasn't inspired to merely declare God's workmanship. His words are here to change our lives. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. By spending time in His word, you will be transformed as you study the meanings of the verses and better understand his plan for your life. God's Word is a roadmap to how to live a bold, holy, and righteous life by Him, through Him, and for Him.

Jill George, Principal

FROM THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM (CLT)

Construction Affecting St. Paul's Property

Greetings St. Paul's,

The congregation needs to be aware of some upcoming disruptions which will affect not only worship services, but will have an impact on weddings, funerals and other type of activities which utilize the front entrance of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We will work with all parties to reduce the impact of the construction disruptions as much as possible.

With the construction on the property directly across Pleasant Street from St. Paul's, we have already seen a loss of parking spaces during a variety of services at St. Paul's. This construction has also narrowed the street for school bus parking for the children after school. This will continue throughout the construction process.

Coming in June 2018, after school has finished for this school year, sections of Pleasant Street will be torn up to add/replace underground utilities. Temporary patching of the Pleasant Street will occur after the utilities are in place. This same process will take place with St Paul Street after Pleasant Street repairs.

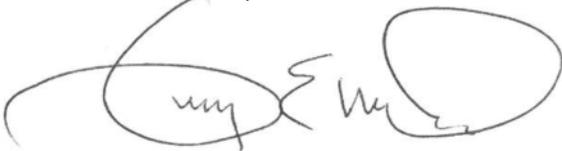
As the construction of the building comes to a close and Pleasant Street will no longer be used for heavy equipment, the city plans to reconstruct the street with new street paving, curbs and new sidewalk on the south side of Pleasant Street. It is our understanding this can not occur until **June 2019**, because of bus transportation needed for the school. There will be a new water lateral from the main to the water box valve installed and paid for by the city during this reconstruction time. We would be responsible for the lateral from the water box valve into our building.

Once the reconstruction of Pleasant Street is complete the same reconstruction will occur with St Paul Street. The city must maintain access to the city parking lot over the course of this street reconstruction.

Our thanks to Scott Kalien, Director of the Operations Committee at St. Paul's, who has been closely working with city officials and the planning developer for this construction development and relaying all information.

As with any development of this nature things can change. We will keep you posted of any changes as we become aware of them.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Menden', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

George Menden
St. Paul's Lutheran Parish



From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

BE LOVED:

Reflections on Worship Music, Hearing the Word, and Embracing Community

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write this month on three related and important topics:

1. Music in the Church;
2. Hearing the Word in St. Paul's sanctuary; and
3. Attitude toward downtown development.

1. Music in the Church: Sacred and Accessible

Jesus prayed for the apostles (and the church):

John 17:14–18 (ESV)

¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because **they are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so **I have sent them into the world.**

In other words, the church (and, by extension, her worship) is to be “*in* the world, but not *of* the world.” Worship is where Christ has promised to come and meet us, to give us His gifts, and Jesus Christ is simultaneously God and Man. Worship should be “heaven on earth.” *That* is why—as I say in the heading above—that the music of the church should be both *sacred* (not of the world) and *accessible* (in the world).

Worship should be different. If you know Christ, worship will help nurture your faith and call you outside your “comfort zone” to a deeper love of God and neighbor. If you don’t know Christ—or don’t know Him well—coming to worship should be accessible. You should be able to hear the words and—with the help of others—follow along, but worship should NOT be as comfortable as walking into a concert, whether classical or contemporary. Worship is not a concert. In worship we are confronted by the King of Kings, and He is gentle and meek, humble, and a Good Shepherd, but He is also LORD of Lords. He is GOD. He “calls us out” on our sins, forgives us, and leads us in the way of love. That should not be too “comfortable” for anyone.

Admittedly, **maintaining this sacred/accessible balance is a challenge**, and that is why I am appealing to you pray fervently, meditate deeply, and act sacrificially to help make a full-time Director of Parish Music possible next summer (2019). As someone who is

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“on the ground” day-by-day trying to help plan and supervise worship, as someone who occasionally gets to travel to conferences and other events, I have a sense for how profoundly a faithful full-time musician could serve our mission at St. Paul’s.

Please join me in prayer, meditation, and sacrificial giving to help move our mission forward.

2. Hearing the Word in St. Paul’s Sanctuary

I am diplomatic by nature. I try to be considerate of how others will receive what I am attempting to say. Sometimes the best service to others is to gently lead them toward a conclusion. Sometimes the best service is to be straight to the point. Such is the case, I believe, now:

When we upgraded the sound system in 2014, the contractor improved things for some of our instrumentalists, yet *made it worse for the spoken word.*

That’s as simple and fair an assessment as I can give. The situation is unacceptable. It *must* be corrected, and soon. It is ridiculous to have many of our members searching around for a place where they can hear the spoken Word. 2nd VP Dave Meyer is leading the charge in getting new consultants in to assess the problem and give us solutions as soon as possible. Already two consultants have been in. We will investigate consultants’ comparable work in traditional sanctuaries before a decision is made. Thoughts, ideas, and concerns should be emailed to Dave Meyer (dm202124@gmail.com) or hand-written notes should be placed in his church mailbox in the upper hallway by the lift.

3. Attitude Toward Downtown Development

In this issue of *The Epistle* is an update (pg. 2) on infrastructure disruptions because of the Fowler Lake Village project and other downtown developments. In many respects, these will be a real challenge for us. That said, God is good, and is giving us a great opportunity to *be neighborly*.

I encourage us to remember that Lutheran theology acknowledges that God reigns and that the Church and the state have different functions within that rule. The Church is to proclaim the Gospel and be ruled by the Word of God (Jn 20.22-23; Lk 24.46-48). The government’s work is to punish evil and reward the good (1 Pet 2.14) In the United States, common citizens have a participation in this government through elected officials.

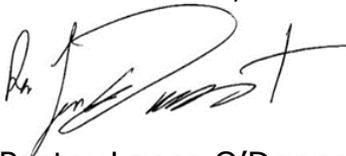
In a situation such as the various downtown developments in Oconomowoc, Christians of good will may have varied opinions on the good of these various developments and voice those opinions in public meetings, in the voting booth, and in media and personal conversation. No doubt, there is disagreement among members of the congregation about almost every aspect of Oconomowoc’s downtown development. Nevertheless, our elected representatives acted. We owe them honor (1 Pet 2.17; Rom 13.7) regardless of whether we agree.

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Further, and above all, the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel. And as Christ's people we are to "love our neighbor." Pretty soon, across the street and all over downtown, we are going to have a goodly number of new neighbors. God is, therefore, giving us a lot of new opportunities to *be neighborly*. **Let's be good neighbors!**

I have asked Pastor Scharnell to work with his evangelism and outreach team to prepare a neighborhood welcome for the Fowler Lake Village residents when they move in. I am asking all of you, in Christ, to be good neighbors, to get to know the people around us, and to seek their good. That's the right thing to do.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
 A Snowy Tuesday of Easter 3 ☺
 17 April, A.D. 2018



LET THERE BE "BEES" ON EARTH

Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Oconomowoc Golf Club



Adults: \$20.00

Menu: Pork Tenderloin
 Twice-Baked Potato
 California Blend Veggies
 Salad, Rolls & Dessert
 Coffee & Milk

Children: \$10 (3-11 yrs)

Menu: Chicken Tenders
 Mac 'n Cheese
 Fruit
 Ice Cream
 Milk

Bring a bag of Hard Candy for



Preferred flavors:
 Root Beer
 Peppermint
 Lemon
 Ginger

Fellowship at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Entertainment to follow dinner!

Get your Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet tickets from the church office (262.567.5001) or one of our officers: Judy Braatz (262.567.7787), Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262.567.7905), Sue Lindemann (262.567.8985) or Sharon Peterson (262.490.8671) no later than *Tuesday, May 8th*.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

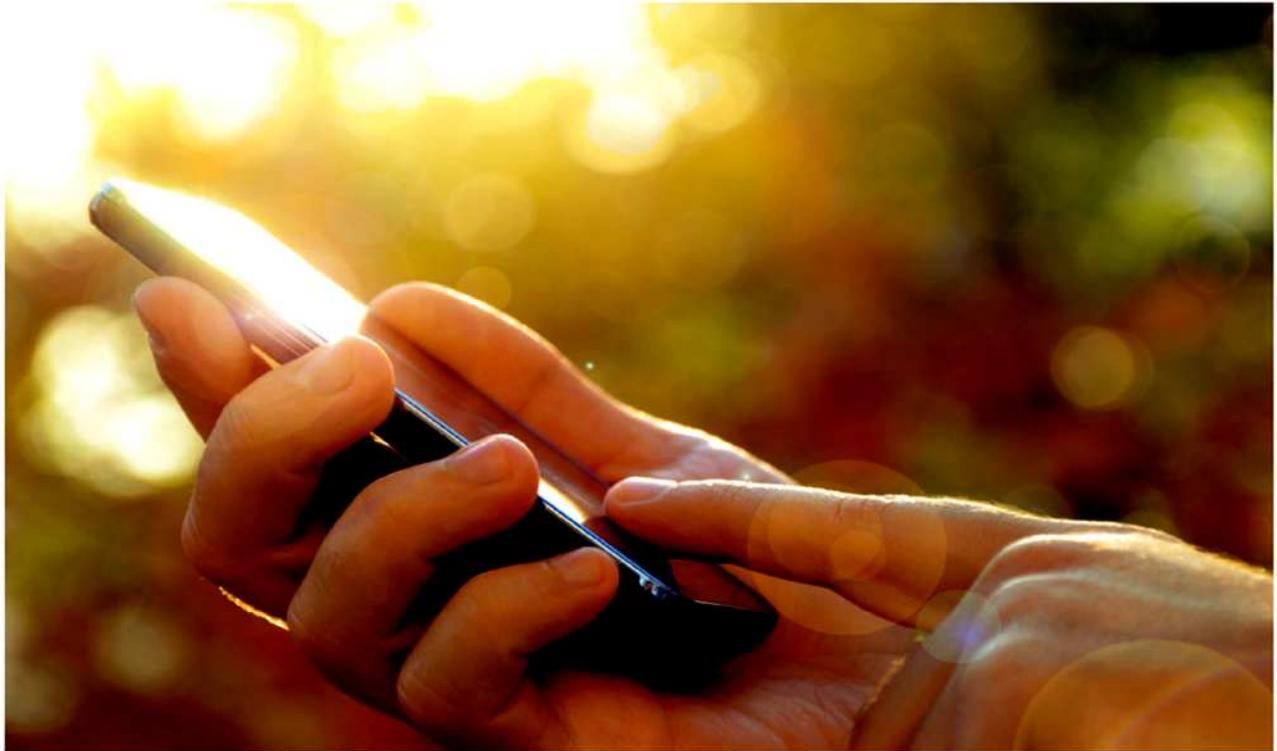
Baptism

Odette Farah Amarah Jolie, daughter of Jeff & Tirzah Gresley

Transferred to another LCMS church

Katherine Dodge – Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Liberal KS

Baptized 1885 Confirmed 1091



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Give+ Electronic Giving Options by Vanco Payment Solutions

MAY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 8:00 am Traditional Worship (Confirmation) 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Confirmation Reception 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group (9-12)	7 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	8 6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	9 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practices	10 All-Circuit Ascension Dinner & Worship at Divine Redeemer 7:00 pm Praise Team Practices	11	12 7:30 am Journey Men 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
13 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-12th)	14	15 6:00 pm Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	16 6:15 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practices	17 7:00 pm Praise Team Practices	18	19 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
20 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 12:00 pm Voters Meeting (tentative) 6:00 pm Youth Group (9-12)	21 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.	22 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	23 6:00 pm 2018-19 Confirmation Mtg.	24 6:00 pm ECC Graduation 7:00 pm Praise Team Practices	25 NO SCHOOL	26 7:30 am Journey Men 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
27 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	28 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	29 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	30	31 7:00 pm Praise Team Practices		

St. Paul teaches, “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Galatians 6:6). And again, he says, “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:13–14).

In other words, ministers of the gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them. And this is how the Church lives even now. It is standard practice.

But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not *just* that we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices.

We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deuteronomy 14:22–23).

The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?”

If it does, ask yourself: is the Church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham.

Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations (Matt. 28). And there are churches and ministries all around the world. How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do.

For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism.

He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of his Son, our Lord, Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way, and in response to his fatherly divine goodness and mercy, we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.”

For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 7th Mabel Flanagan	May 22nd Carolyn Pankow Dorothy Peterson
May 14th Bernice Jorgenson Al Mueller	May 26th Tony Brockway
May 17th Elsie Rupnow	May 27th Dorothy Duchow
May 18th Russ Meyer Dick Paul	May 29th Rick Ware
May 19th Anne Lindquist	May 30th Donna Andrus
May 20th Jean Anderson Julayne Sullivan	May 31st Marian Faltersack

For our members 70+ years

THANK YOU!

Thank you, Ladies Aid, for your donation to marketing/advertising. Because of your generosity, we are now listed in the Oconomowoc Enterprise's Church Services Directory. Your donation also provided a two-week run for our Holy Week and Easter worship services ad, also in the Enterprise. Blessings to you, ladies!

LADIES AID

The Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet (pg. 5) is sponsored by Ladies Aid, but it is open to any church member, family and friends. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 3rd, at 6pm. We will be finalizing plans for the banquet. Tickets will be available that weekend. Our guest speaker will be Gary Flanagan. Come and hear updates about St. Paul's.

Treats will be provided by Mary Lou, Connie and Anne Fait. Please bring some copy paper to the meeting. God's blessings!



MEMORIALS

Duane Olson \$250.00

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	5:00 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 Steve Scharnell 567.5001 x216
Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001
Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001
Principal - Jill George 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

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

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 & ECC
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Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

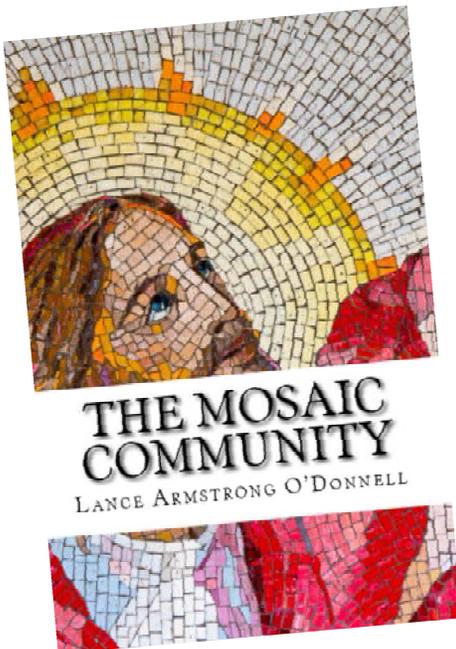
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Were you born between 1980 and 2000?



Please return the form below (in the offering plate or by mail) for a **free copy of my book, *The MOSAIC Community***. Interviewing readers is part of my Ph.D. research on the Millennial generation. In thanks, those who read the book and participate in an interview will be invited to a complimentary dinner with me and other readers on Friday, June 22, 2018. You may also sign-up by contacting the church secretary via email at heather@splco.org or by phone at 262-567-5001.

—Pr. Lance O'Donnell

Name: _____ Year of birth: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____