



APRIL EPISTLE

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

APRIL 2019



From the Pastor

Rev. Steve Scharnell

What Is a Witness?

A witness is a person who saw something first hand, a person who has knowledge of an event from personal observation or experience. Been there, done that. Right? "I saw the red Ford Focus hit the parked car and knock the driver's side mirror off at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon." (This is simply an illustration. If you own a red Ford Focus, I am not accusing you of anything. It is just a coincidence.)

As Christians we are sent to do just that. We are ALL sent to do just that. God calls on His people to be witnesses both among fellow believers and to people in the world. We witness to fellow believers by participating in the Body of Christ, His Church. Witnessing to believers is meant to strengthen and encourage them. This can include but is not limited to attending worship, playing Christian music, displaying Christian art, having conversations involving the hope we have in Jesus Christ, praying with them, etc.

But we also witness to those in the world who do not know Jesus or to those who have rejected Him. We are disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we have firsthand knowledge through His Word and His work in our lives. So we witness, we share this life giving knowledge with those who do not know the Lord and His grace. Without this witness, people who are perishing would not hear the Good News of the life and salvation won for them by Jesus. (Romans 10:14-17)

In this world Christian witness stands in contrast to the false teachings. This is a Truth that this world is hungering for, although many don't realize it. Why do you think things are in such turmoil? It is because so many people have rejected the Truth and filled it in with their own version of it. Not only does this destroy the culture, but it results in condemnation (Hell) for those caught in the lie.

Only witnesses have the Truth. Share it! You don't have to go door to door. You don't have to stand on the street corner screaming doomsday prophecies. Just be a friend. Listen to people, their needs and concerns. Ask questions. Find a point of connection, then share God's Word in love. This most likely will take some time. This will take genuine love and concern. The key is to keep the conversation about Jesus going. Don't be afraid that you don't have all the answers. You know the Christmas Story, the Easter story, and the Apostles' Creed. Share the Word and the Holy Spirit will do His job. God's peace to you and all those you witness to.

Pastor Steve Scharnell



“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

-Proverbs 22:6

When our middle child was diagnosed with autism in 2015, one of the pieces of advice we received from various developmental disability doctors and specialists was to send him to public school so that he would have access to more resources and assistance than would be available to him at a parochial school. Our response? “Out of the question.”

It’s not that I don’t think he could receive a quality education at a public school; I am certain there likely are more resources available to him specific to his disability. Most public schools have caring, dedicated teachers and a lot to offer in the way of technology, athletics, clubs, etc. Yet, they lack the one and only thing that is truly important. As someone who grew up in a Lutheran school, I know firsthand the value of Jesus being a part of every single school day. Children at a Lutheran school can pray to Jesus together, attend chapel, and learn about the Bible every single day. Children learn Christian values rather than whatever is culturally acceptable at the moment. I asked myself as a parent, “If my son were to die tomorrow, is there anything he could learn in school or participate in that is more important than having a strong relationship with Jesus and having the Bible imprinted on his heart?” The answer to that is a clear and resounding, “No!”

I have been sharing with you all the various ways a deaconess can serve, depending on the needs of her congregation. Another one of those ways is in service to a Lutheran school. Deaconesses are able to receive calls and serve as Lutheran school principals, Lutheran school teachers, confirmation and religion teachers, Directors of early childhood centers, and as Directors of Christian education. Deaconesses can also teach Sunday School and lead Vacation Bible School as needed. The role she fills is completely dependent on the needs of the individual Lutheran school, but she is able to assist in many different ways when there is a need.

Our Lutheran schools are special, because Jesus is the most important part of every day- every class, recess, concert or sporting event. It is critical that those who serve in our Lutheran schools never lose sight of this, and some deaconesses are privileged to help in this way. If we as Christians ever begin to focus more on things that the world may find important, we have lost sight of the only thing that truly matters.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

-Deuteronomy 6:5-7

In Christ,
Michelle Oddsen
Deaconess Intern
michelle@splco.org

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Emily Othelia, daughter of Kurt & Amy (Kluck) Ahrens

Received by transfer from another LCMS church

Amanda Rosenberg – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Delavan, WI

Released at own request

Terry & Brenda Jacobosky, Jared, Logan & Ethan – Hope Church, Oconomowoc, WI

Deaths

Sandra Zillmer

Mabel Flanagan

Marguerite Schneider

Baptized 1884 Confirmed 1094

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 5th

**Richard Fredrick
Delores Schultz**

April 9th

Gary Feldschneider

April 12th

Jim Steinberg

April 15th

Grace Olson

April 18th

**Albert Falstad
Kenneth Runyard**

April 19th

Ruth Kern

April 21st

Lee Corneliuson

April 23rd

Virginia Meintz

April 24th

Sharon Stoner

April 26th

**Marilyn Peterson
Arthur Schuck**

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Harriet Groose	\$3355.00
Bill Holzhueter	\$25.00
Elsie Rupnow	\$615.00
Mabel Flanagan	\$1000.00
Sandy Zillmer	\$900.00
Virginia Schlender	\$20.00

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

Sunday School 9:15 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



Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 24-Thursday, June 27, 2019

We are looking for volunteers for our Vacation Bible School Program this summer. We need people for the following positions:

- † Arts and Crafts Leader (1) (Requires choosing crafts from Leader Guide, ordering all materials, and leading crafts during VBS week)
- † Arts and Crafts Helpers (3-4) (Requires assisting children with their projects)
- † Music Leaders (2-6) (Leading kids in songs during opening and closing with actions)
- † Opening and Closing Leaders (2) (Requires speaking in front of the large group and getting them pumped up for the day ahead. Also, closing the day out with a review of what we have learned. Some skits and acting may be involved.)
- † Technology Leader (1) (Running power point during opening and closing)
- † Group Leaders (10) (Requires taking children to their sessions, responsibility, energy, organization, and enthusiasm)
- † Group Helpers (10) (Requires taking children to their sessions, responsibility, energy, organization, and enthusiasm)
- † Bible Teachers (1 for elementary and upper elementary, and 1 for Preschool and 5K; requires teaching a Bible lesson to a group of 15-30 students in two sessions.)
- † Game Leader (1) (Requires choosing games from leader's guide, organizing equipment, and running games each day)
- † Game Helpers (2-4) (Requires helping run the games and involving the kids)
- † Decorating Leaders (Most of this work is done ahead of time, so there is no commitment the week of VBS. Decorating ideas are provided in leader's guide)

Our VBS will be June 24-27 from 8:30-11:30am. If you would like to serve at VBS this summer, please contact Sara Benes at sara@splco.org. (Leaders must be 15 or older and Helpers must be age 12 or older.)

STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

Steve Hansen, one of our Stephen Minister leaders, and his wife, Linda, are moving at the end of May. He has served the LORD in this ministry for many years. We invite you to join us on Monday, May 6th, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. Steve has been a faithful leader and we wish him, and Linda, God's richest blessings in this new time in their lives. Please come and join us!



Reaching, Serving & Growing Disciples!

210 E. Pleasant Street, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066

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www.splco.org

March 25, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Seven years ago we were over \$2M in debt, there were no called senior or associate pastors on staff, the school had a part-time principal and part-time teachers in a couple classrooms, enrollment was low, and the early childhood center was struggling. Since then:

- we're up over 200 Baptized members;
- we have had a full-time senior pastor and vicar/associate pastor serving together for over six years;
- we have a full time principal who is about to finish her colloquy to be a rostered LCMS church worker;
- grade school enrollment is now at about 160 students;
- there are full-time teachers in every classroom;
- we renovated the school's gym;
- the early childhood center is doing well;
- our Lord's Cupboard food pantry serves an increasingly vital part of overall community efforts to show Christ's mercy;
- a marriage ministry was begun that had 25 couples at the last retreat;
- we celebrated our 150th anniversary with style and dedicated a brand new \$100,000 organ;
- we've paid off some \$800,000 in debt and--along the way--played a part in building a brand new Lutheran school in the Dominican Republic, strengthened ties with the Lutheran High School Association, and cooperated with other churches in beginning a new ministry to homeless families in western Waukesha Co.
- the list could go on...

Certainly, we have challenges. (Didn't Jesus and the apostles tell us that would be so?) In the midst of these challenges, as we prayerfully engage in a renewed strategic planning process for our 155th anniversary, it is good to remember where we were, and where we are... and give thanks to God.

Last fall we closed the 150th anniversary Free to Serve capital campaign. (A summary is attached on the back of this letter.) There is a lot for which to give thanks. Let's do that as we—in faith—embrace the challenges before us.

Yours in Christ,

Pete Sheild, Free to Serve Chairman

Rev. Lance O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Worship Schedule: ✕ Saturday 5:00 p.m. ✕ Sunday 8:00 a.m. Traditional in the Church
✕ Sunday 10:30 a.m. Contemporary in the Church ✕
Time to Grow (Sunday School) at 9:15 a.m.

Free-to-Serve Capital Campaign*

as of Feb 25, 2019

<u>Campaign Pledges</u>	<u>\$1,119,970</u>
<u>Pledges Received</u>	<u>\$699,030</u>
<u>Distributions</u>	<u>\$673,743</u>
<i>Mortgage Payments</i>	\$558,283
<i>Lutheran High School Assoc.</i>	\$33,687
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	\$16,844
<i>Family Promise</i>	\$16,844
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses**</i>	\$48,085
<u>Account Balance</u>	<u>\$25,287</u>

*Campaign ran Sep 1, 2015 thru Aug 31, 2018

**Consulting Fees, brochures, etc.

**100% of pledges received after 8/31/18 will go towards reducing the mortgage

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped with the fish dinner in so many ways. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Our meeting in March was "Be What You CAN Be." Everyone should use the talents God has blessed you with. The ladies brought canning jars filled with useful items, such as candy, hand towels, candles, office supplies, cupcake papers and much more. What a fun evening!

Thursday, April 4th, is our next meeting. Come and join us as we have many important things to discuss, especially our Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet to be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Oconomowoc Golf Club. This year's theme is "Walking with God." We will have special entertainment from a student of St. Paul's School. Tickets will be available in the office or from an officer of Ladies Aid after our meeting. Watch for further details in the bulletin.

Happy Easter to everyone as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Please join us for a fun-filled night of trivia, games, and even a costume contest! This new event will raise funds for our Safe & Healthy School Initiative.

trivia Night

Saturday: April 27, 2019

Oconomowoc Community Center

Ticket Prices:

\$25/person in advance
\$30/person after April 22

Doors open: 7:00 pm

Games start: 7:30 pm

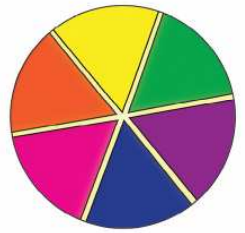
 **Live Auction**



 **Costume Contest**

 **Heads or Tails**

Our costume theme for the night is Classic TV - dress up your group as your favorite television characters and win a Major Award!

 General Knowledge
 Entertainment



 Geography
 The Bible, and more!

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♣ Talent ♣ Treasure

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6).

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deuteronomy 28:2a).

If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deuteronomy 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit.

By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Corinthians 16:2).

APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Pantry 6:00 pm Parish Choir 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	2 6:30 pm Constitution & Bylaws Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm LWML 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	3 12:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Lenten Worship 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	4 6:00 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	5 5:00 pm Youth Lock-In	6 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
7 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	8 6:00 pm Parish Choir	9 6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Board of Elders' Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	10 12:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Lenten Worship 6:15 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	11 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	12 12:15 pm Good Friday Chief Service 7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae	13 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
14 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	15 12:15 pm Holy Week Worship 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Education 7:00 pm Holy Week Worship	16 12:15 pm Holy Week Worship 7:00 pm Holy Week Worship 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice	17 12:15 pm Holy Week Worship 7:00 pm Holy Week Worship 7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice	18 12:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 8:00 pm Praise Team Practice	19 NO SCHOOL / OFFICE CLOSURES @ 12 12:15 pm Good Friday Chief Service 7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae	20 8:00 am Women of Joy 12:15 pm Holy Saturday Worship NO EVENING WORSHIP 8:30 pm AA Meeting
21 6:00 am Sunrise Worship 7:00 am Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	22 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm Parish Choir	23 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	24 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	25 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	26	27 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 7:00 pm St. Paul's Trivia Night 8:30 pm AA Meeting
28 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	29 6:00 pm Parish Choir	30 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice				

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC
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**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Lutheran Women in Mission**

Come hear our speaker for the Zone 17 Spring Rally being held on Tuesday, April 30th, at St. John's Sullivan. Registration with fellowship begins at 6:00 pm with program beginning at 6:30. A representative from Zachariah's Acres will speak on their mission to the disabled in a nature setting. Everyone interested is invited to attend. We will have an ingathering for them of the following items: kitchen & 33-gallon garbage bags, adult garden gloves, trowels, hand pruners and hand tools, hummingbird & oriole feeders, birdseed, markers, scissors and scrapbook paper.

Saturday, April 6th, from 9am-3pm, is the Heart to Heart annual event at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Waukesha. This is a day of food, fellowship and worship with our ethnic sisters in LWML. Enjoy ethnic food, costumes and learning about each others culture. Contact Pat Menden if interested (262-646-3508)

St. Paul's LWML meets Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. New faces are always welcome!