

AUGUST EPISTLE



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

AUGUST 2019



From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

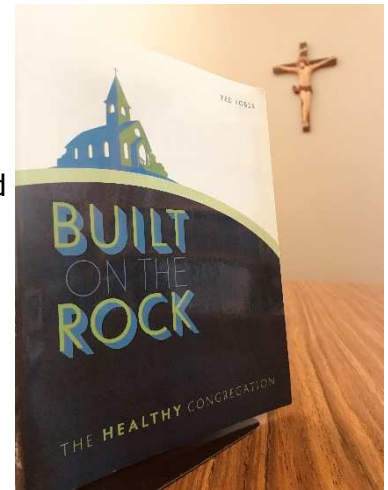
Keeping Sabbath ***Receiving Christ's gifts—and learning to*** ***apply God's Word to life—on Sundays***

What is the 3rd Commandment? Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over 2+ decades Ted Kober, a Lutheran businessman, helped Christians learn to reconcile and work together. He founded an organization called "Ambassadors of Reconciliation" (AoR) that has worked with hundreds of churches. In this career of service Ted and the AoR team came to a concrete assessment of what a healthy congregation is: ***"Being in God's Word is not just one of many factors that characterize a healthy church. It is the foundation on which its health is based."*** (*Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation*, p.53)

As such, we are in the process of re-making Sunday morning Bible classes for children and adults, and pondering some other changes. The significant adjustment for adults is this:



"Built on the Rock" by Ted Kober

Life Application Bible Study

(HS-Adults. Sundays @ 9:15)

- No assumptions.** (You don't have to know the Bible well to participate)
- Single theme each week.** (We try to keep it simple, with substance & life application)
- Technology.** (We'll often use pictures, audio or video to enhance understanding)
- Question Bucket.** (We keep a question bucket for you to ask any question you want and we'll do one of these each week.)
- Good Coffee.** (Bible study is somehow better with good coffee.)

Try out the new Sunday school this fall. If you have children, register them. Let's build!

Yours in Christ,

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Eleanor CeCelia Rose, daughter of Matthew Rose & Kristin Brielmaier
Ava Marian, daughter of Andrew & Michelle (Rhodee) Preisler
Reagan Eleanor, daughter of Alex Knebel & Sophie Krueger
Elise June, daughter of Edward & Sheri (Thompson) Kranick
Cody Joe, son of Andrew & Alyssa (Kempf) Bendtsen

Transfer to another LCMS church

Sandra Uttech, Camden & Sawyer – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI
Barb Krug – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI
Steven & Linda Hansen – Grace Lutheran Church, Nashua, NH

Transfer from another LCMS church

Valerie Schroeder and daughter, Madelynn Brewer – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI

Received by affirmation of faith

Bruce & Mary Bojko

Deaths

John Simaras
Arline Ruhs

Baptized 1892 Confirmed 1103



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Lutheran Women in Mission

Please join us as we resume meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SWD Fall Retreat info and registration forms can be found on the website or on the table in Fellowship Hall under the LWML bulletin board. Please note deadline for registration is August 30th, but registration for rooms are due by August 2nd. The theme for the retreat is "Go & Tell the Story". The dates are September 19-21. One of the speakers will be Cindy Wruke from Peace Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam who is one of the recipients of grant #4 from Mission Central allowing her 2 more years of work with women and children in the Czech Republic. If you are interested in going please contact Kathy Mueller (262-468-6926) soon.

AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry 6:00 pm Stephen Leaders Meeting 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>11 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Operations Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Board of Elders 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>4 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>5 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>18 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>19 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal</p>	<p>20 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>22 5:00 pm SPLS Dinner & Move-in Night 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>25 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>26 SPLS First Day of School</p>	<p>27 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>29 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>30 NOSCHOOL</p>	<p>31</p>

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Suzanne Hirt

August 1st

Shirley Smart

August 5th

Sue Baganz

Marilyn Runyard

August 6th

Lucille Campbell

Paul Schaefer

August 11th

Doris Rupnow

August 16th

Donald Groose

August 31st

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Ron Kehl	\$20.00
John Simaras	\$1195.00
Sharon Stoner	\$100.00

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

Director of Parish Music, Allison Madkie 567.5001 x214

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

Be included in the St. Paul's Lutheran directory

Lifetouch will be photographing all of our families for a new church directory.



What to expect

- A professional photography session, no session fees.
- View your images after your session and make your selections.
- You will receive one FREE 8x10 standard print and church directory plus other special offers.

Photography dates

Wednesday August 7th - Saturday August 10th
 Wednesday August 14th - Saturday August 17th
 Wednesday, August 28th - Saturday August 31st
 Photography hours:
 Weekdays 2PM to 9PM & Saturdays 9AM to 4PM

Sign up for your photography session

- Go to www.splco.org
- Call Lifetouch at 1-866-756-0281, Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm EST
- Visit sign up tables after service on upcoming weekends

Lifetouch



We are busy people. In our culture we stuff our time full of work and school, sports, lessons, and a variety of other activities with family and friends. There is value in these things. While some of the things we do are necessary, like showing up to work each day so that we can pay the electric bill, other things we do simply because we find them fun or relaxing. These things are all gifts from God, blessings to be enjoyed. The problem comes in when they take over a disproportionate majority of our lives.

When we find ourselves wanting to sleep in on Sunday morning because it's our "one day off," or choosing that soccer game over coming to worship, this points to a problem with our priorities. If God has not been replaced by other things in our hearts, then we want to come worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and receive the gifts God offers. We want to study His Word and we are continually talking to Him in prayer throughout our day. Our society and our sinful nature make it easy to place other things above God and fall into idolatry without even realizing it. That idol may be money, sleep, sports, or something else, but any of these are spiritually dangerous when they have taken the place of God. God doesn't want our half-hearted devotion. Consider Revelation 3:16, "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."

As we look forward to the start of a new school year, consider what the priorities are in your life and in the life of your family. Is God at the center of each and every day? If the answer is no, then it's time to repent, pray about it, and make some changes.

This upcoming school year begins my second year here at St. Paul's as the deaconess intern, and one of the things I have been preparing for the last several months is Sunday School for 2019/2020. It is so important that our children learn the stories of the Bible, that they understand what Jesus has done for each and every one of us, and that they know how loved they are by our Heavenly Father. With all the things going on in our world around us, it is also crucial that our children be able to defend what they believe to those they meet who aren't fellow Christians. There is always more to learn about God's Word, whether you are brand new to the faith or whether you have attended a Lutheran church your entire life. Come to adult Bible study, bring your children to one of our Sunday School classes, and commit to learning and growing in Christ. Despite the lies that Satan loves to whisper in our ears, there is absolutely nothing more important than learning about the gift of salvation which Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.

"If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." -Jesus (John 8:31b-32)

In Christ,

Michelle Oddsen
Deaconess Intern
michelle@splco.org

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony of receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? The offerings are collected in plates or baskets, and they are brought forward and given to the pastor or an assistant. The pastor turns toward the altar, and, as he slightly bows his head, the offerings are raised slightly to the Lord and placed on the altar or an adjacent table.

Why do we have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does – it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1-3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion – the bread and the wine – were brought forward with the offerings. The offerings and elements were lifted toward the Lord and placed upon the altar. The altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

Gifts brought to the altar come from the sweat of His people's brow. They are the bread and wine, the fruits of His people's labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people are to bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. Gifts set upon the altar are offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into service for His gracious work.

For what is offered to the Lord from the sweat of His people's brow – the bread of anxious toil – comes back to us as the bread of life. The bread comes down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

“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. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.” (Deut. 14:22-26)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows. He receives this from us in the first-fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise, and He turns these into spiritual bread. He gives this heavenly bread – the bread of eternal life – back to us so we might have joy.

So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder. The offerings we have given to Him, the Lord gives back to us in His supper so that we may rejoice in the salvation He won for us upon the cross.

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

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, August 24th at 5pm
Sunday, August 25th at 8am & 10:30am

The weekend of August 24th & 25th, we will have a blessing for both students and staff at the worship services as they prepare to return to school for the 2019-2020 school year. This is for anyone who will be returning to school as a staff member or a student (at St. Paul's or elsewhere). We will also be installing our new Kindergarten teacher, Miss Adrianna Lubner at the 8am service. Please come join us and begin your school year in fellowship with St. Paul's family. We look forward to seeing you there!

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a church picnic this weekend.