

# SEPTEMBER EPISTLE

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

## Autumn

The obvious theme for this article is Autumn. This is my favorite time of year other than what comes next. So now to narrow it down. Should I talk about the fall colors, back to school, football, harvest time, Oktoberfest?

For me, this is a time to get back to business. Summer, although busy, is much more flexible and with the kids on summer break, much quieter at St. Paul's. But that has come to an end yet again. For many people, the time to regenerate is January 1st with new resolutions, or spring time with new life starting to appear. For me it is this time of year, because it is a time of preparation. It is a time to refocus.

Parents prepare their kids to go back to school. My son who is a landscaper prepares the lawns for winter with clearing, raking, and cutbacks. We prepare our bikes and campers for a long winter's nap. I help my dad can fruit and vegetables in a long tradition of preparing food for the winter. Along with this mentality of preparation and getting back to business, I refocus on preparing for Jesus.

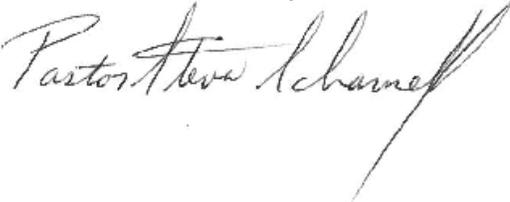
Now, as a baptized child of God, by grace through faith, Jesus has prepared me, as well as you. We do nothing. We rest in His mercy and grace awaiting the final harvest. Along with that, this time of year reminds me of fruit, apples, pears, etc. But that leads me to thinking about the fruit of faith, what we do to love our neighbor as ourself.

Faith and good works go together. James tells us that faith without works is dead.

### **(Homework - Read James 2:14-26)**

James tells us that faith and good works go together. Jesus did the work of salvation for us, faith in that gift is 100% from God. But it goes along with good works. It has to. James tells us that even the demons believe that Jesus is Lord, but does that mean they are saved? No. Their mission is to kill and destroy. Understand that the opposite is also true. Good works without faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ does not save us either. True faith and its response of true good works cannot be separated.

So I ask that you take a fresh look at serving. Prayerfully consider how you would like to serve. We have many long time ministries, some new ones, and many yet to come. As I talk about getting back to business, preparation and refocusing on your faith life, I'd like to end with a quote from the Lutheran Study Bible. "God has given us a great gift - through Jesus Christ. He has forgiven us and declared us righteous and holy. He now blesses us by calling us to serve Him in the lives of those around us. A living faith leads us to gladly share with others what we have freely received in Christ."



Pastor Steve Schaefer



## From the Pastor

*Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell*

# St. Paul's Logo and Our Core Values

At the recent faculty retreat in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year, we had discussion of our logo and core values, and how they might impact the daily work of a teacher. There was enthusiastic discussion that spilled over to other conversations. It was clear to me that it's time to re-affirm these core values and broaden the discussion.

We are St. Paul's Lutheran Church. What does that mean?

The heart of the logo is the cross. This proclaims the basic mystery that is central to who we are and must be. As our namesake, St. Paul, writes:

*But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

--1 Corinthians 1:23-24, ESV



You may notice that the arms of the cross are tilted up slightly. This reminds us of the resurrected Christ's hands of blessing in our sanctuary statue.

There are also four wedges that together point to the cross. Each of these wedges represents a core value. Drawing upon our history and the Biblical languages, we are using four root words that highlight aspects of our life together in Christ: Worship, Witness, Education, and Service.

**WORSHIP** (*Gottesdienst*)

*God first loves us, and we respond in thanks, praise, and love.*

*"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19, ESV)*

**WITNESS** (*Apostello*)

*The Church is sent with authority and purpose.*

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . ." (Matthew 28:18-19, ESV)*

**EDUCATION** (*Catecheo*)

*To know Christ is to understand, live, and defend.*

*"...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. . . ." (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)*

**SERVICE** (*Vocatio*)

*God works through us as we serve our neighbors.*

*"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work. . . ." (Philippians 2:13, ESV)*

St. Paul's also exists as part of the greater body of Christ; in particular, as a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Notice that the value-evincing wedges which point to the cross also make a globe, reminding us of our responsibility to live out our calling locally, regionally, and internationally, as Christ proclaims to us in Acts 1:8:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

*--Acts 1:8, ESV*

Worship, Witness, Education, and Service... in Christ and for the world. That's who we are. How do these core values play out in your life?

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
21 August, A.D. 2019

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### Baptism

Zayden, son of Josh & Katie (Adams) Balfanz

### Transfer from another LCMS church

Ryan & Ann Schneider, Benjamin – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Birmamwood, WI

Allison Mackie – Peace Lutheran Church, Columbus, NE

Erica Dimka – Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Hartford, WI

### Deaths

Shirley Dibble

**Baptized 1894    Confirmed 1107**



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League  
Lutheran Women in Mission**

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

Ingathering for the LWML fall retreat September 19-21 At Green Lake Conference Center will be items for Bethesda Lutheran Community Homes: box cake mixes, canned frosting, regular size cupcake liners, small birthday plates, birthday napkins and International Outreach/Student Ministry Milwaukee: winter gloves, mittens, warm socks, winter hats, scarves (children & adult). Anyone wishing to help, please put in bin in Fellowship Hall labeled RETREAT INGATHERING.

## St. Paul's Ladies Aid

It's time to start another year of St. Paul's Ladies Aid. All ladies are being cordially invited to join us—both young and young-at-heart—whether it be at our monthly meetings, helping with funerals, or helping with any of our fundraising projects, such as a fisher dinner, baking for a bake sale or any time our help is needed at St. Paul's.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month—from September through June **at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. September 5<sup>th</sup> is our first meeting. We will have a Bible devotion, fun and fellowship, special treats and guest speakers. So please join us to see what we are all about and contact one of our officers if you'd be willing to help us this year. God's blessings.

President	Mary Lou Pagenkopf
Vice President	Sue Lindemann
Treasurer	Judy Braatz
Secretary	Vicky Tudor

# SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	2 <b>NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</b>	3 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm LWML	4	5 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	6	7 7:30 am Journeyman 9:00 am Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8 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	9	10 8:30 pm Operators Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Board of Elders 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	11 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	12 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	13	14 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
15 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society	16 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal	17 8:30 pm Constitution & Bylaws Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	18 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	19 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	20	21 7:30 am Journeyman 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
22 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	23	24 7:00 pm CLT Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	25 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	26 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	27	28 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
29 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	30					

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Harlan Uttech**  
September 4th

**Dorcas McMillan**  
September 5th

**Richard Schultz**  
September 9th

**Judy Mueller**  
September 10th

**Mimi Gebel**  
September 11th

**Bill Scheuer**  
September 12th

**Bob Bratz Sr.**  
**Tom Zillmer**  
September 13th

**Diana Radtke**  
**Louise Stenson**  
September 18th

**Kay Morgan**  
September 20th

**Audrey Martens**  
**Joyce Simaras**  
September 22nd

**Don Meyer**  
September 25th

**Keith Pagnenkopf**  
September 26th

**John Dahm**  
September 27th

**Tom Truebenbach**  
September 29th

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

Wally Kopfer \$20.00

Shirley Dibble \$230.00

Douglas Fleischfresser \$50.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
210 E. Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050  
262-567-5001

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### 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](http://www.splco.org)

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### RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship  
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM  
& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

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

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

# Sing!

If you love to sing, the adult choir would love to have you! We have a ton of fun and look forward to our time together every week. Our new choir director, Allison Mackie, would love to have you be part of her first official choir.

First practice: Wednesday, September 11, 7:15pm, in the balcony.

If you have questions, contact Allison at the church office, 262-567-5001 or by email at [Allison.Mackie@splco.org](mailto:Allison.Mackie@splco.org). You can also contact Cheryl Tesch at [cltiag2014@gmail.com](mailto:cltiag2014@gmail.com) or 920-285-3628.

# Save the Date

## Saturday, April 4, 2020

St. Paul's Dinner Auction  
Delafield Hotel

If you are interested in being involved in the planning, contact Angie Scharnell ([angiescharnell@gmail.com](mailto:angiescharnell@gmail.com) or 920-285-1264) or Cheryl Tesch ([cltiag2014@gmail.com](mailto:cltiag2014@gmail.com) or 920-285-3628).

## Widows, Widowers and Senior Singles - It's time to get together!

Join us on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., for about an hour, to discuss interest in this activity and plans for what we will be about. Any questions, call Donna at 920-342-6693 or Pat at 262-354-4203. Leave a message if we are not available to talk with you immediately.

## Looking for Childcare Providers

The Reformation Tap Society is looking for a couple of responsible adults or teenagers to provide childcare at St. Paul's on the third Sunday of the month from 4:45-7:00 pm. Payment will be between the parents and the childcare provider. If you are interested, please contact Heather Scheuer in the church office at 262-567-5001



## From St. Paul's Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie

As Director of Parish Music, I want to be able to make use of as many of St. Paul's musical resources as possible, but I haven't met many of our talented soloists and instrumentalists yet! If you would like to be involved in music in this way, even if you have been playing or singing in worship services for years, please contact me at [allison.mackie@splco.org](mailto:allison.mackie@splco.org) or 262-567-5001 so I can make sure to include you!





"Therefore, let those who until now have had the privilege of living a Christian life together with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of their hearts. Let them thank God on their knees and realize: it is grace, nothing but grace, that we are still permitted to live in the community of Christians today."- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Today I want to take a moment to thank you, my brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Paul's. When God brought me into this congregation years ago, I never could have imagined the plans He had in store for me. He surrounded me with caring and faithful Christians during some very difficult times and it is through that love and care that I learned just how important Christian community is and the importance of caring for one another and for our neighbors. While no Christian community is perfect, and at times as sinners we will inevitably hurt one another, we are brought together in Jesus Christ and we practice forgiveness as He has forgiven us.

I thank you for the financial support I have received toward my seminary studies and I am grateful for your prayers and encouragement. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near," Hebrews 10:23-25, ESV.

It is out of this knowledge of the importance of mercy, knowledge that God taught me through the people of St. Paul's, that Swaddling Clothes has been established. This ministry seeks to care for those among us in our community who can't afford basic necessities for their infants. It is a way to support moms in choosing life for their unborn children and a way of caring for those who struggle to afford items such as diapers, wipes, and formula. Thank you all for being a part of the beginning of this ministry and for helping establish Swaddling Clothes through your donations. We are asking for your continued donations of these items as we seek to be a light in our community, sharing the love and mercy of Christ. Monetary donations can be brought to the office or placed in the offering plate. Diapers, wipes, and formula can be placed in the trunk that is located in the narthex labeled "Swaddling Clothes."

May we continually seek ways to share the love and forgiveness with others that God in His mercy has shown to us. "We love because He first loved us," 1 John 4:19.

In Christ,

Michelle Oddsen  
Deaconess Intern  
michelle@splco.org

# STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him:

"For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world"  
(1 Tim. 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility!

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said,

"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13).

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

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**Reformation**  
Tap Society

## Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer • Friendly Conversation • Serious Theology

Sunday, September 15

*"Sayings I Wish Jesus Never Said"*

Presenter: Dan Torkelson

5:00: Brewmaster -- 5:30: Presentation -- 6:15: Food & Fellowship

Each month, the brewmaster at BrewFinity Brewery will tell us about a new beer, which we will be able to sample. Afterwards, our presenters, with beer in hand and jolly in mood, will take the mic and give a conversational talk on a serious theological subject. We will then eat and chat amongst ourselves.

*Third Sundays*  
**5:00 - 7:00**  
*pm*

**BrewFinity Brewery**  
N58W39800 Industrial Rd., Ste. D  
Oconomowoc

