



OCTOBER EPISTLE



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

OCTOBER 2019



I came to St Paul's in 1989. I was 4 years old and going into Kinder Club (which was like 4K). I attended school here through 8th grade and graduated in 1998. I can tell you every one of my teachers (some of whom I still see often) and I can remember each classroom and my classmates.

I have very fond memories of being a student at St Paul's. My teachers were all nice and I had nice friends. I was a cheerleader for basketball which I really enjoyed! I was even on the news once for it!

I always loved the start of a new school year. I would get excited for new school supplies and new clothes and shoes. We just started a new school year here at St Paul's. My daughter is in 5th grade this year, and she shares my excitement for the fun folders and notebooks with the cute designs! My son is in 3K, but he wasn't as excited for his supplies!

I enjoyed my years as a student at St Paul's and now my children are, too! A few years ago, I was asked to be in a video interview and describe what St Paul's means to me. I answered, "It is like home." That is even more true now, since I am here every day! I came to work at the Early Childhood Center last November, and now I am the Assistant Director here. It sure has felt like home!

Everyone is so kind and it is very rewarding to serve the Lord by teaching the little ones about Jesus. I am with the one year olds and we like to sing about Jesus. One of my favorites is, "I am Jesus' Little Lamb". I hope they enjoy my singing to them!

This year, our school is focusing on the theme, "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." As we go about our busy days, I like to take time to look to Him, and if it is a particularly difficult day (or week, or month!), I put my faith in Him, knowing that He is helping perfect my faith and He will help me through it all.

My favorite Bible verse is Lamentations 3:25 "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him." A few years ago, my husband and I needed to wait for something we wanted and we held on tight to that hope. We had faith that God was going to answer our prayer and he did!

I am so glad I went to a Christian school, and I am so glad that my children can learn about God in such a safe, loving school. St. Paul's really does feel like home! Have a safe and blessed fall season!

Jessica Schmittinger



From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

"Receiving and Giving the Love and Hope of Christ"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The pastoral staff, elders, and school faculty, with the Church Leadership Team's blessing, are proposing the new mission statement above for adoption at our October 13, 2019 Voters' Meeting. If you like the new statement, we adopt it; if you don't, we stay with the existing one. The rationale for the new statement follows...

For some time the pastoral staff and others have been wrestling with our existing mission statement, "Reaching, Serving, and Growing Disciples." It's a good statement, but our sense is that it's missing something. We believe it needs to be more theocentric (prioritizing *God* at work among us), and do a better job of calling all to the center of Christian life (worship) and a life of service and mission.

For many months we were talking about this, wrestling with ideas... and then, in his Epiphany sermon of 7 January 2018, Pastor Scharnell asked the question of us, in terms of worship and the Christian life, "Which comes first, giving or receiving?" He made the point that in the Christian life the first thing is that *GOD* gives. *We receive*.

And it hit me: THAT'S IT! Mission begins with *receiving*. It's *GOD's mission*. We first *receive* Christ's forgiveness, and then we *give* it to others. That's what St. John so

Mission begins with *receiving*.

wonderfully teaches us in 1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us." I penned a note atop my

sermon notes with a couple ideas that began with the wonderful phrase "receiving and giving."



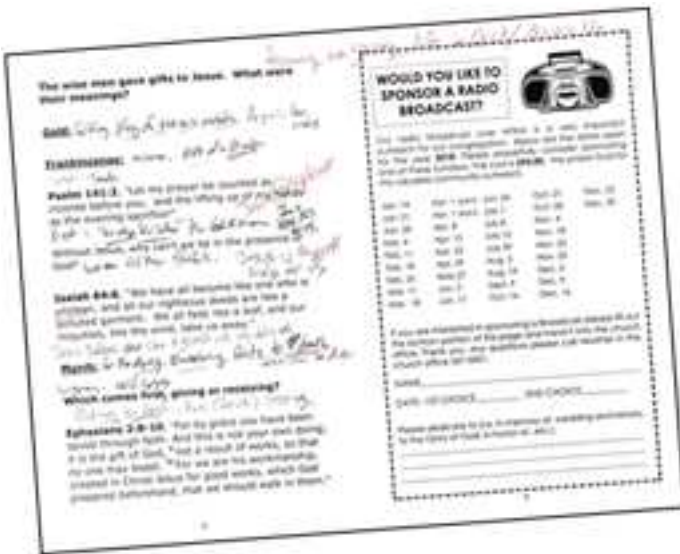
I find "receiving and giving" a very clever beginning because it's a bit different than we're used to hearing. For example, in the funeral prayers we give thanks for all the good the deceased was able to "give and receive." We use "give and receive" quite frequently in conversation and correspondence. "Receiving and giving" flips that. It makes us think. A good mission statement should do that.

Over the succeeding few months we mulled over many other possibilities following “receiving and giving...” Pastor Scharmell felt strongly about *hope*. Indeed, *hope* is an important Biblical theme and speaks to a core human reality. Solomon alludes to this when he writes that God “. . . has put eternity into man’s heart . . .” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, ESV) We are made and redeemed in the image and likeness of God. We have *souls* with an eternal destiny. *Hope* is built into us... but is difficult to grasp in our broken world. Part of Christ’s ongoing work through the Church—our mission—is to bring hope to the world. As Peter writes: “...In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

“Receiving and giving” is a clever phrase. It flips the usual order. It’s a bit like the old Apple ad, “Think different,” which is grammatically incorrect, so it makes you pause. A Good mission statement should do that. It doesn’t have to be three words. It shouldn’t be thirty. It should make you think.

Love is an absolutely central Biblical theme and human need. Christ, through the worship and service of His Church, teaches the world what *love* really is. The Biblical word that is the root of God’s love—*agape*—is comprehensive because it’s not an emotional feeling but an act of

service on behalf of the beloved. Christ’s forgiving work on the cross—that cross that is at the very heart of St. Paul’s logo—is the supreme act of love, for Jesus himself says, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13, ESV)



So, over time, the pastors discussed this statement with a number of individuals and groups. I used it at a meeting of the praise teams, we talked about it at elders, the school faculty was very enthusiastic about it at our recent retreat, etc.

We are finding that **“Receiving and Giving the Love and Hope of Christ”** resonates with our core values: worship, witness, education, and service. We hope you agree.

Please join us at the October 13, 2019 Voters’ Meeting for the discussion.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lance Armstrong O’Donnell, Senior Pastor
 Thursday of Pentecost 13
 12 September, A.D. 2019



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by baptism

Mason James, son of Nicholas Young & Debra Melvin

Transfer from another LCMS church

Matt & Lee Schedler – Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitefish Bay, WI

Transfer to another LCMS church

Jeffrey Gresley, Juliette, Moses & Odette – Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Waukesha, WI

Peaceful Release

Sandra Geier, daughter Harmony – Good Shepherd Lutheran, West Bend, WI

Death

Paul Eggers

Baptized 1892 Confirmed 1107



Please join us on Tuesday, October 1st, at 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting. JOIN US in wearing PURPLE on LWML Sunday, October 6th.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Our first meeting was held Thursday, September 5th. We welcomed some new members and discussed our plans for the year.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 3rd at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be crafting with Anne Fait. She will be providing materials for making dried floral arrangements. Join us and bring a friend!

The fish dinner will be on Friday, October 18th. We will be getting ready for this on Thursday, October 18th and the 19th. Please contact Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985) if you are able to help in anyway or would be willing to donate to this project. Thank you!



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

or 920-285-1264) or Cheryl Tesch
(cltiag2014@gmail.com or 920-285-3628).



MEMORIALS

Shirley Dibble	\$1365.00
Paul Eggers	\$1215.00

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Open Pantry	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm LWML	7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	6:30 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 6:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 12:00 pm Voters Meeting	6:00 pm Swaddling Clothes Ministry	6:30 pm Operations Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Board of Elders 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society	5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Meal	7:00 pm CLT Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ethel Buchta
October 4th

Bernice Brown
Carl Nicholson
October 5th

Sue Zastrow
October 10th

Louann Kuehl
October 13th

Peter Hirt
October 15th

Roger Gartzke
Wayne Gartzke
October 16th

Dwain Eaton
October 17th

Bobbie Scheuer
October 19th

Bruce Bojko
October 20th

Ron Kleist
Sharon Peterson
October 21st

Rodger Pagenkopf
October 27th

For our members 70+ years

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



Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer * Friendly Conversation * Serious Theology

Held at BrewFinity Brewery

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D
Oconomowoc

What can be better than having a drink with friends, eating delicious food, and talking about things that are truly important?

October 20, 2019
5:00–7:00 pm

“Never Cast Out”
(A Discussion on Suicide)

Presenter: Kent Schaaf



Kitchen will be open to
order food off the menu



"Why did Jesus come to earth?"

Several months ago, I read the book, *When Helping Hurts*, for one of my classes. The authors state that when asked this question, most people would give a response similar to, "Jesus came to die on the cross to save us from our sins so that we can go to heaven." This, of course, is a true statement. On our own we all deserve God's wrath and punishment. The authors point out, however, that this response misses the fullness of what Jesus has done for us.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly," John 10:10, ESV. Jesus cares about our

souls so much that He willingly suffered and died in our place so that we could be saved from an eternity in hell. But...He also cares about the other ways sin has affected us. He cares about our physical pain, our emotional pain, our broken relationships, and every other detail of our lives. Sometimes God may allow us to experience suffering so that we turn to Him, because ultimately our eternal salvation is so much more important than our brief earthly happiness. However, Jesus cared for the poor, the sick, the hurting, and the hungry and He has told us to do the same. If we think God only cares about if we make it to heaven someday, we are unlikely to turn to Him in a time of sickness or when we can't pay the bills because we lost our job. We may be more likely to skip church because we assume we probably aren't going to die anytime soon, and we have a lot of other things going on in our lives, not realizing that here God provides for all our needs through Word and Sacrament and through the care of our brothers and sisters. If we don't see God as a God who also cares about our earthly needs, we are less likely to go out of our way to help those around us. We will be too busy worrying about our own hurts and needs. As Luther reminds us, "He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life." We don't have to worry- God has given us all that we have and He continues to take care of us.

In January I wrote about helping the poor and why it is important; this month I'd like to expand on that a little. A huge part of a deaconess's work is human care and mercy work. While this care certainly includes helping the poor, it also means meeting other physical needs people may have. That can look like a meal train for a sick member or a lunch lovingly prepared for a grieving family after a funeral. It can take the form of a phone call or visit to a lonely shut-in, or a card sent to someone just to make them smile. This care could mean providing a listening ear or taking the time to pray with someone who is depressed, donating clothes or diapers to someone in need, or driving someone to their doctor's appointment when their car has broken down. Human care can take many different forms. One deaconess classmate spent time setting traps and then disposing of rats in the home of an elderly member of her congregation. Most of us could probably come up with a long list of things we'd rather do than dispose of dead rats, but this is one example of what Christian love looks like. When we consider all that Jesus has done for us, how could we live in any other way? "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters," 1 John 3:16.

Regardless of the need or the hurt we are addressing, we need to realize that we are all broken in some way. Our sin and brokenness may look different from someone else's, but when we understand this, we understand that as the Church we all need one another. We are not meant to be self-sufficient somewhere on an island. Acknowledging our own brokenness also results in the loss of any sense of superiority we may otherwise feel while caring for others. Our God, Who cares about every part of our lives, often cares for us through the people He has placed around us. Likewise, our help and care for others may just be the answer to their prayers for help.

Sin has brought decay and suffering into the world; Jesus came to bring restoration and reconciliation. We will experience the fullness of this restoration some day in heaven where there is no sin, sorrow, or sickness. Until that day, we look to our Heavenly Father to provide for all our needs, even our physical ones. And He does, because He loves us and we are His children.

In Christ,

Michelle Oddsen

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

"We are all beggars. This is true."

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironic, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

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

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St. Paul's Fish Dinner

Friday, October 18, 2019
4:30-7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium



\$5 Kid's Meal
Sloppy Joes
Chips
Drink
Cookie

Fried Fish	Baked Fish
French Fries	Applesauce
Potato Pancakes	German Potato Salad
American Potato Salad	Rye Bread
Coleslaw	Milk
Coffee	

All
homemade!

12 year-olds and up: \$10.00
4-11 year-olds: \$5.00 (under 4: free)

Dessert, Soda & Bottled Water will be \$1.00 each

Monies earned will go towards Ladies Aid and to the Operations Committee for new folding chairs for St. Paul's.