

JULY EPISTLE

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

JULY 2020



From the Senior Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

155 Years!

"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)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ's mission continues! On July 1, 2020 we celebrate our 155th anniversary as a congregation. What an amazing mission to be a part of! The little band of witness to the resurrection of Jesus began in Jerusalem, and by God's will spread throughout the world with the message of Christ's forgiveness. My ancestors first heard this message in Ireland and Sicily; a great many of the ancestors of this congregation first heard the message in Germany or Scandinavia; many from other assorted places. And yet here all are together, one in Christ.

We adopted a strategic plan for our 150th anniversary in 2015. Much of that plan has been achieved. We have reduced our debt by one-half. We called a full-time Director of Parish Music. We installed a new organ, totally renovated our fellowship hall, have a fully staffed school, etc., etc.

But we haven't had an adult baptism in quite a while. We've had a lot of infant and child baptisms, and our membership has grown to over 1900 baptized souls, and our congregation—especially during the Covid-19 pandemic—has responded with great generosity on every level. These are signs of health and vitality, but my prayer is that—by the time of our 160th anniversary in 2025—that we will have had the joy of many adult Baptisms, for that will mean that we will have become more of a "witnessing" congregation.

(continued →)



WITNESS

(Apostello)

The Church is sent to proclaim Christ 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)

I believe that we do worship well, and we do education well, and our value of “service” is showing increasing vitality, but I believe we can do much better in our core value of “witness.” That is a major goal for me in the next five years, and I expect this to be reflected in a revised strategic plan that we complete—God-willing—within the next six to twelve months.

The best witness has always been personal, not programmatic; that is, the personal witness of God’s people in their daily lives has always been—and always will be—the best evangelism. As The LORD tells us through St. Peter:

“But 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)

May God prepare each of us to give faithful witness as we have opportunity. May God grant that—by the time of our 160th anniversary—we have again been encourage by a few adult baptisms.

Re-Engage, Phase Two (July 2020):

The pastors and elders met and agreed that we will continue the Re-Engage plan through the month of July, with the practices described last month.

Of particular note:

1. If you test positive for Covid-19 and were in worship or in close contact with people who were in worship, please let us know. If you want, we will keep this confidential, but it is helpful to know this and keep people informed.
2. We are requiring masks for those who are serving in close contact as worship assistants.
3. We reiterate our recommendation that people wear masks when in close contact with others.
4. We reiterate our appeal for help with cleaning teams to make worship as safe as reasonably possible under the current conditions.

If we need to have a mask-only service to help people be comfortable coming back to worship, we will seriously consider that. If you are one of those who will come only to mask-only service, please let the one of the pastors know.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell

The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

25 June, A.D. 2020

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	6 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	7	8 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	9 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	10 OFFICE CLOSED	4 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
12 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	13 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	14 6:30 pm Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	15 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	16 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	17	11 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
19 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	20 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	21	22 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	23 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	24	25 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
26 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	27 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	28	29 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	30 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	31	

We need your help

The members of the widows and widowers group, Living OuR Dash, are in need of greeting cards you do not want or need. Please keep us in mind as you finish your spring housecleaning (LOL) or just check your favorite place to put items you rarely use. If you have greeting cards that deserve a new life, place them into a bag and bring them to the church office. Thank you.

Lord's Cupboard items needed

We have been blessed in getting food donations through the Mission and Mercy of the LCMS South Wisconsin District the several weeks. This has now ended. There are a few items that are unavailable in bulk purchase or hard to find that would be great if we could get to share with the people who come to the food pantry. Most of these are limited items to purchase in the stores but if everyone could buy the maximum then we would have plenty. These items include:

- antibacterial gel, spray and wipes
- hand soap
- bar body soap
- toilet paper (individually wrapped preferred)
- dish soap
- canned fruit and/or fruit cups

Contact Mary Hickenbottom with any questions at 414.333.3421. Thank you and please continue to pray for the people we are able to help with this outreach ministry and for the volunteers!

St. Paul's Spring Dinner Auction

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O F M Y H E
A R T L O R D
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2 0 2 0 V I S I O N

Unfortunately, the
Spring Dinner
Auction for 2020 has
been cancelled.



St. Paul's

All money
received for
this year's
event is being
refunded.

Save the Date for 2021

Saturday, May 8, 2021 at The Delafield Hotel

LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

The SWD LWML Convention conducted all business and voting on line as directed by the Executive Committee. The 2020-2022 mission goal was set at \$205,000 with \$153,750 for South Wisconsin District and \$51,250 for funding national grants. The following are the new mission grants for this biennium:

1. Church Worker Grant	\$30,000
2. Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church Ministry Outreach	\$12,000
3. Financial Assistance-Ft. Wayne Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op	\$10,000
4. Place of Refuge-Replace Vehicle	\$20,000
5. At Just the Right Time-Mission Central	\$15,000
6. Expanding Outreach to Immigrants-POBLO	\$15,000
7. Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Introducing Muslims to the Savior	\$12,000
8. Bethany Asaba Delta State Nigeria-Building Completion & New church planting	\$12,000
9. Chaplain Scholarships for Medical Mission Trips	\$ 3,000
10. International Friendship Center	\$15,000
11. Christ's Mercy in Russia	\$ 5,000
12. iO Children's Program-Luther Memorial Chapel-Shorewood, WI (partial)	\$ 4,750

Pray for these new mission grants that they will be funded in a timely manner. Keep feeding your Mite Box this summer!



Our summer office hours will be
8:00 am to 2:00 pm,
effective through August 21st.
Please make a note of this.

PowerPoint Volunteers Needed

For safety reasons, we are currently not using hymnals. The entire worship services will be projected on the screens in the front of the church. We are in need of one PowerPoint operator for each service (5pm, 8am & 10:30am). This is an extremely simple thing to do. If you can follow along with the words on a slide (with attention to detail) and push the button on a "clicker" at the appropriate time, you can do this! We will be happy to train any volunteers. Please contact the church office at heather@splco.org or 262.567.5001 to sign up.

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♣ Talent ♣ Treasure

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1st
Marilyn Marohn

July 3rd
Linda Uttech

July 7th
Fred Boldt
Pat Borgman
Patricia Gartzke
Vernon Schilling

July 10th
Ken Dinnauer

July 11th
Barb Melvin
Wilbur Pieper
Johanna Walter

July 15th
John Melvin
Dennis Thelen

July 17th
Alice Tetzlaff

July 22nd
Gemma Kitzman

July 26th
Florence Zastrow

July 30th
Florence Kroll

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Don Gauerke	\$55.00
Amy Brockway	\$30.00
Ken Groenke	\$25.00

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 Mackie 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

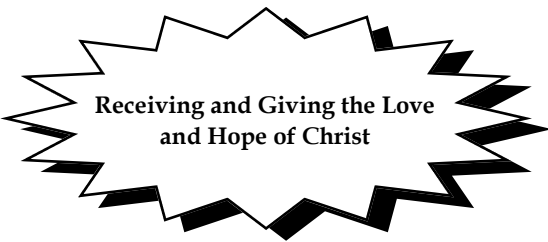
PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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Wednesday Summer Worship Services

Lakeside Summer Worship (in our backyard) have begun and will run through August 26th. Services are at 6:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs! Sermons will be from the prior Sunday. (If there is inclement weather, services will be moved into the sanctuary.)

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Bradley Wayde, son of Nickolas Eggers & Heather Pinter

Profession of faith

Michael Hamilton
Kathleen Butterfield

Transfer from another LCMS church

Ruth Polcha – Ascension Lutheran, North Olmsted, OH

Deaths

Kenneth Groenke
Amy Brockway

Baptized 1903 Confirmed 1111