



# APRIL EPISTLE

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

APRIL 2024



## ***Thoughts from the Study...***

***Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor***

*Psalm 121:8 "the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."*

In March a small group from St. Paul's came to Santiago, Dominican Republic. We were present for the FORO (Forum) meeting of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission. The FORO meeting is a weekend filled with reports from missionaries about their current opportunities, goals, and challenges (in Spanish – although we had a translator), which provide a snapshot of how they are stewarding that which has been entrusted to them. We were joined by representatives from two congregations (one in Michigan and one in Missouri) that financially support the work of those missionaries. We took a break in the midst of the mission reports to hear a presentation from an Argentinian missionary serving in Santo Domingo (in English) about seeing Lent as a season for Evangelism.

We attended chapel (Morning Prayer was the order of service) at Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba with the 3K – 3rd grade students who sang with gusto. We joined Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Licey for the Sunday Morning Divine Service.



(continued →)

While the service was conducted entirely in Spanish, it was easy to track where we were as the form of the liturgy was VERY familiar. After the Divine Service, the congregation was eager to go out of their way to share "La Paz"(the Peace) with us. But there is SO MUCH MORE TO SHARE!

It is clear that the Lord is at work through His Word and Sacrament in the Dominican Republic, and St. Paul's was a part of founding that mission about 20 years ago. The purpose of our coming to the FORO and going back home was, on the one hand, to see up close and personal how the Kingdom of God is alive and well in the Dominican Republic. The Lord is truly watching over them. On the other hand, we at St. Paul's want to walk beside the missionaries serving there, and learn from them about outreach and community engagement...and there is SO MUCH MORE WE CAN LEARN.

Okay Pastor, that was a really short recap of your trip, there must be more to it than that...there is SO MUCH MORE...

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, after the 5pm Divine Service and Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:30am Divine Service, we invite you to "watch over" a presentation filled with pictures and stories (and even some videos) of our experiences, observations, and learnings. We invite you to join us to hear what we did, what St. Paul's can do, and a proposed plan of how to get there. Light refreshments will be served.

As the Lord watches over our coming and going, I pray this is the beginning of a renewed partnership with our sister churches in the Dominican, and a contagious mission focus for us at St. Paul's.

In His Grip,



Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor



### Looking for livestream volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help with running the livestream worship services on Sundays at 8am. Teams of two are very helpful. You don't need to be tech savvy or computer literate, just be able to push a button. ☺ If you are interested in helping out, please contact Heather in the church office at 262.567.5001 or via email at [heather@splco.org](mailto:heather@splco.org).

### Act Like Men

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, ESV)

We want to help boys and young men discover the joys of knowing what it is to be a man from the God-Man, Jesus Christ. So, the Journeymen have decided that on 2-3 Saturdays per year they will host a morning event for men and boys called **Act Like Men** in which we will have a good, solid breakfast, intergenerational Bible study, and opportunities to learn hands-on life skills and have some adventurous fun. Our first **Act Like Men** event will be Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 8-10am at St. Paul's. Men, bring your sons and grandsons, friends and neighbors. You can sign up at the following link or by scanning the QR code:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DAEAE2AA4FD0-48241365-actlike>





## Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

# Celebrating the Good

*"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

(Philippians 4:8, ESV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have an opportunity later this month to spend an hour together remembering the good. Elsewhere in this *Epistle* you have an invitation to an event called, "Discover Our Why," which will be led by Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador. Earlier this winter, Dr. Meador led a small group of congregational leaders in the process, and the Strategic Ministry Planning Committee found it so encouraging that we wanted to give as many people as possible an opportunity to participate.

This is occurring during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and food and drink will be provided for all participants. As the invitation notes, we are inviting ALL members of the congregation—men, women, and children—to participate. Facilitators will be in place to help this happen, working with Sunday School teachers and others to gather as much input as we can.

There is such great encouragement in remembering the good, and that is what this event is about. Remembering good things in our past helps us rediscover—or discover—what The LORD is—and has been—doing among us. As such, it helps shape plans for the future of our mission together in Christ.

Please join us on April 28<sup>th</sup>!!!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell  
Holy Tuesday  
26 March, A.D. 2024

DISCOVER OUR  
**WHY**

St. Paul's is your church.  
Tell us why.

All ages are encouraged to participate.



**St. Paul's**

Please join us as we share our personal stories with each other and discover why we are proud to be members of St. Paul's, and how we can impact future generations.

**DATE:** Sunday, April 28

**TIME:** 9:15–10:15 a.m.  
(Bible study hour)

**PLACE:** Gymnasium

Coffee and refreshments will be served.



## Ladies Aid

Ladies, being healthy is very important and now that Spring has officially arrived, it's a good time to think about what we can do to improve our health. Ladies Aid has a great way to get you started on your health and wellness journey. Join us on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm to listen to and learn from our special guest speaker. Even if you've never attended one of our meeting, we'd love to have you join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.



LWML will sponsor the New Member Fellowship on April 21<sup>st</sup> with a **freewill** Bake Sale for Rachel Wegener, a student at Concordia, St. Louis studying to become a deaconess.

The Zone 17 Spring Rally will be held at St. John's, North Prairie on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Carol Flanary from Lutheran Counseling and Family Services. Registration begins at 8:30 am with

light refreshments, program at 9:00 and closing at 11:30. ALL are welcome to attend. We will be collecting *Gifts from the Heart* for LCFS.

Items needed are UNO card games, children's books written by Julia Cook (found on Amazon) for child therapy program, Lego sets, puppets, paper towels, stamps, printer/copier paper (letter size) and 24 packs of bottled water for waiting room clients.

Please deposit in bin located under the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The deadline for the LWML Female Church worker grant application is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The form can be found on the LWML-SWD website.

Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We have a devotion, Bible study and short business meeting. Come see what we're all about!

## FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### **Baptism**

Scottie Frances, daughter of Christopher & Kacie (Papke) Pilon

### **Transferred to another LCMS Church**

Lillian Adamczyk—St. John's Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

Bob & Amy Hackbarth—St. John's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, WI

**Baptized 2009      Confirmed      1194**

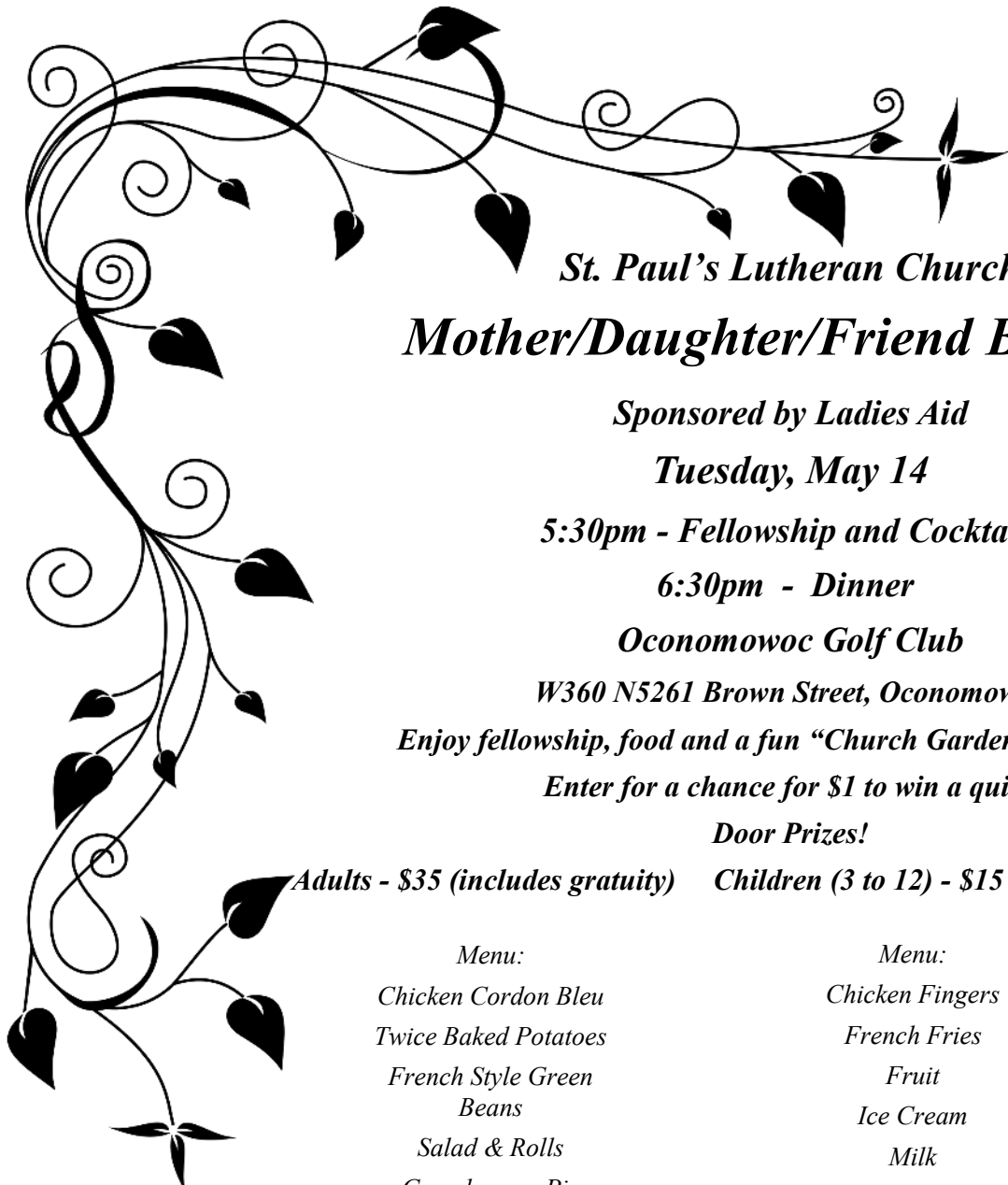


### **Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser**

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

### **April Events**

- † April 7<sup>th</sup>                      HS Youth Group 7-8:30 pm
- † April 14<sup>th</sup>                    MS Youth Group 5:30-7pm; HS Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- † April 21<sup>st</sup>                    HS Youth Group 7-8:30 pm
- † April 28<sup>th</sup>                    MS & HS Bowling—11:30-4pm



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

# ***Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet***

*Sponsored by Ladies Aid*

***Tuesday, May 14***

***5:30pm - Fellowship and Cocktails***

***6:30pm - Dinner***

***Oconomowoc Golf Club***

***W360 N5261 Brown Street, Oconomowoc***

***Enjoy fellowship, food and a fun "Church Garden Ladies" skit!***

***Enter for a chance for \$1 to win a quilt!***

***Door Prizes!***

***Adults - \$35 (includes gratuity) Children (3 to 12) - \$15 (includes gratuity)***

*Menu:*

- Chicken Cordon Bleu*
- Twice Baked Potatoes*
- French Style Green Beans*
- Salad & Rolls*
- Grasshopper Pie*
- Coffee, Milk*

*(Vegetarian Dish Available. Let us know when purchasing your tickets)*

*Menu:*

- Chicken Fingers*
- French Fries*
- Fruit*
- Ice Cream*
- Milk*

***Purchase Tickets:***

- Church Office (262-567-5001)***
- Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262-308-8184)***
- Terrie Seifert (262-490-0649)***
- Vicky Tuder (414-699-8045)***
- Judy Braatz (262-567-7787)***



*Bring Hard Candy  
Flavors: Root Beer,  
Peppermint, Lemon*

# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:30am Dominican Republic Presentation 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>1</b> NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6:00 pm LWML 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p>	<p><b>3</b> 11:00 am Caring Through Sharing Group 6:30 pm W.O.W. Bible Study (Lutheran Basics)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 6:00 pm Dominican Republic Presentation 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>15</b> 5:30 pm Lords Cupboard Drive-Thru &amp; Meal</p>	<p><b>16</b> 5:30 pm CLT Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> 11:00 am Widow/Widowers Group 6:30 pm W.O.W. Bible Study (Lutheran Basics)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:00 pm Lords' Lambs' Giveaway</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6:00 pm SPLS Spring Concert</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:30 pm W.O.W. Bible Study (Lutheran Basics)</p>	<p><b>25</b> 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 am Act Like Men Event 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Strategic Ministry Meeting 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:30 am MS &amp; HS Bowling</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>				

# DISCOVER OUR WHY

St. Paul's is your church.

Tell us why.

All ages are encouraged to participate.



St. Paul's

Please join us as we share our personal stories with each other and discover why we are proud to be members of St. Paul's, and how we can impact future generations.

**DATE:** Sunday, April 28

**TIME:** 9:15–10:15 a.m.  
(Bible study hour)

**PLACE:** Gymnasium

Coffee and refreshments will be served.



# stewardship

## ***Whose Is It Anyway?***

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “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” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Deb Engel**

April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Richard Fredrick**

**Delores Schultz**

April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Gary Feldschneider**

April 11<sup>th</sup>

**Chris Dobratz**

April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Jim Steinberg**

April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Jim Arndt**

April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Grace Olson**

April 18<sup>th</sup>

**Albert Falstad**

**Kenneth Runyard**

April 19<sup>th</sup>

**Ruth Kern**

April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Butch Gartzke**

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Dale Jaeger**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Virginia Meintz**

April 26<sup>th</sup>

**Arthur Schuck**

April 29<sup>th</sup>

**Pat Menden**

April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Lorna Gartzke**

**Chet Seffrood**

*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 Worship 5:00 pm

Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Bible Class 9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 567.5001 x213

Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM

& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)

Live-streamed at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

\*\*\*\*\*

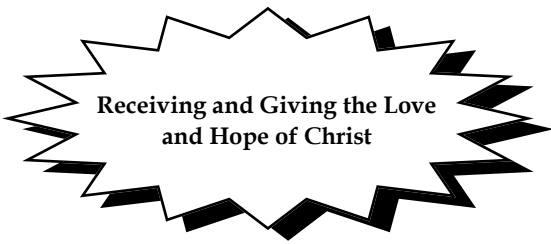
Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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

PRSTD STD  
NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. postage  
**PAID**  
Oconomowoc, WI  
Permit No. 45

Phone: 262-567-5001  
Website: www.splco.org



# REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



\*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

**April 21**  
**Rich and Me:**  
**A Pastor-Parishioner Friendship**  
Presenter: Dave Juhl

First time guests  
get a free  
beer or soda on us!

5:00-7:00 pm  
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D

