

AUGUST EPISTLE

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

AUGUST 2024



Praises

Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music

Last month I had the privilege of attending the LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music at Concordia University, Nebraska. This triennial conference provides an opportunity for learning and fellowship for church musicians, pastors, and lay leaders from around the country.

I had a wonderful experience there. I was able to spend time with friends I haven't seen in years, and learn from and worship with hundreds of other musicians.

This year the conference was especially focused on the Psalms. Throughout the week we experienced different ways of singing the Psalms, gathered resources to take back to our congregations, and learned more about the entire book of Psalms and how to use the Psalms in our daily lives.

In Hebrew, the book of Psalms is titled "Praises." Despite the simple title, the book contains much more than praise. In this book we find thanksgiving, prayers for trust, confessions of sin, and bitter laments. As one conference speaker said, the Psalms are God's Word that is given to us, but they are also man's words given in the midst of real life. The Psalmist pours out his soul before God, both the highs and the lows.

And yet, even when the Psalmist is in the midst of deep earthly struggles, he always looks to God as the way out. In Psalm 42 he says "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my song" (Psalm 42:5). Even in Psalms of praise, the writer focuses on God's salvation and deliverance as the foundation of our praise and thanksgiving. "I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me" (Psalm 30:1-2).

This is the foundation of our joy. We don't need to deny the challenges we experience or put on fake smiles. We lament our earthly trials, and can praise God, knowing that the ultimate victory has already been won. As we focus this year on our "Unshakeable Joy in Christ," I pray that we will keep our focus on the One who makes joy possible in the midst of this earthly life.

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God." (Psalm 62:5-7)

In Christ,

Allison Mackie



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Unshakeable Joy in Christ

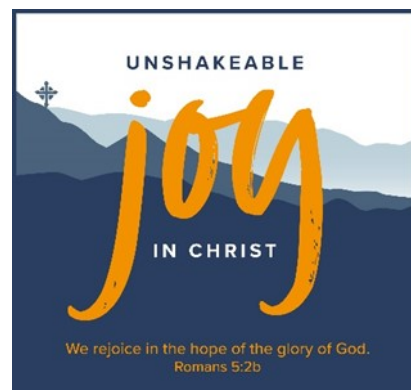
2024-2025 Church & School Theme

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:1-5, ESV)*

Greetings in Christ,

For well over a decade, St. Paul's Luther Church, School, and Early Childhood Center has operated with a unified church and school theme. We commence the new theme each year with the beginning of school. Having a unified theme focuses us, and enables us to explore facets that tend to deepen learning and faith.

This year we will explore the theme, "Unshakeable Joy in Christ" with Romans 5.2b as the focus verse: "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." The larger section of Romans that will focus our teaching is quoted above, Romans 5.1-5, and provides some of the background for why this theme was chosen. Christ—by grace—has forgiven us and set us free. Therefore, we have joy, even as we endure the difficulties The LORD allows.



Notice how the '24-'25 theme logo places joy right in the center and connects that—via color correspondence—with the Romans passage. The background suggests a difficult journey, but a journey that has a purpose and a conclusion, represented by St. Paul's logo cross. May The LORD bless our reflection upon the myriad facets of "Unshakeable joy in Christ" this year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Commemoration of Joseph of Arimathea
31 July, A.D. 2024



South Wisconsin District LWML

2024-2026 Mission Grants

1. Orphan Grain Train-Wisconsin Branch	\$15,000
2. LCFS of WI Child Therapy Expansion	\$25,000
3. SWD Church Worker Grant	\$30,000
4. Lutheran Charities Comfort Dogs-WI	\$21,000
5. Teaching God's Children w/Special Needs: Journey School	\$50,000
6. Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church Restoration	\$25,000
7. CTSFW, Ft. Wayne, IN, Food Co-op	\$15,000
8. Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships	\$548.28 (partial)
TOTAL, District Grants (75% of goal)	\$181,548.28
National Grants portion (25%)	<u>\$ 55,000</u>
TOTAL MITE GOAL for 2024-2026	\$236,548.28

These are the new Mission Grants voted on at the SWD LWML Convention in June by the 182 voting delegates. Grant #1 has already been PAID in Full. Keep feeding your Mite Boxes this summer so that we can continue to fund the remaining grants.

Newly elected officers are District President, Cinda Poppe (2 yr. term), VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants, Judy Gitzlaff, VP of Communication, Kay Nett, Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Kaun, Treasurer, Janis Mattson and Jr. Counselor, Rev. Jesse Davis.

Mark your calendars for the SWD LWML Fall Retreat September 27-28 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fond du Lac. The theme is **Treasured**. The LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession. (Deuteronomy 14:2) The registration deadline is September 12, 2024. Forms are available online or on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Scholarships are available for anyone who needs assistance with the cost.

Presenters + Pastoral Counselor—Pastor Polzin
 + Cinda Poppe—LWML SWD President
 + Michelle Prince

Gifts from the Heart will benefit Hope LC Food Pantry and Charis Pregnancy Counseling. List of items needed is located on the bin in the Fellowship Hall.

Offering recipient – 75% to Journey's Lutheran School & 25% to Female Church Worker Scholarship Fund

Servant Event- Lap blankets for Lutheran Home residents in Liturgical Colors
 Information at: www.lwml-swd.org

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 3rd, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we begin another year of Serving the Lord with Gladness!



stewardship

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 2:00 pm Fallenn O'Donnell Voice Recital</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm CLT Meeting 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>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 Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p>	<p>11:00 am Caring Through Sharing Group 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>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 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:00 pm Heather Gartzke/ Daniel Murrδικ Rehearsal</p>	<p>7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>6:30 pm Lakeside Worship</p>	<p>1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>2:00 pm Heather Gartzke/ Daniel Murrδικ Wedding 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>		



Garden Abundance and Lord's Cupboard

Donations of your surplus garden vegetables will be welcomed by our LC guests when they are ready! Please drop off any of your extra vegetables in the kitchen for our distribution days and mark them for the Lord's Cupboard. Upcoming dates: 8/5, 8/26. Thank you for your prayers for the families that we serve and for our dedicated volunteers.

Voice Recital on Sunday, August 4th

Failenn O'Donnell will be having a voice recital on August 4th, at 2pm, in the sanctuary. A freewill offering will be available to help fund her studies in Europe this year. Failenn will be accompanied by Diane Bleke. All are welcome to come!



School Supplies for Lord's Cupboard Guests

We would like to help the families that come to Lord's Cupboard and have school supplies available for their kids. We are requesting monetary donations and/or gift cards (\$10-\$25 increments) to Dollar Tree or Walmart. If you prefer to purchase the actual supplies, please drop them off prior to Monday, August 5th. A list of items to purchase is on the Lord's Cupboard bulletin board across from the elevator, outside of the Fellowship Hall which is also where the school supplies purchased can be put. You can make a monetary donation to Lord's Cupboard online <https://splco.org>. Scroll down to "Lord's Cupboard" or put a check (purchased gift cards also) in an envelope marked Lord's Cupboard and put it in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office. Thanks so much, it will be very appreciated!



Ladies Aid

Wow! It's August already and September is just around the corner. That means the Ladies Aid Board is busy making plans for another year of fun, food and fellowship. Ladies Aid meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm from September through June (except for January). Stay tuned for what we have planned and mark your September calendar for our first meeting on the 5th. We highly encourage you to bring a friend from church to join us for all we have in the works for another fun-filled year!

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer to another LCMS church

- Alayna DeWitz – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland WI
- Brett Ewald, Kieran, Keira and Klaire – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI
- Pastor Adam & Nicole Tanney, Etta, Sloane & Milo – Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Dundee, IL
- Lydia DeWitz – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grafton, WI

Transferred from another LCMS Congregation

- Albert & Darlene Baumgart – Elm Grove Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, WI

Received by Profession of Faith

Alec Heffern

Baptized 1988 Confirmed 1205

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Baumgart
Suzanne Hirt
 August 1st

Sandy Bollinger
 August 3rd

Shirley Smart
 August 5th

Sue Baganz
Marilyn Runyard
 August 6th

Cheryl Christiansen
 August 8th

Lucille Campbell
 August 11th

Gary Pribnow
 August 27th

Donald Groose
 August 31st

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Nancy Meyer	\$50.00
Dale Lenius	\$25.00
Robert Arndt	\$50.00
Bernia Kuntz	\$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

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

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
 Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
 & www.wtkm.com
 Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
 Director Christine Flores 567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

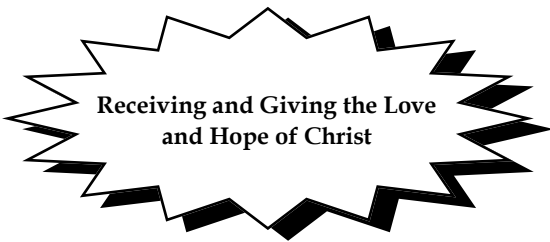
Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
 2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
 ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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RESTART
END OF SUMMER PARTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
5:00-7:00 PM

- ✓ INFLATABLES
- ✓ NACHO BAR
- ✓ GAMES (9 SQUARE, GAGA)
- ✓ SERVICE PROJECT
- ✓ DISTRICT-WIDE EVENT

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
BROOKFIELD, WI

Join us on Sunday, August 11th, from 5-7pm at Immanuel Lutheran, Brookfield, WI for Restart!

- † Cost: FREE!
 - † Who: ALL 6th-12th Graders of the LCMS South Wisconsin District
 - † Registration: Closes: August 5
- Link: bit.ly/register-restart24 (type in address bar)