



MAY EPISTLE

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

MAY 2024



National Lutheran School Accreditation

Jill George, Principal

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) serves as the accrediting body for Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod schools across the United States and the world. NLSA has been accrediting schools in the LCMS since 1987, and accreditation decisions have always been based upon a school's compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools that reflect the essential qualities that are expected of Lutheran schools.

The purpose of an NLSA self-study is to evaluate the actual conditions in place that are related to essential indicators of school quality. These are evaluated and measured in seven specific standard areas. To become accredited in good standing with NLSA, a school must comply fully with 30 required indicators of success. Additionally, the school must evaluate itself using a variety of general indicators that quantify how it complies with standards in each accreditation area. Ratings are established by the school based upon evidence and practices that are in place at the time of the self-study. Ratings allow a school to identify and celebrate unique strengths and address concerns that need corrective actions.

Upon conclusion of the self-study, an NLSA visiting team validates that the information prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual conditions present at the school. In a formal, two-day visit, the team examines the evidence, interviews school stakeholders, visits classrooms and observes overall school practices. If the evidence presented does not sufficiently support a school rating, the visiting team has the authority to change the school's rating in its report.

St. Paul's Lutheran School is giving thanks to God for his provision as we completed our most recent accreditation process on April 12, 2024. By His grace we scored a 2.98 (3.0 is considered an A) and were recognized for these outstanding strengths:

- The entire St. Paul's community works hard to share Jesus in all facets of the organization - Christ in All Things.
- Excellent relationships are nurtured among children and families by all leaders, teachers, board members, and Pastors.
- Strong organizational leadership: The principal, pastors, and board members are outstanding leaders working in synergy for the benefit of St. Paul's and the community.
- Dedicated teachers who exude the love of Christ, provide high quality lessons, and serve the greater good of the St. Paul's community.

Additionally, NLSA recognizes schools which demonstrate innovative leadership through the implementation of best practices related to the academic quality and spiritual development of its students. Our Accreditation team is nominating St. Paul's to the national office in St. Louis for two unique practices that should be shared with all LCMS schools in the nation:

- Staff Retreat - annual three-day retreat held every August before school starts
- Student Christian Character Development - the school's intentional practices designed to drive a faith-filled positive school culture.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the accreditation process that ranged from filling out online surveys, meeting with the team, and supporting the school through prayer. We give thanks to God for you!



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Two Major Recognitions

"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,

St. Paul's congregation received two major recognitions in the last month or so, one that has been mentioned publicly, and one that has not.

A. "Powerful Practices" in National Lutheran School Accreditation

Most recently, St. Paul's Lutheran School received a plenary accreditation from the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA). School accreditation is "based upon a school's compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools that reflect the essential qualities that are expected of Lutheran schools." We made a significant jump from our accreditation five years ago, and—as further evidence of significant progress—two of St. Paul's practices are being recommended for national "powerful practices" in every Lutheran school. Four areas of "outstanding strength" were also noted. Please see Mrs. George's report in this *Epistle* for more detail about the accreditation report and its importance.

It is well-worth noting—as the development of Christian character was one of our "powerful practices"—that one of our 8th grade girls, Lilly Menzel, received the Sportsmanship Medal at the recent Lutheran Basketball Association of America "Tournament of Champions." (By the way, our girls took 3rd place nationally, and another team member, Eden Mueller, was named to the All-Tournament Team.) So, when you see Mrs. George, Mr. Mueller, or any of the teachers on staff or coaches on the team, please give them your hearty congratulations.

B. Rev. Jason Schockman Named a *Doxology* "Collegium Fellow"

Not so public (until now ☺) was Rev. Jason Schockman's selection as a "Collegium Fellow" by *Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel*. This is a very big deal for Pastor Schockman, and for us at St. Paul's. First, a bit about *Doxology*. *Doxology* is program of advanced training in the classical model of pastoral care. In the classic *Doxology* program, the pastor receives training, along with key lay leaders in the congregation he serves. Most participants testify with Rev. Dave Juhl, who said at his recent Reformation Tap Society presentation, that "*Doxology* changed my life." *Doxology* changes the lives of pastors and parishioners because it helps pastors and congregations recover the Biblical essence of the pastor's work. The pastoral office is essentially about the *care of souls*, not marketing or

(continued →)

business administration. That is, of course, *not* to say that a pastor should not be involved in the latter at all. *Soul care*, not the business-aspect of the congregation, is the pastor's primary task. *Doxology* helps pastors and congregations retain their focus on the *essentials*.

For those of you not familiar with *Doxology*, and to give you an idea of how deeply the classical model of pastoral care is resonating throughout the denominational spectrum, *Doxology* co-founder, Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil's 2019 book, *The Care of Souls*, won the 2019 Gospel Coalition "Ministry Book of the Year" award, and the 2020 Evangelical Christian Publishing Association "Christian Book Award for Ministry Resources" and the 2020 Christianity Today book award for "Church/Pastoral Leadership." *The Care of Souls* is a gold mine, summarizing in book form what the *Doxology* program does in-person. Part of what is remarkable about the awards for *The Care of Souls* is that the book is thoroughly and winsomely "confessional Lutheran" in content. There is no diminishing of doctrinal distinctives; rather, there is justification by grace through faith at the very center, there is the exaltation of the high view of Scripture, of Baptism and The Lord's Supper as means of God's grace, of the benefits of confession and absolution in the context of faithful pastoral care, historic worship forms and hymnody, and of God's call to a holy life. At a time when the predominant protestant model for the pastor is as charismatic CEO and for worship and doctrine to be more emotion-driven and least-common-denominator, *Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel* takes its Lutheran doctrine seriously, and it is at the forefront of a movement to restore the classical model of pastoral care and practice in Christian congregations.

The pastoral office is essentially about the care of souls, not marketing or business administration.

As a *Doxology* "Collegium Fellow," Pastor Schockman's duties are threefold: 1) serve as an advisor to *Doxology's* Executive Directors; 2) engage in research and writing to expand the body of literature in the area of the care of souls; and 3) meet together once a year for three days for the annual Collegium Retreat.

My pastoral colleague, *Doxology* Executive Director for Pastoral Care, Rev. David Fleming, noted upon Pastor Schockman's appointment as a Collegium Fellow, that it is both a recognition of his special capacity and aptitude for excellence in pastoral work *and* of St. Paul's commitment to remain true to the confessional Lutheran teaching and practice in the *Book of Concord*.

My pastoral colleague, *Doxology* Executive Director for Pastoral Care, Rev. David Fleming, noted upon Pastor Schockman's appointment as a Collegium Fellow, that it is both a recognition of his special capacity and aptitude for excellence in pastoral work *and* of St. Paul's commitment to remain true to the confessional Lutheran teaching and practice in the *Book of Concord*.

Pastor Schockman's service to the broader church as a *Doxology* "Collegium Fellow" is a great opportunity for him to further develop his considerable pastoral gifts. Our support of *Doxology*, and of Pastor Schockman's service therefore, will also be a great opportunity for St. Paul's to learn from—and connect to—a widely-recognized and awarded organization that is dedicated to the classical model of pastoral care and the confessional Lutheran theology and practice that undergirds it.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Thursday of Easter 4
25 April, A.D. 2024



The Ascension of Our Lord

May 9, 2024

CIRCUIT ASCENSION SERVICE CHOIR!

Open to all
confirmation
age and up

Rehearsal

May 2 at 6:30 p.m.
in St. Paul's balcony

This year, the circuit's Ascension Day Dinner and Service will be held at St. Paul's. Offerings will support A Place of Refuge and the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission.

Dinner: 5–6:15 p.m.

Featuring a tailgate meal of brats, salads, chips, coffee and sodas

Divine Service: 6:30 p.m.

Preacher/Celebrant: Rev. Lance O'Donnell
Lector: Rev. Dean Zemple
Liturgist: Rev. Jason Schockman

▶▶▶ **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**
210 E. Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
www.splco.org

Ladies Aid

May is fast approaching and that means the flowers of Spring are just around the corner. Ladies Aid will be celebrating those spring flowers during the month of May. Join us for our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 2nd, at 5:30 pm. To get our spring celebration started each of us will be making a special craft project that evening.

And don't forget we will continue our Spring celebration with the Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet on Tuesday, May 14th. If you haven't already purchased your tickets for this wonderful event, you can purchase them at our May meeting on the 2nd.

So please plan on joining us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship.....and why not bring a friend too!



MARCH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Confirmed

Isaiah Marvin Trump
Elijah Thomas Trump
Josiah Michael Trump

Transferred to another LCMS Church

John & Celeste Abel, Serena, Samantha – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI
Michael Gartzke – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Baptized 2003 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.

Information about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: splyouth.group@splco.org
- Instagram: splyouthocon

May Event

† May 19th MS & HS Bowling—11:30-4pm & *Higher Things* Meeting at 7pm

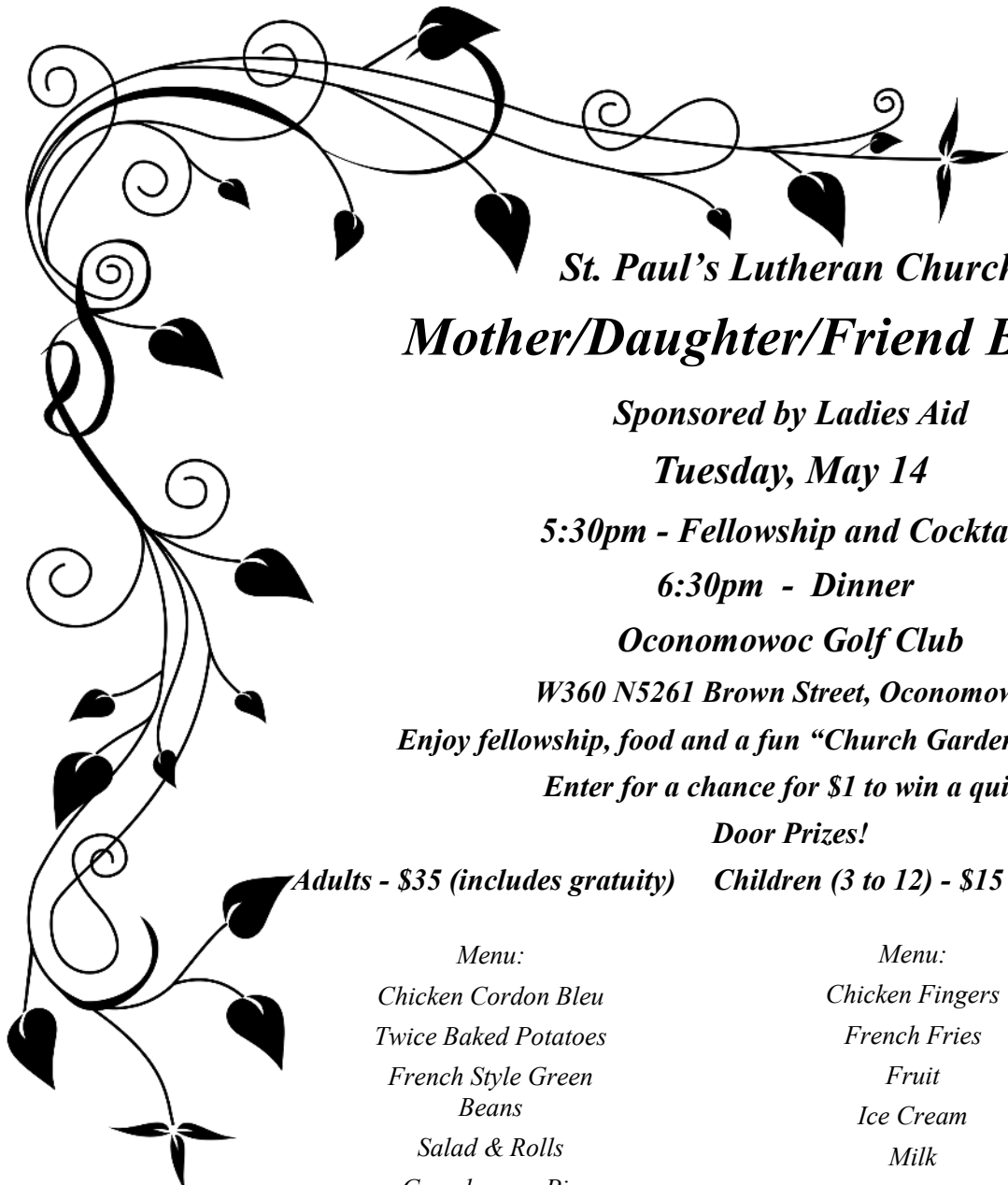


Looking for livestream volunteers

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.

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				2 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	3	4 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
5 8:00 am Divine Worship (Confirmation) 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Reception 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	6 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	7 6:00 pm LWML	8 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	9 5:00 pm Circuit Ascension Dinner 6:30 pm Circuit Ascension Worship 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	10	11 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
12 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	13 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs' Giveaway	14 5:30 pm Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	15 11:00 am Caring Through Sharing Group 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	16 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	17	18 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 9:00 am Security Training 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
19 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 (Higher Things)	20 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	21	22 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	23 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	24 NO SCHOOL	25 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
26 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	27 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	28	29	30 6:00 pm SPLS Graduation 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	31 1:00 pm Delaney Weissenborn/Alec Heffern Rehearsal	



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



Bring Hard Candy

Flavors: Root Beer,

Peppermint, Lemon

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)



stewardship

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 7th
Judy Stock

May 10th
Phil Herrmann

May 14th
Al Mueller

May 17th
Gerald Prockl

May 18th
Russ Meyer
Dick Paul

May 19th
Roxie Gerlach
Anne Lindquist

May 20th
Jean Anderson
Julayne Sullivan

May 22nd
Dutch Holland

May 26th
Tony Brockway
Karen Meyer

May 27th
Dorothy Duchow

May 30th
Donna Andrus

May 31st
Marian Faltersack

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Dennis Loppnow

\$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 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

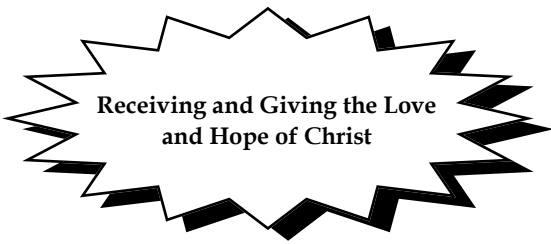
Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

May 19
Ask the Pastor
Presenter: Panel of Pastors

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

5:00-7:00 pm
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D

