



SEPTEMBER EPISTLE



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

SEPTEMBER 2024



Notes from Pastor's Study

Rev. Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor

Eph 6:10-13 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand firm.

As a new school year begins and daily life here at St. Paul's bustles with the joyful noise of these *Warriors*, this text is a fitting reminder for us all. We have the strength to stand in the challenges of each new day in Christ. And let's be honest, we are all wrestling with challenges.

What are yours? Students might be challenged to get out of the "summer sleep schedule". There are new classmates to get to know. New teachers and textbooks. Parents, are you still wrestling with schedule changes as the kids' activities ramp up? Continued education for your vocation that isn't going as planned?

Are you wrestling with something a little more serious? A recent or chronic medical diagnosis? An ongoing struggle with your mental health? Financial solvency after major expense? Unexpected employment shift? An addiction that drives you toward what you know you shouldn't do? The guilt of continually finding yourself falling into the same temptation? The shame that weighs on you because of the sin of those close to you? Perhaps what you wrestle with doesn't seem to be a very big deal at all, especially in comparison to what you know others are dealing with. Nevertheless, we are all wrestling with some challenge. IN FACT, we all have the same wrestling match, and it's a spiritual battle at the core.

In **Ephesians 6:18** we are reminded to "**keep alert at all times, making supplication for all the saints...**". What Paul lays out for us in **verses 14-16** are the gifts that God has given us by His Spirit in Christ. Truth. Righteousness. The gospel of peace. Faith. Salvation. And finally, the WORD OF GOD which calls us to pray for all the saints. Also, for those who speak the Gospel, that the good news of the *unshakeable joy in Christ* would be rightly shared.

That's what your pastors are called to do. We are physicians of the soul. Pastors are called to stand beside you in the midst of the spiritual battle and help you see it for what it is. A wrestling in which you can stand firm, because Christ has defeated the old evil foe. His flesh and blood, crucified and risen, ascended and returning, given and shed FOR YOU in the supper are the manifest **strength of His might**. Through the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, the schemes of the devil are frustrating and you are able to stand against them. Notice I didn't say fight...but stand.

So when you're wrestling, with whatever it is you face, remember there's a spiritual component to it, and you have doctors who can help with physical concerns, therapists with mental health, financial planners can help manage funds. Your pastors are here for the daily spiritual battle, pointing you to Christ...and the door is open.



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

The Hope Upon Which We Stand

"Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice upon the hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:2)

Greetings in Christ,

As I write this St. Paul's campus is a flurry of activity: the ECC has a cleaning day in preparation for the new school year, faculty are setting up their classrooms in-between home visits, furniture is being ordered to accommodate increased enrollment, computers are being formatted, the building is being decorated, etc., etc.

As we have chosen *Unshakeable Joy in Christ* as our 2024-2025 Church and School theme, I thought I'd share a revision of the opening devotion I wrote for our recent retreat:

Our 8th grade graduates tend to note the annual South Dakota trip as the highlight of their time at St. Paul's school. Interestingly, they often mark the bus time among their favorites . . . and while that may be *fun* I think that I regard the hike up Black Elk Peak as the most *important* part of the trip.

When I was a chaperone, I enjoyed seeing the kids' ultra-competitive and athletic 8th grade teacher, Ben Mueller, march ahead—often *race* ahead—with the group of kids that always had to go as fast as they could. By default, and at least to some degree by physical limitation, I often ended up with the stragglers. I consider myself at least a *former* athlete, but though my physical abilities are diminished, let me tell you, helping convince some students that they could make it up to the top of that mountain is—in retrospect—one of my greatest achievements as a teacher of children. At 7,244 feet, Black Elk Peak is the highest summit in the United States east of the Rockies. The hike is physically, emotionally, and spiritually challenging. With some students the calls to turn back are frequent; their unbelief persistent. But something amazing happens on that journey. Between the pressure of recognizing that everyone else before them had made the journey and the wonder and marvel of the views, the difficulty, and the opportunity, with the help of some chaperones, they make it. I remember thinking with a couple students, in particular, that if we made it up that mountain it would likely be the greatest physical achievement of their lives.

When the straggler kids like those make it up the mountain, when they do something that they were convinced they could not do, they don't come just *to* the top of mountain. In their exhaustion and relief and wonder they stand *upon* that mountain.



In Romans 5:2 St. Paul writes, "Through him [i.e., through Christ] we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:2, ESV) But there's a subtlety here that even the King James Version misses. In New Testament Greek there's the preposition *en* which is typically and rightly translated in English as "in," but in Romans 5:2 the Greek preposition is not *en* but *epi*, which is typically and rightly translated as "upon." Consider the difference, and the implications: ". . . and we rejoice" not just "in" but "UPON the hope of the glory of God."

"The hope of the glory of God" is the body-and-soul resurrection of The Lord, Jesus Christ. That resurrection is the rock upon which we stand, the cornerstone upon which we build. And we—according to God's Word—are united to Christ's death and resurrection in our baptism. What a gift! Though the journey with Him is hard—often harder than we could ever have imagined—by grace, we stand upon the rock of Christ's resurrection; thus, "we rejoice UPON the hope of the glory of God."

This year the 8th grade South Dakota trip begins on Friday night, September 13th. Please join me in praying for all those involved, that their journey in Christ is enriching, memorable, and safe.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Commemoration of Isaac
16 August, A.D. 2024



Colossians 1:15-20

Ladies Aid

Oh, my goodness, it's almost here! What is almost here, you might ask? A new year of Ladies Aid is approaching, that's what! Mark your calendars for September 5th, when Ladies Aid meets to kick off another year of fun, food, and fellowship. Please join us at 5:30 pm on the 5th to hear all about what we have planned for you this year. Oh, and by the way, we'd love it if you brought a friend to join us!

Get ready to have some fun at the Kids Zone **Saturday, September 7th**, in our parking lot.

Volunteer shifts are about two hours long (but you're welcome to sign up for more than one).

Set up Shifts start at 8:30 am. The Kids Zone closes at 4 (cleaned up by 4:30).

In this fun event we get to interact with our community, where we can give what we have first received, the love and hope of Christ.

Thank you for participating as we engage our community right where we are.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CACA72EA6FEC16-50826352-fall#/>

DOWNTOWN
OCONOMOWOC
BUSINESS DISTRICT

13TH ANNUAL
**FALL
FEST**
SEPTEMBER 7TH



You're Invited!

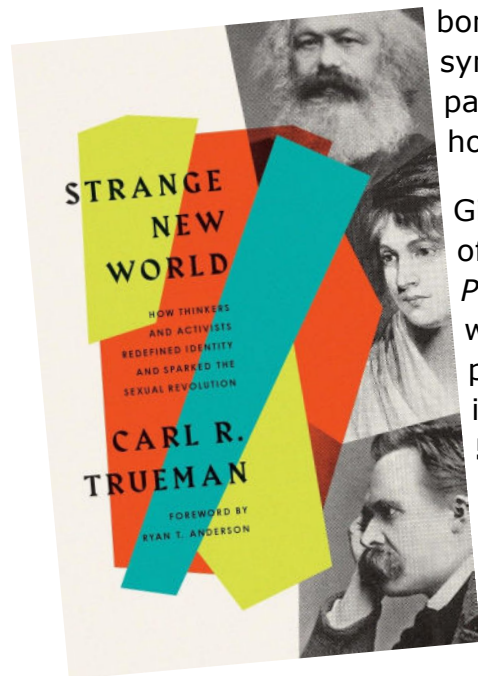
Parent Partnership Workshops

Open to St. Paul's and public-school parents, and all who are interested

St. Paul's '24-'25 Church and school theme explores many facets of grit and endurance under the theme, "Unshakeable Joy in Christ." The theme verse is Roman 5.2b: ". . . We rejoice in hope of the glory of God," and our theme hymn is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

As part of the exploration under this theme, many St. Paul's leaders will be reading Carl Trueman's *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*.

Trueman's book help us understand why we moderns think as we do, but Trueman is not a bombastic, conservative jerk. His work represents a sympathetic reading of the source material and a faithful pastoral perspective that helps Christians live faithfully and hopefully.



Given the value that this study represents, Pastor O'Donnell is offering an opportunity for parents and others to a series of *Parent Partnership Workshops* that will occur on many Sundays when the middle school youth group meets. This will give parents the opportunity to join the study while the youth group is meeting. The **first class is Sunday, September 29th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall** (ground floor, below the sanctuary).

Participants will want to buy *Strange New World* (\$10.37 from Amazon) and its accompanying study guide (\$8.99 from Amazon).

Want to better understand why your children and young people think the way they do? Want to live more faithfully, sympathetically, and hopefully in Christ?

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptisms

- Adelaide Rae, daughter of Jeff & Kelsey (Lindholm) Smukowski
- Tatum Douglas, son of Patrick & Rachel (Wytttenbach) Salter
- Patrick James III, son of Patrick & Rachel (Wytttenbach) Salter
- Emerson Rose Hildebrandt, daughter of Alexander Hildebrandt & Star Edwards
- Calvin Thomas Hildebrandt, son of Theodore Hildebrandt & Allison Ballweg

Transferred from another LCMS congregation

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

Baptized 1993 Confirmed 1205

Thank
you



Thank you for joining us at the Unshakeable Joy in Christ 159th Anniversary Celebration at Okauchee Lions Park on July 28, 2024. We praise God for the beautiful weather and the chance to share in fellowship with the incredible turnout of St. Paul's Lutheran Church family and friends. We appreciate your attendance and participation in the games and silent auction. To God be the glory!

Thank you to our Sponsors:

Champion: Anonymous - Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Supporter: The Ticali Family

Boosters: Kirk and Tricia Burlage, Chuck and Jan Muecke, St. Paul's Journeymen

Partners: Bob Bratz, Gemma Kitzman

Silent Auction Donors:

Jeff & Stephanie Atwood

Kirk & Tricia Burlage

Big 5 Tanzania (Paula & Chet Seffrood)

Caring Through Sharing

Eberts' Greenhouse Village

Jamie & Jill George

Brett & Kerri Helwig

Ladies Aid

John & Sue Lindemann

Lord's Cupboard

LWML

Elaine Mason

Modern Bloom

Duane & Sharon Peterson

St. Paul's Lutheran School Lunch Program

Joel & Cheryl Tesch

Vicky Tudor

Vino Etc.

Women of Joy

Board of Elders

Board of Operations

Board of Education

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	2 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	3 6:00 pm LWML	4 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	5 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice	6	7 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 9:00 am Kids Zone 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	9 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	10 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	11 11:00 am Caring Through Sharing Group 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	12 6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice	13	14 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
15 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	16 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	17	18 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	19 6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice	20 5:00 pm Cassandra Nelson/ Gabriel Easley Rehearsal	21 7:30 am Journeymen 1:00 pm Cassandra Nelson/Gabriel Easley Wedding 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
22 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 12:00 pm Youth Group Kick-Off	23 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	24 8:00 am LWML Zone Mtg.	25 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	26 6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice	27	28 8:00 am Act Like Men II 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
29 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:30 pm MS Youth Group 5:30 pm PPW Bible Study (pg 4) 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	30					

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Harlan Uttech
September 4th

Dorcas McMillan
September 5th

Carole Schmeda
September 6th

Richard Schultz
September 9th

Judy Mueller
September 10th

Mimi Gebel
September 11th

Bill Scheuer
September 12th

Bob Bratz Sr.
September 13th

Kathryn Wickersham
September 17th

Diana Radtke
September 18th

Audrey Martens
Joyce Simaras
September 22nd

Don Meyer
September 25th

Keith Pagenkopf
September 26th

Mary Buss
Richard Engel
September 28th

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

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

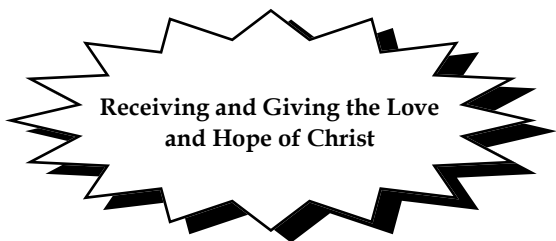
Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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Journeyman ACT LIKE MEN II Saturday, September 28th 8:00am to 10:00am

Act Like Men is a multigenerational event for Men and Boys, ages 5th grade and up. It's a time for men to:

- Study God's Word on what Christlike Masculinity is and how Men should live out that example
- Food Catered by 4 Men and a Grill
 - Menu: Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Sausage, French Toast, and more!
- Learn life skills
- Have some fun!



COST - Free-Will Offering to help offset costs of event

To sign up please click on the QR Code or contact Dave Meyer at dm202124@gmail.com or 920-279-5860.