



# OCTOBER EPISTLE

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

OCTOBER 2024



## From the Principal

*Jill George*

### **Romans 5:1-5**

*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.*

All families go through hard things. No one escapes the challenges, disappointments, and tragedies that our sinful world dishes out. My family is no different. On August 18, 2000, my oldest sister and best friend, JoEllen, died unexpectedly at 49 years old. I don't think too many people would have blamed me if I had become bitter and angry with God as many people do when faced with a similar situation. However, I didn't get angry. Instead I was filled with a sense of hope and peace.

In Romans 5, the Apostle Paul spells out the benefits of being justified by faith through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. He explains that we have peace because we know that the grace we enjoy has come at a price that has been paid in full - Christ's death on the cross and his triumphant resurrection over death.

Through that peace we also now have hope. But, what is hope? Hope is the certain belief and expectation that a thing promised will happen. As Christians, "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*" (Hebrew 6:19) because God has promised us that *He has a plan for us* Jeremiah 29:11; *He is preparing a place for us* John 14:3; and *we are to be anxious about nothing.* (Philippians 4:6)

I first read this Romans passage in the hospital 24 years ago. It has been my go-to verse all these years since. This year St. Paul's has adopted Romans 5:2b "*and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*" as our focus theme. We know that the devil will try to use this against us by throwing lots of temptations and challenges our way to put God's Word and our faithfulness to it to the test. However, our hope is strong and "*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Romans 8:31)



## Dispatches from The Office

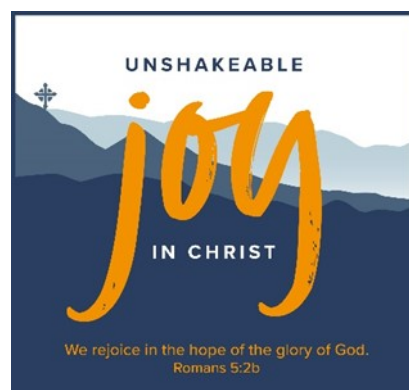
Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

# *Psalms Teach us How to Pray*

*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4, ESV)*

Greetings in Christ,

"The Spirit," St. Paul writes in Romans 8, ". . . helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:26, ESV) I have found in this verse an excuse not to pray, but we all know there's no such excuse, right? Since Jesus taught us to pray, beginning with calling God "Our Father," we know that "with these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask him as dear children ask their dear father." (Luther's *Small Catechism*)



Since God is our true Father we may pray to him with boldness and confidence.

Yet often we *don't*. We don't pray, or we don't pray with boldness and confidence. You might ask something like, "Pastor, how do I pray with boldness and confidence when everything in me feels gloomy? Somehow the 'groanings too deep for words' just seems to deepen my gloom. How do I get out of this?"

May I suggest . . . the *psalms*? The psalms express the whole range of human emotion, and when you consider that the psalms—as with all the Old Testament—are fulfilled in Christ, that adds additional depth—and a fundamental *hope*—to praying the psalms. Consider, for example, Psalm 77. The psalmist asks:

*"Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah" (Psalm 77:7-9, ESV)*

I'll bet that sounds familiar to a lot of you, particularly those with a few decades in Christ under your belt. Notice, then, how the psalm turns in verse 10:

*"Then I said, 'I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.' I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah"* (Psalm 77:10–15, ESV)

By learning to pray the psalms you are given words by which to lament. You are given permission to question God, to wonder . . . and you are called to root your dismay in the certain hope of redemption.

There are psalms of individual and community lament, of individual and community praise. There are psalms of bewildered anger asking God for vengeance on enemies (a.k.a. "imprecatory" psalms). There are wisdom psalms and royal psalms and liturgical psalms. Beginning on p. 839 in *The Lutheran Study Bible* there is a helpful explanation of the psalms, an explanation of names, a glossary of key terms, an outline, and a table of psalms for daily prayer. The section concludes with the following "categories of the psalms" list:

1. **Wisdom psalms:** 1, 19:8–14, 34, 37, 49, 73, 78, 111, 112, 119, 127, 128, 133, and 139
2. **Messianic/Royal psalms:** 2, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144, and enthronement psalms: 47, 93, and 96–99
3. **Individual Laments:** 3–7, 10–14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25–28, 31, 35, 36, 38–43, 51–59, 61–64, 69, 71, 73, 86, 88, 102, 109, and 130
4. **Community Laments:** 44, 60, 74, 77, 79, 80, 83, 85, 89, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129, and 137
5. **Imprecatory psalms:** 35, 69, 79, and 109
6. **Individual psalms of praise:** 9, 18, 30–32, 40, 66, 92, 116, and 138
7. **Psalms of trust:** 23, 27, 62, 63, 71, and 131
8. **Community psalms of praise:** 106, 124, and 129
9. **Hymns/psalms of descriptive praise:** 8, 19, 29, 33, 57, 65, 66, 89, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 117, 134–136, 139, and 145–150
10. **Psalms of creation:** 8, 19, 104, and 139
11. **Psalms of Zion:** 46, 48, 76, 84, and 87
12. **Liturgical psalms:** 24, 66, 107, 118, 121, 122. Ps 120–134 are Songs of Ascent to the temple for Feast of Weeks. The Hallel psalms (113–118) were sung at the Passover meal and at other major festivals.

If you're struggling to give voice to your thoughts and feelings, the psalms are a great—and faithful—help.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell  
Tuesday of Pentecost 18  
24 September, A.D. 2024

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Edward A. Engelbrecht, [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009), 846.

## Lord's Cupboard and Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know that being a Thrivent client gives you an easy way to give back to your community? You can do this through a Thrivent Action Team project.

[www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams](http://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams)



Lord's Cupboard has some opportunities coming up that you can give back through the Thrivent Action Team program:

- + \$250 for gifts for Shorehaven residents
- + \$250 for senior apt holiday food bags
- + \$250 to sponsor 4 families for Christmas Caring Tree
- + \$250 to buy vegetables for Thanksgiving Food Bag and Christmas Food Bag
- + \$250 to buy fruits for Thanksgiving Food Bag and Christmas Food Bag

Please know that all contributions that we receive throughout the year goes directly to the people that we serve!

If you have questions, you can contact Heather in the church office (262.567.5001 or [heather@splco.org](mailto:heather@splco.org)) or Mary ([mary@splco.org](mailto:mary@splco.org)).

Thank you so much for your continued support for the Lord's Cupboard food pantry and free meal as we are so blessed to be able to help our neighbors in our community through your generosity!

### Ladies Aid

Ladies, aren't babies so cute? Don't you just love to "ooh" and "aah" over them? Come to the next Ladies Aid meeting on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30pm, and you'll get a chance to "ooh" and "aah" over lots of babies, well, pictures of babies actually. We'll have a recognition contest of famous celebrity baby pictures as well as good food and lots of fellowship. Make sure you bring along a baby/toddler/young kiddo picture of yourself to share with the group. AND remember to bring a friend to join us for an evening of baby, baby, babies!



First of all, thank you very much to all who have offered to help crafting or donating items for the "Crafty Christmas Market" for the students at St. Paul's. Please plan on getting your items to Sue Lindemann or Tammy Horton by the second week in November. We'd like to see how many items we have. You can also drop off your items at St. Paul's or we can come to pick up your items. Any questions, please contact Sue at 262-567-8985 or Tammy at 262-607-1111. Thank you again, and God's blessings to all crafters and helpers.

# Women of Joy

*Living in His Word*

Saturday, October 5th

8:00 - 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

**Join us for a special extended session of Women of Joy to share fellowship, good conversation, and an uplifting and a joy-filled presentation from national recording artist, Jennie Williamson.**



Jennie Williamson leads a dynamic music ministry that impacts youth and families worldwide. Known for her infectious energy and passion for Jesus, Jennie delivers powerful messages of love and hope through her music and live events.

**All females grade school age and up are welcome!**

There is no cost and no need to register.  
Bring your friends and family!

Continental Style Breakfast  
will be included

# OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 7:00 pm High School Youth Group						5:00 am Women of Joy: <i>Living in His Word</i> 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	11:00 am Caring Through Sharing 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal		7:30 am Journeywomen 9:00 am LWML Fall Rally 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	6:00 pm Lord's Lamb's Giveaway		6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6:00 pm Half Lock-In w/ CUW Team for Youth	8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal		6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal		7:30 am Journeywomen 2:00 pm Trunk or Treat 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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Sign up for  
**ST. PAUL'S**  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**

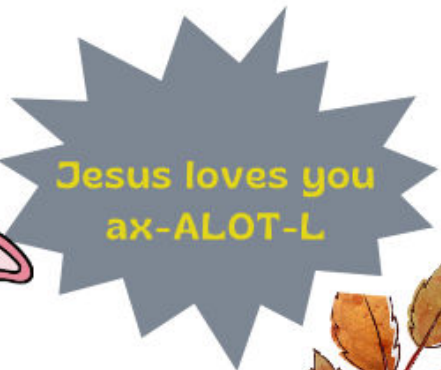
2pm-4pm

**OCT | 26 | 2024**

St. Paul's Parking Lot



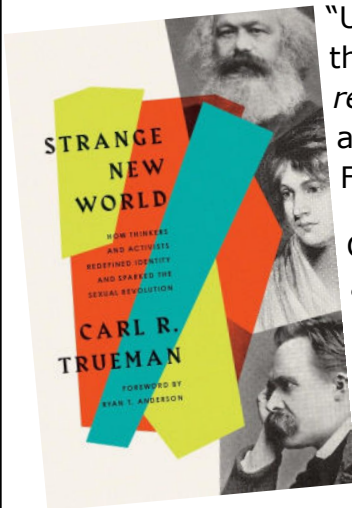
Details & sign up here



# You're Invited to 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."

**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?**

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 **second class is Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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).



We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Join us in wearing purple and enjoying treats during Bible Study! Check out the progress of Mission Grants that have been funded with YOUR Mites.

St. Paul's LWML will be hosting the Fall Rally for Zone 17 on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Schockman will be our speaker on the Dominican Republic mission work. A *Gifts from the Heart* ingathering of items for St. Paul's Lord's Lambs will be collected. If you are unable to attend, please place your items in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. Registration and breakfast refreshments begins at 9am and the program follows at 9:30. Everyone is invited to attend!

LWML meets Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us!

## AUGUST MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### Baptism

Ezra Royal, son of Colin & Leah Murdy

### Received by Profession of Faith

Cindy Fredrickson

Bruce Richards

### Transferred from another LCMS congregation

Alexandra Blindbauer—St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls, WI

**Baptized 1996    Confirmed 1208**



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Al Baumgart  
October 2nd

Ethel Buchta  
October 4th

### **Bernice Brown \*101!**

George Menden  
October 5th

David Schlieve  
October 7th

Debbie Maynard  
October 8th

Sue Zastrow  
October 10th

Lynn Pelnar  
October 14th

Dwain Eaton  
October 17th

Laura Schult  
October 18th

Bruce Bojko  
October 20th

Ron Kleist  
David Koepke  
Sharon Peterson

Gwen Stocker  
October 21st

Sue Beles  
Steve Sueflow  
October 23rd

Joann West-Spransy  
October 26th

Rodger Pagenkopf  
October 27th

Judy Keeling  
October 30th

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

Nancie Gallagher	\$25.00
Rick Stolz	\$55.00

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

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### 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 262.567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213

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

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### 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 262.567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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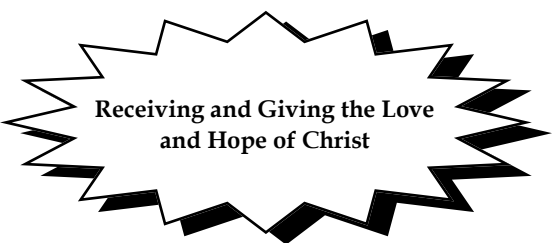
Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

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

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**REFORMATION  
TAP SOCIETY**  
Theology and conversation  
with a bit of hops.

Reformation Tap Society talks are casual and thoughtful adult conversations about important things. The 2024-2025 RTS season explores many facets of grit and endurance under the theme "Unshakable Joy in Christ." Though we welcome adults of any age, topics and language are aimed at those 18-35. Our speakers understand that RTS is a public event, so the conversation won't be raw, but our speakers are encouraged to practice candor geared towards adults. Parents of young ones should collaborate on a babysitter, then come and enjoy the beverages, food, and conversation. RTS is an opportunity to hear perspectives not regularly heard in popular culture. All are welcome.

RTS is held on the 3rd Sundays, September through May. We gather at 5 p.m., have a "beer talk" from the brewmaster at about 5:25, and at about 5:30 our speaker takes the mic. The speaker will present on a topic of interest, then take questions until 6:15 or so. (BTW, you're welcome even if you're not a beer fan. Other beverages are available.) For more information, visit <https://splco.org/church/reformation-tap-society/>.

**October 20**

**"Rejoice Always!" (Philippians 4:4):  
Burdensome Command or  
Gracious Invitation?**

Presenter: Aaron Moldenhauer

**5-7p.m.**

BrewFinity Brewery  
N58W39800 Industrial Rd. Suite D  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
[www.brewfinitybrewing.com](http://www.brewfinitybrewing.com)

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