



FEBRUARY EPISTLE

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

FEBRUARY 2025



Why Lutheran Schools Matter

Jill George, Principal

I wish I could say that Lutheran education has been a part of my entire life, but that's not the case for me. Although my family was very involved at Elm Grove Lutheran Church, I didn't attend the day school until 7th grade. However, my time at EGL, especially as a middle schooler, profoundly impacted the rest of my academic journey and vocation. It was at EGL that I first experienced what it felt like to be truly loved and cared for by a teacher.

Some of you may be familiar with my story (you can read more at christinallthings.org), but for those who aren't, I had the blessing of being a student under the guidance of Mr. Paul Gruetzmacher. At the time, I was disengaged, lacked confidence in my abilities, and didn't know how to learn. Yet, Mr. Gruetzmacher saw me as a unique child of God—someone not just capable, but able. The way he did this, with 36 students in the classroom, still amazes me. I'm grateful for him every day in my prayers.

I see those same caring qualities in the teachers at St. Paul's. Each of them has been uniquely gifted by God to care for the whole child, not just the student who needs to learn to read and write. They see each student as capable and able, and they answer God's call to teach with Unshakeable Joy in Christ. These teachers share their gifts with our students and their families everyday.

Our enrollment period for the 2025-2026 school year officially begins on Monday, February 3. Parents have many important decisions to make for their children's futures, and I believe choosing the right school is one of the most crucial.

There is extensive research showing that Lutheran schools positively impact a child's learning in profound ways. Smaller class sizes allow for greater student-to-teacher interaction; academic content consistently meets or exceeds state and national standards; students are taught to think critically, show compassion, and serve others. They develop a strong moral compass, enriched by a biblical worldview that informs every subject. Most importantly, they develop a strong identity in Christ as they encounter the Law and the Gospel every day.

If your child spends a minimum of 40 hours each week at school, wouldn't you want to know that they are in the care and company of adults and families who share your values and faith?

Do you know anyone who would benefit from a school that teaches the truth of Jesus Christ while nurturing the mind, body, and soul? Tell them about St. Paul's Lutheran School, and let our teachers and students share how attending a school centered around Jesus Christ makes all the difference.



St. Paul's Lutheran School

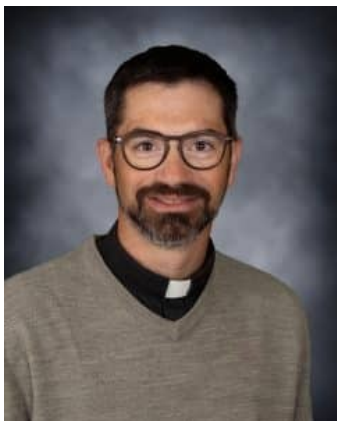
SCIENCE FAIR OPEN HOUSE

6 FEBRUARY
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**+Students in grades 4K–8 will showcase
their Science Fair and STEM projects.
Explore the displays and vote for your favorite!**

**New families are invited to tour St. Paul's for the first
time, with tours available in both the ECC and the school.**

210 E Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc WI
splco.org



Notes from Pastor's Study

Rev. Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor

In this second month of the year we typically stop on the fourteenth day to celebrate love. I see it everywhere. Even gas stations and Walgreen's are stocked with pink and red candy, the pajama section at Old Navy is overflowing with 'love' themed pants, and heart shaped chocolate boxes are available pretty much everywhere.

In 2025, Valentine's Day spending is projected to be well over \$25 BILLION. While this may be the retail reality, I think there is more to true love than this. Remember first and foremost that "God is Love" (see 1 John 4). If you want to know what that means you don't have to look any farther than the second person of the Trinity, Jesus.

In Him, God was pleased to demonstrate His love. Romans 5:8 says: "**God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**" Jesus was sent to be the sacrifice for the sin of those who hated him (that's us). That kind of love is not based on a sappy emotional response. It is a dedicated decision to do what is best for others, even when it is uncomfortable for you. That love is a choice.

Thank God that His love knows no bounds. His choice to love the unlovable is what gives us the strength to believe the unbelievable. That despite our frequent failures and sinful short-comings we are loved by God. And what is more is that love is made sure and certain in the person and work, the life death and resurrection of the second person of the Trinity, the sin-soaked sacrifice of the Son of God has made it plain. There need be no doubt that you are loved.

If you need still more encouragement, look to your Baptism and be secure. There, God placed his name on you. But more than that, he made you a part of the death and resurrection of Christ (see Romans 6). You could say He poured His love out on you. Much like the water and Word were poured out on the day you were made part of the kingdom.

In Christ, God paid the ultimate price to show you His love. He continues to richly and daily provide all the love that you could need in His Son. In Christ, God continues to give His love to us in His body and blood that enlivens our hearts to share what is truly love with those around us—that is Jesus, and His cross-shaped Love for you.

In the Fullness of His Love,

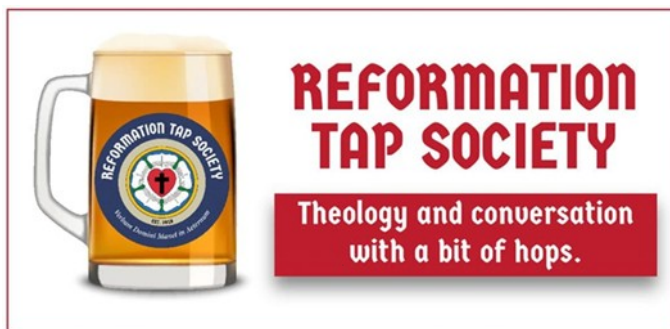
Pastor Schockman



St. Paul's 160th Anniversary: Church Friends, I have been asked to write a Brief History of St. Paul's from 1865-2025. Most of the "old" history is written, but I have a great need to ask you for your recollections, too. Since Carol Allen and I did a church history book for our 150th, that part is pretty well covered. What I need now is member input from 2015 to date. An event, a change, something you really enjoyed...anything is fine. So, please take a piece of paper, grab a pen, and start a list of things you would like to share. If you want to remain anonymous that is fine. I am looking for the facts. If you need to be recognized, please sign your name, include a

recent self-photo and see what happens! REALLY! I am serious now...Questions? You may text me at 262-354-4203. Thank you for your help.

~Pat Borgman



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 "Unshakeable 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/>.

February 16

**In Your Presence There Is Fullness of Joy:
How Church Buildings Confess the Joy of Christ**

Presenter: David Juhl

5-7p.m.

BrewFinity Brewery
N58W38900 Industrial Rd. Suite D
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
www.brewfinitybrewing.com

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

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 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 12:00 pm Voters' Meeting 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>3 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>4 6:00 pm Circuit Forum Meeting 6:00 pm LWML</p>	<p>5 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Vo-Tech</p>	<p>6 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8 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 11:45 am Parent Partnership Workshop 12:00 pm Youth Group Bowling</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>11 5:30 pm Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>12 11:00 am Caring Through Sharing 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Vo-Tech</p>	<p>13 12:30 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>16 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>17 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Vo-Tech</p>	<p>20 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:30 am Journeymen 3:00 pm Ps. O'Donnell Fireside Chat 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>23 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 MS & HS Roller skating @ Skate Express</p>	<p>24 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Vo-Tech</p>	<p>27 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p>	

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4th
Don Schinke

February 16th
Sandy Goetzke
Jan Weigman

February 6th
Mark Prange
Carole Werth

February 17th
Nancy Wolter

February 7th
Carol Fellin
Gregg Francke
Larry Hansen

February 20th
Lynda Holland

February 10th
Ralph Andrus

February 23rd
Anne Fait
Debbie Kirchenwitz
Phyllis Schuck

February 11th
Marcus Pankow

February 25th
Mark Justmann

February 12th
Mary Hlavenka
Mike Kollmeyer

February 26th
Judy Braatz
Vickie Paul
Karen Wilson

February 14th
Pauline Bemis

February 28th
Carolyn Nagel

February 15th
Linda Blehovde

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Fred Boldt	\$14,295.00
Donald Groose	\$100.00
Carol Huebner	\$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 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

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 262.567.4881

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**



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.

February Events

February 2 nd	HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
February 9 th	MS & HS Bowling in Watertown after 10:30am service
February 16 th	HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
February 23 rd	MS & HS Rollerskating at Skate Express

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transferred from another LCMS church

William & Kathleen Granzin—Peace Lutheran Church, Park Falls, WI

Baptized 1995 Confirmed 1204

THANK YOU!

Just a huge "thank you" to all who helped in anyway to make the *Christmas Shopping Event* for the St. Paul's students such a BIG SUCCESS! You are all a true blessing from God to St. Paul's. Without your helping hands and crafting ideas—well, it was amazing!

The students were very excited and loved the shopping adventure. There was much love being shown that day—from many smiles and the "thank yous" from all. What a great day it was!

~Sue & Tammy



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. 😊 Confirmands, this is a wonderful way for you to complete your service requirements. 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.

Ladies Aid

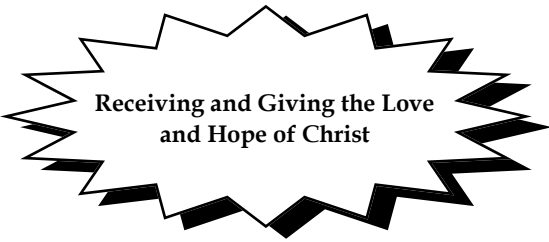


Ladies, have you ever had a question that you would love to ask a police officer? If the answer is yes, you will have the opportunity to ask it at our next Ladies Aid meeting on Thursday, February 6th. Lieutenant Branden Cedarwal of the Oconomowoc Police Department will be our guest speaker that evening and will be open to answering questions about policing here in Oconomowoc. Please join us on February 6th, at 5:30pm, for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. Come prepared to ask those questions and as always, it would be great if you brought a friend!

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

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A RADIO BROADCAST?



Our radio broadcast over WTKM is a very important outreach for our congregation. Below are the dates open for 2025. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these Sundays. The cost is \$125.00 (*please note the nominal price increase*). We praise God for this valuable community outreach.

Mar. 16	Apr. 27	Jun. 29	Aug. 10	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	Nov. 30
Mar. 30	Jun. 1	Jul. 13	Aug. 24	Oct. 19	Nov. 23	Dec. 7
Apr. 6	Jun. 22	Jul. 20	Sept. 7	Nov. 2	Nov. 27	Dec. 28

If you are interested in sponsoring a Broadcast please fill out the bottom portion of this page and hand it into the church office. Thank you. Any questions please call Heather in the church office 567-5001.

NAME _____ DATE: 1st CHOICE _____ 2nd CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)
