



# JUNE/JULY EPISTLE

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

JUNE/JULY 2025



## Happy 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. Paul's!

As St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, and ECC celebrates 160 years of ministry and education, we recognize the faithfulness of God and the generations who have come before us. This rich legacy gives us both the responsibility and the joy of continuing to build a future grounded in Christ and filled with hope. Anchored in our mission of teaching the truth in Jesus Christ, growing as a family, and serving mind, body, and soul, we are experiencing a season of outreach, connection, and momentum.

One of our desires is to build our enrollment. At present we are exploring an educational partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church and Preschool in North Prairie. We are excited at the prospect of our shared passion for nurturing children in the faith. This partnership will be all about strengthening enrollment, fostering shared ministry, and uniting us in mission as the body of Christ.

God is also working through the voices of our St. Paul's families. Word of mouth has been one of the most impactful ways new families are discovering us. Personal invitations, testimonies, and stories of growth are drawing others to experience what makes St. Paul's a special place to learn and grow.

Not ones to stand still in our educational approach, we are constantly reviewing and expanding our curriculum and programming in meaningful ways—from academic enhancements to faith development and whole-child wellness. Every program is intentional and designed to reflect our commitment to nurturing each student in mind, body, and soul.

Through carefully crafted advertising and compelling video storytelling, we will be reaching more families who are seeking a Christ-focused and academically strong education for their children. You will be seeing advertisements beginning this summer on YouTube TV, Roku, and/or Hulu.

Our vision for the future is clear: to be a place where students are not only educated but discipled. Where families feel connected. Where Jesus is at the center of every classroom, every hallway, every heart. At the core of everything we do is our Identity Statement: Christ in All Things (Colossians 1:15–20). This guiding truth shapes our approach to education and ministry as we live out our Core Values:

- † Christ-Centered
- † Servant Heart
- † Biblical Truth
- † Family Culture
- † Growth Mindset

For over 160 years, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center has stood as a beacon of Christ-centered education and community as a cornerstone of downtown Oconomowoc in the heart of Lake Country. With deep roots and a forward-looking vision, we are excited to share how God is continuing to bless our mission and expand our reach. St. Paul's is not just growing in numbers—we are growing in faith, in mission, and in family. We invite you to join us in this journey. Let's continue to reflect Christ in All Things—together.



## Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

# The Practice and Benefits of *Christian* Meditation

***The following is a story—fiction—to help illustrate how anyone of any age can learn Christian meditation, and how beneficial it can be.***

Peter Diener was almost 17 years old, a rising senior working his second full-time summer job. His Dad, Robert, was an electrician and had his eye on Peter to join him in the trades to begin *Diener and Sons*, the family business about which he had dreamed since Peter's younger brother was born. The Dieners were pretty regular in worship. They were not regulars in Bible class, but had gone to a recent presentation by the pastor where he talked about his own personal switch from a time of daily devotions (based on reading of the Scriptures and written prayers) to a time of daily memorization of the Scriptures, meditating on them, and then writing out his prayers. Peter was intrigued by another idea the pastor presented of memorizing the Scriptures and praying while he made something with his hands. He also remembered one of the congregation members asking, "I can't take a month off. How do I get some rest of soul?" Peter recalled the pastor's response, "Everyone can arrange their schedule to have time to meditate on the Scriptures."

Peter's Dad had set him up with a summer job learning carpentry from a friend. Robert Diener wanted his son to experience how another trusted man did business, so that Peter had a wider frame of reference for the future. Peter liked his boss, but he struggled with his coworkers, most of whom were a good bit older, had a lot more life experience, and tended to be of the work-hard, play-hard crowd. The Dieners didn't do much cursing in their home, especially of sexual variety, but the guys Peter worked with were f-this and f-that all the time. Peter found himself thinking, *Bruh, find another word*.

On Monday, July seventh, they were sent to a big new house in Ixonia for finish carpentry. His company's best carpenter was a Greek guy named Peritt. He was a magician with wood, but utterly predictable in language, and—at twenty-four—Peritt had had a number of recent escapades with a thirty-five year-old divorcee named Narren that he met at Hogg Alley on Upper Nemahbin Lake. Peritt, as usual, in addition to the educating Peter about the fine points of finish carpentry, also felt it necessary to educate his teenage mentee about the lesser points of personal pleasure. As Peter found out, Narren's two little kids had spent the fourth of July with their Dad, so Peritt and his cougar had a long weekend of debauchery.

Fortunately, for the last three weeks Peter had been pretty serious about going to bed earlier and getting up early to give memorizing the Scriptures and morning meditation a try. Since the pastor had been working on the Sermon on the Mount, Peter thought that he would try that, too, but he had decided to do the end of the sermon, Matthew 7, as his starting point. Since he had spent the July fourth weekend up north with his family and not done any meditation, he got up early that morning and reviewed the beginning of Matthew 7, saying it out loud to keep it in memory:

*"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1–5, ESV)*

(continued →)

So, when Peritt launched into a series of f-this and f-that stories about he and Narren's long, drunken weekend, Peter found himself both intrigued—Peritt sure could embellish a story!—and a little ashamed, not only for Peritt, who was clearly just using this woman, but also for himself, for Peter's girlfriend, Amanda, had come up north with his family. After one particularly raunchy story, Peter found himself thinking, *You're disgusting. This woman is obviously interested in you, and she's hurting from the divorce and missing her kids, and you're just lying to her. You're just using her.* Then, in his spirit, Peter cursed Peritt. As if on cue, the verse came into his mind, "Judge not, for with the judgment you use you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you." And so, even as Peritt was carrying on about his perversions, Peter was only partly listening. He was thinking about his own weekend, where he and Amanda had gone out on the boat together and gone a bit too far...

At lunch time Peter and Peritt were having a sandwich. Peritt shared some venison jerky with Peter, which was really good. Since he had spent a lot of the morning in meditating on his regret from the weekend, and thus not feeling particularly judgmental toward Peritt, Peter asked an obviously innocent question, "Is this just a pleasure thing for you two, or are you interested in each other?"

"You mean, for a 'relationship'? Not really."

"You or her?"

"Me, for sure. I'm just in it for the fun. She might be interested."

"When do you know you've taken it too far with stuff like that?"

Peritt responded with bravado, "This woman wants me. It's never too far!"

Again, Peter's tone was innocent, not condemning. He was full of self-condemnation at the moment. "Seriously, you can take that too far, right?"

Peritt cursed. The conversation had taken a more serious turn. Suddenly, he was really thinking about why he was doing what he was doing, and realizing he actually didn't want this talented seventeen-year-old boy he was working with to repeat his mistakes. "You actually interested in Amanda?"

"Yeah, and I'm feeling pretty guilty about this last weekend."

"Ooh! Got a story to tell?" Peritt probed, but then he thought better of pursuing it.

"Seriously," Peter asked. "When is it too far?"

Peritt cursed again, and said, "It's already too far. D--- you, teenager!"

"I'm not judging you, Peritt. I'm feeling pretty guilty, myself."

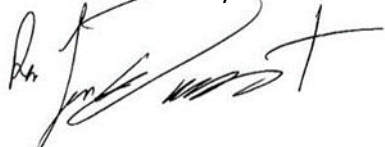
"Well, I wasn't feeling guilty, but now I am."

Suddenly, a door was opened in Peritt's soul. The f-this and f-that continued, but over the next twenty minutes Peritt told the story of how his fiancé had cheated on him the previous year and since then he had been seducing one woman after another. . . and then dropping them like a dirty rag when they began to get interested. In the process, Peter realized that Peritt didn't really hate women, but that he was very, very hurt by what had happened, and that he was taking it out on others. Peter sensed that Peritt realized this, too.

The next day, Tuesday, July eighth, Peter was up at 5:00 a.m. He started the next section in Matthew 7, "Ask, and it will be given to you . . ." and as he was memorizing, a prayer came to mind: "Lord, forgive Peritt for using Narren. Heal him with Your forgiveness. Forgive me for taking things too far with Amanda last weekend. You know how I like her. Help me to respect her."

And so, Pete Diener, a teenage construction worker, began to learn Christian meditation, and how memorizing God's word can transform even a summer job into a vocation.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell  
Tuesday of Easter 5  
20 May, A.D. 2025



Coinciding with the Citywide 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oconomowoc; St. Paul's will be opening its doors to the community by hosting an Open House where people can tour our sanctuary and ask questions about St. Paul's, after all we have been around longer than the City of Oconomowoc.

At 1:50pm St. Paul's, along with other churches in town will ring their bells to commemorate 150 years for the City of Oconomowoc. At 2:00pm, St. Paul's will host a special Service of the Word in Thanksgiving to God for 150 years of blessings to the City of Oconomowoc, and 160 years of blessing to St. Paul's. So if you are celebrating downtown please join us that day!

**The regular 5pm Divine Service will not take place that evening. But you can still attend 8:00am and 10:30am, on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, or the Lakeside Worship at 6:30pm on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## Wednesday Summer Worship Services

Lakeside Summer Worship (in our backyard) will return on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. They will run through August 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring your lawn chairs! Sermons will be from the prior Sunday. (If there is inclement weather, services will be moved into the sanctuary.)



### Christmas Market

St. Paul's *Christmas Market* will again be made possible for the students at St. Paul's to get gifts for their moms and dads in December. We are looking for any crafters who would enjoy helping us in any way. The students had a very exciting time picking out gifts of the very nice items we had. Please call Tammy Horton (262-607-1111) or Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985) if you'd like to help in any way. Thank you and God's blessings!



## Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, effective June 2<sup>nd</sup> - August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please make a note of this.



### Ladies Aid

Ladies, join us in a summer kick-off celebration at our June 5<sup>th</sup> Ladies Aid meeting. We are having a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. You won't want to miss this evening of fellowship, food and fun...there'll be games and prizes too! We hope to see you on the 5<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm, as we won't meet again until September.

# JUNE 2025

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 7:00 pm Higher Things Bible Study	2 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	3 6:00 pm LWML @ Johnny Pizzas	4 6:30 pm Lakeside Divine Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	5 5:30 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6	7 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	9 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	10 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders' Meeting	11 11:00 am Caring through Sharing Group 6:30 pm Lakeside Divine Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	12 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	13	14 7:30 am Journeyman 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
15 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	16 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	17	18 6:30 pm Lakeside Divine Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	19 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	20	21 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
22 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	23 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	24	25 6:30 pm Lakeside Divine Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	26 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	27	28 7:30 am Journeyman 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
29 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	30					

# JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	4 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5 2:00 pm Worship (see pg. 4) <b>NO 5PM WORSHIP</b> 8:30 pm AA Meeting
6 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	7 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	8 5:30 pm Board of Ops Meeting 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	9 11:00 am Caring through Sharing Group 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	11	12 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
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20 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	21 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	22	23 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	24 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	25	26 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
27 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	28 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	29	30 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	31 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal		





To commemorate our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be creating a new pictorial directory that will also include a history of the congregation, making this a wonderful keepsake. The dates have been set for photo sessions with Mortensen Photography as follows:

Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 pm  
Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 pm  
Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 pm  
Tuesday, September from 4:00 – 8:00 pm

These will all be held at St. Paul's in Room 202.

To get your preferred time slot, book now by registering through this link: <http://mortensenphotocart.com/booking-calendar/st-pauls-church-directory-2664/>

If you cannot register online, please contact Cheryl Tesch at 920-285-3628 to assist with scheduling.

The directory will be a full-color 8x10 (roughly), and we will also have the directory available to view on St. Paul's website.

Packages of your family pictures will be available for purchase, but you are under no obligation to buy, and there will not be any pressure to do so during your photo session.

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To help offset the cost of printing, if you are a business owner and would like to place an ad in the directory, the following ad sizes are available:

Full Page - \$400	8x10"
½ Page - \$250	8x5"
¼ Page - \$175	4x5"
1/8 Page - \$125	4x2.5"

Files submitted must be in a high-resolution format:  
pdf, jpeg, png, or tiff.

You may also contribute in memory of a loved one, which will be listed on a page in the directory.

**Please return this form to Cheryl Tesch by August 31, 2025 along with your payment to St. Paul's Pictorial Directory.**

Company/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please direct them to [Cheryl.tesch@splco.org](mailto:Cheryl.tesch@splco.org), or by texting or calling 920-285-3628.

# **GAME SHOW GALA**

## **THANK YOU!**

There are so many people to thank for their support for the Game Show Gala held Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Our net proceeds exceed \$24,000 and will go directly to the Fred Boldt Fund-a-Family Scholarship Program. We accept donations for that fund at any time throughout the year.

The next big event to put on your calendars is Saturday, October 25, 2025, when St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 160th Anniversary with a gala at Chivaree on the Park (Ixonía Fireman's Hall). I thank all of you with Unshakeable Joy in Christ.

- † Ixonía Pub and Peschek Family for food and service
- † Johnny Pizzas for beer and wine
- † Anonymous Church Member
- † Ashton Anderson Design/Build
- † Baird Financial Services
- † Ryan and Jill Jaeger
- † Bill and Carrie Ticali
- † Gemma Kitzman
- † Jeff and Stephanie Atwood
- † Stacey Balistreri
- † Jenny Adams
- † Vicky Tudor
- † Kate Crnkovich
- † Sheri Fleischfresser
- † Allison Mackie
- † Aaron DeWitt
- † Obie, Eden, and Magdala Mueller
- † Cameron Gotthardt
- † All the school families that donated to the Silent Auction
- † And anyone else I may have overlooked. You are all so appreciated!

"We rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:2b



## JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

June 3rd  
Sally Eubanks

June 4th  
Lucy Fredrick

June 5th  
Ronna Pagenkopf

June 6th  
Kathleen Granzin

June 8th  
Shirley Rhodde  
Sue Thelen

June 14th  
Linda Osterndorf

June 21st  
Diane Kollmeyer

June 22nd  
Gwen Nicholson  
Barbara Wildes

June 23rd  
Linda Meyer  
Karen Schultz

June 25th  
Belle Romback

June 26th  
Jerry Weisensel

June 27th  
Ernie Bollinger  
Glenn Leidel

June 28th  
LouAnn Wolter

June 29th  
Ruth Polcha \*101!

June 30th  
Janifer Schmidt

July 1st  
Marilyn Marohn

July 2nd  
Bernita Krenzke

July 3rd  
Mary Onstad  
Linda Uttech

July 7th  
Pat Borgman  
Patricia Gartzke  
Vernon Schilling

July 10th  
Barb Star

July 11th  
Barb Melvin

July 15th  
John Melvin  
Dennis Thelen

July 22nd  
Gemma Kitzman

July 23rd  
Betty Ewald  
Stan Kuehl

July 30th  
Florence Kroll

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

William "Pops" Kuebler	\$725.00
Rick Elleseg	\$20.00
Jim Peterson	\$20.00
Patricia Hoeft	\$250.00

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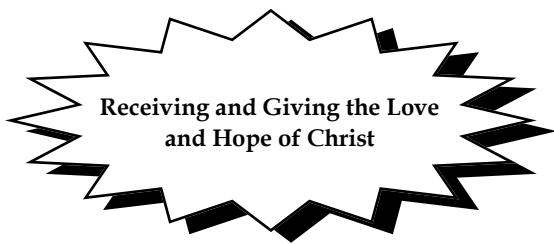
Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

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

PRSTD STD  
NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. postage  
**PAID**  
Oconomowoc, WI  
Permit No. 45

Phone: 262-567-5001  
Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)



A few thousand women dressed in purple will be experiencing "Nebraska Nice" in Omaha June 26-29, 2025 at the 41st biennial LWML Convention. **Growing in God's Grace** (2 Peter 3:18) is the convention theme. Delegates will be voting on 47 grant applications and the Mite Goal for 2025-2027 among other items of business.

All sessions and worship services will be livestreamed. A link to the livestream, printed materials and resources can be found at [lwml.org/convention](http://lwml.org/convention). Not going to the convention? The *Gifts from the Heart* ingathering will be utilizing Amazon Wishlist and shipped directly to any of the three recipients. See [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for more information. Watch for results of the convention in the August Epistle!

Join us Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 pm for dinner and the last meeting until fall at *Johnny Pizzas* in Oconomowoc. Call Kathy (262-468-6926) if you plan to attend.