

OCTOBER EPISTLE

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

OCTOBER 2025



Sing, Pray, and Keep His Ways

Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music

*It seems that we have all had a difficult few months. The news cycle is filled with increasing stories of violence and murder, which are followed by endless arguments about which side was *really at fault for causing this*, and all of us are left feeling angrier and more isolated than ever. Every day it seems like it is more difficult to get students to participate in class, and everyone I know has been more easily overwhelmed and irritated.*

If we look throughout history, we can see that every generation has had their trials. I often find comfort in the words of hymns that saints who have gone before us have left behind. Flipping through names of hymn writers will reveal people who have lived through war, famine, plague, poverty, grief, and every kind of hardship imaginable.

One of these hymn writers is Georg Neumark, who lived in Germany during the Thirty Years' War, a conflict that devastated large parts of Europe. He wrote the hymn, "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee," (LSB 750) after being robbed of all his money and personal possessions while traveling to university, which left him homeless and unemployed.

The hymn points to his faith in God throughout this difficult period in his life, and leaves us with comforting words for facing our own struggles. The text of the hymn makes clear that Neumark trusted that God was in control throughout his difficulties, and that Jesus has already crushed our real enemy. It also shows how we respond to life's difficulties - not by continuing pointless arguments, getting revenge, or giving up in despair, but by putting our hope and trust in God. Our temporary struggles may not work out the way we desire, but we know that God has the ultimate victory and will raise us to everlasting life with Him.

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.*

*Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed. (LSB 750, stanzas 1 and 7)*



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Managing Disappointment and Pressing Forward

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2–4, ESV)

When someone experiences a minor disappointment it's common for me to say, "Count it all joy!" In small things, that's my way of attempting to keep things faith-focused and light-hearted. It's not something I'd say at the death of a parent or some life-altering event. In situations like those, for example, when someone has just suffered a miscarriage, people—searching for something to say—may try and be pious and blurt, "It's all part of God's plan." In those situations, such "pieties" come across as unfeeling and even cruel. In disappointment, as The LORD tells us, there's ". . . a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." (Ecclesiastes 3:7, ESV)

Thus, since the last Friday in August, I've found myself having to repeat, "Count it all joy" to myself quite a bit. I was very excited because in June 2023 the congregation granted me a sabbatical—an extended time for rest a spiritual renewal—for summer 2026. We were not able to fund the sabbatical because of some necessary hiring decisions, but those of us involved in the pastoral sabbatical project were quietly hopeful that it would all work out. With great vigor and personal effort, Congregational President, Dan Eifert, and then-Head Elder, Dave Meyer, and I (also with the help of my wife) drafted a grant proposal to the Lilly Endowment that would enable me to make the writer's trip of a lifetime and have the congregation fully supported with pastoral care during the sabbatical. My wife, who writes a lot of grant proposals for Lilly, thought that our proposal was well done. I'd read other proposals that were funded and also thought that ours was every bit as good . . . but on the last business day of August I got the "Sorry, but you didn't get the grant" email.

I had told myself not to expect the grant, but I knew it was good, and I was very hopeful. It really would have been the trip of a lifetime . . . and it may yet be—but it will be different than I planned, and a lot of work to bring to completion. I will have to work a lot harder to acquire adequate funding to get to a place for extended solitude and exploration and the completion of my novel. The LORD will need to provide for pastoral support in my absence, even as St. Paul's makes the necessary steps back to a balanced budget. What I had hoped would be a long, itinerant writer's trip in a small

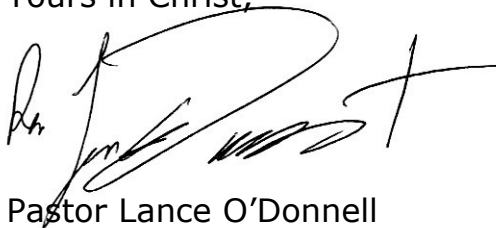
(continued→)

camper van may now have to be an extended stay at a gracious friend's unoccupied summer home, and that's OK. A great adventure up the Pacific Coast Highway with my wife may not happen, at least the way we envisioned, but we'll do an adventure of some kind together, and that's an important part of my sabbatical.

As the aphorism goes, "Man proposes; God disposes," and it is so. As I also like to say, "We pray, 'God's will be done,' and then we have to live by it." My not getting the dreamed-of grant for the writer's trip of a lifetime is, in the "big picture," a minor disappointment. It is nothing compared to a life-changing health diagnosis, the death of a loved one, or persecution for sake of Christ—which is the likely context of "Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds" in James 1. But I would be lying if I didn't admit that I was quite disappointed, even though I know all the above things. (Here I am writing about it, attempting to teach you even as I learn it myself.)

We manage disappointment and "press on toward the upward call of Christ" (Phil 3.14), in part, by remembering that God's will is done, (Mt 6.10) that we are God's beloved children, (1 Jn 3.2), and that, "of first importance" is that Jesus died and rose for our sins. (1 Cor 15.3-4) We also manage disappointments by having the courage to lament our troubles and disappointments in faith, as David (in the psalms) and Solomon (in *Ecclesiastes*) and Jeremiah (in his prophecy and in *Lamentations*), and—above all—as Jesus (in the garden and on the cross) exemplify for us. We also manage disappointments by "bearing with one another in love." (Eph 4.2) I thank Dave and Dan and my wife, Carrie, in particular, for bearing with me in love this last month, for buoying me and encouraging me to press on toward my goal. I guess that's what brought on this "dispatch from The Office." I have been encouraged by others. I encourage you all to keep your eyes and ears of faith open to your fellow members, friends, and neighbors, that—whether in small disappointments or great trials—you may do for them as others have done—and are doing—for me.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Tuesday of Pentecost 15
23 September, A.D. 2025

PLEASE NOTE THE CONGREGATIONAL 160TH ANNIVERSARY GALA ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 AT CHIVAREE ON PARK IN IXONIA. THIS WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY AND LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE.

Exciting News Flash!

Sisters in Service (formerly known as Ladies Aid), *LWML* and *Women of Joy* are coming together for a fabulous Bake Sale *next weekend*, before and after each service. Proceeds from this free-will offering Bake Sale will go to Journeys Lutheran School for their flood recovery fund. Journeys School, located in Hales Corners is dedicated to teaching students with special needs. During the weekend of August 9/10, Journeys suffered upwards of \$1,000,000 in damages due to the torrential rain and flooding. So, get ready to enjoy some gastronomical treats and in turn help a very worthy cause.



P.S. Sunday, October 5th, is our annual LWML Sunday and the door offering will also be given to Journeys School's flood recovery fund!

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Amelia Grace, daughter of Brett & Kerri Helwig

Transferred to another LCMS church

Rachel Oelsner – Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI

Baptized 2009 Confirmed 1231

SATURDAYS:

**OCTOBER 25 &
NOVEMBER 1,
OUR WORSHIP
SERVICE TIME**

WILL BE AT 12:00 pm



October's Hymn of the Month: *The Strong Word*

Our hymn of the month for October is "Thy Strong Word" (number 578 in *Lutheran Service Book*).

This is a relatively new hymn, first written by Professor Martin Franzmann for Concordia Seminary St. Louis's commencement ceremony in 1955. Franzmann chose to base the text on the seminary's motto, "Light from above."

Light is used in powerful imagery throughout the hymn, which starts at the beginning. God speaks light into existence at Creation. Jesus brings the light of salvation to sinners lost in darkness. The light of Jesus' righteousness shines upon us from the cross and gives us the ability to praise God without end. The final stanza uses images of light to reflect each person of the Trinity: God the Father has created light and all things, Jesus is the light of the world who brings us salvation, and the Holy Spirit reveals the light of the Gospel to us.

As we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation at the end of October, stand firm in God Word, through which the light of the Gospel shines in our lives.



October 5th is **LWML Sunday**. Purple is the color of the day! LWML will be joining Sisters in Service (formerly Ladies Aid) and Women of Joy in a bake sale Saturday evening and Sunday morning after church. Proceeds will benefit Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corners who suffered severe flooding last month.

The **Zone 17 Fall Rally** will be held **October 25th**, at St. John's, North Prairie. Everyone is invited to attend. Registration begins at 9:00 am with refreshments and program to follow. Our guest speaker is Edie Martwick from Open Sky Education, a nonprofit organization innovating with faith and investing in hope. An ingathering of English language Bibles will be collected. They can be placed in the bin in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>5</p> <p>LWML Sunday Wore purple today? Yes-50¢No-\$1</p>	<p>6</p> <p>World Architecture Day Thank God for our beautiful church! 50¢</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Pastor* 15¢</p>	<p>1</p> <p>International Coffee Day 20¢ for each cup today</p>	<p>2</p> <p>MOSES* 30¢</p>	<p>3</p> <p>World Smile Day 10¢ for each one you gave today</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Fall decorations up? 20¢ Yes 30¢ No</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Trump and his family in Africa 50¢</p>	<p>13</p> <p>COLUMBUSDAY 25¢</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Senior Citizen? Yes-30¢ No-40¢</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Rode abike this week? Yes15¢ No-25</p>	<p>16</p> <p>World Food Day Thank God for our Lord's Cupboard 50¢</p>	<p>17</p> <p>IGNATIUS of ANTIOCH* Pastor & Martyr 30¢</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ST. LUKE Evangelist 30¢</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Thank someone on Altar Guild for their service today 30¢ if you did NOT</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10¢ foreach child/grandchild in college</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10¢ foreach birthdayyou know of thismonth</p>	<p>22</p> <p>50¢ for each hamburger you ate this week</p>	<p>23</p> <p>ST. JAMES of Jerusalem Brother of Jesus & Martyr 50¢</p>	<p>24</p> <p>United Nations Day 40¢</p>	<p>25</p> <p>DORCAS,LYDIA & PHOEBE* FaithfulWomen 25¢</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Philip Nicolai,Johann Heermann&Paul Gerhardt*Hymnwriters \$1</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Garden cleaned up for thewinter? Yes-15¢ No-30¢</p>	<p>28</p> <p>ST SIMON & ST. JUDE Apostles 50¢</p>	<p>29</p> <p>25¢ if you took a walk today 35¢ if not</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10¢ for each piece of junk mail received today</p>	<p>31</p> <p>REFORMATION DAY \$1.50</p>	
		*Commemoration Days				

MITEs MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available.

*Commemoration Days are examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy

A NIGHT OF THANKSWINGING

CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF
ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 * 5:30 - 10:00 pm
CHIVAREE ON PARK, N8345 PARK ST, IXONIA

tickets
only \$40

LIVE SWING BAND
DANCING
BUFFET FEAST

Period attire is encouraged.
Come dressed to swing in 1930's and 40's style!

★ Silent & Live Auction ★

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
FRED BOLDT FUND-A-FAMILY
& FUTURE BUILDING PROJECTS

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE AT

www.splco.org

A NIGHT OF THANKSWINGING

Sponsorship Opportunities

LEVEL	AMOUNT	DETAILS
Big Band	\$10,000	Reserved table for 8 guests
Trombone	\$5,000	Includes tickets for 6 guests
Trumpet	\$2,500	Includes tickets for 4 guests
Saxophone	\$1,000	Includes tickets for 3 guests
Rhythm Section	\$500	Includes tickets for 2 guests
Dance Floor Friend	\$250	Includes ticket for 1 guest

All sponsors will receive recognition in the event program and on the website.

Why Sponsor?

Your support helps us continue our mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, with proceeds benefiting the Fred Boldt Fund-A-Family and future Building Projects.

Together, we celebrate 160 years of faith, fellowship, and community — and look forward to the future with gratitude.

Tickets & Sponsorships available at www.splco.org

CELEBRATING 160 YEARS!

OF GOD'S GRACE & MERCY

Please complete the information below and put it in the offering plate.

Or, use the QR code to make your selections online.

I'd like to be a sponsor

place and X in the space

	Big Band (\$10,000)
	Trombone (\$5,000)
	Trumpet (\$2,500)
	Saxophone (\$1,000)
	Rhythm Section (\$500)
	Dance Floor (\$250)

I will donate a live or silent auction item

Place an X in the space

	Live Auction Item (examples would be vacation rentals, sporting event tickets, valuable antiques, etc. Please speak to Jill George or Jenny Stollenwerk)
	Silent Auction Item
	I would like to help behind the scenes

Sponsor and Auction Donor Information

NAME	
Address, City, St, Zip	
Phone & Email	
Company Name (if applicable)	

We hope you'll join us for this amazing celebration of thanksgiving for 160 years!

Ticket Price: \$40.
Includes buffet meal and
1 drink ticket per person

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE & EMAIL	
NUMBER OF TICKETS	

If paying by check, put the form and check in the offering plate or drop at the church office.

You can also purchase tickets online at www.splco.org or use the QR code below.

Tickets must be purchased by October 26th



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	2 5:30 pm Sisters in Service 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	3 10:00 am Bernice Brown Visitation 11:00 am Bernice Brown Funeral 5:00 pm Wilbur/Mueller Rehearsal	4 8:00 am Women of Joy 2:00 pm Wilbur/Mueller Wedding 4:30 pm Bake Sale 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
5 Bake Sale 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 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	7 6:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	8 11:00 am Caring through Sharing 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	10 6:00 pm Youth 1/2 Lock-In	11 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
12 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	13 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	14 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	15 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	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 3:00 pm Acolyte Training 5:00 pm Divine Worship 5:30 pm Youth Corn Maze 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 Confirmation Class 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	20 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	21 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	24	25 7:30 am Journeymen 12:00 pm Divine Worship 2:00 pm Trunk or Treat 8:30 pm AA Meeting
26 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 Middle School Youth Group 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	27 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	28 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	31 NO SCHOOL	

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Al Baumgart

October 2nd

Ethel Buchta

October 4th

Brad Lieungh

George Menden

October 5th

David Schliewe

October 7th

Debbie Maynard

October 8th

Sue Zastrow

October 10th

Julie Lieungh

Lynn Pelnar

October 14th

Dwain Eaton

October 17th

Laura Schult

October 18th

Bruce Bojko

October 20th

Ron Kleist

David Koepke

Sharon Peterson

October 21st

Sue Beles

Steve Sueflow

October 23rd

Joann West-Spransy

October 26th

Rodger Pagenkopf

October 27th

Judy Keeling

Julie Moore

October 30th

Bill Granzin

October 31st

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Phil Zastrow

\$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

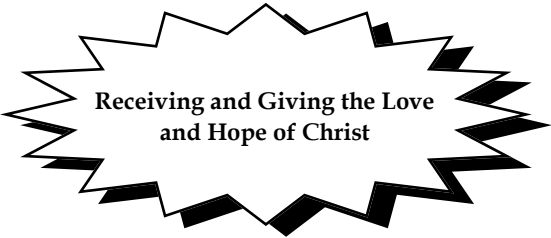
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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Reformation Tap Society talks are casual and thoughtful adult conversations about important things. *Under the theme, "Lead Me to Christ, the Rock," the 2025-2026 Reformation Tap Society season explores the various ways in which Christ is the foundation of a holy and purposeful life.* 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 younger adults. Parents of children under high school age 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 5pm, 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.)

October 19, 2025

The Value of Listening in Leading to Christ
Presenter: Nathan Meador

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!**