



NOVEMBER EPISTLE

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

NOVEMBER 2025



Hammers and Nails

Jill George, Principal

BANG! BANG! BANG! went the hammer in 1517 as Martin Luther posted his theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. His intention was not to divide God's faithful people but to bring them to repentance.

Martin Luther felt the church had grown in opposition to God's divine Word as written in the Holy Bible. His intention of writing down 95 key statements was to begin a dialog as to how the church could come into communion with the Scriptures. In his preface, he wrote, *"Out of love and zeal for truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following theses will be publicly discussed at Wittenberg under the chairmanship of the reverend father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology and regularly appointed Lecturer on these subjects at that place. He requests that those who cannot be present to debate orally with us will do so by letter."*

The need for such a discussion was great. Many within the church had accepted teachings and traditions that were not grounded in Scripture. The Catholic Church was teaching, among other things, that people could lessen the punishment for their sins by purchasing indulgences. Further, the church was also teaching that it was by one's works and deeds that one was saved. Luther used the Holy Scriptures to point out that it is not by our own works that we are saved, it is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for God's glory alone we are saved.

While Luther is an important figure in our church's history, it is Christ alone we worship. Thanks be to God that we live in a place in which we worship as we please and that St. Paul's Lutheran provides a dynamic and nurturing environment to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Romans 10:9-10 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

If You're a Parent, Do Your Duty

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." (Proverbs 1:8–9, ESV)

For the first half of 2025 I was working hard on memorizing and meditating upon The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and then continuing toward of life-goal of memorizing St. Matthew's Gospel. However, after a beautiful trip of a lifetime to Austria and Bavaria and then to a family wedding in northern Michigan, and compelled by the necessity to lead our congregation and staff in catechetical renewal, I solidified my memory of Luther's *Small Catechism* and turned my memorization and meditation to the one part of the catechism I'd never memorized, the "Table of Duties." These are "certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities."

I wish I'd done this *years ago*.

There is tremendous spiritual power, wisdom, and insight that comes by memorizing and meditating on God's Word, for the Word is truth, "and the truth sets us free" (Jn 8.32) As Jesus teaches, The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of truth," (Jn 14.17; 15.26) who works through Christ's Word to "teach us all things and bring to our remembrance all that He has said to us" (Jn 14.26) and "bears witness about Christ," (Jn 15.26) and "glorify Christ." (Jn 16.14) As Dr. John Kleinig teaches in his masterful book, *Grace Upon Grace*, to be truly "spiritual" is not an ethereal flailing amid the unseen world, but being about what the Holy Spirit is about: The Word of Christ, which is the Word of God.

Of particular power in my meditations was the effort to memorize Romans 13.1-4, the passage in the Table of Duties' subsection on "Of Civil Government." Remember, as Luther's explanation to the fourth commandment teaches, "we should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them." The vocation or "holy order" of "parent" is *the foundational human institution*. It is the vocation from which all other earthly vocations flow: government, teacher, police, merchant, etc. Here's Romans 13.1-4:

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of

the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4, NIV84)

This basic function of "government" is summarized succinctly in 1 Peter 2:13-14, which is in the "Table of Duties" subsection on "Of Citizens":

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." (1 Peter 2:13-14, NIV84)

The basic function of government, which flows from the basic function of parents, is to "punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." This correlates with the "Table of Duties" passage on "Of Parents," Ephesians 6:4:

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4, NIV84)

Parents, if you want to "know what is right" so that you do not "exasperate your children," (i.e. administer a just household) but "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"; if you want to be able to do your duty wisely so that you can know when and how to "punish your children when they do wrong and commend them when they do right," then you need to know God's Word. You need to be taught by God to know when *you're* wrong, and *you* need to be commended when *you* do right. If you are regular in attending Divine Service (and that means weekly church attendance), and if you are disciplined in meditation on God's Word (and that means daily devotions), you will be ". . . wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15, ESV)

I'll be frank: we pastors and teachers deal every day with the consequences of modern "permissive parenting," which is really just a satanic tool to destroy the church, the family, and godly society. "Permissive parenting" shirks the responsibility to punish and commend by letting children direct the affairs of the household. Parents, you have the God-given responsibility to "punish those who do wrong and commend those who do right." So, do your duty. And if you feel inadequate for the task, welcome to the club. We have a large group that meets several times a week to be taught by God, admonished for our failures, forgiven by Christ, commended by Him for doing good, and strengthened by Him for the work to which He has called us. Worship is on Saturdays at 5pm and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m. There's also a great "Life Application Bible Study" for adults and Sunday School for children on Sundays at 9:15. We welcome you.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Commemoration of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
28 October, A.D. 2025

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Ty Schneider
Hayden Arthur, son of Matthew & Jessica (Frosch) Kram
Harvey Matthew, son of Matthew & Jessica (Frosch) Kram
Ripley Wyatt, son of Dane & Samantha (McKittnick) Hoffman

Received by Profession of Faith

Ty Schneider
Matthew & Leah Wawrzyn

Received by transfer from another LCMS church

Jody & Rebecca Ligrow, Rachael & Sarah – Peace Lutheran Church, Sussex, WI
Caleb Ligrow – Peace Lutheran Church, Sussex, WI
Elijah Ligrow – Peace Lutheran Church, Sussex, WI
Gabrielle Lignow – Peace Lutheran Church, Sussex, WI
Luke & Heather Schedler – Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Flower Mound, TX
Heidi Hahn – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland WI
Katharine Andrada – Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

Death

Bernice Brown

Baptized 2027 Confirmed 1244



Thanksgiving isn't the only holiday in November. Veterans Day is also in November and Sisters in Service (Ladies Aid) will be celebrating that special day at our next meeting on Thursday November 6th, at 5:30pm. Additionally, we will start collecting items from the wish list for our "Support the Troops" service project that evening. So, please join us for a Red, White and Blue celebration of Veterans Day! And as always, we gladly welcome new members.



November's Hymn of the Month: *We Praise You and Acknowledge You* (number 941 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

This is a modern translation of a very old hymn. The original Te Deum is the most celebrated of all Latin hymns of praise. Its origins are unclear, but it has been well-known in the Church since before the sixth century. It has been regularly used in the prayer service of Matins since the Middle Ages.

Rev. Stephen Starke wrote this versification of the Te Deum in 1999. He thought that the tune THAXTED, which originated as the melody of "Jupiter" in an orchestral suite by Gustav Holst, was strong enough to carry the theological weight of a text like the Te Deum.

This hymn starts with confessing God the Holy Trinity, whom saints and angels worship in heaven and on earth. The final two stanzas focus on the life of Jesus: laying aside His glory to be born as a human, dying on the cross, and rising again to save us from our sins. He continues to rule as we wait for his coming where we pray that we will be included in those who continue to praise God in eternity.



FINAL VICTORY

Funeral Planning Workshop

Pastor Schockman will be leading a funeral planning workshop on Saturday, November 1st, from 9:15am to 11:30am. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Heather in the church office at heather@splco.org or 262.567.5001.



We were able to deliver 55 quilts and 41 pillowcase dresses to Orphan Grain Train, a project of the Lutheran Laymen's League, the men's auxiliary of the LCMS.

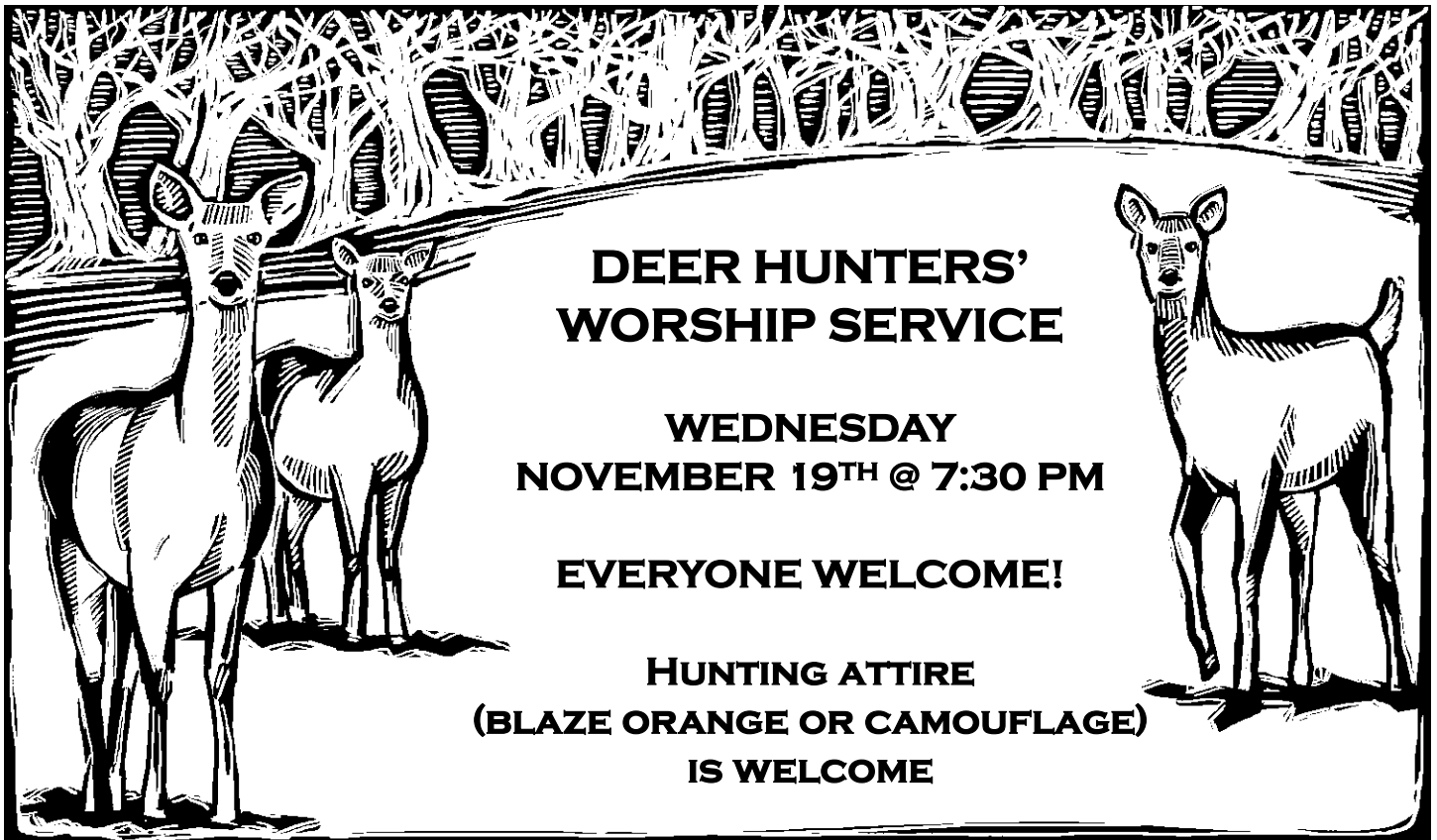
We would love to have more sewers and will gladly get you started. No special skills are required. Contact Pat Menden for information (262-719-6008).

LWML will be serving the first Advent supper on December 3rd. Sign up at our November meeting.

Mark your calendar for the annual LWML SWD Winter Getaway on January 30 & 31, 2026 at the Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac, WI. The theme is based on Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous... God is with you."

Registration forms can be found at lwml-swd.org or find a copy on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, November 4th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



**DEER HUNTERS'
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19TH @ 7:30 PM**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**HUNTING ATTIRE
(BLAZE ORANGE OR CAMOUFLAGE)
IS WELCOME**



Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry

This holiday season, the Lord's Cupboard will be providing a **Thanksgiving meal food bag and a Christmas meal food bag** to our neighbors who are food insecure in our community.

We will be requesting **Christmas gifts and gift cards** for our pantry families with children and for Shorehaven residents who may not have something under their tree on Christmas morning.

We anticipate that we will be helping more people than ever before with the current economy.

This is how you can help:

Purchase gift cards to Metro Market or Aldi (\$15 increments) for the holiday food bags

Purchase gift cards to Walmart, Target or Amazon (\$25 increments) for Christmas gifts

Please put your gift card/s or a cash/check donation in an envelope marked **"Lord's Cupboard"** and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office **by November 30th**.

You can also give a monetary donation online by going to www.splco.org, click on **"Donate"** button, scroll down to Lord's Cupboard.

Christmas Gifts

The Christmas Caring Trees will be located in the Narthex and in the school entryway starting November 15th with the ornaments that have the gift requests, and this is also the place to return the wrapped gifts.

Your generosity helps us serve the people in our community, and we truly appreciate **ALL** your help in celebrating our Lord's birth this holiday season and sharing that love with others. **Thank you!**



**Fundraiser for Lord's Cupboard food pantry
to purchase food for
Thanksgiving and Christmas food bags**

When: Thursday, November 20th 4pm-8pm

Where: The Chocolate Factory Subs and Ice Cream
1077 Summit Avenue, Oconomowoc

You can come in, order online for pickup or
order DoorDash delivery and we will receive
25% of all sales during that time period.

Website: <https://thechocolatefactorywi.com>

The Lord's Cupboard food pantry helps all our neighbors in
the surrounding communities who are food insecure.

(No proof of residency or income requirements required for our neighbors in need)

Please share this with your family, friends and neighbors!

Thank you!

November 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ALL SAINTS' DAY 50¢
2 Attended the 160th Thanksgiving Event Yesterday? Yes-25¢ No \$1	3 5¢ for each clock in your house you had to change	4 LWML meets tonight Going-15¢ Not-25¢	5 Full moon tonight Cloudy-15¢ Clear-30¢	6 Choirmember? Yes-25¢ No-40¢	7 15¢ if you have to rake leaves 30¢ if you don't	8 Johannes von Staupitz* Luther's Father Confessor 25¢
9 Martin Chemnitz* Pastor & Confessor 25¢	10 Bought a coffee today-50¢ Made your own-15¢	11 Martin of Tours* Pastor VETERANS' DAY \$1	12 Senior Citizen? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	13 Cereal for breakfast? Hot-10¢ Cold-15¢	14 Emperor Justinian* Christian Ruler & Confessor of Christ 20¢	15 10¢ for each glass or bottle of water today
16 Thank someone on Altar Guild for their service today 30¢	17 10¢ for each child/grandchild in college	18 10¢ for each birthday you know of this month	19 Elizabeth of Hungary* 20¢	20 50¢ for each hamburger you ate this week	21 10¢ for each cup of coffee today	22 Watched sports on TV today? Yes-30¢ No-10¢
23 Last Sunday in the Church Year 30¢	24 Garden cleaned up for the winter? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	25 Had eggs for breakfast? Yes-15¢ No-15¢	26 Cooking for Thanksgiving tomorrow? Yes-15¢ No 25¢	27 GIVE GOD THANKS! \$1	28 Shopping today? Yes-50¢ No 15¢	29 Noah* 20¢
30 First Sunday in ADVENT 50¢	*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



Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)*

While the classic hymn "Rock of Ages" shows up in the Lutheran Service Book in the "Hope and Comfort" section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						¹ 8:00 am Women of Joy 9:15 am Final Victory Funeral Workshop 12:00 pm Divine Worship
² 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	³ 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	⁴ 5:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	⁵ 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	⁶ 5:30 pm Sisters in Service 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	⁷	⁸ 7:30 am Journeymen 3:00 pm Acolyte Training 5:00 pm Divine Worship
⁹ 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	¹⁰ 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	¹¹ 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	¹² 11:00 am Caring through Sharing 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study	¹³ 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	¹⁴	¹⁵ 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship
¹⁶ 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 11:45 am Youth Deliver Thanksgiving Food Bags 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	¹⁷ 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	¹⁸ 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	¹⁹ 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm FPU Bible Study 7:30 pm Deer Hunter's Worship Service	²⁰ 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	²¹	²² 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship
²³ 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	²⁴ NO SCHOOL 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway	²⁵ NO SCHOOL 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	²⁶ NO SCHOOL 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Worship	²⁷ NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am Thanksgiving Worship	²⁸ NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	²⁹ 5:00 pm Divine Worship
³⁰ 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 7:00 pm High School Youth Group						

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

James Braatz
Barb Hentz
George Wisser
November 6th

Darryl Wickersham
November 8th

John Lindemann
November 11th

Dona Thurow
November 14th

Chuck Laabs
Joanne Reimer
November 16th

Brenda Gibbons
Joan Emery
November 17th

Jim Fait
November 20th

Jim Duggan
Michael Majewski
November 22nd

David Corrie
Marilyn Sherman
November 23rd

Marlene Steinberg
November 25th

Dan Maynard
Tim Rades
November 28th

Roger Fisher
November 29th

Mary Kummrow
November 30th

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Bernice Brown

\$245.00



**SERVICE
TIME
CHANGE**

Due to the Oconomowoc Christmas Parade, our worship service on Saturday, December 6th, will take place at 3pm. Please make a note of it.

**DAYLIGHT
SAVING
TIME**
**FALL BACK
ONE HOUR**

**Saturday,
November
1st**



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

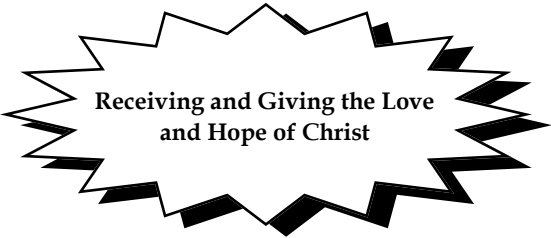
Newsletter deadline for articles, announcements and features is the 2nd Wednesday of the month

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

Phone: 262-567-5001
Website: www.splco.org

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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.)

November 16, 2025

Clinging for Dear Life to The Rock

Presenter: Dave Juhl

5-7p.m.

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

