



AUGUST EPISTLE

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

AUGUST 2026



Rooted in Christ

Jill George, Principal

Rooted in Christ Through Every Season

As we welcome the month of August, we find ourselves in a season of transition. Summer is beginning to wind down, families are preparing for new routines, and many children are getting ready for a new school year. While our schedules may change, one thing remains constant—God's love and faithfulness.

Just as a tree with deep roots can withstand changing weather, we are called to remain rooted in Christ. When our lives are grounded in Him through prayer, reading His Word, worship, and serving others, we grow stronger in faith and are better prepared for whatever each new season brings.

Colossians 2:6–7 reminds us:

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

We encourage every member and family to make regular participation in the life of our church a priority. Join us each week for worship services where God serves His people with His gifts of grace, and His people respond in faith, praise, and thanksgiving. Deepen your understanding of Scripture through Sunday School and Adult Bible Study, where meaningful discussions and biblical teaching help strengthen our walk with Christ.

We also invite you to connect with one of our small-group Bible studies:

- Journeymen Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at The Depot Restaurant, providing fellowship, accountability, and encouragement for men as they grow in their faith.
- Women of Joy Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at Whelan's Coffee, offering women a welcoming place to study God's Word, pray together, and build lasting Christian friendships.

Growing in Christ is not meant to be a solitary journey. Regular worship, Bible study, and Christian fellowship are essential to developing a strong, rooted faith. We invite you to make these opportunities a consistent part of your spiritual life and experience the blessings of growing together as the body of Christ.

As we prepare for a new school year, let us also pray for our students, families, teachers, and staff. May God grant wisdom, protection, patience, and joy as we begin another year of learning and growing together.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in nurturing children academically, emotionally, and spiritually. May this August be filled with hope, peace, and the confidence that comes from staying deeply rooted in Christ.



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Rooted in Christ

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7, ESV)

St. Paul's operates under an annual parish theme. For those new to us, the practice began in 2013 as part of our efforts to unify the church and school after a period of disruption and challenge. A Christo-centric theme, if spiritually embraced in meditation and prayer, serves its unifying purpose well. Our parish theme begins with the school year, and our theme for 2026-2027 is "Rooted in Christ," based on the Colossians 2 passage above.

I say this with a knowing grin and the wisdom of experience: beware. We have discovered that our chosen theme is also a means by which The LORD tests us. By choosing "Rooted in Christ" and embracing a more vigorous parish catechetical plan, we should expect uprooting and destructive efforts from the devil, the world, and our respective sinful natures. Yes, we should expect both Christ to do His work to root us, and we should expect the forces of evil to seek our uprooting. Consider the following:

"[Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." (Colossians 1:28, ESV)

The goal of Christ's ministry is to save and to establish, to root and to grow, to die and to rise. Daily. Christ accomplished our salvation—HE rooted us—through tribulation, and—in truth—He grows us—until the Day of our deliverance—through tribulation. Consider 1 Pet 1:6-7 and James 1:2-3:

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:6-7, ESV)

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." (James 1:2-3, ESV)

I expect the upcoming parish year to be a time of challenge and growth. Certainly, my sabbatical this summer has been that, but we'll have fireside chats about that after my journey's final leg in September. On that note, I return briefly for the beginning of the school year in mid-August, and then conclude my sabbatical with a special trip to Yellowstone National Park in September.

With great fondness and thankfulness for you in Christ,

Rev. Lance O'Donnell
Commemoration of Ezekiel the Prophet
21 July, A.D. 2026

School Supplies & Garden Abundance for our Lord's Cupboard Guests

We would like to help the families that come to Lord's Cupboard and have school supplies available for their kids. We are requesting monetary donations and/or gift cards (\$10-\$25 increments) to Dollar Tree, Target or Walmart. If you prefer to purchase the actual supplies, please drop them off prior to Monday, August 3rd. A list of items to purchase is on the Lord's Cupboard bulletin board across from the elevator outside of the Fellowship Hall which is also where the purchased school supplies can be put. You can make a monetary donation to Lord's Cupboard online <https://splco.org> Scroll down to "Lord's Cupboard" or put a check or purchased gift cards also in an envelope marked Lord's Cupboard and put it in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office.

Also, donations of your surplus garden vegetables will be welcomed by our LC guests when they are ready! Please drop off any of your extra vegetables in the kitchen for our distribution days and mark them for the Lord's Cupboard.

Upcoming dates: 8/3, 8/17, and 8/31. Thank you for your prayers for the families that we serve and for our dedicated volunteers.



Wow, this summer is sure flying by quickly. It's August already and September is just around the corner. The Sisters in Service Board has been hard at work planning a new year full of excitement, service and fellowship. We can't wait to share our plans with you at our September meeting, which by the way is Thursday, September 3rd, at 5:30pm. Please keep in mind that our meeting is the Thursday *BEFORE* Labor Day! So mark your calendars and plan on joining us on September 3rd!



2026-2027 School Year Theme Hymn: *The Tree of Life*

(number 561 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

Our theme is "Rooted in Christ," which comes from Colossians 2:6-7, "Therefore, as you received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Our theme hymn builds on the idea of being "rooted" by telling the story of salvation beginning with the two trees in the Garden of Eden and moving to the tree of the cross.

The opening stanza describes the perfect Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve could eat freely from the tree of life. In the second stanza, the serpent breaks the perfection of the garden to tempt Adam and Eve away from God's commands, and the poison of sin enters the world. But hope was not lost, as the next stanza describes God's plan to give life to His people through the tree of the cross. The final stanza tells how God now invites everyone to eat of salvation's fruit in the Lord's Supper. Through Jesus's death and resurrection, we are no longer barred from the tree of life.

Throughout the school year, we will continue to grow in our faith by staying firmly rooted in the Gospel, where we learn how Jesus has saved us.



South Wisconsin District LWML

2026-2028 Mission Grants

\$220,000

1.	Orphan Grain Train-Wisconsin Branch	\$15,000
2.	South Wisconsin District Church Worker	\$30,000
3.	Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin	\$25,000
4.	Journeys Lutheran School	\$25,000
5.	A Place of Refuge	\$15,000
6.	CTSFW Food Co-op Student Food Pantry	\$10,000
7.	Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church, Milwaukee Ministry Outreach	\$20,000
8.	St. Paul's Grafton Disaster Relief Trailer Project	\$17,500
9.	Ministries to the Armed Forces-Worker Wellness	\$ 5,000
10.	CTSFW Food Co-op for Freezer purchase	<u>\$ 2,500</u> (partial)
	TOTAL District Grants (75% of goal)	\$165,000
	National Grants portion (25%)	<u>\$ 55,000</u>
	TOTAL MITE GOAL	\$220,000

Our 80th Anniversary SWD LWML Convention had 262 in attendance with 161 voting members. A \$220,000 Mission Grant Goal was adopted for 2026-2028 with an overage from our past biennium of \$3,519.11 going to the partial grant for Camp LuWiSoMo. The following officers were elected as follows:

President: Joan Anderson, VP of Organizational Resources: Michelle Prince, VP of Gospel Outreach and Christian Life: Jill Jones, Recording Secretary: LuAnn Roman, Financial Secretary: Susan Kemnitz, Jr. Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Prince.

Vesper Service Offering: \$1,241
 Mission Walk: \$485
 Convention Offering: \$4,230

It's not too early to MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the SWD Fall Retreat Sept. 25-26 at the Holiday Inn Manitowoc. Sharla Fritz will speak on *Enough for Now* based on Hebrews 13:5b. Registration Forms can be found at www.lwml-swd.org or on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Note: room reservations must be in by August 26th.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1st, in room 219 at 6pm. Remember your Mites as we kick off our next biennium!

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
2 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	3 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	4	5 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	6 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Praise Team	7 4:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Allison Mackie/Aaron DeWitt Rehearsal	8 7:30 am Journeywomen 2:00 pm Allison Mackie/Aaron DeWitt Wedding 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
9 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	10	11 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg.	12 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	13 6:30 pm Praise Team	14 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg 4:30 pm Riley Mueller & Luke Boldt Rehearsal	15 8:00 am Women of Joy 2:00 pm Riley Mueller & Luke Boldt Wedding 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
16 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	17 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	18 6:00 CLT Meeting 6:30 pm SPLCO YA Bible Study	19 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	20 6:30 pm Praise Team	21	22 7:30 am Journeywomen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
23 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am 7/8 Grade Confirmation Mtg. 10:30 am Divine Worship	24	25	26 6:30 pm Lakeside Worship	27 6:30 pm Praise Team	28	29 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
30 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am 7/8 Grade Confirmation Mtg. 10:30 am Divine Worship	31 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru					

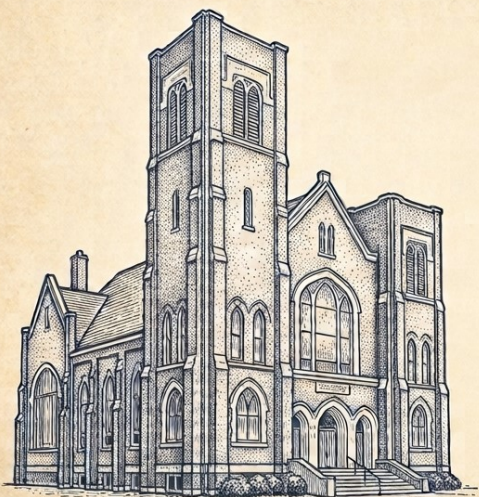
August 2026



Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML MITES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Own a bike? Yes-15¢ No-20¢
2 Thank offering for God's Day of Rest 50¢	3 Joanna, Mary & Salome* <i>Myrrhbearers</i> 20¢	4 US Coast Guard Day 25¢	5 Going to the State Fair? Yes-15¢ No- 20¢	6 5¢ for each gallon of gas purchased this week	7 PURPLE Heart Day 25¢	8 10¢ for each TV you own
9 Thank offering for both our Pastor Thompsons 50¢	10 Lawrence* <i>Deacon & Martyr</i> 25¢	11 10¢ for each tomato plant you have None?-25¢	12 Ate a cream puff this week? Yes-30¢ No-15¢	13 5¢ for each text message today	14 10¢ for each vaca- tion day this month Retired?-15¢	15 ST. MARY Mother of Our Lord 50¢
16 Isaac* 25¢	17 Johann Gerhard* <i>Theologian</i> 25¢	18 15¢ for each cell phone 20¢ for a land line	19 Bernard of Clairvaux* <i>Hymnwriter & Theologian</i> 20¢	20 Samuel* 25¢	21 Fish Fry tonight? Yes-20¢ No-10¢	22 Out of town this weekend? Yes-10¢ No-5¢
23 Attended church this weekend? Yes 10¢ No-30¢	24 ST BARTHOLOMEW <i>Apostle</i>	25 10¢ for each child/grandchild in college	26 10¢ for each car you own	27 Monica* <i>Mother of Augustine</i> 20¢	28 Augustine of Hippo* <i>Pastor & Theologian</i> 20¢	29 THE MARTYRDOM OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 50¢
THANK OFFERING of choice	Temp above 90? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	*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. MITES MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in the Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available.				



New Member Sponsor Committee

Welcoming you home into our faith family.

Greetings from your New Member Sponsor Committee!

Let us introduce ourselves and tell you a bit about what our purpose is at St. Paul's. Our committee members are Jim & Marlene Steinberg, Phyllis Schuck, Judy Braatz, Vicky Tudor, Marilyn Sherman, Codi Peschek and Pastor Schockman. As new members are accepted into membership here at St. Paul's our committee will match up these new members with current members who are asked to be their St. Paul's sponsor and help introduce them to the wonderful opportunities to learn and serve here at St. Paul's. Our committee recently ran across the following list of 10 suggestions on "How to be a Loving, Friendly and Welcoming Church" and wanted to share it with you.

1. Try to greet everyone including members you don't know. At least try to say good morning/evening or wave or give a smile.
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home at a new church is YOU. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular member.
3. If you don't have a chance to say something, just give others a smile.
4. Take the initiative, don't wait for others to initiate conversation with you. Introduce yourself.
5. Don't just talk to those you know or to relatives. Remember that every member of your church is part of the family of God, your family. You might not feel the need to reach out but others need your love and friendship as part of the family of God.
6. Ask questions and learn about your guests or members you don't know. For example: "Do you live here in....? Have you always lived here?"
7. Remember that some people are introverts, so try not to come on so strong that they feel uncomfortable.
8. Invite visitors to the day's church activities, such as fellowship coffee time, Bible Study etc.
9. Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and help them find worship resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.
10. Welcome them and tell them that you are glad they are here. Remember how Christ has loved you and cares about you. Imitate Jesus' love, imagining how Jesus would greet every person.

Even though you aren't officially on our committee, you as a member of St. Paul's are indeed part of the overall "St. Paul's New Member Welcoming Committee". Please feel free to reach out to our committee with any questions regarding our committee or if you would like to volunteer to be one of our New Member Sponsors.

ATTENDANCE COST

Costs include room fees, breakfast on Sunday, and dinner on Saturday. Register by September 30th for early bird pricing!

Standard Room: \$455/ couple

Early Bird: \$430/couple

Suite: \$495/couple

Early Bird: \$470/couple

REGISTRATION

To register, please notify Heather Scheuer at heather@splco.org or by stopping in the office. Payment can be made online through the donation portal (use the "Marriage Retreat" line to submit your payment) or by paying in the office.

Registration is not finalized without both notifying Heather or registering online AND submitting payment.

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

THE OSTHOFF RESORT



The Osthoff Resort was named one of America's top ten resorts by *USA Today*! We are thrilled to be returning again for another year of learning and fellowship.

101 Osthoff Ave.,
Elkhart Lake, WI
(855) 876-3399

www.osthoff.com

MARRIAGE RETREAT

2026

November 13-15, 2026



GAME NIGHT THEME

This year our dress-up theme for Saturday night is Celebrity Couples! Whether it's biblical or pop culture, dress up as a famous couple and enjoy an evening of fun with your fellow church members!

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, 1996 M.Div graduate and 2017 Doctor of Ministry graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, currently serves as President of the South Wisconsin District. For 25 years he served congregations in Northern Wisconsin, Southern Illinois and South Wisconsin. Most recently he served as Senior Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Plymouth, WI. He also serves as Stewardship Specialist in the LCMS's Office of National Mission. He has chaired Stewardship Task Forces in Southern Illinois and South Wisconsin. He and Rev. Heath Curtis published a book in the Lexham Ministry Series entitled Stewardship as Pastoral Care. He has been married to his bride Jill, a gifted Lutheran educator and fantastic pastor's wife for 34 years. The Meadors have three children: Joseph (a Lutheran Educator in Edwardsville, IL), Bethany (a PT student at Concordia Wisconsin), and Andrew (a business major at St. Louis University.) As a steward of his personal life, he enjoys golf, bowling, and officiating high school football, basketball and volleyball.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Baumgart
Suzanne Hirt
 August 1st

Sandy Bollinger
 August 3rd

Sue Baganz
Marilyn Runyard
 August 6th

Cheryl Christiansen
 August 8th

Lucille Campbell
 August 11th

Debbie Prange
 August 12th

Gary Pribnow
 August 27th

Barbara Weisensel
 August 28th

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Bob Bratz	\$1665
Donald Schmitt	\$1450
Shirley Smart	\$120

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

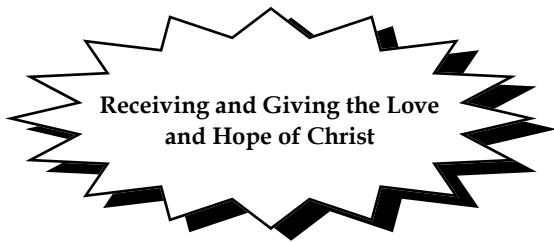
Newsletter deadline for articles,
 announcements and features is the
 2nd Wednesday of the month

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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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by baptism

Fischer Wallace, son of Zachary & Adriana (Fischer) Manvilla
Adeline James, daughter of Eric & Heather (Troiber) Larson

Received by transfer from another LCMS church

Aidan O'Donnell – Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistadt , WI

Received by Profession of Faith

Thomas Schrader

Transferred to another LCMS church

Sofia Peppel – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Deaths

Shirley Smart
Donald Schmitt

Baptized 2049 Confirmed 1258