



OCTOBER EPISTLE

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

OCTOBER 2026



Echoing the Scriptures

Rev. Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor

Martin Luther was one of the most learned men of his day, a doctor of theology and a preacher. Yet in his Large Catechism he admitted that he still treated himself like a child learning the catechism. Every morning, and whenever he had time, he read and recited the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Psalms word for word. He never outgrew them. He said that the Holy Spirit is at work in that kind of reading, repeating, and meditating, and gives new light each time.

The word *catechism* comes from a Greek word that also gives us our word *echo*. God's Word is meant to be heard, spoken back, and heard again, until it lives in us.

That is why children in our congregation, in ECC, Day School, and Sunday School, hear the same Bible narrative each week. The story is the same because the Savior at its center is the same. Whether the week's account is Moses, the plagues and Passover, David anointed as King, or John the Baptizer, it points to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

We invite you to learn these stories alongside our children. From the beginning of October until we take a short break for Christmas, our Life Application Bible Study on Sunday Morning is going to explore the Biblical Narratives that form "How Firm a Foundation", our unified theology curriculum. Each week we will hear the same narrative that the Sunday School, Day School, and ECC hears, and give L.A.B.S. a chance to interact with parts of the curriculum itself.

Repetition can seem too simple to matter. We learn to speak the language of our faith before we understand it. Understanding comes over time, but learning the words should start right away, waiting until we or our children understand every word is a mistake. But the words our children hear again and again become the words they carry for life: into hard days, hospital rooms, and old age. Like Luther, none of us outgrows the story of Jesus. Let's learn it again, together.

Pastor Jason A. Schockman



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

An Exhortation to Master the Catechism 2026-2029

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:4-7, ESV)

In our Lutheran circles, October is a time to remember The Reformation: the authority of Holy Scripture, the centrality of the doctrine of justification by grace through faith, and the related "solas" (*sola scriptura*—"Scripture alone", *sola fide*—"Faith alone", *sola gratia*—"Grace alone"). Those are exceedingly well and good, a decent beginning for understanding the chief authority and chief teaching of the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith.

But remembering The Reformation is not chanting, "Scripture alone," "faith alone," and "grace alone." Remembering The Reformation is *trusting* the Scriptures as *the* authority for faith and life; thus, *believing* that you are ". . . justified by faith [in Christ] apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:28, ESV) And that faith—the faith that saves—" . . . comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, ESV)

In 2029—just three years from now—we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the publications of the *Small* and *Large Catechism*. Thus, as many of you know, we have embarked on the three-year catechetical renewal project called "How Firm a Foundation." In worship, in our school, in our Sunday School, and in the myriad parish meetings that occur, we are dedicated to helping every member of the congregation achieve mastery of the fundamentals of the Christian faith by memorizing and meditating upon the texts in Luther's *Small Catechism*.

In worship, in your home, in Sunday school, and in your meetings, we encourage you to be "on the same page" with the whole parish by making the weekly focus Biblical and catechetical texts part of your life. A little bit at a time, for all of us—young and old—will yield a parish stronger in God's Word, more mature in Christ, and better prepared for what God has in store for us!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Wednesday of Pentecost 17
23 September, A.D. 2026



BALLPARK *Bash*

FOR ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

— A FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT —



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH



DOCKHOUNDS STADIUM

5:30-9pm

Ballpark Bash Benefit Tickets





Thank you to those of you who have offered to help with St. Paul's Christmas Market for the students. Please, if you are crafting, yet your items to us during the first week in December. If you need any assistance, please contact Sue at 262-567-8985 or Tammy at 262-607-1111. Thank you again for all of your help.



You are invited to our

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 15th

5:00 - 6:15 pm

Infants - 4th Grade

Kids are encouraged to wear pjs while enjoying games, crafts, sensory stations, and storytime.

Christ in All Things



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, and ECC
210 E. Pleasant Street | Oconomowoc
262/567-5001 | www.splco.org

October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Fall decorations out yet? Yes-15¢ No-20¢	2 Attend school football games? Yes-20¢ No-25¢	3 10¢ for each room you may have cleaned today
4 LWML Sunday Wearing PURPLE today? Yes 20¢ No-50¢	5 Cooked dinner tonight-15¢ Ate left-overs-25¢	6 Opened windows today? Yes-30¢ No-15¢	7 Henry Melchoir Muhlenber* Pastor	8 10¢ for each cup of coffee or tea today	9 Abraham* 25¢	10 10¢ for each green, brown or gold item you are wearing today
11 Philip the Deacon* 25¢	12 Columbus Day 25¢	13 Wearing slip-ons 15¢ Ties-30¢	14 15¢ for each egg eaten today	15 Wore a sweater today? Yes-30¢ No-15¢	16 Garden or yard cleaned up for fall? Yes-15¢ No-25¢	17 Ignatius of Antioch* Pastor & Martyr 25¢
18 St. Luke Evangelist 30¢	19 10¢ for each piece of mail received today	20 10¢ for each pumpkin you have - real or decorative	21 Donated to Lord's cupboard this week? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	22 20¢ for each Starbucks drink today	23 St. James of Jerusalem Brother of Jesus & Martyr- 25¢	24 10¢ for each trip to the grocery store this week
25 Dorcus, Lydia & Phoebe* Faithful Women 50¢	26 Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heerman & Paul Gerhardt* Hymnwriters -25¢	27 Sunny today-20¢ Cloudy-15¢	28 St. Simon & St. Jude Apostles 25¢	29 5¢ for each email received today	30 TGIF 30¢	31 REFORMATION DAY \$1.50

*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.

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 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	5 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	6 6:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm Daniel Bible Study	7 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics	8 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	9 5:00 pm Abby Bratz/Ty Schneider Rehearsal	10 7:30 am Journeyman 1:00 pm KalbusKaul Wedding 5:00 pm Divine Worship
11 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	12	13 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	14 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm The Entrusted Life Bible Study	15 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	16	17 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 5:30 pm Youth Corn Maze
18 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	19 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	20 6:30 pm Daniel Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm The Entrusted Life Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	23	24 7:30 am Journeyman 5:00 pm Divine Worship
25 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 MS & HS Youth Movie Night	26	27 6:30 pm Daniel Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Lutheran Basics 6:30 pm The Entrusted Life Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	30 NO SCHOOL	31 2:00 pm Divine Worship



SATURDAY: OCTOBER 31st, OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TIME WILL BE AT 2:00 pm



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by Profession of Faith

Mark Goetzke

Death

Karen Meyer

Baptized 2054 Confirmed 1261



MEMORIALS

Carol Lenz \$25

Karen Meyer \$2005



October is LWML Sunday and we will be handing out Mite Boxes to fund our district and national mission grants, display and dedicate this year's shipment of 72 quilts and pillowcase dresses to Orphan Grain Train, collect a door offering, sponsor the radio broadcast and supply treats for Bible Study. Remember to wear your PURPLE!

Zone 17 Fall Rally will be held at Bethlehem, Wales on **October 17th**. Our speaker will be Rita Whittow from Bethany, Milwaukee, giving a presentation on modern-day Bethlehem and Jerusalem. *Our Gifts from the Heart* ingathering will be items for Bethany's food program and outreach to the homeless. Items needed: peanut butter, jelly, pasta/sauce, canned soup, oatmeal and cold cereal (NOT healthy varieties). Registration with refreshments begin at 9:00 am with the program beginning at 9:30. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend! You may drop off donations in the marked bin in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, October 6th**, in room **219**. Remember your Mites as we kick-off our next biennium!

Word ON Wednesday

Are you thinking about becoming a member at St. Paul's OR do you want a refresher on what Lutherans believe? Join Pastor Schockman for "Lutheran Basics" at our Wednesday evening Bible class, Word on Wednesday (W.O.W.). Childcare will be provided!

When: Wednesdays, through December 16th (no class on 11/25)

Where: Room 219

Time: 6:30–8:00 pm (through 11/18)

Time: 7:30—9:00 pm (during midweek Advent Worship services)

THE ENTRUSTED LIFE STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS BIBLE STUDY



St. Paul's is offering a six-week class on Christian Finance Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. The class will begin on October 14th, and run through November 18th. During that time, we will discuss ways to deal with difficult financial decisions, budgeting, how to deal with debt, saving vs investing, preparing for retirement, contentment, giving, and much more. "...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4. God has entrusted us with so much, together let's figure out how to best steward those gifts. This

six-week class will be led by Dale Stratil. Those planning to attend the class can register at <https://splco.org/church/bible-studies/> and click on the "Sign Up" link or simply use the QR code.





October's Hymn of the Month: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

(number 656 and 657 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

"A Mighty Fortress" is probably the best known of Martin Luther's hymns. While it is sometimes known as the "battle hymn of the Reformation," Luther originally published it with the designation "a hymn of comfort." This was sorely needed in Reformation-era Germany, which frequently struggled with epidemics, threats of attack from Turkish and Catholic armies, and theological fights with Catholics and other Protestants.

Luther based this hymn on Psalm 46, which begins, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." However, Luther does not continue following the psalm verse by verse. Instead, he takes the psalm's main ideas and uses them to point us to Christ. While the psalm thanks God for protecting Jerusalem from Israel's enemies, the hymn shows that Jesus Christ is the same God who protects us now from all attacks of the devil.

Although we have different concerns than the Church in Luther's day, it is clear that we still suffer from the devil's attacks. As we approach our celebration of Reformation Day, we can take comfort that no matter what we suffer, Jesus - the God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever - has already won the victory. "The Kingdom ours remaineth."

Why do we have two versions of this hymn?

Luther's original version of the tune appears first in the hymnal under number 656. This version contains many rhythmic syncopations. However, in Luther's day, hymns were usually sung without any organ accompaniment. When congregations sing in large stone buildings with an echo, they naturally tend to slow down. (You may have noticed this yourself when we sing unaccompanied during services.) Over multiple generations and hundreds of years, the singing gradually slowed to a point where the rhythms were lost, and congregations sang the tune with more equal notes. This is the version of the tune included in number 657, and the one that was most known as the hymn spread outside of Germany.

Eventually, some musicians began trying to restore hymn tunes to their original versions. One of these musicians was C. F. W. Walther, the first president of the Missouri Synod. Walther popularized the original version of the tune at his congregation in St. Louis, and later through his own hymnal. This is why the original syncopated tune has usually remained most popular in the Missouri Synod. Throughout the twentieth century, original tune spread throughout other Lutheran synods, and even to other denominations.

Coffee Fellowship Hour & Bake Sale in October!



Ladies, mark your calendars for October 1st. That's the date of our next Sisters in Service meeting. A lot of things are happening in October for Sister in Service! We continue the celebration of our **140 years of service** to St. Paul's as well as planning for the hosting of the October 18th Coffee Fellowship Hour that will include a free-will offering bake sale! So, join us on Thursday, October 1st, at 5:30 as we enter the fall season of food, fun and fellowship. We love seeing new faces, so please consider bringing a friend.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Al Baumgart
October 2nd

Ethel Buchta
October 4th

Brad Lieungh
George Menden
October 5th

David Schlieue
October 7th

Debbie Maynard
Patti Zwieg
October 8th

Sue Zastrow
Jeff Zwieg
October 10th

Julie Lieungh
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

Paul Fischer
Rodger Pagenkopf
October 27th

Judy Keeling
Julie Moore
October 30th

Bill Granzin
October 31st

For our members 70+ years

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 DeWitt 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

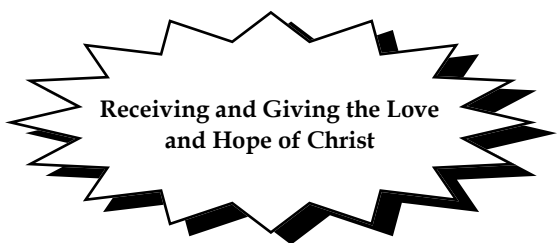
Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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Third Sundays
5-7pm

October 18, 2026

The Branch of His Planting:

Helping Current and Future Pastors Grow in Christ

Speaker: David Juhl

Future pastors have to learn what their future vocation entails. Current pastors take what they have learned and continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pastor Juhl serves as both a vicarage supervisor and, with his wife Becky, as a PALS (Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support) facilitator for the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He'll bring a unique perspective on helping vicars and newly ordained pastors mature from saplings into healthy trees, rooted and planted in Jesus Christ.