

The Messenger

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL (WELS), GREEN BAY

February, 2022

Distinctly Lutheran: Saved by Scripture Alone — Pastor Jon Zabell

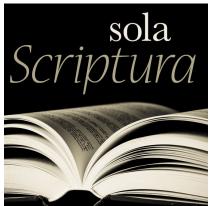
We live in what has been termed a "postmodern" age. What we call timeless truths many in our world call social constructs, ideas spun out of cultural biases, a manmade framework any of us ought to be free to knock down and build into something else, something more akin to our own bias, our own culture. Many have no time for religion at all, much less Christianity, much less Lutheranism. Martin Luther is a German theologian from the 16th century. We Lutherans ourselves may begin to wonder: what are we holding onto? What kind of hearing can people like us expect to receive in a world like ours?

To deal with these questions, it's good for us to remember what it means to be Lutheran. In this three-part devotional newsletter article series, we'll unpack three famous phrases which are distinctly Lutheran: we are saved by Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone. We'll see how what is distinctly Lutheran helps each of us live as God's people in our world of today. We'll also consider how Lutherans like us are uniquely equipped to engage with our world. This month: Saved by Scripture Alone.

The phrase Saved by Scripture Alone is a Lutheran motto, because in Luther's day many wanted to add the non-scriptural teachings of the church to the teachings of Scripture. But Scripture itself warns of dire consequences for any who add or subtract to God's Words: "If anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll, and if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City. (Revelation 22:18-19).

The battle for Scripture alone didn't start with Luther and it didn't end with him. We still need to be on our guard, because efforts at undermining Scripture are ongoing. Some question or attack Scripture's divine origin. For them, Scripture is whatever you make of it, whether good or bad. Even among those who call themselves Christian there are many who say that Scriptures are inspired by God, but they also point out what they consider to be factual errors within. They say that Scriptures are true, but then they turn around and say that you don't necessarily have to believe in all of the miracles to learn the truth that God loves you for Jesus' sake. Hardly anyone is left in the world who still teaches that Scriptures are completely factual and without error from start to finish.

But it's not just about how people teach. It's about how people put those teachings into practice. Here is where we all have wrongs to confess. Contrary to what Scripture says, isn't it easy to begin to think that our faults aren't so bad, to "forget" Scripture's nightmarish description of eternal death in hell: agony and loneliness that never ends? And when it comes to making things right again, isn't it



easy to set aside Scripture's promise of redemption in Christ and give in to our conscience's words instead? God won't love me if I don't make things right again. Haven't you and I have caved in to these temptations? To whom should God add the plagues described in his book, if not to us? From whom should he take away their share in the tree of life and the Holy City, if not from us?

Continued on p. 2

Inside this issue:	
CALL UPDATES	3
School News	4
LWMS News	5
Miscellaneous Info	6

Scripture Alone, continued from p. 1

Instead, he sent us a substitute. He sent his Son in human flesh to be holy in our place, and he was. Jesus faced off against every one of Satan's temptations to mess with Scripture, and remained sin free. Not only did Jesus teach Scripture perfectly; he lived it perfectly, too. Then our holy substitute went to the cross. There on the cross, Jesus' place in the Holy City was taken from him instead of from you and me. The plagues described in Scripture were laid on him instead of on you and me. He took all of the consequences of all of our sins, and he offered the world his holiness and perfection instead.

You can't help but marvel at God's love. Think of our Savior, Jesus, and how ordinary he is. Do you see? God has come down to our level. He wants to be our friend. He wants to be close to us, and he wants us to be close to him.

That's just the kind of love from God you see when you look at Scripture itself. Think of how ordinary Scripture is. God doesn't speak in riddles. He doesn't use hidden meanings. He uses plain, common human language. He comes down to our level, so that we can see and understand who he is. And by means of that simple Word alone - with no help from you or me or from any other source - he works faith in our hearts.

Some warnings are intended to keep people away from something, like a sign that says: Bridge Out. The warnings at the end of Revelation are posted to draw us in. Don't mess with Scripture! What could be so important, so valuable, that God would protect it so carefully? Here behind the warning is his perfect, inerrant, infallible, unchanging Word. It is a Word that works like a wake-up call for sinners, a Word that reveals the story of God's saving love for us in Jesus, a Word through which God gives us life, faith, peace, and hope.

Each day you are up against a boatload of trials and temptations. Each day, eternity hangs in the balance. Each day, Scripture is the unique, unfiltered voice of God, your Savior. What is distinctly Lutheran is good for you and also engaging for a world of people who have swallowed the lie that nothing is certain, who are longing - whether they know it or not - for words that will stand, words that can't be undone. We are saved by Scripture alone.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen (Revelation 22:20).

Each Believer: Priest of God

On the Sundays in February, Pastor Zabell will lead a Bible study highlighting the unique calling and challenge that belongs to every believer in Jesus. We are called to be *priests* of God. Like Old Testament priests we've been given the unique honor of offering God acceptable sacrifices of thanksgiving. There are challenges. Daily we fight temptation away from this high calling. Daily in Christ we learn to see with fresh eyes the great worth of those things the Lord has equipped and called each of us to do, whatever our station in life. We'll gather in the fellowship hall each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Kids' Bible Hour and Teen Bible Hour each meet at that same time.

Call Updates

Pastor Ben Enstad has been called to be associate pastor at St. Paul. Pastor Enstad is a 2009 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, currently serving at St. John, Valmy, WI (near Sturgeon Bay). He also serves as the chairman of the Northern Wisconsin District Mission Board. He and his wife, Amber, have two children, one age 6 and an infant. Please note: After our call was extended, Pastor Enstad also received another call to serve at St. Paul, Mauston, WI. He now has several calls to consider. His call acknowledgment letter to the congregation follows:

Dear members of St. Paul,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I write in humility that you, God's people, and the Lord himself have called me to serve you and your community as Christ's under-shepherd. To be a servant of theGospel anywhere is an awesome privilege. To hear the Lord say that he can also use me elsewhere continues to drive deep into my heart that through my weaknesses, God displays his strength and equips the called.

Over the days and weeks to come, I look forward to getting to know you and yourministry as I prayerfully deliberate between the call I currently serve here at St. John, Valmy, and the call to serve you at St. Paul, Green Bay.

I also ask for your patience and understanding since this time is especially unique for me when it comes to deliberations as I am also deliberating a third call. About four hours after Mr. Haskins called, I received a call from God's people at St. Paul'sin Mauston, WI.

As you all will certainly be in our prayers, we ask that you remember us as well, asking the Lord to grant us all peace, patience and wisdom.

Should any of you want to contact me, please feel free do to so with the contactinformation on this le9er. If you do, please make sure to let me know you are fromSt. Paul-Green Bay and not St. Paul's-Mauston ;) I apologize in advance if ever I should be the one to mix things up!

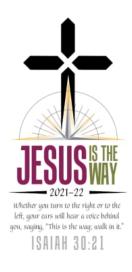
I thank you for the trust you have placed in me by extending this Divine Call. leagerly look forward to continued contact with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Benjamin Enstad

Mr. Christopher Hintz has been called to be principal of St. Paul Lutheran School. Mr. Hintz is a 2004 graduate of Martin Luther College, currently serving at Christ the King Lutheran School in Bremerton, Washington. Mr. Hintz has a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, and serves as the coordinator for the Commission on Lutheran Schools for the Pacific Northwest District of our synod. He and his wife have four children, ranging in age from 15 to 5 years old.

Please keep all in your prayers as these calls are considered, and see the School News article on the next page for more staffing and calling information.



School News

In January we marked the season of Epiphany and talked a great deal to our school children about being witnesses of the Way! All believers have a mission to reveal Jesus to our friends and neighbors — and to people everywhere! That's the purpose of our school and an important idea for our students to carry with them.

With this purpose in mind, the Board of Christian Education has spent a lot of time recently talking about our school's growth and the effects that are coming from the Lord's rich blessings. Several expansion and calling recommendations are coming to the St. Paul voters.

First, we await an answer from Mr. Christopher Hintz, called to be principal of St. Paul Lutheran School. If he returns the call, we will continue calling from the field as long as we can and will seek an interim principal for next school year again, if necessary.

This year's third grade teacher, Mrs. Adrianna Walkley, has decided not to return to this position after her one-year call is over. Mrs. Walkley has a high school teaching degree, and hopes to be reassigned to a high school position. Her decision leaves a vacancy in our third grade, which we will begin calling to fill as soon as possible. Call requests will be made for a third grade teacher with at least three years of experience and also some Spanish language experience, if possible.

The biggest change for the next school year is a recommended split of our fifth and sixth grade classroom, which, based on early registration numbers, will already be filled beyond capacity. Splitting the classroom means adding a new teacher for fifth grade; Mr. Clair Jammer will continue to teach sixth grade. Calling from the field is also planned for this position, pending voter approval, and duties will include assistant athletic director as a way of looking to the future.

It is also necessary to add to the teaching staff in our growing extended learning program. Options are being considered. Contingency plans are in place, should these calls be unfilled when the teacher call window closes on April 15. We'll fill you in as situations develop.

We are thankful that, though several of our teachers and staff contracted COVID in January, the Lord blessed us by allowing all of our classrooms to remain open during the staff absences. Exposure and absences were minimal. We are also thankful for the substitute teachers who stepped in to help. God continues to bless us in this unusual time!

St. Paul is hosting a B Boys Basketball Tournament during the first weekend of February. Come and watch a game or two, cheer on our team, and maybe even help out. Volunteers are needed for the weekend. See the hallway bulletin board or the concession stand door for positions and times.

Rehearsals have begun for this year's lower grade musical, "A Race to the Finish," which will be presented on March 4 and 5. Mark your calendar!

LWMS News

LWMS stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. "LWMS is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod". St. Paul is a member of the LWMS Paperland Circuit, which is currently comprised of 31 WELS congregations located from Oshkosh to the tip of Door County. The St. Paul Ladies Aid pays the yearly LWMS membership (THANK YOU!!!) for our congregation. ALL confirmed women (yes, including the young teens) of our congregation are automatically members of LWMS because our congregation is a member of LWMS. Learn more at LWMS.org and/or just ask me, I love talking about LWMS. I have been serving as your LWMS Reporter since 2011. The role of Reporter is to connect congregations with LWMS and LWMS with congregations. It is a <u>blessing</u> to serve!

LWMS Paperland Circuit Spring Rally: Will be on Saturday morning, April 2nd at St. Peter, Freedom. Watch the bulletin for coming details.

LWMS 2022 Convention Registration is open:

LWMS.org has all of the details, but feel free to contact me with questions or assistance with registering. Hotels fill-up fast, so book early. The convention will be in Rochester, NY on June 23-26. Tom's Christian Tours does have a bus going to the Convention with some stops (ex. Niagara Falls). Pricing and Itinerary are available on their website, www.tomschristiantours.com.

SAVE THE DATES:

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2022
 Spring Rally on April 2nd at St. Peter, Freedom.
- 2022 ~ 59th Annual LWMS Convention, June 23-26, 2022 ~ Hosted by Freedom Circuit, in Rochester, New York at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The theme is "Set Free in Christ".
- 2023 ~ 60th Annual LWMS Convention, June 22-25, 2023 ~ Hosted by TBD.

May GOD continue to bless the efforts of our Missionaries and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS).

Lisa Koenig LWMS Reporter <u>CookieBaker@1791.com</u> 920-469-1758

> Arise, **shine,**

> > LIGHT

as come. Isaiah 60:1

Built on the Rock Update:

A Savior from heaven! A Savior for all! In Isaiah chapter 60 verse 1 the Old Testament prophet preaches the good news seven centuries before the Savior is born. And so certain is God's promise that Isaiah speaks as though it's already happened: Arise, shine, for your light has come! (Isaiah 60:1). One of the ways our Savior's light is shining through us is in gifts and pledges for our building project, Built on the Rock. As of January 25th, the combined total of pledges and gifts is \$502,162. We're now over half way to our Easter goal of \$1 million. To God alone the glory!

— Pastor Zabell



Brighten the lives of those not yet born with a gift for

Built on the Rock

Find out more at



St. Paul Lutheran Church exists to celebrate our freedom from sin, death, and hell through Jesus Christ; to nurture our church family with God's Word for lives of service to Him; and joyfully to share the good news of salvation with the world around us.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL (WELS)

514 S. Clay St., Green Bay, WI 54301, www.stpaulgreenbay.com, (920) 435-8468, Facebook



The familiar faces above appeared in an email from Forward in Christ magazine last week, announcing that Pastor Nathan Nass has joined the Forward in Christ team as a contributing editor. Watch for his editorials in future issues.

The February issue of *Forward in Christ* includes articles on encouraging teens, strengthening marriages, racism, and a Bible study on the life of King David. Pick up a copy in the narthex.



The February Ladies Aid meeting is on Wednesday, February 2, 1:00 p.m., and will be held in the meeting room by the school library. Pastor Zabell will talk about the new hymnal. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us. We hope to see some of you there!

Fellowship Breakfast

Everyone is invited to the monthly Fellowship Breakfast, held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Village Grille on Hoffman Road in Allouez(801Hoffman Rd.). Please join us on February 8, 8:30 a.m., for good food and chitchat. If you have questions, please email Dennis or Liz Oberer at doberer@new.rr.com.



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Februa	ry 2022	ol. Paul Eva	January 2022 SMTWT	F S M T 1 1 1 7 8 6 7 8 4 15 13 14 15 21 22 20 21 22	wry 2022 W T F S S 9 10 11 12 6 16 17 18 19 13 23 24 25 26 20	Marcl- volume T F S I 2 3 4 5 I 2 3 4 5 I 2 3 4 5 I 0 10 11 12 I 10 17 18 19 12 2 23 24 26 26 28 29 30 31
Sunday Jan 30 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 9:15am Voters Meeting 10:30am Communion Service 11:45am Sunday Catechism Class	Monday 31 6:30pm Communion Service	Tuesday Feb 1 6:30pm Evangelism Committee Meeting	30 31 Wednesday 2 6:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Ladies Aid 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bible Basics - Round 2 7:30pm Prayer at the Close of Day	Thursday 3 9:00am Bible Study	Friday 4	Saturday 5
6 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Teen Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service 11:45am Sunday Catechism Class	7 6:30pm Communion Service	8 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast 3:45pm Faculty Bible Study 6:00pm Board of Stewardship 6:30pm Board of Ed. 7:00pm Board of Elders	9 6:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bible Basics - Round 2	10 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Built on the Rock Steering Committee	11 4:00pm Drive Thru Food Pantry	12
13 8:00am Service 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Teen Bible Hour 10:30am Service 11:45am Sunday Catechism Class	14 6:30pm Service	15 6:30pm Church Council	16 6:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bible Basics - Round 2	17 9:00am Bible Study	18	19
20 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Teen Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service 11:45am Sunday Catechism Class	21 6:30pm Communion Service	22	23 6:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bible Basics - Round 2	24 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Built on the Rock Steering Committee	25	26 1:30pm Private Baptism
27 8:00am Service 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Teen Bible Hour 10:30am Service 11:45am Sunday Catechism Class	28 6:30pm Service	Mar 1 6:30pm Evangelism Committee Meeting	2 6:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Ladies Aid 3:45pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 9:00am Bible Study	4	5

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran School

St. Paul Evangelical Lutneran School January 2022 February 2022 February 2022 S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S March 2022 S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T W T F S S M T M T M T W T F S S M T M T M T W T F S S M T M T						
Sunday Jan 30 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service	Monday 31 6:30pm Communion Service	Tuesday Feb 1 4:30pm BB Home Game vs St Peter Girls B 5:30pm BB Home Game vs St Peter Boys B 6:30pm BB Home Game vs St Peter Boys A	30 31 Wednesday 2 Library Day 7:30pm Prayer at the Close of Day	Thursday 3	Friday 4 FVWAL Home B-BB Tourr	Saturday 5 nament
6 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service	7 6:30pm Communion Service	8 3:45pm Faculty Bible Study 4:30pm BB Away Game @SVLS Girls B 5:30pm BB Away Game @ SVLS Boys B 6:30pm BB Away Game @ SVLS Girls A	9 Library Day	10 No School -Teacher's Con	11 ference	12
13 No School -Teacher's Conf 8:00am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 10:30am Service	14 erence 6:30pm Service	15	16 Library Day 4:30pm BB Home Game vs Neenah Girls B 5:30pm Bb Home Game vs Neenah Boys B 6:30pm BB Home Game vs Neenah Boys A	17	18 BB Tournament (A Teams)	19 Fox Valley WELS League a
20 BB Tournament (A Team 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service	21 3:30pm Basketball Practice/Camps 6:30pm Communion Service	22 Early Release 2:00 P.M. 2:15pm Teacher Work Time / Mtg 3:30pm Basketball Practice/Camps	23 Library Day 3:30pm Basketball Practice/Camps	24 3:30pm Basketball Practice/Camps	25	26
27 8:00am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 9:15am Kids Bible Hour 10:30am Service	28 6:30pm Service	Mar 1	2 Library Day 3:45pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	3	4	5