



The Messenger

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

September, 2022

Wiser Than God?

— Pastor Jon Zabell

When Thomas Edison was born (1847), society still thought of electricity as a novelty. By the time he died (1931), entire cities were lit by electricity. Much of the credit for that progress goes to Edison. In his lifetime, Edison patented 1,093 inventions. The most famous of his inventions was an incandescent light bulb. Besides the light bulb, Edison developed the phonograph and the "kinetoscope," a small box for viewing moving films. He also improved upon the original design of the stock ticker, the telegraph, and the telephone. He believed in hard work, sometimes working twenty hours a day. Edison was quoted as saying, "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." In tribute to this important American, electric lights in the United States were dimmed for one minute on October 21, 1931, a few days after his death.

Thomas Edison was a brilliant inventor, one of the great minds in our nation's history. But was he wiser than God? Is anyone? God's wisdom is infinitely beyond us. When we try to grasp the wisdom of the Lord, we have to say that we don't even know what we don't know.

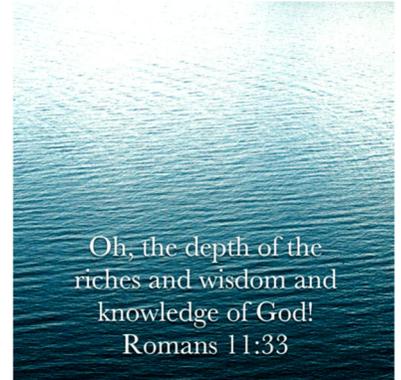
And yet... even if we are not among the great minds of this world, we have this tendency to think that we know more than God does. At times God makes our life more difficult than we think it should be, and, in our hearts, we question his thinking. We may not always feel compelled to listen to God's word very care-

fully, and why? Because we already know it, we say. We may lose someone close to us, and we may miss them so badly that we think that God must have made a mistake. And when we worry, aren't we really showing that we don't think God knows what he's doing?

In any way we've ever carried an attitude that might suggest we know more than God, all we are really doing is showing how foolish we are, and how sinful, too. God should just leave us alone to try to figure everything out by ourselves. It would serve us right.

But he didn't. In spite of our sinful pride he loved us enough to send his Son to bleed and die for us. He has taken all our sin - a whole world full of it - onto himself; yours, too. In a million years, we would never be able to figure out why he would do such a thing for us. We sure didn't deserve it. We're just full of joy that he did, because it means God loves us, and he always will. It means we're headed for heaven.

Knowing and trusting Jesus already makes you and me wiser than the most brilliant people of this people who don't. But that doesn't mean we have nothing more to learn. We have good reason to stay close to God's Word, to keep studying, to keep learning, day in and day out. You see, God has given us the wisdom to say the wisest thing a human being could ever say: "God is wiser than me."



Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever!

Amen. —Romans 11:33-36

Inside this issue:

LADIES AID 140TH	3
SCHOOL NEWS	4
KICK-OFF TIME	5
LWMS NEWS	6
100 IN 10	7

The Messenger

Back-to-School Thoughts

Members of St. Paul,

The July *WELS Connection* video focused on Martin Luther College and highlighted their goal to have students finish college with little to no debt. One of the big ways MLC does that is through the Congregational Partner Grant Program, in which St. Paul participates. Thank you for being part of this program. What a blessing it is that I have a church family who is willing to support my Christian education in this tangible way! I also thank you for your continued support through prayer and encouragement.

MLC provides opportunities to explore different facets of gospel ministry. At the end of June, I went on a mission trip to Cross of Christ church in Las Cruces, New Mexico, as part of MLC's Daylight program. Three other MLC students and I worked with the congregation to plan and hold a fine arts camp. It was a great outreach tool as only two families who came to the camp currently attend Cross of Christ. We also spent some time canvassing and planning the music for their upcoming worship services. We were able to really see the inner workings of their church and all four of us came home excited for full-time gospel ministry!

Summer is quickly coming to an end for me as I start my junior year at MLC on August 22. This year will be different for me as both semesters are considered clinical semesters. That means that I will be in a classroom one day a week observing and practicing the skills that I am learning in my classes. I am also looking forward to being a part of MLC's new mentorship program called Fortitude. It pairs a junior with a freshman who is looking for someone to help them adjust to college life. Each mentorship pair will eat a meal together twice a month and there will be some collective activities throughout the year as well. I am also continuing my job in the library this year. I have missed it this summer and I'm thrilled to be able to come back to it this fall.

Again, thank you for your support of MLC and its students, including me, and of Christian education for generations to come. Please continue to support us, especially through your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,
Grace Nelson

Please keep all of our students in your prayers as new school years begin for our members of many ages.

Go to God with special prayers on behalf of our ministerial education students.

- *At Luther Prep: Matthew Nelson, Ethan Schmidt, Anna Nelson*
- *At Martin Luther College: Sylvia Lauth, Grace Nelson, Meg Zabell*
- *At Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: Isaiah Zabell, Jacob Zabell*

Your ongoing support through scholarship fund donations that benefit these students and our members at Fox Valley Lutheran High School is also needed and appreciated.

Built on the Rock Update

On June 15, the voters of St. Paul approved the recommendation of the Built on the Rock Steering Committee and the Church Council to move forward with our whole project in phases. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Sunday, July 17. It was our thinking at the time that actual construction might begin at the end of July or the beginning of August, with the first step being either moving or taking down the parsonage and the parsonage garage. As this article is written (August 31), the first steps of construction are due to take place any day.

Why the delay? One reason involves all the varia-

bles involved in determining whether the parsonage next door would be moved intact to another lot or taken down (demolished). Another reason has had to do with the process of obtaining financing. Now we have a final decision on the parsonage and garage (they will be taken down, not moved), and, pending a good appraisal, we have received approval for our construction loan.

Other early steps in the project will include moving the playground from its current place to its newly designated place near the southeast corner of our building. Also, the parking lot driveway that currently occupies that space will be moved a little bit

to the south.

It's wonderful to see that gifts and pledges have continued to come in above and beyond our regular congregational offerings, even as we strive to meet the challenging ministry financial plan we've set for ourselves this fiscal year. As of July 31, our total of combined gifts and pledges for *Built on the Rock* was \$740,467. Give thanks to the Lord for filling the hearts of his people with such generosity! Pray that through our humble efforts at gospel ministry, the Lord may build many more souls on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus our Savior for generations to come.



Earthly Structure, Eternal Foundation

Built on the Rock

St. Paul Ladies Aid Celebrates 140th Anniversary

St. Paul Ladies Aid has been "Organized to Serve Since 1882" — even before St. Paul Lutheran Church became an official congregation (That happened in 1883). We celebrate the 140th Anniversary of St. Paul Ladies Aid this year. Special recognition of the anniversary will be on Sunday, September 25. The Ladies Aid will sponsor the flowers and bulletin and will provide cupcakes between services. There will be a themed Adult Bible Hour Class for the day as well. Additional events may be planned during the Ladies Aid meeting on Tuesday, September 6. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend Ladies Aid meetings. Want to know more about Ladies Aid? Contact Suzy Wieting (President — 920.499.6639), Sandy Schultz (Treasurer 920.469.0566), or Lisa Koenig (Secretary 920.469.1758).



The Messenger

School News

— Principal Stephen Miller



We are excited to welcome over 150 students for the 2022 school year in grades 3K-8. We began the year with a chapel service, focusing on our theme of *Overflow with Hope* (Romans 15:13). I can think of no better way to open the school year, than with worship and a prayer for God's blessing on the school year.



Opening Day Chapel

In addition to getting into our academic studies, our teachers and support staff are

focusing on getting students back into the school routine and have spent time in the last few days training students in various procedures and routines.

We ended our week with our first BASIC (Brothers & Sisters in Christ) Group event. K-8 students were placed in groups in the gym, participated in an activity to get to know

each other's names and then asked to play a modified game of duck, duck goose in an effort to reinforce their knowledge of each other's names.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Brittany Rivers (Office Manager) and Mrs. Markitha Reaco (Classroom Aide and After

School Care). We are so glad to have them serving in their positions for the 2022-2023 school year.

Our Board of Trustees, faculty and many others have been hard at work this summer getting the building ready for the school year. We give thanks to God for providing all of them with the skills and willingness to help us get our building ready for students.

You may have noticed changes to our entry process during the school day. In light of recent events in our world, we are following guidance from a recent security audit and requesting that everyone use the main entrance to the school (Clay St) during the school day (7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.). We have installed a new camera on this door that will allow us not only to see and interact with our visitors and guests but also to be able to do so from our computers or phones. Exceptions will be made



Duck, Duck, Goose Fun

for special events, such as funerals that need to use our facilities during the school day.

With God's blessing, we have been able to find enough staff to offer a before and after school care program. However, we will need to add a few more after school workers. In order to keep the program running we are in need of workers beginning in the last week of September. If you are able to work one night a week from 3:00-5:30 p.m., please consider serving in this way.

September Kick-Offs

Let's not put summer away quite yet, but keep in mind that the impending arrival of fall is the time of year for many activities at church to pick up again. Below is a list of ways to grow in your faith and to get involved in your congregation's ministries that will be starting soon:



- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 9:15 A.M. — BIBLE HOUR**

Adult Bible Hour is held all year round, but a new topic is starting on September 11, a study of **Miracles**, led by Pastor Enstad.

Kids Bible Hour starts its school-year sessions with offerings for children from ages 4 through grade 7. Lessons this year focus on the Sunday readings. Registration for Kids Bible Hour is available online. Check your latest E-News or our website (stpaulgreenbay.com) for a link to the form.

Teen Bible Hour is also back. Mr. Schaeve invites all members from 8th grade through high school to join him in the Meeting Room for discussion of topics that help us navigate life in our world today by applying God's Word.

Bible Basics: Bible Basics is a review of the main doctrines (teachings) of the Bible. It is a class we offer to all people who are interested in reviewing the foundational teachings of God's Word; for those wanting to understand what our congregation believes and teaches; and for those desiring to join St. Paul as members. Pastor Zabell leads this round of classes. Additional Bible Basics classes may be offered on different days / times depending on interest.

- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1:00 P.M. — LADIES AID**

Ladies Aid meetings start up again on September 6, 1:00 p.m. This service organization provides assistance to our ministry team and congregation in a variety of ways and also enjoys special topics of interest each month. Please note that meetings are moving to Tuesdays this year.

- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M. — CHURCH CHOIR**

Church Choir is a special way to use gifts God has given you to give praise back to him! Everyone is invited to join the choir. Music-reading ability and solo-quality voices are not required — only a joyful heart that wants to sing.

- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 6:30 P.M. — ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES**

ESL Classes are planned to start again after a long COVID hiatus. More volunteers are needed to help on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

A volunteer training session is scheduled with Pastor Flunker on Thursday, September 8, 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided. Please consider joining us if you can. We will sample teaching materials and show how they will be used and adapted to fit the students.

Contact Amelia Flunker if you would like to volunteer: flunker.amelia@gmail.com Phone: 920.265.2278

The Messenger



LWMS News

The Paperland Circuit Fall Rally will be on Saturday morning, October 15, at Living Water Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. Immanuel, Oshkosh, is co-hosting. The theme is, "Immeasurably More". You may recognize the name of the speaker, Pastor Ben Enstad, Chairman of the Northern Wisconsin District Mission Board. We will also celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the LWMS Paperland Circuit. Check the bulletin and LWMS table for more details.

Send One Sister to attend the LWMS 2023 Convention in La Crosse, WI. This person who will be selected at the 2022 Fall Rally. If you are a confirmed WELS/ELS woman who has never attended an LWMS Convention, you can apply to receive a stipend to offset the cost of attending the LWMS 2023 Convention. Check the LWMS table for the form to be completed and submitted

on or before the Paperland Circuit Fall Rally. You must be in attendance at the Paperland Circuit Fall Rally to be eligible to be selected.

Donna Kuehl, past International Board Secretary (2016–20), went home to heaven on August 15, 2022. Donna was a member of Mountain of the Lord Lutheran Church, which is in the LWMS Wisconsin River Circuit. Here is a link to her obituary: <https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/obituaries/wis368659>, requesting memorials be sent to the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. Memorials to LWMS can be sent to LWMS, 11200 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214. Some areas to designate funds are, "Legacy Fund", "World Mission", "Home Mission", or "Working Fund". Non-designated memorials will go into the "Working Fund".

SAVE THE DATES:

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2022 Fall Rally on October 15, at Living Water, Oshkosh.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2023 Spring Rally on April 22, at St. Paul, Appleton, co-hosting with St. Paul, Dale.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2023 Fall Rally, date is TBD, but it will be held at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay
- 2023 ~ 60th Annual LWMS Convention, June 22-25, 2023 ~ Hosted by the Crow River and Rock River Circuits at the La Crosse Convention Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

May GOD continue to bless the efforts of our Missionaries and LWMS.

Lisa Koenig
LWMS Reporter
CookieBaker@1791.com
920-469-1758



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 (801 Hoffman Rd.). Please join us on September 13, 8:30 a.m., for good food and chitchat. If you have questions, please email Dennis or Liz Oberer at doberer@new.rr.com.

Christian Family Solutions celebrates Pastor James Mattek's 40 years in the ministry on Saturday, September 10, at Immanuel, Greenville, starting at 5:00 p.m. Pastor Mattek is a member at St. Paul and serves as the Director of Ministry for Christian Family Solutions.



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

One Hundred Missions in Ten Years

Start 100 new home mission churches in 10 years. This goal is an exciting WELS Home Missions initiative that we all can be a part of through gifts, congregational involvement, and prayers. That's 10 missions each year, 10 new dots on the map throughout North America. During the same time, we want to support 75 enhancement grants to help existing congregations reach more souls, often in other cultures. It's an aggressive plan. To some, it might seem unachievable. Can our synod do this? Do we have the manpower, money, and ministry resources?



We trust that God will bless our efforts. This initiative isn't as much about planting more churches but about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. **It's about aggressively reaching lost souls.** It's about Christ's mission to his church. You know that mission: "Go and make disciples of all nations." But consider the words that Jesus spoke right before that: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Look at the one who commissioned us. He is the one who said to the wind and waves, "Quiet, be still," and to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take up your mat and walk," and to Lazarus, "Come out." He is the one who died, rose from the dead, and descended into hell proving and proclaiming his victory. Death was put to death. The devil defeated. The powers of sin destroyed.

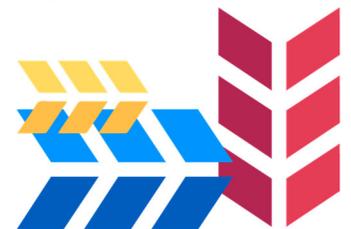
This is the Jesus who has commissioned us. This is the Jesus who rules over his church on earth. This is the Jesus who has equipped us! This initiative is about aggressively and confidently doing the work that he has called all of us to do.

There are still many out there waiting to be found and reached. They just don't know it yet. So let's support this. Let's do our part to get after it, trusting that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Pastor Mark Gabb

Home Missions chairman

More information on this initiative will be shared in the coming weeks, but you can already learn more at wels100in10.net.

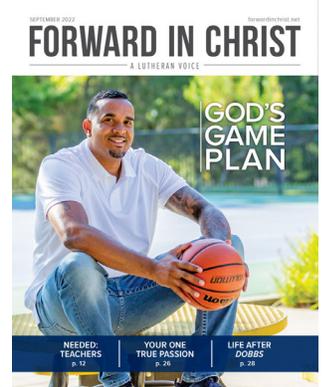


Pick up the latest issue of *Forward in Christ* magazine.

The September issue includes articles about:

- what the overturning of Roe v. Wade means for us as WELS members...
- how WELS leadership and congregations are working through the current called work-er shortage and how God continues to bless our synod...
- what it means to pick up everything to follow Jesus.

College students, did you know that you can sign up with WELS Campus Ministry to receive free subscriptions to *Forward in Christ* magazine and *Meditations*? Go to wels.net/campus-ministry.





ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Color Key: Church School Both				9am Bible Study 3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY RECESS	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY RECESS 6:30pm Communion Service	3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice 6:30 Evangelism Committee Meeting	8am Bible Study - Julius Cafe East 8:20am School Chapel 9am Womens Bible Study 3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice 6:30pm Athletic Meeting 6:30pm Church Choir Practice 7:30pm Prayer at the Close of Day	Ambrosius Picture Day 9am Bible Study 4:30 Volleyball Away Games vs. Martin Luther 6pm ESL Training 6pm TTF Meeting	8:30 GB Vision Screening 4pm Drive Thru Pantry 5pm Family Game Night	A Volleyball Tournament Warrior Classic Immanuel, Greenville
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8am Service - Grades 7&8 Sing 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Service	3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice 5:30pm PTO meeting 6:30pm Service	8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice 3:45 Faculty Bible Study 6pm Board of Stewardship 6:30 Board of Education	8am Bible Study - Julius Cafe East East 8:20am School Chapel 9am Womens Bible Study 4:30pm Home Games vs. SVLS	9am Bible Study 3:30 Volleyball / Soccer Practice		B Volleyball Lamboore St. Peter, Freedom Soccer-Tournament SVLS- Menasha - Cancelled
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am Communion Service - Grades 5&6 Sing 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service	3:30pm Volleyball / Soccer Practice 6:30pm Communion Service	1:30pm FVL visits 5th-8th 6:30pm Church Council	8am Bible Study - Julius Cafe East 8:20am School Chapel 9am Womens Bible Study 3:30pm A-Volleyball Practice 4:30pm Soccer Away Game vs. Neenah 6:30pm Church Choir Practice	9am Bible Study 4:30pm Volleyball Away Games vs. Neenah 6pm TTF Meeting 7pm BotR Meeting		Soccer Tournament FVL, Appleton
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Ladies Aid 140th Anniversary Celebration 8am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Service	3:30pm Soccer Practice 4pm Volleyball Away Game vs. Trinity 6:30pm Service	Early Release at 2pm	8am Bible Study - Julius Cafe East 8:20am School Chapel 9am Womens Bible Study 3:30 A Volleyball practice 6:30pm Church Choir Practice	9am Bible Study 4:30 Home Games vs. Weyauwega		