



# The Messenger

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

January, 2024

## Your Light Has Come

— Pastor Jon Zabell

“And God said, ‘Let there be light.’ And there was light.” —Genesis 1:3

How important is light? Obviously, without it, we wouldn't be able to see. But there's much more. Without light, there would be no food, because plants need sunshine, and without plants there is no food chain. Without light, there would be no way to enjoy the beautiful spectrum of color God has given his creation. A night light can avert a child from the private terrors of a dark room at bedtime. A bright, sunshine-filled day can brighten our mood. A good flashlight can help you find things hidden in dark corners, or it can guide you through the unfamiliar territory of a campsite at night. The light of a sunrise can fill a person with hope; it's the symbol of a new beginning.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). What a rich metaphor! Jesus was saying that without him, we are blind, afraid, hungry, and lost. He wanted us to know that he brings forgiveness and life to a world enshrouded by sin and death. He is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn” (Isaiah 60:1-3).

Interestingly, Jesus also turned right around and said to us, his disciples: “YOU are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).

He was telling us that we are to be reflectors of his light, like a well-polished mirror. I need that encouragement. The saving good news of my crucified and risen Savior is for all people, not just for me. I believe that. But if I stop there, I haven't really reflected anything. Belief is something that happens inside of me. A reflector shines. Do the people in my life know how much I care for them? Do they understand what a wonderful message I have to share with them?

Thankfully, Jesus' light never stops shining. That means that when I fail to do what he wants me to do, I don't have to retreat to dark places in an attempt to hide my guilt. I can stand in his forgiving light. I can live in his kingdom another day.

In Jesus, I always have another day of peace. In him, another day of life. Another day to polish my mirror, so that I can be the light of the world he has already declared me to be.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# The Messenger

## Mission Festival 2024 — Sunday, January 21



Home Mission congregations  
in the Northern Wisconsin District



Missionary Joseph Lindloff and his family

This month we have a unique opportunity that hasn't existed in our area for over 25 years! It has been over 25 years since a home missionary has served in his first year working to establish a new congregation in the Northern Wisconsin District of the WELS. That means it has been over 25 years since our congregation has had an opportunity to have a brand new home missionary in our area preach and present at St. Paul for our annual mission festival!

We are privileged on Sunday, January 21 (and Monday the 22), to host Home Missionary Joseph Lindloff and his family, who are working to start a new mission congregation in Marquette, Michigan. Missionary Lindloff will deliver the sermon in our worship time and will present on his work in Marquette in place of our regular Adult and Teen Bible Hour and Bible Basics on that Sunday.

To whet your appetite, read this excerpt from one of Missionary Lindloff's recent updates:

*My heart is so full of thankfulness for each and every one of you who poured out into this event last Sunday night! [Dec. 10th] The goal of our first community service event was to feed NMU students before exam week and show them the love of Christ. God blessed it tremendously with 35 students who came for a home-cooked meal. We were even able to take the extra food to the Warming Center and to the fire station. We plan to do this event again in the new year as we base our church on loving local and meaningfully serving our community!*

Missionary Lindloff's work is exciting, and you're not going to want to miss it.

Our Outreach/Evangelism Committee also offers a tasty breakfast for the presentation between the services on Mission Festival Sunday. You won't want to miss that either.

If you would like to receive monthly email updates on the home missions work in our area and throughout our church body, please email your request to [nwdmb\\_chair@nwd-wels.org](mailto:nwdmb_chair@nwd-wels.org).

Pastor Ben Enstad



EQNL#QUDQ#  
SN#LNIMS@H#

A Journey that Reveals Who Jesus Is

Rmc'x# nrgd#Sgd#m# 'nt'q<##

**January 7** — First Sunday after Epiphany: It Begins with Baptism  
**January 14** — Second Sunday after Epiphany: The Kindness in His Calling  
**January 21** — Third Sunday after Epiphany: Mission Festival  
**January 28** — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Absolute Authority

January, 2024

## Revised Constitution and Bylaws

After many months of review and discussion, a proposed large-scale revision to our constitution and bylaws was brought to a vote at our congregational meeting on October 29, 2023. The proposed changes are in line with what other WELS congregations currently follow, but they represent significant changes from a few

practices that have been in place at St. Paul for many years. There was a cordial debate on two key points, after which a two-thirds majority voted in favor of the changes. That's enough for bylaws changes but not for constitution changes, and since we voted on constitution and bylaws together, the matter remains as unfinished business.

Now we have a good opportunity to involve more people in the discussion than were able to be at our October meeting. Watch for a summary of the two debated points coming your way soon. Please plan to be a part of the continuing conversation at our next voters' meeting on Sunday, January 28, 9:15 a.m.

*President Scott Kohls*

## St. Paul Book of the Month

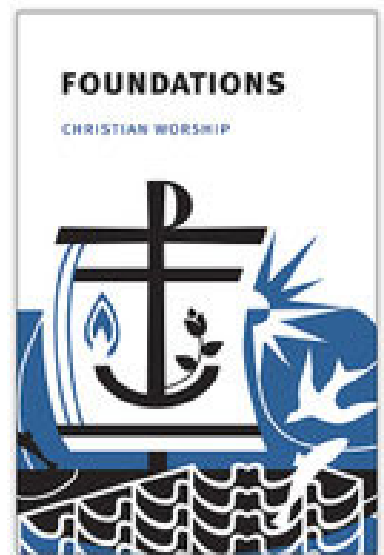
Starting this month, our pastors and staff minister will take turns sharing a book of the month, a recommended read from our church library.

I'm up this month, and my recommendation is a newly published book for which I was asked to serve as general editor. It's called **Christian Worship: Foundations**. Commissioned in connection with our WELS hymnal project, *Foundations* provides a scriptural rationale and historical background for what happens when Christians gather for worship each week. Eight WELS pastors authored nineteen chapters on topics like music, art, liturgy, creativity, and outreach. Special attention is given to discussing some of the new features of our new hymnal's orders of service. Anyone who is interested in getting the most they can out of weekly worship will find this to be a great read. Professor Emeritus James Tiefel of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary writes: "I've now read *Foundations* twice, once quickly and once slowly. I am amazed again and again how excellent this book is! I wish I had owned it before I started teaching at the seminary!"

Our church library is located near the coat rack in our church narthex. If the book isn't available there, you can find it at Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) at [online.nph.net/christian-worship-foundations.html](https://online.nph.net/christian-worship-foundations.html). The cost of the book is \$45 plus shipping.

Stay tuned: February's book of the month will be sponsored by Staff Minister Peter Schaewe.

*Pastor Jon Zabell*



## School News

— Principal Stephen Miller

The 2023-2024 FVL school year theme is 'Forever Faithful' with an emphasis on God's faithfulness. During the second quarter, we emphasized his faithfulness through grace. During the third quarter, we will take a closer look at God's faithfulness through his Son.

In celebration of the birth of our Savior, our school held their annual Children's Christmas Services on December 16. Many hours of planning and preparation went into making this a genuinely uplifting service as our wonderful children lifted their voices in word and song. If you missed the service, you can see our children "tell the story" on the St. Paul YouTube channel.

This past summer and during the first two quarters, our faculty and Board of Christian Education members have worked to update our school mission and vision. Clarifying our mission and vision for new and existing families is critical as we grow in the school's ministry. The updated Mission Statement approved by the board of Christian Education members follows:

"We exist to educate and support the whole child through an excellent Christ-centered education, nurture our school families with God's Word, guide them in applying their faith to their lives, and encourage them to joyfully share the good news of sal-

vation with the world. Proverbs 22:6 - "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Our current draft Vision statement reads (in part):

We **educate** students

- In the Word of God, especially as it reveals God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- In all content areas in the light of God's Word.
- In the pursuit of excellence in all core academic and extracurricular areas.

We **nurture** students

- By immersing each student in the Word of God and his love for them.
- By motivating and challenging students to develop their God-given gifts and talents to the fullest extent of their abilities.
- By providing a safe, loving learning environment where students learn to collaborate, communicate, think criti-

cally, persevere, and regulate emotions.

We **guide** students

- To apply the Word of God in service to Him, their families, church, and community.
- To witness their faith in the Green Bay community and beyond.
- To be lifelong learners equipped to use their God-given talents and abilities in all areas of their lives.

We return to school on January 4, to begin the third quarter of the year. In addition to parent-teacher consultations, January is filled with boys' and girls' basketball games, with home games starting on January 5. Please consider joining us for a game and cheering on your Eagles. You are always welcome. For a complete calendar that includes all of our games, please visit our website.



3K and 4K students "Love to Tell the Story" of Jesus' birth at the St. Paul School Children's Christmas Service.



## LWMS News

**Below are portions of a letter from "Mission to the Children" that was shared with the LWMS Reporters:**

*Mission to the Children (MtC) has been looking out for the spiritual and physical needs of people south of the U.S. border for 35 years. We have two churches and hundreds of Christians in several small Mexican villages brought to faith by the Holy Spirit. Many of you have helped with this outreach effort over the years, and everyone recognizes your contributions, not only with your gifts but your time. In the last month the Cartels have begun a bloody war over market share of the U.S. drug and human trafficking market. The innocents, including those in fellowship with WELS as members of our Mexican churches, have fled across the border into the U.S. and are now seeking asylum. These people were previously content to remain in Mexico with extensive family ties and established ways of making a living. But they now find themselves forced from their homes with little more than the clothes they were wearing when they fled. Some are here in Tucson living with relatives, some are sheltered in less permanent situations. The details of their escape are important in understanding how this situation came to be. There is only one road leading from Sasabe, Sono-*

*ra, to the south and one road in Arizona heading north. Many trucks with armed men suddenly arrived blocking the southern route and forcing the people of Sasabe, Sonora, to assemble against the fence and gate at the U.S. border. The people sought protection at the small Mexican customs office located there at the border with its small contingent of armed soldiers. As the chaos increased over the next 24 hours it was obvious to these families that the few soldiers didn't have enough firepower to protect them and they spilled through the border gate and surrendered to the U.S. Customs officers at the Sasabe, Arizona, checkpoint. They were taken into custody and now have a February court date. Three families from our Sasabe Lutheran Church did not cross the border, and I have been unable to contact them for the past two weeks. This is the situation that MtC is now working in as we attempt to attend to both physical and spiritual needs of these displaced Lutheran church members. Their physical needs include clothing and personal hygiene items. We are not able to provide everything, yet we do want to express the love of Jesus by helping with some of their immediate needs. Clothing is very much needed and can be used or new. MtC will help with food in the form of*

*Walmart gift cards.*

**If you'd like to assist this mission, Walmart gift cards can be sent to: Mission to the Children, PO Box 42223, Tucson, AZ 85733.**

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2024 Spring Rally, April 20, at St. Paul, Winneconne. Immanuel, Town of Clayton will co-host.
- LWMS 2024 61st Annual LWMS Convention, June 27-30, 2024, hosted by Minnekota Circuit in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Check [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) for registration, lodging, etc. opening in January, 2024.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2024 Fall Rally, October 12, at St. Matthew, Appleton. Eternal Love, Appleton will co-host.

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

Lisa Koenig  
LWMS Reporter  
[CookieBaker@1791.com](mailto: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 January 9, 8:30 a.m. Please email Dennis or Liz Oberer at [doberer@new.rr.com](mailto:doberer@new.rr.com) with questions.

# The Messenger

## Building Project Update



Our *Built on the Rock* committee has spearheaded an effort to cut project costs by taking on some of the lower level finish work ourselves. During the week between Christmas and the New Year, nine St. Paul members painted the lower-level Community Outreach Center. Over three nights, we primed the walls, then added two coats of “eggshell” white to finish the job. Many thanks to Janet Royce, Harlie Zahn, Darren Reschke, Rod Haskins, Rev. Tim Flunker, Debbie Welter, Ben Gilson, and Brian Carlson for their work! Watch for more opportunities to be a part of the project in the weeks ahead.

As of this writing, the finish date for this first phase of our building project is still mid-February. A special service of dedication and noon meal are planned for Sunday, April 14.

Our three-year Built on the Rock campaign will wrap up this May. As of mid-December, we have received about \$925,000 in pledges and gifts toward our original three-year goal of \$1 million. Thank you in advance for your gifts as our mortgage begins in March.

A committee is being formed to work on projections for when we may be able to begin the second phase of our building project. The expanded nar-

thex structure will link our new construction to the current narthex of our church and provide a better welcoming space and handicapped entrance for church. If you would like to be on this planning committee, feel free to contact me.

Please continue to keep our building project in your prayers, that it may help us carry out our mission as a congregation to proclaim the gospel good news of Christ our Savior to many more souls, now and in generations to come.

*President Scott Kohls*



Painting Crews (left to right) Scott Kohls, Darren Reschke, Brian Carlson, Harlie Zahn, Janet Royce, Tim Flunker, Darren Reschke (again), Ben Gilson, Janet Royce (again), Scott Kohls (again), Debbie Welter



**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)

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## Devoted to the Work of God

*from Forward in Christ magazine*

Meet Chong Chee Yang, one of the 55 leaders in the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam who completed WELS' seminary-level training program this past July. Learn more about his background and his work in the rural training program:



I am Rev. Chong Chee Yang, a pastor in the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC).

I am glad to write this letter to witness my training as one of the pastor of pastors in training the people in Vietnam.

I thank God for his love. God has called me to believe Jesus. I was born in a Christian family and knew Christ when I was young. I thank God for my wife and two children.

God called me to serve my congregation in 2010. I entered WELS training in 2013. I have been trained by WELS for 10 years.

I have taught the Word of God to the elders and the leaders of the congregations I oversee. The students were very happy to hear and know the truth. Some of the members and leaders broke into tears when they heard the Word of God because they first heard about the love of God.

In the past [before WELS], I have been to many trainings, both in northern and southern Vietnam. I only heard the law, the oppression of the laws, that we are only saved by doing good works. In the last 10 years, I have been receiving training from WELS. WELS teachings have brought me peace and happiness in the Word of God. Now, I am confident in my salvation that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are only righteous in God through Christ.

The pastors of the Hmong Fellowship Church appointed me to be the trainer pastor in the Word of God to the rural areas. Besides rural training, I also serve as the chairman for the 10 assistant teachers, who assist all training in the HFC—to the leaders of the congregations and rural [areas].

Many times, it is hard for me to travel from one village to another because I don't have a motorcycle. Even so, I trust the Lord. He will provide what is necessary for my travel from village to village. Very often I must leave my family to train members and leaders in rural areas. Most of the time, I do not have much time with my family, but my wife is very supportive of my work and prays for me. She is willing to work hard to bring food to the family without any complaints so that I may devote myself more to the work of God. Psalm 37:25 gives me strength and comfort: "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."

Through the love of God, I am willing to go and share the Word to others who need the Word of God. Even if I don't receive an income for this ministry, one day, God will repay all my work in heaven.

I want to thank God and Rev. Bounkeo Lor for coming to teach the Word of God to the HFC in Vietnam. Thank you to all of you who are also partaking in the training of the people in Vietnam.

May our God bless you and love you, and may the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



*Chong Chee Yang and his family*

*Special thanks to Bounkeo Lor and Joel Nitz for coordinating and translating this letter.*



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:00 PM – Ladies Aid 6:30 PM – Outreach Committee Meeting	3 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM – Prayer at the Close of Day	4 School Resumes 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting	5 10:00 AM – JAMM Session	6
7 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	8 5:30 PM – PTO Meeting 6:30 PM – Communion Service	9 8:30 AM – Fellowship Breakfast 5:30 PM – Tech Committee 6:00 PM – Board of Stewardship 6:30 PM – ESL Class 6:30 PM – Board of Christian Education 7:00 PM – Board of Member Care	10 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's Cafe 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting 6:30 PM – ESL Class 6:00 PM – Built on the Rock Steering Committee 7:00 PM – Women's Group at A'Bravo	12 4:00-5:00 PM – Food Pantry Distribution	13
14 8:00 AM – Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Service 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	15 No School – MLK Day 6:30 PM – Service	16 6:30 PM – Church Council 6:30 PM – ESL Class	17 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's Cafe 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	18 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting 6:30 PM – ESL Class 7:00 PM – Men's Bible Study Group	19 Eagle Spirit Night Basketball games start at 4:30 PM	20
21 8:00 AM – Mission Festival Service with Communion 9:15 AM – Mission Festival Presentation, Kids Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Mission Festival Service with Communion Grades 5 & 6 sing 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	22 6:30 PM – Communion Service	23 2:00 PM – Early School Release 6:30 PM – ESL Class	24 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's Cafe 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	25 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting 6:30 PM – ESL Class	26	27
28 8:00 AM – Service 9:15 AM – Congregational Meeting 10:30 AM – Service 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	29 6:30 PM – Service	30 6:30 PM – ESL Class	31 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's Cafe 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal			