



The Messenger

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

August, 2023

He Has a Plan

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." — *Jeremiah 29:11*

This world gets messier every day. As you see this mess getting worse, it can be hard to believe that God is in control, that God does have a plan, and that plan is still being carried out exactly according to his design.

It helps when you remember what God's plan is all about. God's plan is all about his desire to save you and bring you safely home to heaven. On that journey, he plans to prosper you . . . and not to harm you. That beautiful phrase of comfort contains a Hebrew word you are probably all familiar with — *Shalom*. *Shalom* is the common greeting of one Jewish person to another. It's a word of blessing and well-wishes. *Shalom* means completeness, safety, soundness, health, prosperity, tranquillity, friendship, contentment . . . But at its heart and core, it means peace. The LORD promises you that his plans are to give you peace and not evil, peace, not distress, peace . . . and not to harm you.

Our experience would tell us otherwise, but our experience doesn't show the whole plan. The Apostle Paul reminds us: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). An anonymous poet described this beautiful truth in a poem

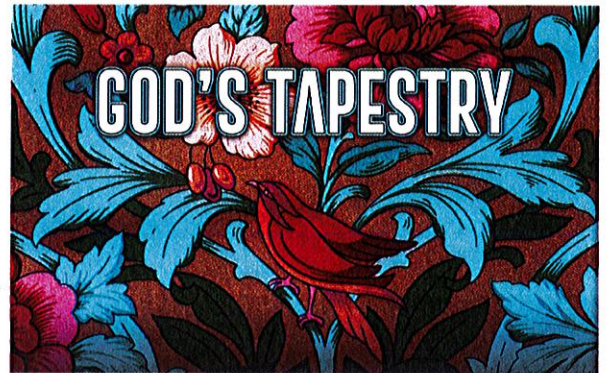
— *Pastor Ben Enstad*

titled *The Weaver*. In this poem, the author describes God's plan as a tapestry. One side is beautiful, the other, a jumbled mess of thread.

Each one of our lives is a different tapestry that God is stitching and weaving together. He has a beautiful and perfect plan he is weaving through your whole life. In fact, the plan and his work of art began already in eternity before he created the world and will only be completed in your death and safe deliverance into heaven.

As you live on earth, all you see is the backside, the mess. God sees and knows the beauty of what he is creating. You will see this beauty in full when you reach your heavenly home, but even now God sews golden threads that stand out in the mess. Golden threads that are especially clear moments of recognizing God's grace and love in your life. Golden threads of mercy when you see so clearly your Savior Jesus who gave his life for you so that you would be assured of God's forgiveness. Golden threads of sheer grace where God simply heaped his love upon you as he revealed to you all the more the depths of Jesus' love for you. Golden threads as God answered prayers for strength and wisdom in difficult and trying times.

You see, your life is not about your plans. And thank God it isn't about your plans! It's all about God's plan to get you safely home to heaven. That is the hope and



future he has prepared for you!

Holding on to this beautiful truth, God says that you then "will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Pray to your Lord. Pray that he will grant you the peace to trust him and his plan. Know that that prayer is heard by your God. Know that that prayer is answered by your God even if sometimes it may seem as though it isn't. But don't worry. He hears. He knows. He answers. He rescues. It's all part of God's plan.

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The Messenger

Get to Know Our New Teachers

**Ms.
Melissa
Koenig
Grade 1**



Hello, I am Melissa Koenig and I serve as the first grade teacher here at St. Paul. I grew up in De Pere, Wisconsin, and attended Fox Valley Lutheran High School, where my passion for Christian education and music grew. I attended Martin Luther College and graduated in 2018, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in both elementary education and instrumental music. After college, I was assigned to St. Mark Lutheran in Bemidji, Minnesota, where I taught kindergarten, first, and second grade for five years in a two room school. I enjoyed my experience in northern Minnesota, teaching students all about the love of Christ. I am thrilled to be back in Green Bay where I can continue to spread God's Word to all of my students. In addition to teaching, I also enjoy making music, playing with dogs, board games, scrapbooking, reading, and exploring God's creation. I look forward to the upcoming school year!

**Ms.
Elizabeth
Broring
Grade 3**



I graduated from Martin Luther College in 2018 with a degree in Elementary Education and K-12 Spanish Education. Before graduating, I took a year off to teach high school Spanish at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI. After graduating, I was called to teach grades 5-8 at Trinity Lutheran School in Marinette, WI, before switching to teach grades 2-4 in 2019. During my time at Trinity, I also did some music and served as the technology coordinator and assessment coordinator. I am currently working on my Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Special Education. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, baking, reading, and spending time outdoors.

**Mr.
Aaron
Wellhoefer
Grade 5**



I am Aaron Wellhoefer, the 5th grade teacher and assistant athletic director. I grew up in Cecil and went to Divine Savior Lutheran Church and School in Shawano. I went to FVL for high school and graduated in 2011. After high school I joined the military, where I met my wife, Amber, and eventually moved back to Wisconsin. We have two young boys, Andreas and Alistair, who both will attend school this year here at St. Paul. Our family enjoys getting outdoors with camping and going kayaking. I graduated from UWGB with a degree in Mathematics and a minor in Education. I will soon be taking online classes with MLC to begin getting my synod certification. I was teaching at Franklin Middle School in Green Bay before being called to St. Paul. I look forward to meeting you and more families here at St. Paul.

Boxes to drop cards and gifts for our new teachers are in the narthex. Please help them feel welcome!

August, 2023

Long Range Planning Committee Final Report

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. — Luke 12:48

There can be no doubt that our Lord and Savior has richly blessed us, both as individuals and as a congregation. Christ's love compels us to live not for ourselves, but for him, and to be faithful managers of his gifts. To that end, a Long Range Planning Committee was formed and met four times starting this past January. After careful study and discussion of demographics, trends, and interests in our community, our city, and our congregation (which included study and discussion of the congregation's responses to two congregational surveys), the committee drafted a *2023 Identity, Mission, Vision* document which lays out the unique calling, opportunities, and vision for us as individuals and a congregation. In April, the committee sought congregational feedback on the document. At the same time, the committee passed along an initial draft of *Long Range Ministry Goals* to the church council and congregation for review, and the plan was adapted accordingly. In May and June, strategies were added to the plan with more input from the congregation and council.

On July 30th, our congregation discussed and approved a final draft of the *Identity, Mission, Vision 2023-2028* document and the *Long Range Plan 2023-2028* document. These documents will now help guide our congregational conversations over the next five years. Members who receive email from church have received both documents electronically. The *Long Range Plan 2023-2028* was shared in two forms, a summary version that shows only the goals, and a more detailed version that includes strategies, due dates, and assigned personnel. Those who prefer paper copies may pick them up at the church office.

*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:
He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun. — Psalm 37:4-6*

Pastor Jon Zabell
Long Range Planning Committee Chair

	<p>2023 WELS Synod Convention July 31— August 3 Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan</p> <p>Watch for updates.</p>
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School News

— Principal Stephen Miller



Our theme for the upcoming school year is *Forever Faithful*, featuring the second half of Psalm 143:13, "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." The Lord is truly faithful and has promised to bless us in our work. We look forward to the year ahead, even as we wrap up a variety of summer projects.

By the time of this printing, most rooms will have been deep-cleaned and are ready for our students. Thank you to the numerous volunteers who worked hard this summer to ensure that our students have a clean and safe space to work.

A major network infrastructure project is almost complete; we have only a few small pieces to finish up. Thanks to a grant, this \$60,000 upgrade only cost our school \$12,000. We should see significant improvements in our network, increased academic opportunities, and improved learning outcomes for our students.

We have been blessed to fill our Office Manager position, and now look to fill our Hot Lunch Worker role. If you know of anyone who would be interested this position, please have

them contact our main office for an application. They can do this by just dropping by or by sending an email to office@stpaulgreenbay.com.

The start of the 2023-2024 school year is just a few weeks away. Registration Day is on Monday, August 7, from 9 a.m. until noon, and again from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Registration folders are prepared, teachers have made home visits, and final meetings and preparations are underway to start school on Wednesday, August 23.

Please keep everyone in your prayers: students, faculty, parents, staff... Pray that God will bless the school year and keep us all in his care as we learn about him and his world.

A colorful poster for a church picnic. The top left has the text 'ST. PAUL SAN PABLO LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL' with a church icon. Below this is a large red star. To the right is a hamburger icon. The center text reads 'CHURCH PICNIC' in large orange and blue letters. Below that is 'AND BLOCK PARTY' with a sunglasses icon. At the bottom left is 'SUNDAY, AUGUST 27' with a grill icon. To the right of the grill is a drink icon. On the far right, a white box contains the text 'COME FOR: Outdoor Worship at 10:30 a.m. Food Fellowship Activities'. At the bottom right, a blue box contains the text 'THE FUN LASTS UNTIL 3:00 P.M.'.

LWMS News

LWMS 2023 Convention:

My son's wedding day was the same weekend as the LWMS Convention, so I was not available to attend this year, but of the 1219 convention attendees, five attended from our congregation. They were: Amelia Flunker, Lois DePouw, Lois Reineck, Sandy Schultz, and Suzy Wieting.

Amelia was a flag-bearer; she carried the flag for Brazil. She said, "I loved seeing people I haven't seen in years and also meeting many new friends. My favorite presentation was Pastor Biedenbender and Vicar CJ talking about his experience as a vicar in a mission setting."

Lois DePouw was a first-time Convention attendee. She told me that every devotion and worship service had different pastors giving the message. "We are so blessed in our synod to have so many wonderful pastors all with different styles, but sharing the one true message of the gospel." Lois also met, for the first time, her third cousin, Guy Marquardt, currently serving as the Regional Theological Education Coordinator for the WELS Asia One Team.

Lois R. shared her musical gift and participated in

the LWMS Convention choir. She was also prepared for Elise Gross' presentation on "Strength and Courage", wearing a shirt with the "Strength and Courage" message on it. She was able to connect with Elise, and Elise asked her to send her the picture of Lois in her "Strength and Courage" shirt. Lois also reunited with former students, classmates, and friends.

Sandy told me that, "All of the speakers were fabulous. The LWMS International Board's Family Feud skit was adorable. The flag procession and recessionals were awesome and gave me goose-bumps. Missionary Elise Gross was amazingly high-energy and a real go-getter. She is part of the One Latin America team. It is always special to meet-up with old friends and make new friends. Worshiping with so many people of a shared faith and realizing that they will all be in heaven with you one day is taste of heaven on earth."

Suzy was the convention delegate for our congregation, so she attended the Business Meeting and voted on behalf of our congregation. Among the business, a vote on changing the name of the



organization was defeated.

Monies raised this year:

- kids c.a.r.e.: Mi Amigo Jesus - \$39,781.38.
- Mission Projects: Home Mission (HM-2022-14), Summer Student Assistants - \$46,688.25 and World Mission (WM-
- 2022-05), New World Mission Fields - \$46,688.24.
- Worship Service Offerings*: Home Mission (HM-2022-12), Home Missionary Conferences - \$32,761.08 and World Mission (WM-2022-09), Asia Special Projects- \$32,761.08.

*These numbers are still changing due to money still coming into the office.

If you'd like to watch worship services and presentations from the Convention, they can be accessed on www.LWMS.org, click on the "Convention 2023" button.

The LWMS Paperland Circuit was well represented at the Convention. Look at all the smiling faces in the photo above!

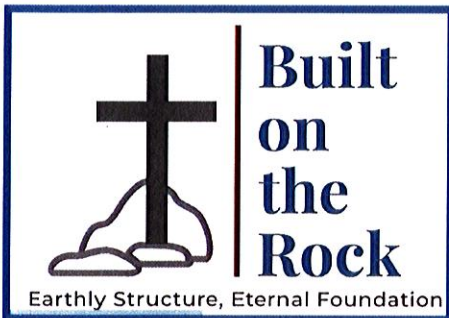
SAVE THE DATES:

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2023 Fall Rally, October 14, at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay. Co-hosted with First Lutheran, Green Bay.
- LWMS 2024 61st Annual LWMS Convention, June 27-30, 2024 Hosted by Minnetonka Circuit in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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

Lisa Koenig
LWMS Reporter
CookieBaker
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The Messenger



Update

— Pastor Jon Zabell

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.
— Colossians 3:23

As the month of August begins, the main level of our new construction has been enclosed, with prefab planks forming both the ceiling of that level and the floor of the upper level. Remember that the main level is where you will find the main reception area for church and school as well as offices for staff minister, principal, and pastors, and small conference rooms for group studies and meetings. It will be a place for the Lord's people to plan and carry out his work in our Savior's name.

We're still on track to finish our project by December 14th, though the timeline has changed slightly. Here are some updates as of the beginning of August:

- in process - second floor masonry work
- August 14- set window frames
- August 22 - bar joist (roof support) is in place
- September 1- weather tight
- December 14 - completion date, God willing

*Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.
Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.*

—1 Chronicles 29:12-13



PHOTOS from VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Clockwise from upper left:

- + Lesson time: Jesus Walks on Water
- + Outdoor "Battleship"
- + Floating Footprints Craft Time
- + Last Day Group Photo





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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Sometimes It's Just Clear

from the WELS Mission Blog, July 13, 2023

Written by Rev. Ben Enstad, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Green Bay, WI and District Mission Board Chairman for the Northern Wisconsin District.

If you live in the north central and north east states of our country, you've lived with a smoky haze for weeks. Even with wildfires thousands of miles away, the smell of burning forests can sting the nose, limit vision, and threaten fragile lungs. We long for clear skies and fresh air.

Sometimes God lets us struggle through what we think is a smoky haze when the answer doesn't seem to be clear, or even in sight. He does this to drive us to his Word, drive us to our knees in prayer, drive us to seek counsel and collaborate with fellow saints. This is always for our good, even if we cannot see the good in the moment or after we emerge from the haze. And then, **sometimes it's just clear.**

Mission Counselor Wayne Uhlhorn and I left Green Bay on a Tuesday morning with a heavy haze of smoke filling the air. We set off for Marquette, Michigan, to hold our next core group meeting. By the time we reached Marquette, the haze was completely gone. The sun was shining brightly and the fresh air filled our lungs. It was just...clear.

Our journey to Michigan works as a great metaphor for the new start in Marquette. Sometimes it's just clear.

From our first visit two years ago with Pastor Stephen Lehmann and every trip in between, it's just clear—we need to start a new church in Marquette! This isn't just the opinion of a mission minded pastor an hour away in Iron Mountain (Lehmann), nor that of a Midwest mission board. From visits we made with movers and shakers in the community to other WELS people we keep finding in the Marquette community, everything and everyone has kept saying...it's just clear.

That's not to say there hasn't been haze, trepidation, or uncertainty.

The fall of 2022, our board wasn't sure we were ready to submit a request for the spring Board for Home Missions meetings. We didn't have an established and active core group. If you know anything about church planting these days, that's kind of a big deal! But we knew Marquette was an excellent example of a place where we still need to do exploratory work. Obviously, it was just as clear to the Board for Home Missions as it was to us.

Along the way, there has been other haze. There are naysayers regarding the 100 missions in 10 years initiative. We also had to answer the question, "Why would you start a church in Marquette? We already have one there!" In Marquette County? Yes. In the city? No. That said, our goal isn't that one church closes so that another will thrive, but that we have two thriving congregations in Marquette County: St. Paul to focus on the rural community south of Marquette; the New Start location to focus on the area west of Marquette, near Northern Michigan University. It's just clear.

Six months after deciding to move forward with the request for a New Start in Marquette and three months after BHM approval, Wayne and I were sitting in the beautiful backyard of our gracious hosts, Ashley & Eric Nicholas (the core of the core group), talking about starting a new mission in their community. Just three days prior, Rev. Joe Lindloff had accepted the call to be the missionary of our new start! It's just clear when you see things come together like this and recognize that it's all part of God's gracious plan.

And still, there's more! At this meeting we met two new members of the core group. Evan, a traveling nurse, is looking for a position closer to home, not only so he can be home every night with his wife and child (and #2 on the way), but also so he can help establish a new mission with a man who was a senior he looked up to at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Next, we met Sydney, who went to NMU to get her graduate degree in counseling. She works at Christian Family Solutions(CFS) and decided to stay in Marquette after completing her degree. Early in our research for the new start, we saw a huge benefit to having a CFS counselor at the new start. Now, three months after approval, God introduced us to Sydney who is excited by the prospect of setting up shop together with our new mission!

I think by now you're seeing it too. It's just clear. God is working in wondrous ways to gather more sheep in the Marquette community. I can't wait to see what else God has planned for his church in Marquette!

August 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 PM – Evangelism Committee Meeting	2 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	3 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting	4	5
6 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service	7 9:00 AM-Noon -- School Registration 12:30 PM – Faculty In-Service 4:00 – 7:00 PM – School Registration 6:30 PM – Communion Service	8 8:30 AM – Fellowship Breakfast 5:30 PM – Tech Committee 6:00 PM -- Board of Stewardship 6:30 PM -- Board of Christian Education	9 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM -- Board of Member Care	10 No Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting 7:00 PM – Women's Group at Captain Jack's	11 4:00-5:00 PM – Food Pantry Distribution	12
13 8:00 AM – Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Service 12:00-1:30 PM – Eagle Volleyball Camp	14 5:30 PM – PTO Meeting 6:30 PM – Service	15 6:30 PM – Church Council	16 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study	17 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting	18	19
20 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service 12:00-1:30 PM – Eagle Volleyball Camp	21 6:30 PM – Communion Service	22 6:30 PM – Ministry Committee	23 First Day of School 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's 9:00 AM – Back to School Breakfast 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study	24 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting 6:00 PM – Built on the Rock Meeting 6:30 PM – Tech Committee Meeting 7:00 PM -- Men's Bible Study Group	25	26
27 8:00 AM – Service 9:15 AM – NO Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Outdoor Service Church Picnic follows worship.	28 6:30 PM – Service	29	30 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study at Julie's 9:00 AM – Women's Bible Study	31 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Building Meeting		