



The Messenger

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

No Condemnation

— Pastor Ben Enstad

October, 2025

God demands a lot. In fact, he demands perfection. **Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy** (Leviticus 19:2). His condemnation of those who don't measure up is severe. **The one who sins is the one who will die** (Ezekiel 18:20). And that is the complete death of which God warned Adam in the Garden of Eden—physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death in hell.

Therefore, any chance of rescue **MUST** come from outside of us. In fact, we can't be involved at all! And that is what the Apostle Paul emphasizes at the beginning of Romans chapter 8:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

— Romans 8:1-4

It's really hard for us to imagine something so important in our lives that we have no control over. Maybe you struggle with flying because you can't handle

not being in control. Then again, you do make a choice to fly. Maybe your upcoming surgery terrifies you because you will be put under and everything will be out of your control. Then again, you still elect to have surgery even if you and your doctors deem it necessary.

To be rescued from the condemnation you deserve because of your sin — that is entirely out of your control. You can't even decide to be rescued. How good that is! This lack of control is the only way we have complete certainty that **there is now no condemnation for us who are in Christ Jesus!**

Why? Because [God sent] his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us...

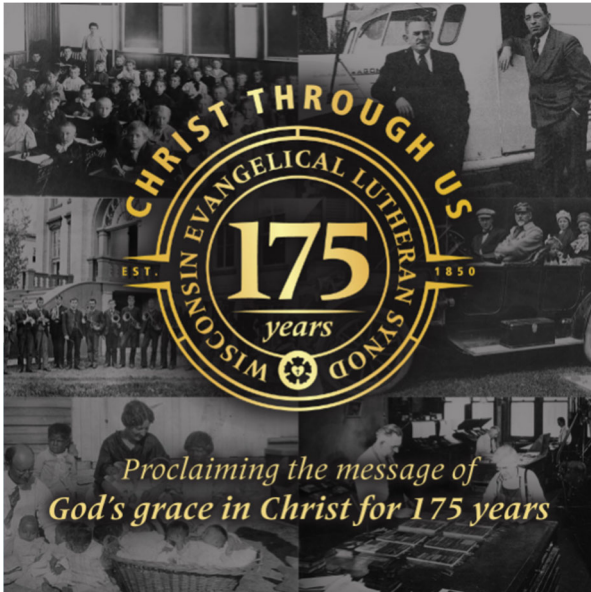
Not only did Jesus keep every one of God's commands perfectly for us, he also fulfilled what God's righteous requirement demands—he was condemned for us. This could only happen because he took on our human flesh. Because Jesus has done this for us, God works a great



exchange. Jesus' perfect life and the payment for sin are all given to us. This is why and is the only way that there can be **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

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October Worship: WELS 175th Anniversary

Our synod's 175th anniversary is celebrated on three Sundays in the month of October. The anniversary theme is "Christ Through Us," which matches the theme of the service plans from the 2025 WELS Convention and also titles the work of WELS in a ten-year detailed plan to proclaim our Savior's love. You'll hear *Christ Through Us* often over the next ten years.

The 175th anniversary celebration begins in our worship on Sunday, October 12, with the focus on "Christ FOR Us". Our faith is founded on the fact that Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection were not for his own benefit but specifically for humanity's salvation. Our synod was founded on this belief.

On October 19, we consider "Christ THROUGH Us" and easily see how Christ has worked through his good news of salvation in Word and sacraments to move this body of believers to establish a Scripture-based ministerial education system, world missions in 45 countries, and more than 1,200 congregations across the United States.

We conclude our celebration on October 26 by looking ahead, and the reminder is "Christ WITH Us". We take comfort in knowing that Jesus himself is always with us and is especially with us in Word and sacrament. We look to the future with the promise of his presence.

October 12 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Christ FOR Us

October 19 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Christ THROUGH Us

October 26 — Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Christ WITH Us



Special 175th Anniversary Offering

Join your fellow WELS members in a special anniversary offering to give thanks to our Lord for the blessings of our history and to support future ministry work.

Gifts to the WELS 175th Anniversary Fund will support:

- North American ministry (Home Missions, Congregational Services),
- International ministry (World Missions), and
- Worker training (Ministerial Education).

Your gifts can be given online at: community.wels.net/wels175th or welshistoricalinstitute.org/175h-offering/

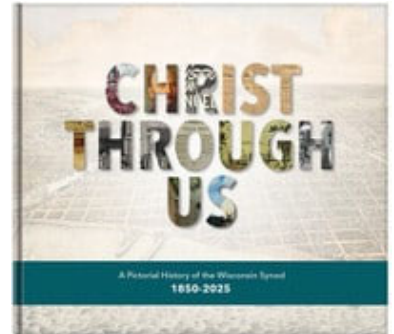
Checks may be brought to church. Please make your check payable to WELS and specify that it is for the WELS 175th anniversary.

October, 2025

More 175th Anniversary Resources

In addition to worship, many other resources are available to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and to learn about its history .

- In the June newsletter, we encouraged you to take time during this 175th anniversary year to reflect on how God has led his people in truth through this church body to which we belong by reading the book ***Christ Through Us: A Pictorial History of the Wisconsin Synod (1850-2025)***. This well-crafted book commemorates the anniversary by relating the blessed historical journey that began in 1850 with a few humble Milwaukee congregations of German immigrants working together on Gospel ministry and continues to a world-wide group of Christians proclaiming the message of Christ around the world in 2025. Whether you read every word, enjoy small sections, or even just look at the photos, you'll appreciate the times, people, and places that are part of our synod's history. Several copies are available to borrow from our church library.
- A number of anniversary resources and more historical information are available on the **WELS Historical Institute website**: (welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th), including an interactive timeline of WELS history with photos.
- The WELS Historical Institute also has a YouTube Channel with several anniversary videos: youtube.com/@welshistory/videos
- Professor Joel Otto from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary gave a very interesting historical presentation at this summer's synod convention titled ***175 Years of God's Surprising Grace to the Wisconsin Synod***. You'll find a video of that presentation on the WELS Historical Institute YouTube Channel.
- The first presentation in the *Our Great Heritage: Worker Training Schools Series* was also given at synod convention. Professor Paul Koelpin gave an enlightening history of our New Ulm, Minnesota, campus. Watch the video on the WELS Historical Institute YouTube Channel as well.
- The next presentation in the *Our Great Heritage: Worker Training Schools Series – The History of Our Watertown Preparatory Schools* takes place on Sunday, October 19, 3:00 p.m., in the Luther Preparatory School Chapel. WELS President Mark Schroeder, who was president of Luther Prep before being elected synod president, will present. Attend in person or watch the live stream at vimeo.com/event/5305587
- *Forward in Christ* magazine features articles and historical photos for the anniversary throughout 2025. Look through your old issues to refresh your memory or watch for more to come.
- Northwestern Publishing House has updated the book *The Wisconsin Synod Lutherans*. This book includes a historical overview of WELS beginning with the Synod's roots in Germany to present day. Find it and the rest of a collection of WELS history books that NPH has compiled to celebrate the 175th Anniversary at online.nph.net/books/christian-beliefs/wels-175th-anniversary



The Messenger

School News

— Principal Stephen Miller



Find Rest in God Alone

Our FVL Schools theme for this year, “*Find Rest in God Alone*” (Psalm 62:1–2), reminds us that true peace and security are found only in our Savior. In October, we focus on resting in the power of God’s Word. God’s Word shows us his love, points us to Christ’s redeeming work, and gives us strength for each day. I pray that you and your family find time this month to be refreshed and renewed by the power of God’s Word.



Exploring God’s Creation

This fall, students at St. Paul have enjoyed a variety of field trips that allowed them to experience God’s creation firsthand. Our 3K and 4K students visited Sabamba Alpaca Ranch, learning about animals and their care in a hands-on environment. Kindergarten students explored Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, discovering the wonders of wetlands and local wildlife. Our 3rd and 4th graders visited Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, observing native animals up close, while 4th graders also had the chance to attend a field day at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. Finally, our 5th and 6th graders returned to Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, studying waterfowl and geological formations. These experiences gave our students the opportunity to marvel at God’s handiwork and see His power in creation.

Celebrating Growth and Blessings

This year, St. Paul Lutheran School is blessed to welcome **175 students from 103 families** into our Christ-centered classrooms, including **146 students in K–8**. Of these families, 53 are members of St. Paul, while the rest represent a mix of other WELS congregations, other Christian denominations, and unchurched households—reminding us of the tremendous outreach opportunities before us.

This year features a **historic enrollment milestone**: the last time our K–8 enrollment reached 146 students was back in 1982. Today, God has brought us back to that level of growth, showing His abundant blessings and the commitment of our congregation to Christian education.



Our growth has also created an increased need for staff and volunteers to support all of our new families and maintain a Christ-centered learning environment. If you are interested in sharing your time, talents, or gifts with our students and school community, we would love to have you join us. Opportunities are available in classrooms, lunch supervision, field trips, and other areas. Please contact the school office to learn how you can get involved!

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LWMS News

We are HOSTING the LWMS Paperland Circuit Fall Rally at St. Paul on **Saturday morning, October 11**. Stop by the LWMS table in the main school hallway to sign-up for opportunities to help with hosting this event and donating food. We need help with setting up, directing parking, Courtesy (providing direction inside our building), serving breakfast and lunch, and clean-up. The rally theme is: "From Our Plans to His Purpose: Mission Journey in South Asia". The Speakers are: Pastors Paul and John Jordan. Your help in welcoming approximately

200 women to St. Paul will be greatly appreciated!

SAVE THE DATES:

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2025 Fall Rally, October 11, at St. Paul, Green Bay. Co-hosted with St. Mark, De Pere /Green Bay.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2026 Spring Rally, at Trinity, Neenah on April 18.
- LWMS 2026 63rd Annual LWMS Convention, June 25-28, 2026. Hosted by the Capital, Beaver Dam, and Dodge-Washington Cir-

cuits in Madison, WI at the Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center. Registration is expected to open in January, 2026.

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2026 Fall Rally at Grace, Oshkosh on October 3.

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

Lisa Koenig
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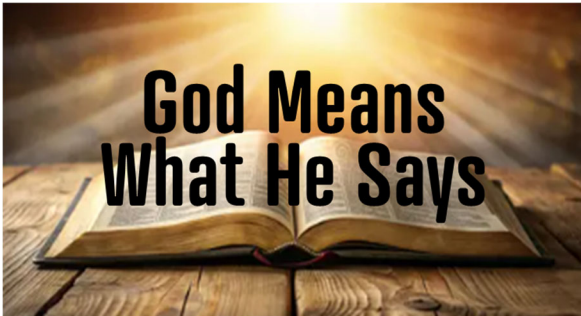


School News, continued

We thank our many St. Paul Eagle families and friends who helped make the Eagle Walk Fundraiser a fantastic success at the end of September! Students in grades 1-8 started Friday, September 26, in the gym with a devotion led by Mr. Miller before boarding buses and heading to Voyager Park to walk, enjoy beautiful weather, play at the park, and eat a delicious meal. Even sweeter than the ice cream consumed was the fact that we far surpassed our fundraising goal. Thanks to the generous pledges collected by the students and a matching donation from an anonymous donor, our Eagles raised over \$23,000 to support music, drama, outdoor seating, and sports uniforms. We give thanks for the tremendous blessings God has bestowed upon our school!



The Messenger



Area Reformation Service **October 26, 4:00 p.m.**

St. Paul again hosts this year's Green Bay area celebration of the Lutheran Reformation on the afternoon of October 26, 4:00 p.m. Professor Noah Headrick from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is our guest preacher, and his theme is *God Means What He Says*. Worship also includes thoughts from Martin Luther's book *The Bondage of the Will*, published 500 years ago (1525). Special music from our Junior Choir, Praise Chimes, Church Choir, and instrumentalists adds to the celebration. Come and celebrate the truths of God's Word and the surety of his promises.



Women's Ministry Webinar: *Women teaching women God's Word.* If you've ever participated in this kind of study group, you know how special and unique it is. There's a precious camaraderie and connection formed as women gather around the Word of God. Join us for our upcoming webinar "Teach the Word—Women leading Bible studies" on October 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Find out more or register at wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/womens-ministry-webinars/

Altar Guild Service is an important and impactful way to serve our congregation. The schedule is VERY flexible. You can serve monthly, just a few times per year, or somewhere in-between. Each time you serve, the time commitment is from 15 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the service time you prefer. This service is easily trainable and is open to any confirmed member of our congregation (under age 18 volunteers do need an adult serving with him or her). Training will be provided until you are comfortable serving on your own. A new schedule will start in November, so if you're interested in joining the Altar Guild, contact Lisa Koenig at cookiebaker@1791.com or 920.469.1758, prior to October 15th.

Faithful Friends in October: **Faithful Friends** dining group will gather for our final supper event of this year on Tuesday October 14, at the Granary Supper Club, N586 Military Rd, Sherwood, 54169 (29 miles from St. Paul). Doors open at 4:00 p.m., with our table reservation at 5:00 p.m. Seats will be reserved on RSVP basis only. Please contact John Royce by text or phone at 920.819.0746 or email at johroy@att.net. no later than Sunday, October 5. Contact John with questions or ride requests also.



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)

533 S Webster Ave, Green Bay, WI 54301, www.stpaulgreenbay.com, (920) 435-8468, Facebook

Seven New Home Missions Approved

from the WELS Missions Blog

For generations, WELS congregations have been beacons of Christ's light, proclaiming the gospel and nurturing faith. Yet millions in North America still live beyond the reach of a WELS church. Through the 100 Missions in 10 Years initiative, WELS Home Missions is planting new churches where hope is needed most, while strengthening our synod and building a growing network of gospel outposts.



This vision is coming to life thanks to your prayers and support. At the fall Board for Home Missions meeting, seven new missions were approved—each one a new beacon of Christ's light, made possible by your generosity.

The seven new mission starts include:

- **Altoona, Wisconsin:** Just east of Eau Claire, Altoona is rapidly growing. A core group from St. Mark in Eau Claire has been doing outreach since early 2023, steadily building interest.
- **Buffalo, New York:** With 95,000 people in the target area and no WELS church nearby, a committed group is meeting to lay the foundation for a new church.
- **Naples, Florida:** Naples is growing quickly and changing demographically. Leaders are meeting with locals and planning outreach to connect with unchurched residents.
- **Olathe, Kansas:** A booming, family-friendly city in the Kansas City metro, Olathe is home to a core group from Mt. Olive in Overland Park that's planning for future growth.
- **The Sandhills, North Carolina:** This growing region near Fort Bragg attracts retirees and military families. A group from Tree of Life in Cary is actively canvassing and building a prospect list.
- **West Richland, Washington:** Near the Tri-Cities, West Richland is expanding quickly. A group from Southridge in Kennewick began outreach and plans to launch worship in 2025.
- **Wilmington, North Carolina:** In a fast-growing area with no nearby WELS church, a group from Ascension in Jacksonville meets regularly in preparation to launch their church.

Learn more about these new starts at wels100in10.net.

This isn't a short burst of effort—it's the steady building of a lighthouse. Each new congregation is another beacon of Christ's light in a darkening world. With your help, we're building a network of gospel outposts—one light, one soul at a time.

Thank you for your partnership. Your gifts are bringing the gospel to new communities and strengthening our synod's foundation for generations to come.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM – Prayer at the Close of Day	2 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:00 AM – What We Believe (English/Spanish) 6:30 PM – What We Believe (English/Spanish)	3	4
5 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Adult Bible Hour NO Teen Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	6 6:30 PM – Communion Service	7 1:00 PM – Ladies Aid	8 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 9:30 AM – JAMM 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:00 AM – What We Believe (English/Spanish) 6:30 PM – What We Believe (English/Spanish) 7:00 PM – Women’s Group at Paintin’ Pottery	10 4:00-5:00 PM – Food Pantry Distribution 5:00 PM – LWMS Rally Set Up End of First Quarter	11 9:00 AM-12:15 PM – LWMS Paperland Circuit Fall Rally at St. Paul
12 Amnesia Sunday 8:00 AM – Service WELS 175th Anniversary 1 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Service WELS 175th Anniversary 1 3K/4K Sing 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	13 6:00 PM – PTO Meeting 6:30 PM – Service	14 5:00 PM – Faithful Friends 5:30 PM – Tech Committee 6:00 PM – Stewardship Committee 6:30 PM – Board of Christian Education 7:00 PM – Board for Member Care	15 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:00 AM – What We Believe (English/Spanish) 6:30 PM – What We Believe (English/Spanish) 7:00 PM – Men of St. Paul Bible Study Group	17	18 5:00 PM – Youth Group Hide & Seek / Scavenger Hunt (grades 8-12)
19 8:00 AM – Communion Service WELS 175th Anniversary 2 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service WELS 175th Anniversary 2 Kindergarten Sings 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism	20 6:30 PM – Communion Service	21 6:30 PM – Church Council Meeting	22 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 9:30 AM – JAMM 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00 AM – Bible Study Parent Teacher Conferences	24	25 3:00-5:00 PM – Trunk or Treat
26 8:00 AM – Service WELS 175th Anniversary 3 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Service WELS 175th Anniversary 1 11:45 AM – Sunday Catechism 4:00 PM – Area Reformation Service Junior Choir, Praise Chimes, Church Choir	27 6:30 PM –Service	28 Parent Teacher Conferences	29 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Church Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM – Bible Study <div>No School – Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers Conference</div>	31	