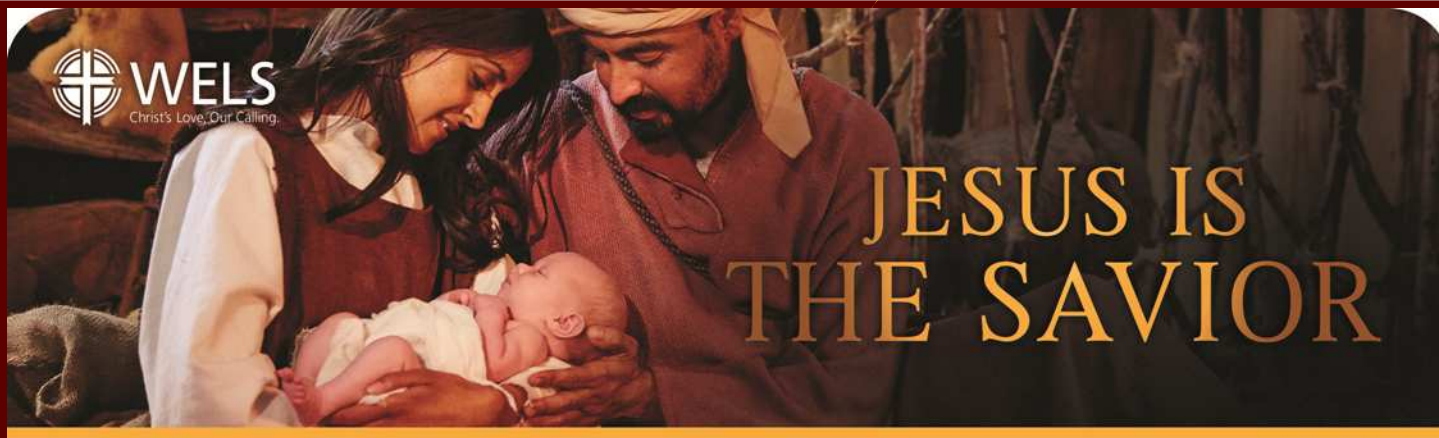


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2016 Newsletter

6881 S. 51st Street ▪ Franklin, Wisconsin
Pastors Brian Adams & Jacob Hoff



Jesus is the Suffering Savior

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. ... He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. – Isaiah 53:3,5

Valentine's Day cards contain words that are chosen very carefully. They are meaningful words of love and affection. Sometimes when we are sending a valentine to someone, we might even agonize over which words to use. We want to choose the right words that express the deep love we have.

How about the words printed above by the prophet Isaiah? Would you include any of his words in a card to your loved one? At first thought you would say, "Absolutely not!" Words like "despised... rejected... sorrows... suffering... punishment" would be the last choice for a Valentine's Day card! But the Bible surprises us. These words from God are really a wonderful expression of his true love for people.

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February 14, 2016
3:00pm
Installation Service
of Pastor Jacob Hoff



All are invited to join us as Pastor Jacob Hoff is installed as an Associate Pastor at St. Paul's.

The service will be on Sunday, February 14th at 3:00pm. Pastor Ian Headrick, associate pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Big Bend, will be the guest preacher. Pastor Headrick and Pastor Hoff are friends and classmates.

The worship service, along with the Rite of Installation, will be led by Pastor Adams. Our Christian Day School students and our Adult Choir will be singing for that service as well. Neighboring pastors will also be participating in the service.

Following the worship service, all our invited to join us in the school for a welcoming meal.

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The first thing to understand is that Isaiah was writing about Jesus. Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to be the world's Savior. The Bible tells us that because of sin there was punishment looming for all people. But Jesus took that punishment on himself. Jesus is our Savior who suffered for sinners. He took all this suffering on himself, including death on a cross, so that people wouldn't suffer eternally.

The second thing to remember is that we are talking about something very personal to all of us. We were the ones Jesus came to suffer for. We were the

ones who were headed to the punishment of eternal separation from God. Our sinful thoughts, words, and actions condemned us. But as the prophet wrote, "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus' love for us is deep and long-lasting. It's not a shallow love that we might receive from others, or a love that is here today and gone tomorrow. Jesus' love is eternal. He promises that since he suffered and gave up his life for us, he will continue to love us each and every day.

New Church Organ



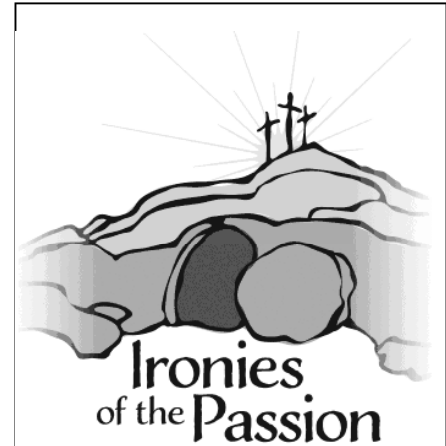
God has blessed St. Paul's for 150 years with his Grace. Out of thanks for God's grace, we began to undertake the project of replacing our existing organ. The final cost of the organ was \$58,150. To date, we have received \$49,377.

Confident that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts, the decision was



made to purchase the new organ. By ordering it sooner than later, there were some significant cost savings.

During the week of February 1st, the new organ was installed here at St. Paul's. It is being used for the first time on February 7th and 8th in our worship services.



Midweek Lent 2016

This year, the theme for our Midweek Lent service is: *"Ironies of the Passion."* One dictionary defines irony as "a combination of circumstances or a result that is the opposite of what . . . might be expected." Jesus' passion is filled with irony.

The Midweek Lent worship services begin on Wednesday, February 10th at **3:30 pm & 6:30 pm.**

This year's schedule is:

- Feb. 10 - "This man went home Justified"** (Pastor Brian Adams)
- Feb. 17 - "It is Better That One Man Die for the People."** (Pastor Peter Unnasch)
- Feb. 24 - "He Had Been Wanting to See Jesus."** (Pastor Joel Gaertner)
- Mar. 2 - "We Have No King but Caesar!"** (Pastor Jacob Hoff)
- Mar. 9 - "Don't You Fear God?"** (Pastor Larry Ellenberger)
- Mar. 16 - "Not During the Feast"** (Pastor Dan Marshall)

Rock On!

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,
Let us shout aloud
to the Rock of our Salvation."
-Psalm 95:1

VBC 2016

This summer's Vacation Bible Camp dates are **July 25-29** - 9am - 3pm. It is available for children age 3 through Grade 6. Please watch for additional information later this Spring.



Welcome Pastor Jacob Hoff

"The Hoff family consists of... Pastor/Dad - Jacob, the second of four Hoff children grew up in Livonia, MI. He attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, and graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2013. Pastor Hoff loves watching and playing both football and baseball (full disclosure, he is a Lions fan, but he hopes you won't hold that against him), hiking, camping, and reading.

Laura/Mom - Laura, the eighth of eight children split her childhood between Johnson, MN and Hemlock, MI. She also attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary, spent some time at Martin Luther College and Michigan Tech, was dabbling in a few things when Jacob came along, swept her off her feet, and now she is a

happy stay at home mom. Laura likes to bake, hike, camp, and raise her little munchkins.

Gideon James - Gideon is a proud four year old. He loves reading, baseball, and as of this bio, "pretending the couches are machines."

Molly Susan - Molly is a happy three year old. She has never met a stuffed animal she didn't immediately love, and as of this bio, her favorite thing to do is feed the fish.

Ezra Lenard - Ezra is a spunky, quick to smile one year old. He thinks Christmas trees are a lot of fun, and in general he sees the world as a glass half full.

The Hoff's are excited to get to know their new family at St. Paul's!"

Food/Pantry Shower for Pastor Hoff & Family

St. Paul's would like to welcome Pastor Hoff and his family by hosting a food/pantry shower for them.

Non-perishable foods and household items, such as: cleaning, laundry supplies, etc., may be brought to church on Sunday, February 14th. If you prefer, a box will be available for gift cards as well.

These items may be brought to either the Sunday morning services or to the Installation Service in the afternoon.



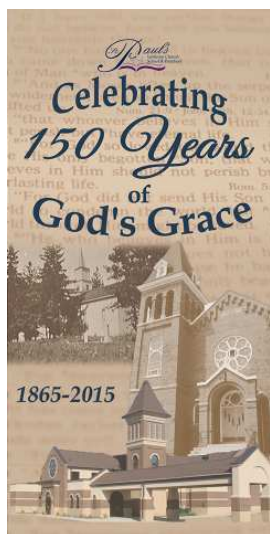
New Pastors' Offices

When the new church was built in 2010-2011, the plans included future offices for the pastors at St. Paul's. Those plans are now being completed. It was estimated that it would cost about \$18,000 to complete those offices including all the electrical,

heating, fire protection, carpeting, ceiling, drywall, etc. Through the generosity of St. Paul's members, that amount has been fully donated. Work has begun on the offices. It is hoped that within the next month, or so, they will be completed. We thank all who have helped on this project.



150th Anniversary Celebration Continues



On September 20, 2015, St. Paul's



“kicked off” its year-long celebration of God’s Grace at St. Paul’s for the past 150 years. On that date, we had a special worship service, along with a huge church picnic.

On Sunday, December



6th, a supper was served and followed by the watching of the new Synod video, “My Son, My Savior.”

Upcoming events that are being planned include helping the Board of Elders to serve the dinner following the installation service of Pastor Hoff.



On Sunday, March 13th, we will watch the movie called *The Return*. “In the Fairy Tale Village of Nod we find a young woman, Leah, who makes her living as a thief. Most of her stealing goes to her evil master Dybbuk. That is until one day, a huntsman, named Yadid comes to town and changes her life for now and eternity!” *“The Return”* is an enter-

taining allegory that shares the salvation message in a beautiful way. In the telling of this tale one will discover the truth!” The movie will be shown at 2pm in the church, followed by dessert. Watch for a few more details in the future.

The idea is also being explored to bring back the Ice Cream Social following the Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 5th.

The 150th Anniversary Planning Committee consists of: Nancy Adams, Dawn Brightsman, Jane Koplein, Sherry Kosovich, Theresa Mess, Chris Romeis, Carolyn Streeter. We thank them for all of their work and planning.

St. Paul’s School Science Fair

February 25th - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Come and check out the Science projects that have been made by our students at our Christian Day School.

Altar Guild Help Needed



Every week the Altar Guild prepares the church sanctuary for worship. The altar paraments are changed for the season of the church year or celebration. The communion ware is prepared for communion services. Banners are changed for different events..

We are in need for more help to do this work every week.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Jane Koeplin at (414) 510-9291.



Kids Carnival—Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Where: Wisconsin Lutheran High School
330 Glenview Avenue - Milwaukee

When: February 21st, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Ages: Age 3 - Grade 4

Cost: Children - \$3 (includes 20 game tokens)
Parents/Grandparents - Free

Wisconsin Lutheran High School Update

February 3, 2016

Wisconsin Lutheran High School's delegates met on February 3, 2016 to review how God is blessing our school. Pastor Phil Casmer from Christ the Lord, Brookfield, WI began the meeting with a devotion.

SEAT EXPANSION TASK FORCE REPORT

— Dr. John Kolander, the chairman, presented the task force's key findings and answered key questions. After conducting research and multiple interviews with the principals, pastors and parents of WELS schools which regularly cannot get into WLHS because of WLHS' limited Choice seats, found there is a desire for an alternative option. The task force came to the conviction that it is feasible to explore starting another WELS Choice high school in the city. Those who are stakeholders would expect it to have a distinctively Lutheran culture like WLHS and its grade schools; offer an intentional program for transition to high school; have ministry partnership with the city's WELS schools and congregations; provide extended resources for student success; and work in coordination—not competition—with WLHS. They feel that the Choice climate is right for this effort and there are opportunities for partnerships with MLC, WLC, foundations and businesses who care about the students whom WLHS is not able to serve. However, a new school would need its own governing board. It is also acknowledged that there are many challenges (e.g. govern-



**GUIDED BY FAITH.
DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE.**

ance, funding, policies, procedures, location, curricular program, staffing, etc.) that would be to be addressed before launching another school, especially under the umbrella of the WLHS Conference (if the delegates would want to do so). The board of WLHS is now ready to use grant money to hire or call a school developer who would work with a revised task force to explore the idea and develop a sound business plan over the next 18-24 months that could be brought to the delegates for approval.

TUITION RATE SET — The delegates set the 2016-2017 conference tuition rate for \$8,400 --even though the actual costs look to be \$11,910. Thank God for donors and churches who make up the difference!

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES — The delegates gave input to several changes that will be proposed for a vote on June 1. These are a product of a study of delegate roles and responsibilities which are intended to make realistic expectations for numbers of delegates

from smaller congregations and to bring long-standing practices into line with by-laws of the conference. The board will now review the comments.

WLHS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Pastor Kenneth Fisher, President of WLHS, reported that WLHS has dramatically increased its bandwidth as the school prepares to be able to move to an environment next year where every student will have his or her own Chromebook in class. In order to help the faculty prepare, they are receiving training and each is being issued a leased laptop to use in the classroom.

He also asked for prayers for Pastor Phil Huebner who holds our Campus Pastor call. He noted with joy that our wrestlers have repeated as Dual Conference Champions. He explained that there were several improvements in the works including increased cameras and new door security measures that would soon be installed. He praised God for leading a new international student to be baptized, too. Finally, he noted that this summer, the last of the old roof sections will be replaced, as part of a plan to address some of the long-term maintenance needs of the school.

CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT — Mr. Mark Albrecht, the Conference treasurer, reviewed the financial statements for the current year which showed the Conference making its loan payments on schedule.

The meeting closed with viewing the new recruitment video and a prayer.

2016 WELS Night at Miller Park



The third annual WELS Night at Miller Park will be held Fri., July 29, 2016. Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for the Milwaukee Brewers' game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Game time is 7:10 p.m.

The Brewers are again offering WELS members 50 percent off the price of tickets. Seating will be in a block for WELS members. The pricing is Field Outfield Box for \$21/ticket, Loge Outfield Box for \$17/ticket or Terrace Reserved for \$9/ticket. The web link to purchase discounted tickets for WELS Night at Miller Park will be available in March.

Last year more than 3,400 members enjoyed an evening of baseball and fellowship together as they watched the Brewers defeat the Philadelphia Phillies.

WELS News

Update

Conference of Presidents holds its winter meeting



The Conference of Presidents (COP) met for its winter meeting on Jan. 11-15. Here are some of the highlights:

The COP said farewell to Nebraska District President Rev. Earle Treptow, who was attending his last meeting before beginning his work as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Phil Hirsch is serving as the interim district president. Rev. Joel Zank, president of the Northern Wisconsin District, was appointed to replace Treptow as a COP representative on the Synodical Council.

With five months remaining in the One in Christ debt retirement effort, \$1.4 million had been received from congregations and individuals (the total is now above \$1.5 million). The district presidents will continue to encourage congregations to continue this effort through the end of June.

The COP authorized the appointment of a special committee to discuss the work of the Ministry of Christian Giving and to bring recommendations for any changes to the COP. The review is not in response to any problem but is simply an effort to be sure that the Ministry of Christian Giving is functioning in the most beneficial way.

The COP resolved that a special committee will review the staff ministry program, especially with the purpose of clarifying definitions and policies and ensuring consistency throughout the synod in how staff ministers are trained, called, and utilized.

The COP has asked the synod president to bring recommendations for ways to improve the preparation of delegates for synod conventions.

The COP adopted "364 Days of Thanksgiving" (developed by Rev. An-

drew Schroer) as the synod's stewardship emphasis for 2016.

There are 81 vacancies for full-time pastor positions, with 71 of those in congregations. The remaining 10 are vacant missionary, professor, or other pastor-trained positions. This number of vacant pastor positions is still well below the level at which it would become a concern.

The 2015 synod convention passed a resolution asking the Synodical Council to give high priority to the calling of a director for Youth and Family Ministry. After consultation with the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry and the Commission on Adult Discipleship, the COP was convinced that a director should be called to serve as director of both commissions. The COP is asking that the Synodical Council give this position high priority on the list of unfunded programs.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder

Fifty speakers fire up MLC students at Evangelism Day



"Your Kingdom Come" was the theme of Martin Luther College's 11th annual Evangelism Day on Jan. 20.

The day opened with worship led by Rev. Mark Jeske, pastor at St. Marcus, Milwaukee, Wis., and Time of Grace Ministries. Then about 50 pastors, teachers, missionaries, staff ministers, and lay leaders addressed students

about what's happening out there and how students can further prepare themselves to share the gospel: with Mormons, with the poor, in Spanish, in urban centers, on digital platforms, through early childhood ministries—the list goes on and on.

One highlight this year was a presentation by an MLC student on the persecution of Christians in Syria. This student, a Syrian Christian himself, has taken Bible classes and joined our fellowship. His family remains in Syria—and we pray for them.

Another highlight was a presentation by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor Daniel Leyrer, who spoke specifically to junior and senior men in pre-seminary studies about how they can equip their future congregations for evangelism.

MLC conducts its annual Evangelism Day in conjunction with the WELS Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Lutheran Schools. All students attend a blend of required and elective workshops.

"It's a day set aside so that the Spirit can fill the hearts of both faculty and students with excitement and gratitude," said MLC President Mark Zarling. "Excitement as we learn more about the amazing things the Lord Jesus is doing through the gospel. Gratitude as we think of almost 50 people who come to New Ulm and share with us the good news about the power of the Good News."

Students responded enthusiastically to the day, each with their own memories of the speaker who brought them to tears, the ministry opportunity they'd never considered before, the "aha moment."

"This day not only motivates us all," Zarling continued, "but it keeps us grounded in our mission as a college and our connection to the Great Commission."

WELS Schools Accreditation



The WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools accreditation process for WELS early childhood schools, grade schools, and high schools is seeing significant growth.

WELS School Accreditation (WELSSA) evaluates a school's ministry based on Scripture and sound educational principles.

Mr. Tom Plitzuweit, associate director of the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, explains that schools are evaluated on 15 different standards during a three-day visit at the school. The standards center around all WELS schools' core mission—to share God's Word. Both strengths and weaknesses are evaluated, and after the visit, the school develops an improvement plan to maintain strengths and improve weaknesses that correlates with the five-year accreditation cycle.

Mr. Mark Otte, principal at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb., says, "There are many benefits to going through the accreditation process as any time you take an in-depth look at everything you do you are bound to find reasons to rejoice and thank God for the blessings that he has bestowed on your school. Ac-

creditation also will cause you to question and perhaps improve your school in ways that you might not consider. The single greatest benefit to the accreditation process is it focuses you back on the fundamental reasons why your school exists, which is to share the gospel with families and children."

Currently, 118 early childhood centers, grade schools, and high schools are WELSSA accredited, with projections reaching 130 accredited schools by the end of 2017.

"We want to do our best with what God has given us, and we want to share God's Word with the next generation. In order to do that, schools can compare the quality of their programs against nationally recognized standards in a yearlong self-study process," says Plitzuweit. "As WELSSA continues to grow, we have a need for more people to serve on site teams. This year we had over 100 captains, consultants, and team members, and as it grows we will need even more. We already have 36 site visits scheduled for 2016-2017, which is the highest year we have ever had."

While WELSSA is a synod accreditation, it is also recognized nationally as part of the National Council for Private School Accreditation as well as many smaller private accreditation agencies and state accreditation agencies.

Mr. Matthew Bauer, principal at St. Mark's Lutheran School, Citrus Heights, Calif., says, "Being accredited is an easy way to communicate to current and prospective families that we take our mission of 'serving families with excellence in Christian education' very seriously."