



# The Messenger

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

September, 2024

## Faith Is Not in Our Nature

— Pastor Jon Zabell

**The Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. —Romans 9:30-31**

When you know the gospel, you might wonder how anyone could ever reject it. God's Son Jesus has paid the world's debt of sin. All who believe are righteous in God's sight. What a gift! Who would ever want to say no to such good news? To help answer that question, think of a wild lion who has recently been captured. She becomes hungry, and fresh meat is laid before her, but she turns away, disinterested. Why? Here is perfectly good food, fresh and free for her. But by nature, she's a hunter. She only wants the kind of meat she has to chase.

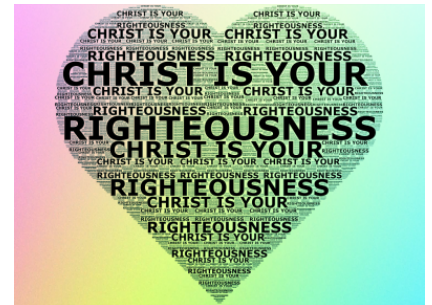
In the days of the Apostle Paul, many of the people of Israel pursued God's law as the way of righteousness. They knew God's laws inside and out. They thought if they could do what the Lord told them to do, they could make themselves righteous. They couldn't. They pursued it anyway. You might call it the thrill of the hunt. Then, when the righteousness of Jesus was offered to them as a gift, they turned away, disinterested. Like the lion, it was in their nature to do so.

It's in your nature and mine, too. It's natural for us to be disinterested in the righteousness that comes by faith. We want to earn it. Even though we know we can't, even though we know we have a Savior, we can't shake this idea we were born

with, that if we do enough good things, we can make ourselves righteous before God. We may even feel noble about it, like a lion on the plains of the Serengeti marking her prey. But these impulses of our inborn flesh: there's nothing noble about them. They're all lies. We're pretending we're not very sinful. We're hiding our fleshly weakness. We're ignoring God's warnings. We're despising his promises. We're pushing him away. We may have it in our nature to hunt righteousness like a lion, but we're not predators. In our earthly nature we're prey. The devil is the roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, and if he can get us alone, we're dead meat.

We would never have asked for a Savior, but God sent him anyway, one innocent substitute to be devoured in our place, one righteous person to be our righteousness before God. And even after he came, we would never have asked him into our hearts. It was the Holy Spirit working through the gospel message. Now, by faith in Jesus, we are new people: honest about our sin, grateful for God's rescue, energized by a freedom we could never have known, the freedom to enjoy all his gifts, to serve him and others with a glad heart – not driven by a desire to earn righteousness, but thankful that, in Christ, we have it.

Like so many of the Gentiles in Paul's day, we have obtained the kind of righteousness that comes by faith. All those sinful impulses in you and me, Jesus has



taken them. His righteousness covers them. You are holy in God's sight, fellow believer.

So do you have work to do today? Are there problems in your life that need solutions? Do what you need to do. But don't pretend to be a lion chasing its prey. You're so much more, you're God's child, baptized into his saving name. Serve without guilt or fear. Serve in the freedom of his forgiving love. Serve, knowing you have nothing to prove. Your status before God doesn't depend on your performance. You are already righteous in his sight, through Jesus our Savior.

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# The Messenger

## Worship Conference 2024



Pastor Zabell was one of the planners for this year's conference.

From July 30-August 2, over 900 people attended the WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts at Carthage College in Kenosha. Worship, concerts, presentations, and fellowship filled the days and lifted the hearts and minds of all who participated. To learn more, talk to one of the representatives from St. Paul who attended: Pastor and Julie Zabell, Pastor Enstad, Peter Schæwe, Jean Bakeberg, Sandy Swoboda, Joan Schultz, Anna Nelson, and Harmony Breuer.



Harmony Breuer (top photo) was part of the Children's Choir. Anna Nelson (bottom photo) sang in the High School Honor Choir.



Opening Worship on Wednesday morning (left)

## New Worship Series: *The Need for Followership*

"We need better leadership!" Have you ever said that? Perhaps you were frustrated with the direction being taken by some elected official or by management at your workplace or by the coach of your favorite team. You were frustrated because you know that no matter how many resources an organization has, it will flounder if leaders do not lead well: providing direction, training, motivation, coordination, encouragement, and even grace. Leadership is extremely important. And so, there are times we lament, "We need better leadership!"

Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas, what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor. Our worship follows this path.

### Worship Themes for September:

- September 1 — Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Followers of Christ Obey His Law from the Heart
- September 8 — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Followers of Christ See the True Purpose of His Power
- September 15 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Followers of Christ Art Armed for Battle
- September 22 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Followers of Christ Are Humble Servants
- September 29 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Followers of Christ Have Powerful Allies



September, 2024

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## St. Paul Book of the Month: *Luther's Protest*

by John Braun

You would be hard-pressed to find a more concise chronicle of Reformation era events than *Luther's Protest: From 95 Theses to Reformation*. Pastor John Braun has condensed volumes of research on this complex and contentious period into a straightforward but thorough history -- with only a little Lutheran bias.

*Luther's Protest* is not a biography, though in it you will find many of the familiar Luther anecdotes you remember from catechism class or sermons. These stories have greater impact as they are sprinkled into the context of thirty years of attempts to right the unscriptural practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

As the efforts of Luther and his supporters progressed from addressing the sale of indulgences in the 95 Theses to the broader reform statements of the Lutheran Confessions, chapter after chapter demonstrates how these efforts were frustrated by debates, diets, and decrees that gave little opportunity for scripturally-grounded defense. You will sense both frustration and determination as the reformers stand firm on God's word against a corrupt church that leans on human tradition and political power.

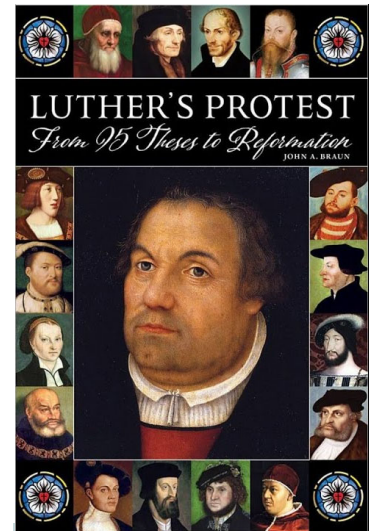
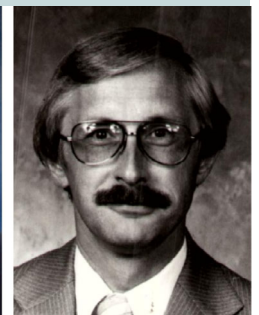
– Especially political power. Our present political climate full of heated rhetoric seems mild compared to the author's numerous accounts of the papal manipulation of rulers like Emperor Charles V and the hateful treatment of "heretics" who opposed the church's authority. It is heartening to read, however, how God controlled those evils to keep his truths alive – though not by means of the reform for which Luther had protested.

Take up *Luther's Protest* as part of your Reformation awareness and celebration coming next month. As Pastor Braun shares about his personal objective for writing the book, you also will benefit from reading it with a similar purpose in mind: "I simply want to understand my own heritage as a Lutheran Christian and confess why I believe it to be valuable."

You can borrow a copy of *Luther's Protest* from our church library or purchase your own at [nph.wels.net](http://nph.wels.net) or on Amazon.

## With the Lord

Former principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, Dr. Rolland Menk, 84, was called to eternal rest on August 16, 2024. Dr. Menk served at St. Paul from 1978 until 1980. He, his wife, and four children lived in the teacherage on Clay Street where Pastor Enstad and his family live now. He was called from St. Paul to be a Professor of Education at Martin Luther College. He served at the college for 25 years, supervising student teachers and teaching courses in Curriculum and Instruction and Children's Literature. He was especially remembered for reading children's books aloud to his students. Yes, the college students.





# The Messenger



## School News

— Principal Stephen Miller

Our FVL theme for the year, 'Rejoice in the Lord,' is more than just a phrase. It's a reflection of our shared values and beliefs at St. Paul Lutheran School. We rejoice in who God made us — every one of us.

On August 21, we welcomed 161 students, including 24 new students. As we begin the year together, let's remember that we are all God's own dear children, united by our theme of rejoicing in the Lord.

We have a lot of exciting things happening in September and would like to invite you to join us. Our volleyball and soccer seasons kick off on September 4, against St. Peter, Weyauwega. Our 5K, 5th, and 6th Grades will be going on field trips to Barkhausen and Ledgeview Nature Center, respectively. Our 3rd and 4th graders, 7th and 8th graders, and our Junior Choir sing in church. On September 13, we will also celebrate our annual Family Game Night.

Our congregational members can actively contribute to our school ministry in numerous ways. We are currently looking for short-term substitute teachers this year. If you are interested in helping, please contact Principal Miller.



First day of school photos from 5th grade (above) and Kindergarten (right)

**Fellowship Breakfast:** All are welcome to hang out with other St. Paul friends at 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 10, 8:30 a.m.



## LWMS News

**LWMS Paperland Circuit Fall Rally** registration is open. The Rally is on Saturday morning, October 12, at St. Matthew, Appleton, with Eternal Love, Appleton as co-hosts. The theme is: "SHARING LOVE TO SHARE JESUS" and the speakers are Gary and Beth Evans from the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMP). Childcare is provided.

Special opportunities at this Rally: 1. Donations will be accepted for "The Hope Center", which is located at St. Matthew. 2. St. Matthew has a new organ, so there will be pre-Rally music and an organ demonstration after the Rally. Parking is very limited, so carpool if possible. To register and for more details on the Rally and "The Hope Center" donations requested, visit the LWMS table outside of the office.

**Planning way ahead**, our congregation will host the LWMS Paperland Circuit

2025 Fall Rally. The last time we hosted an LWMS Paperland Circuit Rally was in 2016. Hosting a Rally is a big effort, so we will be looking for lots of volunteers. More details to come as the date approaches.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2024 Fall Rally, October 12, at St. Matthew, Appleton. Eternal Love, Appleton will be co-hosting.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit 2025 Spring Rally, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at Martin Luther, Neenah. Grace, Neenah will be co-hosting
- LWMS 2025 62<sup>st</sup> Annual LWMS Convention, June 26-29, 2025. Hosted by Mid-America Circuit in Tulsa, OK. More details to come, but here is a link to the announcement: <https://www.lwms.org/file/4ab87990-e62b-11ee-85f0-4736c8f06ef6>.
- LWMS Paperland Circuit

2025 Fall Rally, October 11, at St. Paul, Green Bay.

- LWMS 2026 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual LWMS Convention, June

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

Lisa Koenig  
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Central Africa Medical Mission

**Ladies Aid** meets this Tuesday, September 3, 1:00 p.m., in the Ministry Center Conference Room. Ladies Aid meetings start again on September 3, 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. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This month's speaker is from Donate Life Wisconsin, talking about organ donation.

# The Messenger

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## It's Kick-off Time — and not just for the Packers

**The start of the season means the re-start of church activities that took a summer break: Here's the St. Paul fall kick-off schedule:**

- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 9:15 A.M. — BIBLE HOUR**

- **Adult Bible Hour** is held all year round, but a new topic is starting on September 8, led by Pastor Zabell. What will we study? Watch for a poll coming your way soon.
- **Kids Bible Hour** starts its school-year sessions with offerings for children from **ages 3** (Yes, we're coming down one year.) **through grade 6**. Lessons this year are from the Old Testament. Registration for Kids Bible Hour is available online. Check this week's E-News for a link to the form.
- **Teen Bible Hour** begins a new topic on September 1: **30 Words to Fire Up Your Faith**. Mr. Schaeve invites all members from 8th grade through high school to join him in the Ministry Center's Large Conference 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 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 Enstad leads this round of classes. Additional Bible Basics classes may be offered on different days / times depending on interest.

- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1:00 P.M. — LADIES AID**

Ladies Aid meetings start again on September 3, 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. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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 3, 6:30 P.M. — ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES**

**ESL Classes** are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. More volunteers are always welcome! Contact Amelia Flunker if you would like to volunteer: [flunker.amelia@gmail.com](mailto:flunker.amelia@gmail.com) Phone: 920.265.2278





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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## Two Brothers — Two Home Mission Starts

— from the WELS Missions Blog

The Chartrand brothers both accepted calls to start new mission churches. They had the unique opportunity to attend each other's installations and participate in the laying on of hands.

Rev. Evan Chartrand was commissioned and installed as home missionary for the new mission start in Panama City Beach, Florida, on July 21, 2024. The new mission start will be a multi-site ministry with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Panama City, where the commissioning took place.



Rev. Evan Chartrand  
New mission - Panama City Beach, Fla.

Rev. Ross Chartrand  
New mission - Bentonville, Ark.

Amazing Grace in Panama City looked to expand west and start a second site in the greater Panama City Beach area. The core group of about 12 members has been meeting regularly for over two years as they make plans to reach a growing retirement population and the young families that serve the aging population and tourists. Panama City Beach is seeing a new surge in housing growth that is anticipated well into the future. While no formal population estimates have been released, upwards of 225,000 people are expected to move into the target area. Amazing Grace has a base of strong members in the Panama City Beach area. They currently drive between 30-75 minutes “over the bridge” to attend Amazing Grace, and the closest other WELS church is in Navarre, 90 minutes away.

Amazing Grace has started new opportunities for outreach in the Panama City Beach area, including a summer soccer camp, winter car show, and mentoring students in local schools.

This mission church is presently envisioned to become part of a multi-site type of ministry (Amazing Grace – Beachside) by incorporating shared resources, ministry personnel, and administration with Amazing Grace in Panama City.

Rev. Ross Chartrand was installed as the home missionary for the new mission start in Bentonville, Arkansas. Rev. Chartrand, along with his wife, Charissa, and their core group are working to spread the gospel to their communities.

Bentonville, the headquarters of Walmart, is anticipated to see 35% population growth in the next three years. Bentonville itself has a population of 62,000. By 2026, its population is expected to be 83,000 (35% growth). Walmart has invested quite a bit into the Bentonville community, making it a very desirable place to live with good schools and over 140 miles of bike trails for families. The Ozark National Forest to the southeast makes Bentonville a hub for outdoor activity.

There are only two churches of any denomination in the target area of southwest Bentonville/Centerton. A 12-person WELS core group has been active in the community and looks forward to planting a new church in an area with no current WELS presence. The four families in the core group have been meeting every two weeks for Bible study and fellowship since May 2022.

# September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour <b>(NO Kids Bible Hour this week)</b> 10:30 AM – Communion Service	<b>2</b> <b>Labor Day – No School, Office Closed</b>  6:30 PM – Communion Service	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM – Ladies Aid 6:30 PM – ESL Class	<b>4</b> 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM – Prayer at the Close of Day	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM – Bible Study 6:30 PM – Evangelism Committee Meeting 6:30 PM – ESL Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00 AM – Service Grades 7-8 sing 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Service	<b>9</b> School Registration and Picture Day: 9:00 AM– Noon & 4:00-7:00 PM  6:00 PM – PTO Meeting 6:30 PM – Service	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM – Fellowship Breakfast 5:30 PM – Tech Committee 6:00 PM – Stewardship Committee 6:30 PM – ESL Class 6:30 PM – Board of Christian Education 7:00 PM – Board for Member Care	<b>11</b> 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM – Bible Study 6:30 PM – ESL Class 7:00 PM – Women’s Group at the Retzlaff home	<b>13</b> 4:00-5:00 PM – Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM – Family Game Night	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM – Communion Service	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM – ESL Class 6:30 PM – Church Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM – Bible Study 6:30PM – Time to Talk Bible Study session 1 6:30 PM – ESL Class 7:00 PM – Men of St. Paul Bible Study Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3:00 PM – Mark Stephens and Shelly Karstens Wedding
<b>22</b> 8:00 AM –Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM –Service Grades 3-4 sing	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM –Service	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM – ESL Class	<b>25</b> 6:00 AM – Breakfast Bible Study 7:45 AM – Donuts with Dads 9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM – Bible Study 6:30 PM – ESL Class 6:30PM – Time to Talk Bible Study session 2	<b>27</b> 5:00 PM – Wedding Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 2:00 PM – Jacob Diekmann and Ashleigh Ames Wedding
<b>29</b> 8:00 AM – Communion Service 9:15 AM – Bible Hour 10:30 AM – Communion Service Junior Choir sings	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM – Communion Service					