

### Contact Information

St Paul's Lutheran Church  
101 W Chandler Ave  
Arlington MN 55307  
Website: [www.stpaularlington.com](http://www.stpaularlington.com)  
WELS website: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)  
**Pastor Matthew C. Rauh**  
507-964-2731  
Email: [mrauh@gac.edu](mailto:mrauh@gac.edu)  
Email: [church@stpaularlington.com](mailto:church@stpaularlington.com)

Church Assistant Don Koch  
507-964-5452 / 507-964-2731  
Email:  
[Don.koch@stpaularlington.com](mailto:Don.koch@stpaularlington.com)

Principal Eric Kaesermann  
507-964-2397  
Email:  
[Eric.kaesermann@stpaularlington.com](mailto:Eric.kaesermann@stpaularlington.com)

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### From Pastor . . . .

#### Now I Get It

**“At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.” (John 12:16)**

**Many years ago a church put a display on a billboard outside St. Peter.** All it said was, “Jesus” with a period at the end. I thought it was nice, but I wondered why they worded it that way. Then someone explained it to me. The billboard was saying, “Jesus, Period.” In other words, all you need is Jesus, period. I got it.

**I am sure you had moments like that.** Finally, after the umpteenth time seeing it, you say, “I get it now.” Jesus’ disciples had many moments like that. One came after Palm Sunday. They saw the crowds. They heard the people chanting passages from Psalm 118. I am sure it was impressive when they experienced Palm Sunday. But after Jesus was glorified, that is, after his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, did they actually get it? That passage from Zechariah describing the king riding on a donkey was about Jesus. All those Old Testament passages began to click for them. They were all pointing to Jesus.

**You and I have an advantage over the disciples.** We see and understand so much more than they. We, too, have read Zechariah 9 like them, but thanks to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we don’t have to wait for Christ to return to get it. We get it now. It is pointing to Jesus. They read Isaiah 53 and the suffering servant being crushed for our iniquities. We get it as we see Jesus dying for our sins on the cross.

**We have an advantage, but we will still have our “I get it now” moments later.** Maybe a passage you read or memorized many times finally clicks. Or maybe we will have to wait for Christ to return and then we will get it.

**That is why the “just will live by faith.”** God tells us to simply trust him. It is not that God doesn’t have the time to explain it. He does. It is that our small minds just can’t grasp it all. So he says, “trust me.” Now we don’t see how God is working everything out for our good. He simply tells us, “trust me.” One day we will. We don’t see folks rising from the graves. “They will,” God says. “Trust me.”

**So trust him. Believe his every word. Live by faith. You will not be disappointed.**



## **WELS MISSIONS THAILAND**

**Thailand is a country known for many things.** Often referred to as “**The Land of Smiles,**” the nation boasts of its well-renowned beaches and lush jungles, its well-preserved cultural traditions and its many ethnic hill tribe groups, its highly revered royal family, and its delightful cuisine!

**We have come to know Thailand as a place where we are able to share the love of our Lord and Savior.** In a country where more than 95 percent of the population holds to Buddhism, our WELS missions are working alongside nationals to share the law and gospel message found in the Bible. The work is centered in three regions of northern Thailand and includes sixteen mission fields.

**It is said that the heart of a church body is its seminary.** What future leaders of the church learn at the seminary will be implemented and taught to the people they serve. So it is vital that seminary students in Thailand receive the highest standard of biblical instruction. The course of instruction follows a path similar to that offered in the U.S. by the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI). This program is designed for students from cross cultural venues. In addition to doctrinal studies, students study Greek and Hebrew to enable them to refer to the biblical texts. Practical courses in sermon preparation and delivery are also emphasized.

**Hmong missions in Chiang Rai, Lao missionary Tom Chaleunsouk in northeast Thailand, and the Thai pastor who leads the work based in Chiang Mai all work closely together.** Thai Village, Inc. (vocational opportunities) and Christians Forward Southeast Asia (humanitarian aid) are two Lutheran Christian-based organizations (not funded by WELS) also working among the hill tribes of Thailand.

### **Fast Facts**

**Baptized nationals: 1,100**

**National pastors: 16**

**National evangelists: 4**

**Preaching stations: 13**

**Congregations: 6**



**“Preparing Children Now and For Eternity”**

**April 2021**

**LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEEK:**

We celebrated Lutheran Elementary School Week March 15-21. We focused on the blessings of having a Christian Education through our elementary school. Despite not being able to host our families, friends, and alumni, the week was filled with fun activities for our students. The students created science fair projects and shared them with the classrooms. Teachers mixed up the mornings and presented science lessons to all the grades. The 5-8th grade students wrote and read devotions to other classes. We ended the week with the K-8th going to the Lido Movie Theater in town to see Raya!

**SAVE, SAVE, SAVE:** Thank you for saving these items. Labels and receipts can be dropped off at school or use a collection basket in the back of the church. Aluminum cans placed in the trailer in alley by the school. Please scan your grocery receipts for **BOX TOPS**.

1. Designate Thrivent Choice dollars
2. Clip Our Family UPC labels —————>
3. Scan receipts for Box Tops for Education
4. Drop off Aluminum Cans
5. Clip Country Hearth UPCs
6. Designate Coborns/Cash Wise Reward Points

**SUMMER PROJECTS:** We have a healthy list of projects for our school this summer. Many gifts and marathon donations will make it possible. If you are a Thrivent member you may use your Action teams for project opportunities. Talk with a faculty member to see if you can use them around the school. If you are a willing to volunteer your time and talents, we could use your help too. More information will be coming soon, detailing our projects.

**CES BASKET AUCTION:** Go online and bid on baskets for the auction. There are a few new items as well as the other ones that you can bid on. All proceeds will go towards Bibles/catechisms for our church children. The remaining funds will go towards our utility room remodel.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**\*2021-2022 SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:** We are hosting families NOW for tours and registering students for the new school year. So far since our flyers have gone out, we have been busy talking with families that want kids from PREK-7th grade to join our school next year. This is a wonderful time for our church families to ask for a tour and use the school provided by our church for our children.

**\*STUDENT TEACHER:** Jacob Methena, a senior at MLC, is student teaching in Mr. Kaesermann’s classroom until May. He is from Georgia and this is his final quarter at MLC. Greet him and pray that he has a successful teaching experience at St. Paul’s.

**\*SCHOOL MUSICAL:** Due to COVID restrictions we are cancelling our school musical again this spring.

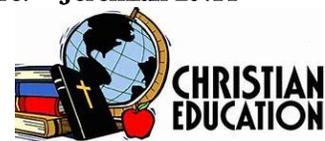
**WEBSITE and FACEBOOK:** Keep up-to-date with all school events and happenings online. [www.stpaularlington.com/school](http://www.stpaularlington.com/school) click calendar. Like us on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stpaularlington](http://www.facebook.com/stpaularlington)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** (Planned events may change or be canceled.)

- April**
- 5 EASTER BREAK- NO SCHOOL
  - 12-15 ACT TESTING WEEK for 3-8th grades
  - 21 Midterm reports

- May**
- 7 Track Meet???
  - 21 4-year-old PreK graduation program in gym???
  - 2:30
  - 23 8th Grade Graduation/ Kids sing
  - 26 Last Day of school
  - Closing Service and Awards @ gym 2:00.

**“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.” Jeremiah 29:11**



## **SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday morning Bible class will be studying Angels during the month of April. Bible class is in church itself at **9:00AM** on **Sunday mornings**. Join pastor as he teaches and explains a little more in depth the love of God.



## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS**

Wednesday Afternoon Bible class meets at 2:00pm in the church auditorium. We are working on the book of **2 Corinthians**. Paul wrote this book to a congregation in a city that was materialistic and immoral – not unlike our society today. Each class is individual so you can join at any time. We invite everyone to be with us. During this time we social distance and wear masks. The topics for April are as follows:

- April 7**      Bold to Speak in the Light of Eternity
- April 14**    Jars of Clay Who Long to Be with Jesus
- April 21**    Ambassadors for Christ
- April 28**    Protecting an Open Door for the Gospel

## **THANK YOU to Porky's**

The 150th Anniversary Committee would like to *thank Porky's* for their Pork Burger Drive-Thru Meal on Saturday, March 20 (First Day of Spring). They served **133 meals** and due to the generosity of all of you, **\$1,285** was netted for the 150th Anniversary. A huge thank you to Porky's, all those who helped including some of our youth, and all those who took advantage of the wonderful meal!

## **STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS**

Services are now Sunday morning at 10:00am and Saturday evenings at 4:30pm. Yes, we need to wear masks, sanitize, and social distance, BUT we are able to worship our Lord in church. There is also **Lutheran Chapel Service** on KNUJ (860 AM) at 7:45am on Sundays. **Time of Grace** is shown on KARE 11 at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. Reading the **Bible, Meditations, Portals of Prayer**, and/or **Forward in Christ** are all good ways to stay connected to Jesus. Your offerings are appreciated by giving through church envelopes, sent to church, or online giving.

## MISSION CLUB

**Mission Society meeting was called to order** at 11 a.m. Sunday March 21st, 2021 by President Barb Bening. Devotion was read on John 15:11, followed by roll call which 12 of 15 members answered. Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer's report was read - MSP. Bills were presented for payment - MSP. Sunshine Lady Mary Piotter gave her report also. Correspondence was read to all.

**Old Business:** Lutheran Women's Mission Society Spring Rally will be held April 17th at Zion, Winthrop. Sign up deadline is April 9th. Contact person for questions is Lee Wendland - our LWMS reporter.

**Mite box monies need to be turned in.** Discussion to send up to two hundred dollars from our congregation's LWMS group - MSP.

**Quilt tying will be done** over a period of 2 days because there is a total of 8 quilts this year. April 8th (Thursday) and April 10th(Sat) are the days for this project, 9 am - noon. Pat volunteered to make sure there is an announcement in the church bulletin for help needed and what supplies to bring with these days.

**MLC Bingo report by Pat.** All students had a great time. BINGO by use of their phones! More discussion on our church doing another cookbook was discussed. There is a survey being sent out to the congregation to get a feel of going ahead on this project for the 150th Anniversary of our church. We hope to have more info before our next meeting in April. Barb, Janice and Lee volunteered to be available to go through recipes and do submitting if we go with the project.

**MLC Ladies Auxiliary** will receive a donation of \$150.00 from our group. This is an annual donation we do. MSP.

**Agreed that our Home Mission distribution** would be \$100.00 to the St. Paul School Endowment fund and \$150.00 to the church's anniversary fund.MSP.

**Lorraine reported that the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine** has not started back up with their Bingo yet. We will wait to hear when they do and contribute to them then.

**New Business:** Mite box monies are due today. Discussion was had on when funerals resume to as they used to be, we will work out a new work schedule.

**If Fellowship Sundays in 2022,** resume back to normal, our group will host on June 5th, 2022.

**April Communion Set-up:** Barb Bening and Janice Rauh

**April Meeting 26th** after services

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Wendland  
Secretary



## 150th ANNIVERSARY of ST. PAUL'S

\*The committee is still working on a logo for the Anniversary.

\*We plan on beginning celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this September 12 at our annual outdoor Fall Gathering. A son of the congregation – Pastor Jacob Hanneman (from Colorado) will be our guest preacher for the day. Put the date on your calendar.

\*New banners are being planned for the anniversary. They will focus on the symbols that are on the front of the church. They will cost about \$50 a piece and there will be 10 of them. A Thrivent Action grant has already been issued, but we need to cover the rest of the cost. If anyone would like to help purchase all or part of a banner as a gift or a memorial, it would be appreciated.

\*As you know the official observance of our 150th Anniversary will be **June 19, 2022**. Please remember the 150th Anniversary Fund. You can use your **regular church envelope** and on the space near the end you can write in 150th Anniversary. You can also use your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** for this as well.



## SURVEY FOR COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

The Anniversary Committee needs your help to figure out which Anniversary Commemorative items we should offer during our year of celebration so we are taking a survey. A survey is attached to the back of this Newsletter. If you need more than 1 survey for your household, more will be made available in the narthex of church. Please put completed forms in the marked box. Directions to fill out the form is on the survey. If you normally get the Newsletter emailed to you, the survey will be sent you by email and follow the link. We thank you for your cooperation.

## DID YOU KNOW?

...the church began being built on April 17, 1955.  
...the cornerstone laying ceremony was in September of 1955.  
...the church was dedicated on Sunday, Sept.23, 1956, in a series of three services that day – 9:30am, 3:00pm. and 8:00pm.  
...President of the Synod, Rev. O.J. Naumann preached at the 9:30am service. He preached in English and gave an address in German.  
...the church was built for \$350,000.

## YOUTH GROUP

**Spring has sprung** and it's time to wash the winter dirt off your car. Youth group still has the Kwik Trip Ultimate car wash cards for sale. The cost is \$36 for 5 car washes. Please contact Darv or Jenny Scherer to purchase a card. Here are some of the recent and future activities our youth did and will do:

**On March 20th**, Porky's served about 125 tasty pork burger meals. Thank you to the "Porky's crew" and youth members that helped. Good food, good people, and good weather all made it possible.

**We met on Sunday**, March 28<sup>th</sup>, for our monthly movie/game day and to prepare for the annual Easter egg hunt. We watched the movie "Catching Faith", an inspirational movie based on doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

**Youth group will host the annual Easter egg hunt** for kids ages 2-10 at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Kids should meet in the basement by the kitchen. We need all youth group members to help with this event!!

**On April 18th**, we will be attending the home opener for the **Arlington A's baseball team** followed by pizza at Arlington Haus. (Rain date will be Sunday, April 25th.) The cost for the game is approx. \$3.00 and each youth member will need \$5.00 for pizza. More details will be shared in the church bulletin.

**The final activity for this school year** will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, May 8th. Current 6th graders are invited to join us for this activity. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return at about 2:00 p.m. All volunteers need to RSVP to Nick, Darv, or Jenny. Thanks!

## FORWARD IN CHRIST – APRIL

The April issue of *Forward in Christ* is here and chocked full of the Good News of Easter. There are a number of articles on the risen Christ. These are perfect for your Easter meditation. Take a few minutes to read a few or all of the articles this month. Some of the best are:

\* **“He Is Risen”** (P.10-11) The dead stay dead. Right? But what about Jesus? This thought-provoking article reminds us that the resurrection is not reasonable to our experience, but it is God’s truth. A great read!

\* **“Q & A with David Scharf”** (p.14-15) This column answers the question, “How can I answer people who question how Jesus’ resurrection is possible and if the Bible is reliable?” It ends with a Bible study of the Bible’s account of Easter morning.

\* **“Please Explain- How Do We Know that Jesus Rose from the Dead?”** (p.26-27) Is it through reason? Is it through faith? To be able to understand his resurrection, we must know his (Jesus) gentle and undeserved love for us. Just like Mary Magdalene. This is a must read!!

\* **“My Christian Life”** (p.18-20) This column favorite focuses on a man originally from New Ulm, MN – Otto Pfeiffer. You may have heard of him. This is a story of a man from the Depression and working for pennies to become a famous artist, who stays faithful to his Savior.

\* **“Psalms: Songs of His People”** (p.12-13) Called the hymnal of the Old Testament, the psalms continue to give God’s people comfort, strength, and hope. This is a wonderful introduction to the NEW Christian Worship: Psalter.

There is so much more in this issue. Articles and devotions are short and very well written and all are useful for the strengthening of our faith. Pick up **your** copy at church. Take the time to read these wonderful articles!

## AN EASTER PRAYER

We’ve done some dreadful things to  
Your special days, Lord.  
Easter could be the prime example.  
Instead of Your day of victory, a day  
You want to share with Your people,  
we’ve turned it into a celebration of  
candy and bunnies.  
People dress in their finest clothes,  
to impress others.  
We observe the rite of spring, but do we  
celebrate Your defeat of  
sin and the grave?  
Unfamiliar faces fill the pews on Easter.  
Where are they the rest of the year?  
What right do they have to come  
only once a year?  
But who am I to complain?  
Weren’t my sins the reason for the events  
that led to that first Easter?  
I should be living a life of celebration  
for the salvation You’ve given me,  
not just celebrating one day each year.  
The thoughts and actions of others shouldn’t  
affect me.  
Lord, be with me during my Easter  
celebration.  
May the joy of Your Easter victory show  
in all that I say and do.  
Use me, Lord, to bring others to the  
celebration of Your Easter triumph.  
Amen.

Thomas Couser

## EASTER SERVICES

**Sunday, April 4 6:30 & 9:00am**  
**(No Saturday service)**

**A very Blessed & Happy Easter**  
**To**  
**Each and Everyone of You**



## **Our God is...Almighty**

**How strong are you?**

**If you want to see incredible physical strength, watch “The World’s Strongest Man” competition.** To win, the competitors have to do such demanding feats as lift 300-pound, round stones onto a pedestal, flip huge tires over and over, and pull large buses—in the least amount of time.

**Such strength pales in comparison to the almighty power of the one true God.**

**God’s power isn’t limited to a competition, and he doesn’t use it to win prizes for himself.** God uses his power for our benefit.

**The greatest proof of God’s almighty power is when Jesus was raised to life after being crucified.**

**Jesus had the weight of the world on his back in the form of every sin of every person for all time.** We rejoice because he was willing to lift the heavy weight of sin off us and endure the excruciating pain of dying on the cross in our place.

**Jesus was humbled, but only temporarily.** Three days later, God showed his almighty power when Jesus became the only person to overcome sin, death, and hell.

**The Apostle Paul writes,** “By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also” (1 Corinthians 6:14).

**Jesus won the victory of eternal life.** He gives the hope of heaven to all people. Now that is a feat of strength!

**God is not done revealing his almighty power.** On the Last Day, Jesus will return to earth to raise our bodies back to life and to reunite them with our souls. We may be weak, but God uses his strength for us. Trust in the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

**Worship with us during the Easter season.** Together we can rejoice in God’s almighty power.