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From Pastor

Discipline is Discipling

“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever.” Psalm 103:8-9

“This will hurt me more than it will hurt you.” Yeah, right. No kid believes that. But it is true. It is hard for a parent to discipline a child. We know it will hurt him. We don't want to hurt him. Then, why do we do it? We do it because we love him.

If our fathers discipline us for our good, does our Father do the same? Of course. But do we believe that? Are my crosses, my sicknesses, my disappointments, and my reversals acts of love? They seem like acts of punishment. We must have done something wrong, so God is punishing us.

But God does not punish his children. Yes, he will often let sorrow come into our lives. He will often correct us with the painful rod of bitter disappointment. But that rod is held in a hand that loves us, and behind that hand is a heart that wants to bless us and keep us and give us his glory.

We have to understand the difference between punishment and discipline. Punishment is a consequence. Do this and this will happen to you. Go and visit our prisons. People are there because they did something wrong. But discipline is not punishment. You find the word, “disciple,” in discipline. Disciples are learners and followers. Discipline teaches us things so we may follow.

God never punishes his children because he can't. He is fair and just. He can't punish us because Christ is already punished in our place. By his wounds we are healed. There is nothing you or I could do to meet the just demands of God's divine justice. We can't offer him any kind of sorrow, penance, suffering or sickness. But Jesus drank that cup for us. God's anger is satisfied.

So, God doesn't punish us. But he will discipline us. Yes, he teaches us through his Word. But he will also teach us through experience and the classroom of hard knocks. You don't really understand what it means not to worry until you have nothing, but God still finds a way to take care of you. Whatever it may be, an illness, a disappointment, any misfortune, they do not come from God's righteous anger, but from his loving heart. With these things and more he will teach you by experiences that his promises are true, that heaven is our real home, and that it is best we don't wander too far from him.



APACHE MISSIONS

For the next months we would like to look at the various missions that the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod(WELS) has throughout the world and also here in the United States. We will begin with the World Mission fields. This month we are looking at the first world mission field of the WELS – Apache Missions. You may wonder why this is considered a foreign mission field. The answer lies in the fact that the Apache culture and their native tongue was “foreign” to our way of thinking.

The Apache mission field was established in 1893 on the Apache reservation in eastern Arizona. Much has changed over the years, but God’s Word remains the same. Now, on any given Sunday, more than one thousand Apaches are worshiping Jesus among the reservation church. Reservation statistics show 880 percent unemployment, 47 percent poverty rate, 50 percent high school dropout rate, substance abuse, and violence. In spite of such challenges, the Apache Lutherans and their leaders are intensifying their efforts to heal broken homes and hearts with the saving messenger of the Gospel.

Some statistics at a glance:

Baptized members.....	3,600
Organized Congregations.....	8
Preaching stations.....	1
Lutheran Schools.....	2
Evangelists.....	2
Missionaries.....	5
Teachers.....	17(4 are Apache)
National Pastors.....	2
Bible Institute students.....	60

The Apache ministry is changing. Native Americans are assuming more responsibilities. Today, mission teams (Anglo and Apache) are collaborating. Teachers at the Apache Christian Training School, located at the East Fork Mission, are training future evangelists, teachers, and pastors.

God willing, many more Apache voices will be heard from the pulpits and from behind the teachers’ desks. With continued prayers and support, the Apache mission will continue to grow.



St. Paul's Lutheran School Arlington, MN
"Preparing Children Now and For Eternity"

MAY 2019

SAVE, SAVE, SAVE: Thank you for saving these items. Labels can be dropped off at school or use a collection container in the back of church. Aluminum cans to the trailer in alley by school.

1. Thrivent Choice dollars
2. Our Family UPC labels
3. Box Tops for Education
4. Aluminum Cans
5. Coborns/Cash Wise Reward Points
6. Country Hearth UPCs

ACCREDITATION RENEWAL: Our school has reached a milestone. Next year will mark the fifth year we have been an accredited education institution. It also means we are going to be hosting a site visit in the fall of 2020. As a congregation we need to revise our school onsite report and standards. A few years back maybe you served on the standards committees and we would like your help again. If you think you can be a part of this process or have questions contact Principal Kaesermann. Work in these groups can usually be done in two meetings. We had 60 people help last time and would like to involve even more over the next year. Thank you for your support.

CES SILENT AUCTION: Thank you! This year's silent auction went very well! Christian Education Society will distribute the proceeds 10% to endowment fund, CES budget items (Bibles/catechisms/PRE books) and a new AED for school. **THANK YOU!**

LAWN SIGNS: New St. Paul's lawn signs are available to all who would like them. They feature St. Paul's Lutheran on them (you can get two sided or one sided). They are free or if you would like to give a donation to CES, we appreciate it. Talk to a staff member to get one.

SUMMER PROJECTS: We are in the planning stages for updates at school. Look for volunteer opportunities all summer long. We plan to add air conditioning, mount new outside basketball hoops, paint the office, and wax the floors.

SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP MAY 19th: After the church service on May 19th, everyone is invited to join us for refreshments and fellowship in the basement of church. We will celebrate our graduating class and the school year.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY: We have been having many exciting conversations with new families since open house about our school. It is a result of people like you talking about our school! It is called WOMP!(Word Of Mouth Publicity) All summer long you can share our school and with those you talk to. We like to think everyday is an open house at our school so tell others to contact us anytime with questions!

SCHOOL MUSICAL: Our school musical will be performing on May 17th. Times are 1:30 and 7:00 on a Friday. We have songs by the younger children and the comedy for grades 3-8 is called the Goldilocks on Trial. Join us that night for the performances with snacks to follow.

Website and Facebook: Keep up-to-date with all school events and happenings online. www.stpaularlington.com/school click calendar. Like us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stpaularlington

- Upcoming Events: May**
- 5 8th grade Confirmation
 - 6 Sleepy Eye Track Meet 3-8th grade 9:00-1:30
 - 9 Redwood Falls Track Meet 4-8th grade 9:00-2:00
 - 17 SCHOOL MUSICAL 1:30 & 7:00
 - 19 Graduation for K-8th School Banquet @ church
 - 20 Mr. Kaesermann's annual fishing trip to power plant in Faribault.
 - 22 PreK graduation program at School 2:30 @ gym
 - 24 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (chapel, awards, picnic)
- This has moved due to weather!

- June**
- May 31- 1 ALL SPORTS TEAM LOCK-IN
6:00 PM– 7:00 AM
 - 10-13 Vacation Bible School
 - 18 School Building Projects Begin
- Psalm 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.**

YOUTH GROUP

April was a busy month for the youth group. We had our monthly meeting on April 14th, Easter Egg Hunt on April 21st, and went to see the movie "Breakthrough" at the Lido Theater on Saturday, April 27th.

On Saturday, May 11th we will volunteer at **Feed My Starving Children** followed by pizza, meeting and games in the park. We will meet at church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to Chanhassen. **Every volunteer needs to REGISTER online at www.fmssc.org. Please JOIN our GROUP CODE: YPB9XX.** If you have any questions or problems registering, please contact Jenny Scherer at (320) 510-1022.

Plans are being made for a few informal activities over the summer. Ideas include a MN Twins game, ValleyFair, Arlington A's game, swim party and kickball.



CONFIRMANDS

Seven young ladies (no guys this year) have completed two years of special classes in preparation to become confirmed members of our congregation. They will be confirmed on May 5.

- Jaidynn Dietel** Daughter of Kari Dietel
Mya Kube Daughter of Wayne & Krista Kube
Samantha Pomplun Daughter of Tom & Vicki Pomplun
Kaitlyn Scherer Daughter of Darv & Jenny Scherer
Morgan Thoele Daughter of Dan & Jamie Thoele
Jenna Wendland Daughter of Jeff & Lee Wendland
Kirsten Ziegler Daughter of Steve & Becky Ziegler

SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry will meet on Monday, **May 13**, at 1:30pm. We start with a short Bible study followed by conversation, games, snacks and fun. If you would like any one of those, please join us. *You are never too young and never too old.* You will be glad you did!



SUMMER GIVING

As the weather warms and our thoughts turn to outside activities and summer vacations let us not forget our church offerings. Normally during the summer months church attendance and contributions goes down, but the church's expenses stay consistent month after month. Let us be thankful that we can enjoy the summer months, but let's not forget about our church. We also have done a good job of reducing the amount of the line of credit thus far. At the beginning of this year our debt was \$84,200. *At the end of April that debt was down to \$41,906.* Let's not regress over the summer months.

There is a way to insure that your summer offerings can be consistent: on line giving. You can set it up to be a weekly or monthly deduction from your checking account. This way if you are gone on vacation or out enjoying other events or summer activities and miss church, your offerings will be recorded and help pay the bills. Should you want more information about on line giving speak with Ella in the church office.

BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY BIBLE During the month of May Pastor will be continuing the topic of "Christians in Conflict." It is a Bible study about peacemaking. Bible class begins at 9:00am and we invite everyone to join us. Coffee and hot chocolate is also served.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY We start a new series this month - "The House of the Lord." God made it possible to live among his people. Using examples of the types of homes we might live in, the author of this Bible study lays out God's plans for making "houses" in which God could live among us here on earth and in eternity. The schedule for the month of May is as follows:

May 1 – The Lord's First House (Garden of Eden)

May 8 – The Lord's Mobile Home (Tabernacle)

May 15 – The Lord's Palace (The Temple)

May 22 – The Lord's Model Home (Jesus)

May 29 – The Lord's Current Residence (Church)



FORWARD IN CHRIST – MAY

One of the best little magazines has again arrived this month. The May issue of *Forward in Christ* is here – ready for you to read, enjoy, guide you in living, and strengthen your faith. (What more do you want??) Here are some articles you don't want to miss:

* **"Our Very Great Reward"** (p.7) These words of God to Abram, remind us how important he really is to us.

* **"Let Them See Jesus"** (p.26-27) As Christians, are we always eager to share our faith? We probably aren't. In this seventh article in a 12-part series, the pastor helps us to share our faith in the midst of opposition.

(Continued in next column)

* **"How I Shared Jesus"** (p.28-29) Here we find some real life examples of how people can share the message of Christ. This encourages us to find opportunities to share Jesus and how we can do it ourselves.

* **"In Defense of Millennials"** (p.8) Some of you who may not always appreciate the millennials (Birthdates between 1976-2004) out there (or in our midst.) President Mark Schroeder gives us more than one good reason to appreciate them.

* **"Light for Our Path"** (p.9) This Q & A column answers the question, "Can the devil personally be tempting me and a lot of other people at exactly the same time?"

* **"Walk by the Spirit"** (p.10-11) The author contrasts the act of the flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery with the fruit of the spirit: love. What an important article to read in our society of today!

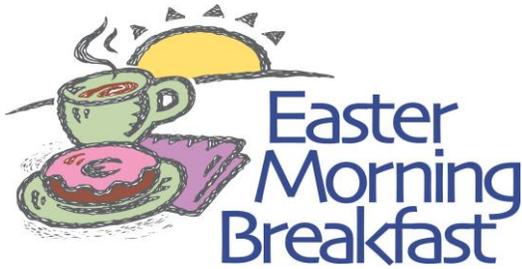
* **"heart to heart parent conversations"** (p.16-17) **Parents**, is your child thinking about dating or is dating? Here are some parents' advice to the question, "What's a parent's role as a child dates?"

* **"Hope after the Storm in Puerto Rico"** (p.20) This story relates what happened to one of our churches in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria destroyed it and much of the island.

* **"Finding a Spiritual Home in Atlanta"** (p.21) A short story how one church in Atlanta, GA got the word out about itself and found itself with a number of prospects.

* **"Tidy Up"** (Back Page) Are you messy or not as neat as you would like? Our lives are like that. The Lord gives us the power to cleanup.

There are still a number of other excellent stories, devotions, and Bible studies for you to read and explore in this issue. Pick up the May issue of Forward in Christ in the back of church.



The Family Bible Class would like to **thank** everyone that participated in the Easter Breakfast. Whether you donated food, volunteered to work, or just attended and made a financial contribution, your generosity is very much appreciated. What a great opportunity to enjoy some fellowship on Easter morning, and in the process we were able to raise more than **\$1,200!** The money will be divided and donated equally to the **WELS mission project in Vietnam** and St. Paul's School for the **tuition account for the Rauch children**. *Special thanks to Michael Foods and the John Wemeier family for their generous donations of the eggs and sausage.*

LWMS Rally, April 27, 2019

Nine ladies from St Paul's were among the 100 attendees at the Lutheran Women's Mission Society Spring Rally in Jordan, MN on April 27. The mission focus for the day was the 125th anniversary of the Apache Mission in Arizona, themed "Jesus on the Rez."

Our Apache sisters and brothers need your prayers. The devil is hard at work on the rez, using whatever tools available to stop the spread of the gospel. Native Christians face generational poverty, and 80% unemployment rate, alcohol issues, and the strong influence of traditional religion in the form of medicine men who instill fear. A Mormon influence is also prevalent in the businesses and public schools on the reservation. Pray for the Native Christians and the Apache pastors who serve them.

RECYCLING REMINDER

Please help us **sort and dispose** of our garbage and recyclable items appropriately at church and school. Here is a friendly reminder of what type of items should and should not be recycled.

Please **DO** recycle the following items:

- CLEAN aluminum, tin, and steel cans, aluminum foil and disposable foil cookware that has been wiped CLEAN of any food residue
- Corrugated cardboard and paperboard (like empty cereal boxes)
- CLEAN clear, green, or brown glass bottles and jars (metal or plastic lids must be removed)
- CLEAN plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs (plastic caps and covers must be removed)

DO NOT recycle the following items:

- Ceramic or Pyrex type dishware, cups, glasses, or plates
- Metal or plastic covers, caps, or lids from any bottle or container
- Plastic bags of any kind
- Styrofoam cups, plates, trays, or foam containers of any kind
- Paper plates, napkins, or any paper product that has food waste or residue on it



MISSION SOCIETY MINUTES – APRIL

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bening at 11:10. Eleven ladies answered roll call. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report. Bills were submitted and payment authorized. The Sunshine lady reported on cards sent out since January. Correspondence included the Katie Rauch funeral thank you with a \$150 check and a newsletter from New Beginnings.

Old Business:

*Reports on the Katie Rauch and John Paulmann funerals indicated that all went well.

*Mary Ann said the Lenten supper went well.

*In April we sent 22 pounds of food and \$25 to the MLC food shelf.

* The Apr27 LWMS Rally has been moved to St Paul's in Jordan

*A sign-up sheet for the rally will be placed in the narthex

*Four ladies helped with the Belle Plain Bingo party on Mar. 18

*The kitchen committee strongly urges use of the kitchen china and dishwasher.
The new water heater will satisfy all demands and does NOT need adjustment.

New Business:

*Graduation quilts are ready and will be presented on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 2

*Mary Piotter will plant the flower pots at the church entrances and water through May

*Lorraine will work out a watering schedule before our next meeting

*Members are encouraged to sign up for the Rauch family food chain.

*The \$150 gift from the Rauch family will be given to the school for the family's tuition





I NEED MORE...

I Need More... CONFIDENCE

Meet Doug. As he toes the line for the final game of his senior year basketball season, he wonders if his scholarship dream is going to happen.

Meet Kristin. As she graduates from college, she wonders if she's adequate for her new job.

Meet Samantha. As she faces her second round of chemotherapy, she wonders if she's going to live.

Meet Scott. As he says his vows to his wife, he silently wonders if his second marriage is going to last.

Have you been there? Doug, Kristin, Samantha, Scott, you and I all have one thing in common: we need confidence. Let's face it; there are times in life that it's easy to be filled with doubt. Doug doubted his future. Kristin doubted her abilities. Samantha doubted her treatment. Scott doubted his love.

But there's One whose future, abilities, treatment, and love never fail. That's the true God revealed to us in the Bible. Our confidence to face whatever life throws our way comes from the promises God gives us in his Word. God kept his promise of sending a Savior for everyone. As our Savior, Jesus lived perfectly to give us confidence that his life counts for everyone. He died to make the payment necessary for our sins to be forgiven, no matter what we've done. He rose again to give us the confidence that one day we will be with him in heaven. And all this is God's free gift by faith in Jesus.

Because of Jesus, when we doubt our future, God reminds us, "I know the plans that I have for you" (Jeremiah 29:11). When we doubt our abilities, he assures us, "I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10). When we doubt our treatment plan, he promises, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). When we doubt love, his Word helps us "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18). That's the difference only Jesus makes.

Need more confidence? Jesus has what you need.