

Contact Information

St Paul's Lutheran Church
101 W Chandler Ave
Arlington MN 55307

Website: www.stpaularlington.com

WELS website: www.wels.net

Pastor Matthew C. Rauh

507-964-2731

Email: mrauh@gac.edu

Email: church@stpaularlington.com

Church Assistant Don Koch

507-964-5452 / 507-964-2731

Email:

Don.koch@stpaularlington.com

Principal Eric Kaesermann

507-964-2397

Email:

Eric.kaesermann@stpaularlington.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From Your Pastor-6th Petition
- 2 Other WELS Sites-Conquerors
Through Christ
- 3 St Paul's School News-November
- 4 Bible Class /Youth
MLC Ladies' Auxiliary
- 5 Mission Society Minutes
- 6 Am I Good Enough to go to
Heaven

From Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER: The Sixth Petition

Lead us not into temptation.

They do it at Sam's Club. I've seen it at Kwik Trip. What am I talking about? The sample lady. She stands there with her tray of tasty goodies for sale in the store. You know you want to try it. It is free so you walk slowly by hoping she would say, "Would you like to try this?"

Oh, the devil has platter upon platter of goodies he wants us to taste. Only he is more sinister about it. "Temptation," in the Bible literally means "to test" or prove something. God tests us. He did when he told Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son. Now, this kind of "temptation-testing" we want. Who here wants a flabby faith? Who doesn't know that God's calisthenics is good for us?

But not the devil. He tempts us to weaken our faith. That's the difference. God will test us with difficult situations so we learn to plant and root our faith deeper into his Word. The devil tempts us to rip those roots out of that Word.

So we pray, "Lead us not into temptation." We are asking him to either remove them, or just as importantly, that he strengthens us to conquer them. The first step in this petition is to realize our weakness. We are not as clever as the devil, or as strong. The moment you think you are strong enough to face him on your own, the harder you crash. We don't stand a chance on our own.

The second step is to stay out of temptation's way. I know, that is difficult since temptation is all around us. We can't keep birds from flying over us, and we can't keep temptation away. But there are certain temptations we can avoid. If only David looked away the moment he saw a woman taking a bath!

The third step is knowing where our true strength is. When the bully of temptation blocks our path ready to bloody our nose, may he see God our Father standing there with us to bloody his. In the wilderness Jesus relied on his Father to ward off temptation, specifically the Father's promises in the Bible. Holding onto those he sent the devil running, for the moment. And you have the same ability, the same promises at your ready.

And still we fall. Then what? Remember the fourth and final key to this petition. Look to Jesus. Is he disappointed we gave in to temptation again? Of course. But he is right there to bandage our scraped knees. With a nail pierced hand he reaches out to us and says, "Have no fear. I died for that. I forgive you." **Don't be surprised if you find yourself wishing to fight those temptations harder next time.**

OTHER WELS SITES

There are a number of organizations that are in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) that you may or may not be aware of. In this space we are highlighting some of these. These are found on the WELS website under "Other WELS Sites."

The organizations are included at their request because they are in fellowship with WELS. WELS is not involved directly in their ministries or finances; each organization is independent of WELS in all matters other than doctrine. Inclusion in the WELS Yearbook does not constitute an endorsement of how organizations are administered or an assurance of the status of their overall financial health and stability. This month we would like to focus on:

CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

What is this group?

The men and women of the *Conquerors Through Christ* team are members of a subcommittee of the Committee on Mental Health Needs under the Commission on Special Ministries, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We have pastors, staff ministers, and laypeople serving on the subcommittee. We are pursuing this fight against *internet pornography* because we have seen the devastation it wreaks on the families and individuals in our churches and realize the danger to souls. We want to equip as many as possible to fight this battle with the proper motivation and preparation. *Conquerors Through Christ* exists to give spiritual and practical advice to Christians struggling to overcome adult internet pornography.

Mission statement, policies and disclaimers

Conquerors Through Christ exists to help people *Reject, Resist, and Recover* from the wreckage of porn and to rejoice either in our singleness or in our married sex life.

We are not trained mental health professionals and urge anyone seeking to conquer this sin also to seek professional Christian counseling.

The advice we give on this website is intended for teens and adults caught in an addictive cycle of viewing adult pornography. Though much of the spiritual advice contained herein may apply, we are not equipped to and cannot advise those struggling with child pornography or depictions of other forms of deviancy forbidden by God.

Because of potentially grave legal, mental health, and spiritual consequences, we urge anyone involved in the viewing of these materials to immediately seek professional counseling help.

WEBSITE ADDRESS IS: www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net

There you will find various resources such as videos, books, and even counselors. There are downloadable resources there as well. If you or someone you know is having this kind of problem this is an excellent place to start for help.



“Preparing Children Now and For Eternity”

November 2022

10 YEARS for the SCHOOL MARATHON:

The school marathon was a huge success. We thank everyone for the gifts giving us our largest total ever: over \$21,185 which support our school and mission. It was a gorgeous day and our families had a great time. The funds are going toward many school projects. \$2,200 was sent to our Tuition Endowment fund, \$1000 to our lunch program license and inspection, \$13,500 be for building improvements for summer like our hallway remodeling and new desks. Thank you to the over 300 donors who support our school with gifts!!!!

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.

1. Thrivent Choice dollars– designate to school
2. Our Family UPC labels– Keep Saving
3. Scan Receipts Box Tops for Education- with app
4. Aluminum Cans [Trailer in alley]
5. Coborns/Cash Wise designate Reward Points
6. Country Hearth UPCs—Keep Saving
7. Amazon Smile– Designate to St. Paul’s Church School

ALUMNI: We continue to update our school alumni website page. Go to www.stpaularlington.com/school look for a class picture to click at the top of the site. The website is filing information from the 1990’s now with our updates. We are encouraging all former students/staff to fill out a survey at <https://forms.gle/PbgpB6FtaxgTAixs6>

ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE: St. Paul’s School has achieved is annual renewal for accreditation. We reached our goals set by WELSSA. We are in good standing for another year.

FACULTY CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCES: The staff attended the MN WELS District teacher’s conference at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. The theme was “United in Christ.” It is a blessing to learn new ways to share our Gospel with the next generation. Our main focus was on the spiritual and mental health of our workers and our families.

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

November

- 3 CES Parent Night- Anxiety and Depression in our Families
- 7-9 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 9 Veterans Program at MVL
- 11 3-4th go to MVL for the Play
- 15 Picture Retake Day
- 17 Forensics Meet 5-8th grade at
- 23 NO SCHOOL
- 24 PREK-8th Sing in Church Thanksgiving

December

- 3 Bethlehem Express
- 13 Bball @ Immanuel Gaylord Bteam3:45; Ateam 4:45
- 20 Bball @ Redwood 4:30 Bteam; 5:30 Ateam
- 21 Midterm Reports
- 22 PreK Christmas Program @ gym
- 24 Christmas Eve Program @ Church
- 23-31 No School Christmas Break

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR THEME

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

-Romans 15:13

SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY BIBLE CLASS

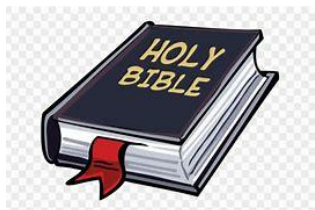
Sunday morning Family Bible class will finish with the study of *Personal Witnessing* during November. It is *meets at 9:00am downstairs*. Everyone is invited to come.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Class meets at 2:00pm downstairs at church. In November we are beginning a new series called, "Timely Topics, Timeless Truths." There will be some very interesting topics. The schedule for November is:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>November 2</u> | "Intelligent Design" |
| <u>November 9</u> | "Global Warning" |
| <u>November 16</u> | "Santa Claus" |
| <u>November 23</u> | NO CLASS |
| <u>November 30</u> | "People of Christmas" |



MLC LADIES' AUXILIARY

The Martin Luther College Ladies Auxiliary met on campus for its annual meeting on October 1. The main purpose of the meeting was to determine the order of funding for the non-budgetary requests from staff members. The auxiliary has been supporting many areas of student life since 1960. This past year over \$28,000 was given as scholarships and equipment. The married student food shelf is an auxiliary project our congregation supports with monthly donations. One of the young couples who uses the food shelf addressed the attendees and expressed appreciation for the food and for the Christmas card and enclosed gift card (provided by our Married Couples Club). The auxiliary also sponsors activities for the students. Bingo night, held in February, is immensely popular, with over 300 young people vying for donated prizes ranging from baked goods and gift cards to quilts. Donations to support auxiliary projects can be sent to MLC, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm 56073. Please write "MLC Auxiliary" on the memo line of your check.

WELS YOUTH NIGHT

There is an upcoming WELS Youth Night on *Sunday, November 20th from 6-8pm at The Beacon Ministry Center* in Mankato MN. This event is free and is designed specifically for *TEENS in 9th-12th grade*. There will be food, fun, fellowship, and most importantly faith. We are excited to welcome Pastor Micah Plocher from Trinity in Nicollet who will be giving the keynote address that evening. If interested in attending talk to Jenny or Darv Scherer or call Jenny at 320-510-1022 or Darv at 507-995-0114.

All are welcome.



ST. PAUL'S MISSION SOCIETY MINUTES

Sunday October 16th, 2022

The Mission Society meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. by President Barb Bening. The roll call was taken followed by the Secretary's minutes being read and approved. The treasurer's report was not given as Janet Hansen was absent. There were no bills presented at this time. The Sunshine Lady, Mary Piotter was absent. No report. Correspondence was read.

Old Business: Pat reported on our coat drive for New Day Pregnancy center. Total coats were 130. There were also hats, mittens, scarves and a few other baby items donated. We are currently the only WELS church that donates to this facility at this time.

Pat also reported on the meeting held by the MLC Ladies Auxiliary. Many things are going on at the MLC campus. Janice reported on the LWMS meeting. There is a mission church in Brandan, S.D. led by Pastor Wilke. Also noted was the date for next year's National convention. It will be held June 22-25 in Lacrosse. Our local LWMS Spring Rally for 2023 will be hosted by St. James and in the fall for the 50th anniversary of LWMS, St. Peter will host. Discussion on whether or not to hold a fall soup and sandwich fundraiser was discussed. We are down to about ten able-bodied ladies. Barb will call Janet and her husband first to see if they are able to help us with this or else do an advent supper instead. Decision to meet shortly on Sunday after the service to make final decision.

New Business: Election of officers is to be held in November. Vice-president and Secretary are up this year. The Advisory board members are to look for volunteers for these positions. October is Pastor Appreciation month. Motion to purchase a gift card for pastor, second, pass. Poinsettias for church altar will be ordered from Holasek in Lester Prairie and Barb will pick up and deliver. We will not have a sign-up sheet this year for the congregation to order poinsettias. Any congregation member can purchase their own, label it, and bring to church. They will be responsible for taking it home after the Christmas season.

During the month of November, our group is responsible for sending cards of greetings and support or our BAM (Befriend A Mission). One of these is Crown of Life- California and the other is East Fork School, Arizona. Motion was made to send a gift card chosen by the family/school for needs for \$50.00. Janice has agreed to see to this.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, second, pass.

November communion set-up: Arlys Sickmann & Millie Perschau.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Wendland
Secretary

Ever Wonder? Answers to Important Questions.



AM I GOOD ENOUGH TO GO TO HEAVEN?

Mom went over to the slow cooker where the Thanksgiving turkey had been all day. As the lid was taken off, a shriek filled the air. The slow cooker had been unplugged hours before to make room for Uncle Bob's famous sweet potato soufflé.

Tears filled Mom's eyes. "My dinner is ruined!" she cried. Dad chimed in, "Oh, honey. I am sure that it is good enough." However, the half-baked turkey was not good enough, nor was it safe to eat.

In our lives, we probably hear or say those words often. "Oh, the lawn looks good enough. I can wait another couple of days to mow." "Oh, the house isn't that dirty. It is good enough for now." "My job was done well enough for today. I am going home!"

What about when it is quitting time here in this life? Are we sure that we are going home to heaven? Are we good enough?

We may be individuals who settle for good enough more than we like to admit. However, we have a God who doesn't settle for anything but perfection. Jesus says, "Be perfect . . . as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

So are we good enough to go to heaven?

God takes the "lid" off of our hearts and tells us what he sees. "Every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood" (Genesis 8:21). Even if we try hard and work at being kind, good, and perfect, we still fail. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

So, now what will happen to us? Is our hope to live forever in heaven with God ruined?

Thanks to Jesus Christ, our Savior, the answer is, "No." We do have hope because Jesus has forgiven our sins by dying on the cross, and he has declared us to be innocent by rising from the dead. Because of what Jesus has done, every time that God looks at us, he sees us "holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22).

Are you good enough to go to heaven? Jesus did not just make you good enough, but he made you perfect! Through faith, you receive "the gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).