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**From Pastor . . . .**

**Shallow Christians**

**“Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.”**

**(Matthew 13:5-6)**

**This month we go back to the parable of the sower which describes the different ways people react to God's Word. Today we look at the rocky soil.**

**As the sower cast his seed, some of it fell on rocky soil.** This probably is ground where there is a layer of bedrock covered by a thin layer of dirt. It doesn't surprise that the seed did well here, at first! The warmth from the bedrock probably caused the seed to grow faster. But it didn't take long before the plant withered and died. Why? The bedrock and thin layer of soil did not allow it to develop its roots. The heat of the sun burned it up because it was shallow and immature.

**Remember, the seed is God's Word, not faith.** So this describes what we do with God's Word. The rocky soil represents those who hear the Word and are excited at once. They are new to Christianity. They may even look more on fire and excited than the fourth generation Christian. But they have a problem. They don't go deeper into God's Word. When trouble, or persecution, or temptation come, they quickly succumb and give up. They know "Jesus loves me," but don't know or understand how that love is there while we suffer or in temptation.

**We know these Christians.** We see them, or rather, we don't see them because they don't continue in God's Word. And we scratch our heads and wonder why they fall away.

**But look in the mirror.** Do we see ourselves receiving God's Word the same way? I look forward to the day we can do children's sermons again. Many admit they get more out of the children's sermon than the regular sermon. I know what they mean. But a children's sermon is pudding. The sermon is where we get deeper. It is meat. What happens if we live on pudding and don't eat the meat? What happens if we don't know or understand passages like, "endure hardship as discipline?" What happens, then, when things go from bad to worse if we don't understand that? If we don't see God's love even in trouble, or look beyond the trouble to the day there will be no more pain or tears, how soon will we wither and die?

**The rock is this attitude I don't need to know more than a fifth grader.** Remove that rock and go deep into God's Word. Listen to Jesus tell us not to worry, but to seek first his kingdom and righteousness before we think about jobs and food. See why God tells us how to be content, or what it means to be among the elect or that our Redeemer lives and in the end we will stand with him. This makes church more important, or watching the services at home, or cracking open the Meditations or reading through a gospel, then a psalm, then a few more chapters.

**Don't settle with just a little. See how deep you can go.**





**WELS MISSIONS**  
*In Latin America*  
**HAITI**

**It's been nearly 10 years since the January 2010 catastrophic 7.0 earthquake in which over 100,000 Haitians lost their lives.** Today, Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Nation-wide demonstrations are becoming increasingly common this year. The United States State Department advises that American citizens not travel to Haiti at this time due to the unrest. And yet, the Good News of Jesus Christ continues to spread to more and more Haitians in a country where Vodou remains the predominant religion.

**Haitian national pastor Rona Abraham provides leadership in forming new church groups and in training future called workers for Haiti.** He oversees the work in congregations in Leogane (3), Cape Haitian, Pilate, and Petit-Goave, plus several exploratory groups throughout the country.

**Thousands of copies of a simplified Luther's Small Catechism, translated into the Haitian Creole language, are being used in both private schools and in after-school programs at public schools throughout Haiti.** Worship music resources (liturgy and hymns) in rhythmic music styles that resonate with Haitian worshipers are being composed and accompaniment tracks recorded for use in Sunday services.

**God willing, a Lutheran vocational sewing institute will be opened in Haiti at three orphanage locations in the coming year.** When Haitian orphans reach age 18, the law requires them to leave their orphanage. The sewing institute would give them an opportunity to learn an income-generating skill. Last year, a request to our WELS members in the U.S. for treadle sewing machines, as electricity in Haiti is often unreliable or non-existent, yielded over 25 donated machines.

**A nonprofit organization of WELS members call Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti funds three Lutheran elementary schools in three Haitian orphanages with a combined student enrollment of over 650 students.** Through the power of the Holy Spirit, future called workers for Haiti are receiving a solid spiritual education through these schools.

**Prayer for Haiti**

Please pray for the national church in Haiti as they continued to share the gospel message. We pray that the Lord protects our brothers and sisters in the faith from violence due to political unrest. May God continue to bless our many and varied efforts to bring the life-saving message of Jesus Christ to the island nation of Haiti.





## “Preparing Children Now and For Eternity”

### September 2020

**OPENING SERVICE:** School opening service will be September 3rd, 8:15 at the school gym. Unfortunately, we cannot have outside visitors this year, only the students.

**BACK TO SCHOOL** It has been a unique summer at school. We are thankful to God for the wondrous blessings this summer. We have our reopening plan in place and are ready to begin the school year on September 1st. We had a few school projects that were completed over the summer. Thank you to our volunteers who helped this summer.

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

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

**VISITORS TO SCHOOL THIS FALL:** Unfortunately we cannot have extra volunteers or visitors in our building until the COVID situation declines. It will be difficult to not have our librarians, readers, and classroom helpers around for the beginning of the year. We look forward to having our helpers back soon.

**NEW STUDENTS/TRANSFERS:** We are blessed this summer with a tremendous influx of new families. This school year we will be welcoming TEN new families to our school. That equals 15 NEW students from PreK-8th grade. More students bring blessings and challenges. We pray that God will bless our students to grow closer to him this school year.

**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**

**SAINTS GEAR:** St Paul’s clothing can now be ordered anytime go to- [stpaularlington.com/school/](http://stpaularlington.com/school/). Click on the shirt logo.

**SCHOOL MARATHON:** Our annual marathon will be held on October 2nd. Our school plans to walk/bike in Arlington on the path to Sportsman Park that morning. Children are looking for sponsors. You can find donation slips on the school bulletin board in the back of the church which you can return directly to the school or any staff or student. This year the proceeds will go towards new classroom doors, new floor coating for hallway, 10% to tuition endowment, and lunch license.

**ATTENTION ALL VEGETABLE//FRUIT HELPERS:** In the past, we could cut and slice our produce at school. This year we need to be a little creative. If you are interested in helping the lunch program this year, contact school (507-964-2397) and we will get the product to you. You can work at your own pace from home or with a friend. We pray that next year we can work together at school again.

**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: ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELATION:** September events are canceled.

**VOLLEYBALL and SOCCER TEAMS:** Volleyball season has been moved to March. Our soccer season will be practicing on our field this season. No soccer competitions will occur with other schools.

### September

- 1 First Day of School– Meet @ school that morning,
- 3 Opening devotion in gym... sorry no guests besides our student body.
- 4-7 NO SCHOOL
- 10 Home School Program Starts
- 13 2nd grade receives Bibles in church  
Soccer practices on Thursdays only

### October

- 2 Marathon Day @ Sportsman Park (5th Rain Date)
- 14 Raking Day in our community/ Midterm Reports
- 17-18 NO SCHOOL Teachers Conference (Online)
- 30 Family Harvest Party @ school 6:00-7:30

## **SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY BIBLE CLASS**

### **POLITICS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY**

This is the topic of Sunday AM Family Bible class that will finish up during the month of September. Join pastor in the basement at **9:00AM** every **Sunday morning** for this very timely discussion. *No Bible class on Sept. 6!* It will also be on Zoom.



## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS**

Wednesday Afternoon Bible class is at 2:00pm in the church auditorium. We are finishing the topic *Church and State* and then we will start a new 8-part series – **PRAYER**. We meet with six feet for social distancing and wear masks. Everyone is invited to join us. Each topic is a single topic. Topics for the month are:

**Sept. 2 No Class**

**Sept. 9 Christian Citizenship Is an Opportunity and a Challenge**

**Sept. 16 Prayer Begins with What God Has Done for Us**

**Sept. 23 Prayer Is a Vital Part of a Christian's Worship Life**

**Sept. 30 Elements of a Well-Rounded Prayer Life**

## **September is Diaper Drive Month!**

The ladies of the Mission Society are sponsoring the annual Diaper drive for the support of clients at New Day Pregnancy Counseling Center. New Day is an arm of Christian Life Ministries and counsels expectant mothers on options other than abortion. All sizes are needed. Opened or partial packages are welcome, so if baby has outgrown a size and you have “leftovers,” please consider donating them to this worthy cause. The diapers and wipes we collect are packaged in small quantities and distributed according to need. These small gifts open a door for sharing the gospel message with young mothers and their family members. Look for the “pack ‘n play” in the narthex to drop in your donation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## **STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS**

Services are now Sunday morning at 10:00am and Monday evenings at 7:00pm at least through September. 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.

## FORWARD IN CHRIST –SEPTEMBER

Ya' got 5 minutes?? That's all it takes to read many of the features, stories, devotions, etc. from *Forward in Christ*. The September issue is here at church and you will find it in the middle table in the narthex or a table as you come in the office side. FIVE minutes to strengthen your faith – cheap investment!

Here are some of the favorite articles from this month's issue!

\* **“We Believe, Therefore We Listen”** (p.5) This opening devotion gives us pause and puts George Floyd's murder and the aftermath into perspective and maybe what we need to do before sharing the gospel.

\* **“A Time for Trust”** (p.6) This message from WELS President Schroeder is a good reminder that the deeper the troubles we have and the darker the days look for us, we need to trust. We all need that especially now!!

\* **“Confessions of Faith”** (p.7-9) This story tells about a girl from Guatemala who discovers the light of the Gospel in where else – ALASKA! This is a fantastic life journey. Did you know Alaska has 8 WELS churches? Did you know our church in Anchorage conducts services in three (3) different languages?

\* **“The Joy of the Gospel”** (p.10-11) In word and pictures this account relates one missionary's work in Africa.

\* **“Please Explain”** (p.12-13) The Pastor Mark Voss answers the question, “Does Jesus build his church on Peter and his successors?”

\* **“Q & A with David Scharf”** (p.14-15) Prof. Scharf from MLC answers a most timely question, “Does God really care? Look at the trouble we see. Why does he seem so distant and disinterested?” A bible study accompanies this answer.

\* **“Parent Conversations”** (p.16-17) This answered question is for PARENTS - “How should I handle a child's separation anxiety?”

(Continued in next column)

(Continued from previous column.)

\* **“My Christian Life”** (p.18-20) This month's installment reflects on the life of a retiring WELS day school teacher. It pretty well tells the feelings of many retired WELS teachers.

\* **“Focused Living in Christ”** (p.25-27) This is especially meant for teens, BUT adults of all ages will benefit from this new four-part Bible study focusing on Colossians 3:12-15 – Remember, Relax, Rejoice, Refuel.

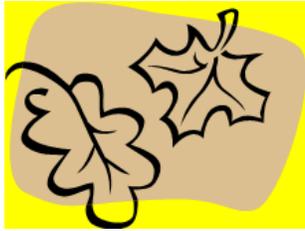
\* **“The Book of James”** (p.31) This Bible study from the book of James is especially helpful when battling temptation.

\* **“Forgive as You Are Forgiven”** (p.28-29) This article reminds us how and why we can forgive the other people in our lives. We only have to look at how our God forgives us ALL our sins. This is the must read from this issue!

There are other very informative articles and information that is going on within our Synod. It is definitely worthwhile reading! Got 5 minutes??

**From last month** – Question was asked who was the lady from our congregation who married the U of M college chaplain? It was Sally Scharping who married the Rev. Stephen Valleskey. They live in Willis, Texas.





## **FALL GATHERING**

Our annual FALL GATHERING this year will be on Sunday, September 13, at 10:00am. This service will be held outside as we have done in the past. *We encourage our members to invite others to church that day.* It may be people you know who may not have a church home or maybe someone you know who hasn't been to church for a while – a family member, friends, co-workers. Please bring your lawn chairs, if possible, for social distancing. If you can't bring a chair, some folding chairs will be set up – COVID-style. The second graders will be presented with a Bible from our Christian Education Society (CES) as well.

## **PULLED PORK LUNCHEON**

After the outside service on Sept. 13, a meal will be served sponsored by the Outreach Committee from 11:00am – noon from the south side (office side) of the church. You can walk up to **grab a meal** and sit outside here at church and eat with your family and friends OR take the meal **drive-thru style** to take home with you. (Please watch for signs.) The meal will include a pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, chips, cookie, and a water. We ask for a free-will offering to cover expenses. Any money after expenses will be given to the Anniversary Fund.

## **THANK YOU LETTER**

**Dear members of St Paul's Lutheran & the College Student Fund Committee,**

**Thank You for assisting me over my college career with the Congregational Partner Program Grant.** During the last four years, this grant has been a blessing and a significant help as I pay for my college tuition.

**I continue to grow as a future called worker and as a Christian during my time at Martin Luther College.** Over the past school year, I had the opportunity to teach to real students at real schools through my clinical experience. Once a week, I attended Minnesota Valley Lutheran and observed and taught in a variety of English classes. My clinical class helped confirm my desire for teaching and taught me valuable teaching advice that I can use in my classroom. Sadly, the pandemic interrupted my spring semester at MLC. My professors were able to adapt and continue to teach so that I could stay on track to graduate.

**Martin Luther College continues to develop strong Christian pastors and teachers.** God continues to bless my faith through the many worship options held by Martin Luther College. Even when the campus was forced to close for the pandemic, the college continued to find ways to preach the gospel through recorded chapel services and devotional emails. Martin Luther College served as a constant reminder that we can always rely on God even during the world's trials.

**Thank you for your generosity by providing another year of the Congregational Partner Grant program.** St. Paul's Lutheran Church has helped relieve a significant amount of the financial stress from my college tuition. Thank you for your prayers and caring hearts. I do not deserve such support, but St. Paul's Lutheran continues to provide financial aid. God has blessed me with a caring and loving family of believers at St. Paul's who continue to support the mission fields. I know that soon I will have the opportunity to spread the gospel as a teacher in the WELS.

**To God be the Glory,  
Thank You!**

**William Rauh**

## 150th ANNIVERSARY of ST. PAUL'S

A committee to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has been organized. Even though it's almost two years away, it's nice to be able to have time to properly prepare for this milestone anniversary.

\*A date has been chosen. It will be **June 18-19, 2022**. We wanted in the summer before it gets too hot or gets in the way of other summer activities. It's after most graduation parties are completed.

\*The **Community Center** has been reserved for that weekend. We plan on having a catered meal on June 19 with a free will offering. Chef Craig has also been contacted for that weekend. We didn't want any group from our church to have to serve a meal that day but rather to enjoy it. The Community Center is air-conditioned and has room to hold many people. Chef Craig has also been contacted for catering for that weekend.

\*A special **Anniversary Fund** has been started. If you would like to contribute use your regular envelope and go to the line that says *Other* and indicate that your gift should be used for the Anniversary Fund. As seed money \$3000 has been put into that fund.

\*A **pictorial directory** will come out in 2022 in time for the anniversary. Pictures for this will be taken in November of 2021.

\*We hope to have a special **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet**. Dwight Grabitske has volunteered to head this up. He needs some help with this so if you would like to help on this project please contact him,

\* Here is the fun part. If any of **you have ideas or suggestions** about what to do or how to celebrate this anniversary, we suggest that you talk to someone who is on the committee. They will be more than happy to talk to you about them. The committee is listed on the next column.

\* Members of the committee include: Larry & Carol Fisher, Don & Sharri Koch, Dwight & Pat Grabitske, Barb Bening, Harris Dose, Kathy Eggersgluess, Eric Kaesermann, Daryl Petzel, Darvin & Jenny Scherer, and Pastor Rauh.



## LABOR DAY SAYINGS

Here are some sayings to ponder on this Labor Day!

\*God gave us a Labor Day, He calls it the Sabbath

\*God labored on creation and saw that it was good

\*Labor is rest when labored in Christ

\*Christ labored on the cross. Crucified for you!

\*Christ Crucified. Labored to set you free!





## **Sure and Certain of the Unseen**

**This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.  
This month's favorite Bible verse is: Hebrews 11:1**

**“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”**

It is amazing that with only a few clicks on a computer, we can dramatically alter photos. Such capabilities have led us to be a bit more wary. We find ourselves saying, “Unless I see it with my own eyes, how can I believe that it hasn’t been touched up? I’ll believe it when I see it.”

Often this cynical attitude can touch our spiritual life. How can I believe that God loves me and knows what is going on in my life considering all troubles and disappointments I have to deal with?

The Bible tells us, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” How can we be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?

Think of a father and child playing the game where the father stands behind the child and tells him to fall backwards. The child, unable to see his father, still trusts that he is there and is certain that his father won’t let him hit the ground. The child leans back and falls, fully convinced that his father will keep his word and catch him, because his father has always proved trustworthy.

This is the kind of trust we can have in our heavenly Father. Though we did not see the creation or the crucifixion, though we were not present to witness Jesus rising from the Easter tomb, though we have not heard his actual voice forgiving our sins and promising his return, we believe.

How can we be so sure and certain? Because God’s Word is true and trustworthy. Our forgiveness is certain because Jesus did die and rise from the dead. God’s love for us today and every day is sure. Every promise our Father has made about our eternal future, he will keep.

Faith is sure and certain of unseen things because it takes God at his word.