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From Pastor

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

People don't like to talk about sin anymore. They think, “If we don't talk about it, maybe it will just go away.” But that won't work. Sin just won't go away by itself. And if left untreated, it leads to death.

Or we could pretend sin isn't sin. But that won't work. I can put rocks into a pot with milk and onions and ham and cheese and call it potato soup. But one bite will reveal it is rocks, not potatoes.

So what is sin? Isaiah gives us a good definition. “Each of us has turned to his own way.” Sin is choosing to do what we want to do instead of doing what God says we should do. God says we should speak the truth and not lie. We don't always speak the truth. When we get caught, sometimes it is just easier to lie.

All those sins we have committed in our lives just don't go away by themselves. We can't pretend them away. We can't ignore them away. We can't excuse them away.

But we can give them away. In the Old Testament, there was a special festival called the Great Day of Atonement. On that day, the high priest took two goats. The first was sacrificed and its blood was sprinkled on the ark of the covenant, which was called the “mercy seat.” Then the high priest laid his hands on the second goat and put the sins of the people on it. One of the people then led that goat out into the wilderness to die. They called it the scapegoat. This was a picture of what Jesus would really do for us.

Look up the word “scapegoat” in the dictionary. A scapegoat is an innocent person who takes the blame for someone else. This is what Jesus did for you. God laid on him the iniquity of us all. He took your sins into his own body and paid the price for them. He poured out his blood to take away your sins.

So don't pretend your sins don't exist. Don't wish them away, or make excuses for them. Give them to Jesus instead. Jesus will make them go away for good.

HISTORY/MINISTRIES OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT

MINNESOTA DISTRICT Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



This month we are going to begin looking at some unique ministries we have here in the Minnesota District. We are going to begin with The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) in Belle Plaine, MN.

The Lutheran Home Association is a not-for-profit ministry dedicated to providing for the spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional needs of people to their care. TLHA offers a wide variety of health care, housing, and spiritual outreach services with campuses in several states and congregational programs serving seniors and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities nationwide. Services and programs include senior living, skilled nursing care, memory care, disability services, rehabilitative therapies, chaplaincy, Bible classes, worship services and property management services.

The Lutheran Home Association began during the Civil War. A 15-year-old Ernst Boessling from Belle Plaine, MN volunteered with the Minnesota troops. He died in September of 1863 in service to his country at Vicksburg, Mississippi, leaving behind his heartbroken parents, Sophie and Christian Boessling. Their only child was remembered as “The Juvenile Hero.” Years passed, and Sophie had become a widow, with no one to care for her. She had saved the government death benefits she received all the years after Ernst died. Wanting to provide a home for others like herself, she donated \$4,500 and her family’s farmland to build das Alten und Waisenheim – the Aged and Orphans’ Home.

Her local church, Trinity Lutheran, and others joined forces for the project. ground was broken on July 10, 1898. On November 6, the Home officially opened. Two days later, Sophie, then a resident, died unexpectedly, having seen her dream become a blessed reality.

Now more than a century later, Sophie’s gift continues to benefit countless lives. Over the years, the ministry has grown. There are locations throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine offers skilled nursing care.

- Hope Residence in Belle Plaine offers housing and care for individuals with special needs (Belle Plaine, MN)
- Kingsway Retirement Living offers independent living, assisted living and memory care (Belle Plaine, MN)
- KingsPath Senior Living offers independent living (Belle Plaine, MN)
- The Lutheran Home: Cedar Haven offers assisted living (Mankato, MN)
- *Wellhaven Senior Living offers independent and assisted living (River Falls, WI)
- Heritage Homes offer independent living, assisted living and memory care (Watertown, WI)
- St. Michael’s Assisted Living offers assisted living (Fountain City, WI)

This was taken from the booklet *Continue In My Word 1918-2018 Minnesota District Centennial*.



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

January 2019

A BLESSED NEW YEAR: As a congregation school we have so many blessings to be thankful for. The blessings God has given to us in 2018 help us to share the Gospel with so many little children and their families. We eagerly look to 2019 with more blessings from our God!

Bake Sale: Thank you for the donations for our bake sale. We received over \$450.00 for our school window projects. Summer is on our mind, if you think you can help this summer with painting, or even having some spare time to help move furniture we would love to have you involved in projects. If you are thinking of giving a gift to school, we appreciate gifts. Thank you!

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

1. Designate Thrivent Choice dollars
2. Our Family UPC labels
3. Box Tops for Education
4. Aluminum Cans
5. Country Hearth UPCs
6. MILK MOOLA– from Kwik Trip
7. Coborns/Cash Wise Reward Points Designate your Food Club rewards to St. Paul's School.

Congratulations: All of our 7-8th students were recognized by the Arlington VFW for writing essays entitled "What the United States Flag Means to Me." Jaidynn Dietel received 1st place honors from the group, and her essay was submitted next at the state level.

2018-2019 School Registration: The time will be here soon for our school open house and registration. We want all of our children of the congregation to be a part of our school. Parents with children going into grades PreK-7th will be receiving information to visit our school. Take the opportunity to visit with teachers and staff that will bring God's Word to your child everyday. Use this as your first invitation to see what St. Paul's Lutheran School is all about!

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:

January

- 8 Game @ Courtland 4:30 girls, 5:30 Boys
- 10 Home w/ Hutchinson 4:15 Bteam, 5:15 Ateam
- 12 School Bowling Night and Pizza
- 14 Home w/ Risen Savior 4:00 Girls; 5:00 5-7th boys
- 18 2nd Qtr Ends/Home w/ Redwood 4:30Girls, 5:30 5-8th boys
- 21 NO SCHOOL– Teachers Curriculum conference
- 24 Game @ Nicollet Bcoed 4:00, Ateam 5:00
- 26 Basketball Day @ MVL ALL TEAMS PLAY
- 29 Game home w/ Sleepy Eye 4:00 Bteam
- 31 @ St. Peter 4:00 Bteam, 5:00 Ateam

February

- 2 PLS Fairfax Bteam Tournament
- 4 Home w/ Belle Plaine 5:30 Boys; 6:30 Girls
- 5 Home w/ Gaylord 4:00 Bteam, 5:00 Ateam 7-8th
- 9 A team and Bteam Tournament in Hutchinson
- 10 Kids Sing in church
- 12 @ Hutchinson 4:00 Bteam; 5:00 Ateam
- 13 Midquarter report
- 14 @ Gaylord 4:00 Bteam; 5:00 Ateam
- 18 NO SCHOOL
- 22-24 Martin Luther College Tournament
Ateam boys and Ateam Girls

Psalm 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual of our congregation will take place on **January 27th** after church in the basement.

We will be electing Council members and conduct any old or new business that needs to be addressed. Reports will also be given.

Please attend. EVERYONE is welcome.

SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry will meet on Monday, **January 14**, at **1:30pm** in the basement.

We invite all those a little older to join us for a brief Bible study, snacks, games, talk, fellowship and fun!!

REPORTS

for the

ANNUAL REPORT

If you have a report that is needed to be included in the 2018 Annual Report please have that to Ella by Monday, January 7 or ASAP. Emailing the report to church is appreciated or bringing a hard copy to the office is also acceptable.

It takes time to compile the report. The 2018 Annual Report is scheduled to be out on Sunday, Jan. 20, so that members can have a copy and read it before the Annual Meeting.

CHOIR

Choir will begin its after Christmas rehearsals on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00pm in the balcony. New music has been selected along with some good "older" music. We invite everyone to join us. Feel free to come once or twice just to see how it is. We welcome you!!

AUDIT

All boards, committees or groups that required to be audited, please have your information ready after church on **January 13th** to be presented in the council room.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be having their January meeting at Double Tap bowling alley on Sunday, **January 13**. We will meet there at 4:00 and bowl 2 games. Bowling and shoes will be paid for by Youth Group funds - food is on your own tab. Any questions, contact Judy Petzel.



**Join the
Youth Group**

STUDENT TEACHER

A new face around St. Paul's Church & School will be **Mr. Spencer Jensen**, a senior from Martin Luther College. He will be doing his teaching in Mr. Kaesermann's classroom starting *January 17 and ending in March*. Mr. Jensen is from Juneau, WI, is engaged and enjoys fishing and disc golfing. Please welcome him when you see him around.



BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY FAMILY BIBLE Bible Study begins at 9:00am in the church auditorium every Sunday morning. All are invited. Coffee, hot chocolate, and fellowship are furnished.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY We're finishing up the study of hymns and then will be embarking on a study of the Old Testament prophets. The schedule for the month of January is as follows:

January 9 - Lutheran Hymnody in the Awakening and Beyond

January 16 – Hymns in the Supplement

January 23 – The Old Testament Desert

January 30 – Isaiah's Flower Garden



FORWARD in CHRIST – JANUARY

Yes! It's here! One of the best little magazines you'll ever read. As you read magazines or articles/stories to keep up-to-date on your profession or perhaps a hobby, so this little magazine can help keep your faith and keep your faith life up-to-date(so-to-speak). Here are the highlights of this issue:

* **“Epiphanies Change Everything”** (p.7) In the month of January we focus on Epiphany. This devotion focuses on the Apostle Paul's epiphany. Not only his epiphany, but also his sharing of that wonderful gospel news.

***“Light For Our Path”** (p.9) This question & answer page answers the question about how the upside-down cross is used these days? Is it anti-Christian? Find out as you read the answer.

***“Help Them See Jesus”** (p.10-11) A fantastic story about how to approach someone who is not churched. If you are serious about sharing your faith, this is the article to read. “When we share our faith, every situation-and every person-is different.”

***“Evangelism Lessons from the Savior”** (p.12-13) This is another fantastic article about sharing your faith. This lesson is taken from the account of the rich young man. We can't keep this wonderful gospel news to yourself.

***“Confessions of Faith”** (p.14-15) This story relates how a family came to join a congregation in Canada. It reminds us that there are many ways in which a family can come into contact with a church.

***“heart to heart parent conversation”** (p. 16-17) This month's question is helping parents with the question, “How can we protect kids without scaring them?”

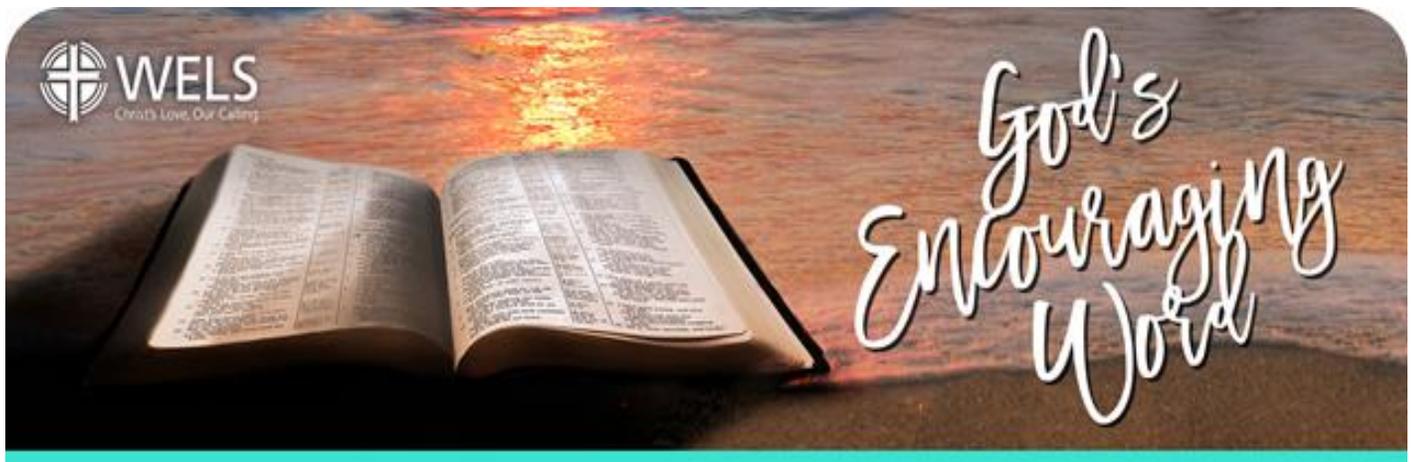
***“The Gift of Life”** (p.30-31) Donating a kidney can be life altering and a way to show Christian love.

***“Majoring on the Minors”** (p.33) This month focuses on the prophet Malachi. Malachi means “my messenger”.

***“Revelation”** (p.35) This Bible study centers on chapters one and two of Revelation.

***“Archaeology and the Couch”** (Back Page) How does an old couch teach us an important lesson? Read the back page!

Short, but, oh so sweet! The *Forward in Christ* magazine is waiting in the back of church for you to pick it up!!



God's Encouraging Word ... when I am fearful about the future

2019 is here. For some, it's scary how quickly 2018 disappeared. For others, they can't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2019 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you've ever worried or fretted about the future, our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah and he says to you: "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."

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment in heaven, and yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now. Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in a sweepstakes. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's telling you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to worry or fret about what 2019 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

As we journey into 2019, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!