



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 71
Cudahy, WI

February 2024

Address Correction Requested

Special Sunday February 25

Worship
9:30-10:00 AM

Ministry Update
10:00-10:30 AM

Our Feb. 25 Ministry Update
includes a follow-up discussion on
the January 20 Southside WELS
Ministry Presentation.

If possible, please review the slides
from the Jan. 20th Presentation
before the Ministry Update.

Find out how on p.3.
Thank you!

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Misunderstanding Grace

“Grace” is a beautiful word. It’s mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. It’s also a misunderstood word among Christians. Some fear that the word “grace” (God’s undeserved love for sinners) will give sinners a license to sin. While others talk about it without much thought, not realizing the gift it is. You may never completely comprehend God’s grace in his Son, Jesus, but by trying to understand it better you will come to appreciate your God even more. If you’ve ever misunderstood grace, here’s a refresher.

Grace Is a Gift

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” Ephesians 2:8-9.

Most Christians have memorized “they are saved by grace through faith.” That’s good! But the devil would love nothing more than for you to revert back to the old sinful way of doing things, by trying to obey God’s commandments so you can be accepted by him.

Imagine what a spiritual roller-coaster ride that can be. However, the more you learn about God’s grace, the less you’ll be living with those ups-and-downs. No longer trying to earn God’s favor, just basking in the joy of God’s undeserved love for sinners.

Here’s a beautiful picture of God’s grace: “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” Ephesians 2:4.

What a relief to know that it isn’t your love for God that provides grace. It’s his love for you. While you were a sinner, Christ died for you! And it is only by his gift of grace that you are saved from sin and death.

Grace is a beautifully wrapped gift from our generous Father even though we are undeserving.

It’s just waiting to be opened. What a joy to receive this precious gift, open it and enjoy it by faith.

God’s grace, in the form of Jesus Christ, is the greatest gift you’ll ever receive. It never runs out or wears out. You receive a fresh dose of it each day.

Grace Is Enough

There’s a debate about whether the Apostle Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” was some sort of physical or speech related ailment? There is no debate that God’s grace is enough. It provides exactly what is needed in your weakness: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” 2 Corinthians 12:9. What a promise for Paul and for you, going through life with so many weaknesses.

Addictions lose their grip! Grief is covered with the blanket of God’s comfort! Anxiety and depression can’t drown you when God’s grace is a floatation device.

Every weakness you experience in this life is strengthened by the sufficiency of God’s grace. Sufficiency means “enough.” The sooner you understand that Jesus’ finished work on the cross is “enough” for every issue you face, the sooner you’ll walk in the strength his grace provides.

Grace Draws You to Jesus

Christians may downplay the grace of God. But the Bible clearly says: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. I do not set aside the grace of God” Galatians 2:21.

Paul offers a reminder for you to hold onto the grace of God as you walk through life. The beautiful truth about grace is that it draws you back to Jesus every time. And that’s the best place you could possibly be. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of your faith. He provides grace to help you in your time of need.

Pastor Marshall

February 25: Ministry Update

There was a Southside WELS Ministry Discussion on Saturday, January 20 at the PAC of the South Milwaukee High School. It was attended by over 200 members from the 7 WELS churches on the Southside of Milwaukee (St. Paul's / St. Lucas / Zion / Resurrection / Messiah / St. John's [Howell Ave.] / Centennial).

The purpose of this discussion led by Pastor Jon Hein, the Chairman of WELS Congregational Services was hear about how some WELS churches in Southeastern WI have joined together to be able to better do Gospel ministry. During this 2-hour presentation information was shared that was to be taken back to each congregations so they can discuss the information among themselves.

Since the February 25 Ministry Update includes a follow-up discussion on the January 20 Meeting, the Church Council is asking members, if possible, please review the slides before the Ministry Update.

**HOW TO ...
Review the Slide Presentation.**

**If you receive a Newsletter electronically,
a separate e-mail will be sent to you
with the slides as an attachment.**

OR

**If you receive a Newsletter by mail,
contact the church office, and we will
send you the presentation slides.**

St. Paul's Church Secretary

Employment Opportunity

Jessica Hamilton, our church secretary, has taken a new position with the City of Cudahy. We thank the Lord for her faithful and dedicated service to the congregation. She is also grateful for the opportunity and the experience provided during her time here.

St. Paul's is looking for someone to fill this position. Some of the skills needed: a mature Christian, strong work ethic, responsible, organized, an understanding of the church's ministry, ability to interact with people, confidentiality and computer skills to work with the church membership and financial software. It would be about 30 hours a week, with flexible summer office hours.

If you are be interested, please stop by the church office to pick up an application and a more complete job description.



Special Communion

We sit every other pew and remain seated during this 40 min. service of Scriptures, hymns and sermon. A delicious meal follows in the Fellowship Hall.

February 8 at 11:00 am

March 14 at 11:00 am

JAMES



THE NUTS & BOLTS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

The book of James is the earliest New Testament letter. It might be the most practical book. James insists that if we have REAL FAITH, we will show it by acting like Christians. He gives practical advice on things like anger, arguing, bragging, prayer showing favoritism, controlling the tongue and patience.

8:30 am Sundays
6:30 pm Mondays

Real Faith

Men's Breakfast

6:15 am

First & Third Tuesday

Andrea's Restaurant



Mark points to Jesus as a man of authority and action! It is the most exciting account of Christ's life, spending 6 of 16 chapters on Jesus' final week.

Financial Picture

Expenses: \$55,438.40 // Income: \$71,965.59

Monthly Basics

Outreach.....	\$ 2,000.
2 Payrolls this month.....	\$ 33,000.
Health Insurance.....	\$ 6,300.
Pension	\$ 3,000.
Property Insurance	\$ 2,100
Technology	\$ 1,000.
Utilities.....	\$ 2,600.
	\$50,000.

The "Monthly Basics" are the *major* commitments (expenses) we have each month.

INCOME: We thank the Lord for the gifts brought by God's people during the month of January. Our 2023-24 Choice checks are \$90,000, and they come in: Sept, Nov, Feb, and May. We deposited \$120,000 into savings from the first two checks to use during the months we need help covering our financial commitments. We transferred \$40,000 into checking in November. We transferred another \$43,000 into checking in January, which is included in the Income total above.

2023 Contribution Statements:

Contributions given via envelopes and Simply Giving (Vanco) are tracked differently. If you contribute via Simply Giving (Vanco), you are able to pull your annual contribution amount from your account.

However, you may still contact the church office for a copy of your online giving statement. Thank you.

Church Council Meeting (January 23)

Our meeting opened at 6:00 PM with a 20-minute Bible Study. In attendance were: Rich Winkler, Mike Fairbanks, Rory Vircks, Don Kolander, Dave Hintz and Pastor Marshall.

Minutes of November Meeting Approved

Pastor's Report: Presented by Pastor Marshall.

Membership Changes;

Transfer to St. Paul's from another WELS church:

Judy Plunkett from St. Peter's Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI

Transfer to another WELS church:

Drew & Diania Carter (Jaina, Roselie, Logan) to Resurrection & Life Lutheran, Rochester, MN

Katie Schumacher to St. Peter's Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI

Adult Confirmations:

Peter Rausch, Stefanie Kelly, Eleazer & Robin San Agustin

Funerals: Bonnie Buetow and Elizabeth Weindorfer

Thank you's addressed to the church council for the special Christmas gift given to the called workers and staff were shared. The council okayed the CEMP Components (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan). This is a request by the city of Cudahy to use our St. Paul's Facilities to assist the community as an emergency support site. The Victim Restitution Form from the Milwaukee County House will be submitted in connection with the church break in and theft in March of 2021. That case is on the Milwaukee County Court docket in February.

Principal's Report: Presented by Mr. Kolander.

The school calendar was approved by the school board. Two choice students left reducing the Choice check to \$84,090.50. The call was returned by Michelle. Another call meeting is scheduled for February 11.

Outreach Report: Presented by Rory Vircks.

Nothing new to report.

Discipleship Report: Presented by Rich Winkler.

Lenten meals will be served from 4:45—6:00 PM each Wednesday of Lent. The Mission Project for the 6 Lenten meals is the same as the Second Semester Mission Project for the students at St. Paul's School—The WELS Military Services Committee.

Financial Report:

See the Financial Report on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Properties Board: Presented by Dave Hintz:

Bathroom doors in the girl's room will be replaced.

New Items

Calling a teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

Paradise Circuit All Congregations Meeting next steps. ... Ministry Update, February 25 (see page 1)

Announcements:

Next council meeting is February 27, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

St. Paul's Lutheran School Notes & News - February 2024

MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

God richly blessed our first semester mission project with some wonderful gifts. We raised a total of \$3,700.00 toward the work of the Vulnerable Children's Foundation (VCF). The VCF provides a Christian education to more than 600 students in Africa. We thank everyone in the congregation who contributed to this project during the past few months. God will indeed use our gifts to carry out his work in Zambia!



principal, Donald Kolander (414-744-9771), if you have any questions.

WLHS MUSICAL

Students in grades 3-8 will attend the Wisconsin Lutheran High School musical production of The Little Mermaid. The grade school performance is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28. We hope that attending this performance will help our students as they prepare to perform our own musical in April!

METRO CONFERENCE

The teachers will be attending the annual Metro Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers' Conference on February 29. The conference will be held at Atonement Lutheran School in Milwaukee. The theme for the conference is Rejoice in the Lord Always. More than 200 teachers from our WELS schools in Milwaukee will be attending. There is an opening worship service and a religious keynote in the morning. The afternoon offers a variety of sectionals for teachers of all levels.

CALL UPDATE

Mrs. Michelle Schlieve has returned our call to serve as a teacher at the 3-4 grade level of our school. The school board and church council are making plans to extend another call to fill the vacant position.

K4 ROUNDUP

The annual K4 Roundup is scheduled for Monday, February 5 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. The evening will provide parents with an opportunity to learn more about our K4 program. If you have a son or daughter that is ready for school, then we invite you to join us. Also, if you know of somebody that is not connected to our church, but who might be interested in a Christian education at St. Paul's for their child, please encourage them to attend the 2023 Roundup! Students must be 4 years old by September 1 to qualify for the K4 program! Please contact the school office if you have any additional questions or if you would like to attend the February roundup (414-744-9771).



CALENDAR

February 5	K4 Roundup 6:00-7:00 PM
February 25	K4-2 Sing in Church
February 28	Grade School Musical @ WLHS
February 29	Metro Conference – No School



SCHOOL CHOICE

The School Choice enrollment periods for the 2024-2025 school year begin on February 1. Families interested must complete an online application by going to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website. Additional information and links to the important information about the Choice program can be also found on the DPI website and our school website. Families can enroll during February, March and April. Please contact our

A Lenten MESSAGE each Wednesday at 4:00 pm

This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Jesus Christ. How do we live in this hostile world as people of God? Join us for a weekly MESSAGE and a MEAL.

February 14 _____ Accusations
 February 21 _____ Truth
 February 28 _____ Restraint
 March 6 _____ Testimony
 March 13 _____ Sympathy
 March 20 _____ Misconceptions

MEAL
Served
4:45-6:00 pm



February Ushers (Sunday)

February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Terry Herbst Duane Rickaby Kurt Nygaard Will Roepke	Darold Borree Jim Ziemann Diane Richter Scott & Sophia Wranovosky	Jim & Lucas Nygaard Adler Henn Jerry Doherty Luke Ubl	Ruben & Emmalia Villa Rob & Robert McMurphy

February Ushers (Thursday)

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22	February 29
Rory Vircks Tierney Vircks	Jim Hansen Roger Stack	Rory Vircks Tierney Vircks	Jim Hansen Roger Stack	Rory Vircks Tierney Vircks

February Greeters

February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Dave & Tammy Smukowski	Charlie & Ruth Price Jeff & Kim Nordby	Kathy Hahn Michelle Helgeson	Kim & Carol Eisenberg Rich & Sharon Winkler

Lent Services

February 14	February 21	February 28
Terry & Team Herbst	Terry & Team Herbst	Terry & Team Herbst

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Practice 5:15 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm	2	3 Properties Team 8:00 am-Noon
4 Sunday School 8:30 am Bible Class 8:30 am Worship/Comm 9:30 am	5 Confirmation Class @ 4:30 pm K4 Roundup 5:00-6:00 pm Bible Class @ 6:30 pm	6 Men's Bible Study @ 6:15 am	7	8 Worship 6:30 pm Special Communion @ 11:00 am	9 <u>No School</u>	10
11 Sunday School 8:30 am Worship/Wisco Inspiration Choir 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Call Meeting 10:45 am	12 Confirmation Class @ 4:30 pm Bible Class @ 6:30 pm	13 School Board @ 6:00 pm	14 Lent 1 Message 4:00 PM Meal 4:45-6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Communion	15 Choir Practice 5:15 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm	16	17
18 Sunday School 8:30 am Bible Class 8:30 am Worship/Comm 9:30 am Comfort Quilts 1:00 pm	19 Confirmation Class @ 4:30 pm Bible Class @ 6:30 pm	20 Men's Bible Study @ 6:15 am	21 Lent 2 Message 4:00 PM Meal 4:45-6:00 PM	22 Worship 6:30 pm	23	24
25 Sunday School 8:30 am Bible Class 8:30 am Worship & Ministry Up- date 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am	26 Confirmation Class @ 4:30 pm Bible Class @ 6:30 pm	27 Church Council @ 6:00 pm	28 Lent 3 Message 4:00 PM Meal 4:45-6:00 PM	29 <u>No School</u> Choir Practice 5:15 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm	1 March	2 March