

*Voice of the Saints*  
*St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool*  
*Aberdeen, SD* *May2021*

**Praise the Lord All Nations!**

Psalm 117, "<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

<sup>2</sup> For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!"

Psalm 117 is only two verses long, yet it presents a succinct, straightforward, and incredible message. The Lord is to be praised because His steadfast love and faithfulness is for *all* nations and *all* peoples. God's kingdom in these verses makes no distinction of race, class, or ethnicity.

Now think of how often the messages of the world along with the devil and our own sinful flesh attempt to get us to divide the world into us versus them or me versus you. We see this in politics. We see this in economics where success, as measured by material wealth, gives us the sense that we are superior to others. We see this in education where our knowledge of a particular field gives us special insight or comprehension.

Sometimes, of course, these kinds of distinctions are valuable. I want the medical doctor to know more than me, and I want the products and services I purchase to be of high quality, engineered and produced by successful people. Nevertheless, the reality of these distinctions just highlight the need for God's kingdom to come to us. The fallen world, even with its best intentions, cannot produce the kind of unifying hope expressed in these two verses. In the world, there is always scarcity, and in the world, there is always pride and inequity, knowledge and ignorance, anger and fear.

What God has done for us in Christ is remove the barriers that separate us by condemning us all to death through sin. None of our worldly footholds for identity (political, economic, or educational) withstand God's judgment, so all of us become one in our inability to stand before a holy and righteous God, yet Christ dies for the sins of everyone, so we become one in our dependence on God's grace in Christ. Then God calls us to live this unity out in His Church where His Word and Sacraments sustain us in a unifying hope that transcends and destroys all that divides. For this, we truly do praise the Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Bobby





A **Prayer service** will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 12:30 pm. This 30 minutes service will include prayers for the sick and homebound. All members are encouraged to attend.



**Five Loaves Supper:** May 5, 2021 beginning at 5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. Menu will include: fried chicken and salads. Members may bring a dessert. Help is needed (talent and experience not necessary) — for set-up, serve and clean-up. It is 1-2 hours per month. Call Sally at 225-3731 or the church office to sign up.



**Confirmation** will be held on May 9, 2021 at the 10:45 am service. 2021 class : Brady Huff and Brodey Sauerwein. A reception will be held at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.



**Ascension Day Worship** service will be held on May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Please support the Circuit worship services by your attendance.



**Congratulations Michael Leapley** (DCE Intern) on being name the outstanding student in theology at Concordia University, Seward, NE. Concordia University Provost, Dr. Timothy Preuss had this to say: "It is my pleasure to inform you [Michael] that you are being honored with the outstanding student award in theology from the department of theology, philosophy and biblical languages. This is a high honor as your selection as an outstanding student was based on your cumulative grade point average, grade point average in the major, service to the department and service to the university. You have used your gifts and abilities well during your collegiate career." Please congratulate Michael on this distinguished and exceptional award!

Graduation reception for high school and college graduates will be held on May 23, 2021 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please call the church office to give the names of the graduates.

#### MAY USHERS:

##### EARLY:

Larry Jung, Head Usher  
Cora Burrer  
Paul Swanston

##### LATE:

Mike Jeschke, Head Usher  
Rebecca Jeschke

#### UP-COMING EVENTS:

June 13-18—Vacation Bible School  
June 20-26—Camp Minneboji

**Council Meeting St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
April 19, 2021**

The meeting was started with a devotional led by Larry Jung.

The minutes of the March 15th meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion by Nate Bode and a second by Tom Agnitsch.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and Taylor Beutler reported an increase in cash and income YTD and is still looking good after adding in additional expenses for new pastor. It was brought to attention that the money for DCE Intern was coming all out of Mission and Ministry Fund which is a mistake. After discussion Nate Bode made a motion to take \$12k from the mission and ministry fund and the remaining amount from General Fund. Taylor also made a motion to simply stop the transfer out of mission and ministry fund and absorb the cost in with other expenses and revisit again down the road if needed. Nate withdrew his motion and made a second for Taylor's motion and it passed. Nate then made a motion to approve the treasurers report with a second by Deb Pederson.

Board of Elders minutes were reviewed and it was proposed in their meeting that the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ be given use of the van for a trip and also be reimbursed for gas. A motion made to approve this by Jason Oberfoell with a second by Deb Pederson. The Board of Personnel minutes reported that a new janitor was hired. Personnel Board drafted a policy regarding who would be eligible to receive free tuition to the preschool and whether transportation was going to be included. A discussion was had in regards to the special projects fund for the preschool and what it is to be used for. Some chosen council members are going to meet with Alison to discuss options. It was noted also about another fundraiser proposal of having a food truck from the Junction set up in the parking lot. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes by Tom Agnitsch with a second from Nate Bode.

Pastor gave a handout about a Rural Mission Field Seminar Proposal and asked the council to review it to be discussed at a later date. He reported that we will be receiving a candidate from the seminary and Pastor will be flying to St. Louis to attend the ceremony and meet with the new candidate. A motion was made and passed by Nate Bode to reimburse Pastor Bobby for the travel and lodging expenses with a second by Deb Pederson.

The church administration transition proposal was reviewed and a motion was made and passed to amend plank 4 to eliminate the wording of "signing checks and" by Jason Oberfoell with a second by Nate Bode.

It was reported that the project for the Altar wall and water leak in Sanctuary were being handled by the Board of Trustees. It was also reported that the new bylaws have been reviewed and the next step is to set up a meeting to start the review process.

The Covid Restrictions Timeline was discussed at the last Board of Elders meeting and was brought to the council to be reviewed. After much discussion a motion was made and passed by Jason Oberfoell to keep tape markings on floor, mask recommendation signage and wiping down surfaces in between services. The motion also included returning hymnals to the pews and putting coat hangers back up as well as unlocking the east door effective immediately with a second by Taylor Beutler.

A motion was made and passed by Nate Bode to approve the following Memorials and Gifts with a second by Jon Mesmer: Ralph Stevens – Lighthouse - \$50.00 – Building Fund - \$200.00 - Church - \$10.00

Motion to adjourn was made by Jon Mesmer with a second by Nate Bode.

## **LWML Meeting April 8, 2021**

THEME: FROM GOOD, TO BETTER, TO BEST

Present: 11 members

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Betty Ochsner.

Michael Leapley led a Bible Study: Good, Better, Best equals Justified, Sanctified, Glorified based on I Corinthians 15: 55-57. The Pledge was said together by the group. Free will offering was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Vicki Hartje and seconded by Janice Frohling to approve the March minutes. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was approved and placed on file for audit.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. We are still looking for someone interested in ordering for the Gift Shop.
2. Reminder of the Workshop coming up September 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm until the 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in Pierre, SD. This will be a combination District Retreat and Christian Life Workshop in one. The theme will be "God's Quilt of Comfort Wrapping Up in the Psalms".
3. Deb Pederson reported on the Naier Org. After discussion with an organization representative, the application was sent with the understanding that the first-year membership is free. The group approved Betty O. and Deb P. to place orders with reports each month on money spent.
4. The revised Constitution and By-Laws were distributed to each member present with a request to have it reviewed by all followed by a vote of approval at the May meeting.
5. Thank you to all who helped with the Easter Breakfast. We served 80 people.
6. If interested in the bus going to the Lexington, Kentucky District meeting, contact Betty O.

### **CIRCLE REPORTS:**

Good Cheer: Met April 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be sending out May baskets at the end of April to the shut-ins. Janice Frohling sent out 18 Birthday cards, 1 Sympathy cards, 3 Get well cards, 2 Encouragement cards, and 24 Easter cards to Shut-ins. Publicity: Completed the April Newsletter.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thankyou cards were received from Deloris Sandmeier and Esther Wilson for Christmas gifts. Requests for donation from Lutheran Bible Translators with a March Newsletter from Janet Borchard and the Spring 2021 quarterly news report from Life Date (Lutherans for Life).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Publicity circle does not have enough members to serve funerals independently so the circles will work together on funerals with Sally contacting people to help.

Good Cheer Circle will clean the kitchen on April 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8am.

Michael requested and LWML approved making desserts for the youth meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-7m for 6th to 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth.

Betty reviewed the need for donations for the SD Orphan Grain train branch in Milbank. Further discussion will be held on how we can assist.

The meeting was closed with a devotion and prayer led by Roberta. A motion was made by Gloria and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darlene Wahl to adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be April 13 at 11:00am with Good Cheer serving.

Submitted: Deb Pederson, Secretary



## Check It Out!



Our first youth group was a blast! We played yard games, ate good food, and had a great Bible study about the biblical narrative. We learned that all of creation points to Christ and echoes the Story—which is the Bible. If you weren't there, you really missed out! So don't miss out on the following opportunities: April 25<sup>th</sup>; May 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>; June 6<sup>th</sup>! Youth group will be held on those Sundays from 5-7 PM and is open to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. We will be doing a Bible study on "God's Light in Gotham's Darkness" where we will compare the Bible and the film, "The Dark Knight."

## Bowling Night

Youth group will go bowling on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM. We will meet at the Village Bowl. 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome, and every youth from St. Paul's can invite one friend! Adult chaperones will be needed as well. This event will be FREE! Please use the sign-up sheet on the DCE intern's office door so he can plan for the group size.



## Word vs. World

Word vs. World is an adult Bible study on the Christian worldview and how to act on it. Held in the fellowship hall, this weekly Bible study takes place on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Look for livestreams and recordings on St. Paul's Facebook page. The final session will be May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Applying Biblical Principles

In his book, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges writes,

A farmer plows his field, sows the seed, and fertilizes and cultivates— all the while knowing that in the final analysis, he is utterly dependent of forces outside of himself. He knows he cannot cause the seed to germinate, nor can he produce the rain and sunshine for growing and harvesting the crop. For a successful harvest, he is dependent on these things from God.

Yet the farmer knows that unless he diligently pursues his responsibilities to plow, plant, fertilize and cultivate, he cannot expect a harvest at the end of the season. In a sense, he is in a partnership with God, and he will reap its benefits only when he has fulfilled his own responsibilities.

Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer should do.

What is true of farming is also true of the Christian life. To use Bridges' terminology, Christianity is a "joint adventure" between God and Christians. We cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what we should do.

For example, does God have the power to vacuum the carpets here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church? Absolutely. As the old chorus puts it, "God can do anything but fail." When we use the adjective "omnipotent" to describe God, we are saying that God is all-powerful. God can do anything. So, yes, God has the power (as well as the ability) to vacuum the carpets in our church.

But will God do so? Not really. And the reason is clear: That is one of the jobs God has assigned to us. As part of our "joint venture" with God, cleaning the carpets is on our side of the ledger. God could have done it all, but instead, God allows us to have a part in the work of the kingdom.

S.D. Gordon wrote,

We have nothing to do with how much ability we've got, or how little, but with what we do with what we have. The man with great talent is apt to be puffed up, and the man with great talent often belittles those with little. . . God give it, much or little. Our part is to be faithful, doing our level best with every bit and scrap. And we will be if Jesus controls.

It's what 1 Corinthians 3:9 describes so clearly: "...we are God's fellow workers." So whether we are cleaning carpets, caring for children in the nursery, assisting visitors in the parking lot, singing in the choir or preaching sermons, we are working side by side with Almighty God. God gives us the time, talents and treasure necessary for the tasks, and then God grants us a glorious privilege of serving in the ministry here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

God's part? Done. Your part? Only you know the answer to that question.





# Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

May 2021

## What is a child? Wrapping it up

We have spent the school year unpacking what Scripture would have us believe about children.

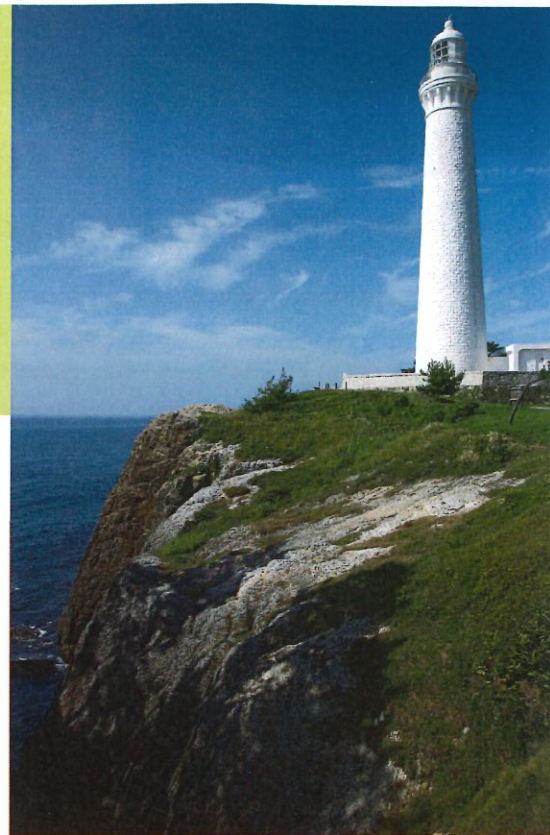
Compared to many other religions and worldviews in our history and present time, Christianity has stood out as an advocate for children- always including them in the life of the church and protecting, nurturing, and valuing their very existence.

We do, however, also acknowledge that, like the rest of Creation, they feel the effects of sin and are culpable of sin and destined to a eternal life apart from Christ without His word applied to their lives.

Thanks be to God that He sent His son, as a child, to save children of all ages, including them in His Kingdom which will have no end. He has told His followers to let the children come to Him and in the Lutheran Church, we do just that! We extend to them the gift of baptism, where Christ claims them as His own. We include them in worship where Christ comes to them in His word, and we involve them in the life of the church by encouraging them to learn of Christ and serve their neighbor in our homes and churches.

Sometimes we fail in our tasks as parents, grandparents, teachers, and neighbors of these little people. We fail in our responsibilities as authority figures when we fail to discipline them and point them to Jesus.

But here's the good news: Even adults are children! Our Heavenly Father invites you to come to Him, to confess your failings, and receive the forgiveness, hope and strength only He can give. Thanks be to God!



## Upcoming Dates:

May 11- Spring Program 5:30 pm

May 14<sup>th</sup>- Last Day of Preschool





# Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

Hymn #866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend, to each of them your  
presence send;  
Call them by name and keep them true in loving faith, dear Lord,  
to You.

That all of us, your children dear, by Christ redeemed, may Christ  
revere:

Lead us in joy that all we do will witness to our love for You.

## REMINDERS:

Registrations are now  
being accepted for the  
2021-2022 School year!  
Please call the preschool  
for more information or pick  
up a registration packet in  
the South entrance to the  
sanctuary.



Spring time is a great time to be outside!

Thank you everyone for your encouragement and support this school year!