

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BLESSED BECAUSE IT MATTERS

On Wednesday evening the St. Paul's Voters Assembly approved a capital expansion project not to exceed \$10 million. This project will include a 4-classroom addition to our school and an addition to our sanctuary featuring a new auditorium, Kids Club classrooms, and a gathering space to bring our Sunday morning ministry into one building.

This decision was possible because of the generosity of God's people who committed \$8 million over the next two years - \$5 million for Mission and Ministry and \$3 million that will go into the Building Fund. We have already received \$610,000 in Building Fund gifts!



The Building Team (Chair Dave Fritsch, Alex Campen, Kim Christopherson, Jay Oswald, Jessica Vanderhyde, Bob Zastrow, Pastor Panitzke, and Church Administrator Randy Fink) will meet with the architect this week to continue their work. The goal would be to celebrate groundbreaking this fall, with completion near the end of 2025.

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Lee Dreyer (Tudor Oaks) and Sherwin Beyer (The Woods). Ron Moths, Charles Frederick, Angela Gleisner, and Michael Gehrke have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 28 on Thursday, 141 on Saturday, 259 on Sunday 8:00 am, 190 on Sunday 9:30 am, 260 at The Bridge, and 63 at The Bridge MKE.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held February 14 at 3:30 and 6:30 pm. There will also be an Ash Wednesday service at The Bridge MKE at 6:30 pm. Midweek Lenten Worship Services will take place every Wednesday beginning February 21 through March 20 at 3:30 and 6:30 pm.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

Pastor Robert Fleischmann, National Director of Christian Life Resources, will be leading a new Grace Room Bible Study on *The Christian and Bioethics*. We invite you to join us for this practical examination of challenging and controversial life and family issues from the perspective of Scripture. This study will run from February 4 – 25.

THE FAMILY TREE – ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



Ruth and Naomi were an odd pair. Age, nationality, culture, religion and even grief could have separated them. Instead Ruth and Naomi were closer than close. God blessed them with each other. Does God still make "odd pairs"? How does he use you in the life of others, and others in your life? On February 7, we will study the story of Ruth in "The Family Tree" online Bible study. Use the QR code to register or email our campus planter Dave Panitzke at dave@thebridgemke.org.

LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

The St. Paul's Ladies Afternoon Fellowship's next meeting is Wednesday, February 7, at 12:00 pm, in the Grace Room. Bring a lunch and hear from a speaker from the Central Africa Medical Mission. All are welcome.

EASTER CARDS FOR PRISON MINISTRY

The St. Paul's Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors are collecting Christian and religious Easter cards for the WELS Prison Ministry. It's an important part of their efforts to give prisoners Christian messages and encouragement. There will be a collection box in the lobby for your card donations. Cards need to measure 5" x 7" or smaller. They will be sent to the Prison Ministry for distribution after the OWLS February 14 meeting. Easter is early, so please consider donating to this project.

STAFF NEWS

PROF. DAVID SCHARF CALLED TO BE PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP



On Wednesday evening, the St. Paul's Voters Assembly called Pastor David Scharf to serve as our Pastor of Discipleship. Pastor Scharf is a 2005 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He has been a professor of theology at Martin Luther College for the last 8 years. Before that he served as one of the pastors at Immanuel Lutheran of Greenville, Wisconsin, one of the largest congregations in our synod. He also serves as Chairman of our synod's Commission on Congregational Counseling. Pastor Scharf grew up in West Allis. He is married to Beth (nee Koelpin). They have six children from 21 to 11 years old.

This call begins the process of succession planning as both Pastors Kuehl and Panitzke approach their retirement in the years ahead. Because of the number of pastoral vacancies in the synod we may need to call a dozen or more times for this position to be filled. If Pastor Scharf accepts the call, we will enjoy more than a year of overlap between the time of his arrival and Pastor Kuehl's retirement.

Please keep Pastor Scharf in your prayers as he deliberates where he can best serve God's people.

STAFF MINISTRY INTERN – KATIE KOPPLIN

Katie Kopplin, a student in the Martin Luther College Staff Ministry Program, is fulfilling her final requirement for graduation with an internship at St. Paul's. She will graduate in May with degrees in both Elementary Education and Staff Ministry.

Katie was born in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, but moved to Florida, and then to Texas, which is where her parents still live. She graduated high school from Luther Preparatory School. She and her fiancé, Zach Klement, are planning to remain in the Milwaukee area after they get married this July.

In her personal time, Katie loves singing and playing guitar. She is very excited to become a part of our St. Paul's ministry team for a time and can't wait to see how the Lord will use her this semester.



THE BRIDGE MKE LIGHTHOUSE DIRECTOR – ZACH KLEMENT



We are excited to announce that Zach Klement, Katie's fiancé, has been hired by Lighthouse Youth Centers to be the new director for The Bridge MKE Lighthouse location.

Zach is taking a year off from his studies at Martin Luther College to become a staff minister. He has completed all of his course work and needs only to complete a semester of internship before graduating from MLC.

Zach began working at Lighthouse part-time near the beginning of January and recently accepted the position to be full-time director on our campus. He will spend some time being further trained at one of the other four Lighthouse locations (Garden Homes, Havenswood, Polonia in Milwaukee, and The Core in Appleton).

Lighthouse will restart with an open house on Monday, February 19, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, and will open on Tuesday, February 20. Lighthouse will operate Tuesday through Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Zach will be commissioned at the Bridge MKE during worship on February 18. We thank God for providing us with Zach as a worker in his harvest field and we pray for God's blessings on our center and community!

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1:00 TO 3:00 PM

January and February are the months when many families are interested in learning about a school for their child, and at St. Paul's new families are always welcome. See our classrooms, meet our teachers, and learn more about everything our school has to offer at our School Open House. Sign up for a time to visit by scanning the QR code or contacting Principal Fitzsimmons at sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 118.



INVITE THEM ONE BY ONE...

Who do you know who might be interested in Christian education for their children? We will be sending postcards to the entire Muskego community, but your personal invitation is the best! Take a postcard and pray: "Whom can I invite to come and see the school we love?" Remember, we are committed to make Christian education available to any family who desires it through our participation in the Parental Choice programs and generous tuition assistance.

SCHOOL REENROLLMENT

Our thanks to our current school parents who have expressed their love for Christian education. We are already at 88% reenrollment after only three weeks. Our goal is that reenrollment is complete by Lutheran Schools Week.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK – FEBRUARY 11-18

We are preparing for Lutheran School Week. The celebration begins with our K-8 singing in our services the weekend of February 11 and will culminate with our PreK children singing the weekend of February 18. The big day will be Friday when we enjoy a pancake breakfast thanks to our UNITY Parent Organization, followed by chapel led by the 1st and 2nd graders. After chapel, parents and grandparents can hear 5-8th graders share stories they have learned from their grandparents.

SECONDARY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE (SCETA)

Thank you to those who have contributed to the SCETA Fund. St. Paul's members attending Wisconsin Lutheran High School or Luther Preparatory School for the 2024-25 school year are encouraged to apply for grants from this fund. Grants are awarded primarily according to financial need. Applications for SCETA Fund grants are available in the school office. Application deadline is March 15, 2024. Families must reapply each year.

OUR TEACHERS RECEIVE CALLS TO SERVE ELSEWHERE

Nicole Glodowski, our 4th grade teacher, has received a call from St. Paul's Lutheran School in Algoma, Wisconsin, to teach grades 3-4.

Annamarie Hintze, one of our 4K teachers, has received a call to teach 3rd grade at Living Hope Lutheran Church and School, in West Allis. This new congregation is the result of a merger between Good Shepherd, Woodlawn, and Jordan.

Now, both teachers are asking the Lord of the Church to make clear to them where they can best serve his church. Please look for opportunities to talk with them about these calls and keep them in your prayers.



MR. MARV WITTIG RETURNS CALL

Mr. Marv Wittig has returned our call to serve as Director of Instructional Technology (DIT). The next call meeting will be held mid-February.

SPANISH VACANCY

Meta Rosenberg, our 6th-8th grade Spanish teacher, will not be returning next school year, so we are looking for someone to fill this part-time teaching role. If you have anyone to suggest to Principal Fitzsimmons, please contact him at sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of February 5, 2024

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| MON | 9:40 am | Walking Group (Trinity Gym) |
| | 6:00 pm | DivorceCare (Faith Room) |
| | 7:00 pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal (Main Church) |
| | 7:00 pm | Facilities and Site Planning Meeting (Hope Room) |
| TUE | 9:40 am | Walking Group (Trinity Gym) |
| | 4:30 pm | Public School Confirmation Classes |
| | 6:00 pm | Adult Handell Practice (Main Church) |
| | 7:00 pm | Following the Promise Bible Class (Grace Room) |
| WED | 9:45 am | Reading Buddies (Trinity Café) |
| | 9:45 am | Mommy and Me (Mother's Room) |
| | 12:00 pm | Ladies Afternoon Fellowship (Grace Room) |
| THUR | 9:30 am | Thursday Ladies Bible Study (Hope Room) |
| | 9:40 am | Walking Group (Trinity Gym) |
| | 10:00 am | Small Group Communion (Main Church) |
| | 5:45 pm | TempleLoveFitness Bible Study (Grace Room) |
| | 6:30 pm | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| SAT | 8:00 am | God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) |
| | 9:45 am | Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (Grace Room) |
| | 5:00 pm | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| SUN | 8:00 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | Grace Room Bible Study |
| | 9:30 am | Kids Club |
| | 10:00 am | The Bridge and The Bridge MKE Communion |
| | 10:30 am | The Bridge and The Bridge MKE |

MARRIAGE RETREAT – MARCH 1-3 IN DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE

St. Paul's/The Bridge couples are invited to participate in a marriage retreat hosted by our sister congregation St. Mark's of De Pere. St. Mark's annual marriage retreat is an opportunity to help your marriage thrive. This year they will focus on building community and working together to grow as couples. The retreat will include large and small group Bible studies and discussions, a fun and engaging assessment tool to help you and your spouse better understand each other, and plenty of free time to connect as husband and wife or with others. Learn more and register at shorturl.at/gDS26 or Google "Marriage Retreat St. Mark's De Pere."

READY TO SAVE LIVES? DONATE BLOOD!

On Monday, February 19, the Muskego Woman's Club, along with Versiti Blood Center, is holding a Blood Drive at St. Paul's in the Grace Room, 1:30 - 6:30 pm. If you would like to give, please contact Luann Lang at luannlang2@gmail.com or 414-916-9650.