

## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – 2/2/2020**

**Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)** - Beginning today in our worship and Bible classes, we are introducing the EHV, the new Bible translation developed by Lutheran scholars. This translation is recognized as a fresh and readable translation of the familiar message, faithful to the Bible's original languages by reflecting their expressions, imagery, and style. This is a trial period as we determine how to move forward now that our aging NIV 1984 Bibles are out of print.

**Family Bible Hour** – A good story can speak to our hearts, relate to our lives, and stick in our minds. Jesus realized the power of a story as he taught the truth to so many in his ministry. His stories teach us still. Today we continue our unit on Jesus' parables entitled "Story Time with Jesus."

**Wednesday Morning Bible Class** - This semester we are going through the book of Micah. Please join us on Wednesdays from 9:00-9:45am!

**Thursday Bible Class** - For the next three Thursdays at 6:30 pm, we will study the book of 1 John. Come and delve into a beautiful faith building book!

**Youth Rally Meeting is TODAY after late service** – The WELS International Youth Rally will be held this summer (June 23 – 26), in Knoxville TN. We will have an informational meeting for both students and parents to talk about the rally, and start our planning. Students who are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, through seniors in High School are eligible to attend this year's rally. If you are interested in potentially being a chaperone for the rally, please plan to attend too! If you would like to learn more about the Youth Rally, but are not able to make it for the meeting, please contact Mike Leahy – [mleahy@live.com](mailto:mleahy@live.com)

**Worship Greeters** - We are refreshing our greeters program to offer more consistent welcoming for our worship visitors. Thanks to Katie Schuenemann, who has agreed to coordinate the program! There will be an organizational meeting after each service this Sunday to go over what greeters do and to determine what services you can help out with. We invite any of our members to be involved as greeters.

**New Bible Information Class in the Works** - One fantastic class we offer is this Bible/basic information course. If you are interested in refreshing on the Word or if you are interested in investigating membership at St. Paul's, this is the class for you. This course is generally 16 one hour classes (sometimes 8 two hour classes). It is free. It is learner friendly (you don't have to read aloud if your preference). Notes are provided. Questions are welcome. We will try to have child care if needed. Pastor Mueller is teaching the course this round, but you can speak with either pastor to register. Once all are registered, I will try to find the best time for all to meet. Likely we'll begin early Feb.

**Accreditation Highlights** - In late January, a team of four experienced and accomplished educators were on site at our school to review our self-study and to offer both commendations and recommendations for improvement. They visited classrooms, observed school culture, interviewed parents and staff, and poured over forms, evidence, and plans. On Wednesday, they announced that we have received the highest accreditation status: "exemplary". They were especially impressed by our students' Christian attitude; the "flex" time on Wednesday afternoons to grow in culture, woodworking, culinary arts, and racket sports; our recent curriculum updates; and our all-school worship routines at the beginning and end of every day. We are so blessed with our school ministry to partner with parents in our congregation and

community to shine Christ's light on children's lives. The detailed report of the accreditation visit will be published soon.

**Forward in Christ** - The February issue is now available. Make sure to read the parenting article this month, which highlights how to keep your child engaged during church. There also is a great article on Jesus as our prophet. Pick up your free copy from the display holder in the narthex.

**Annual Meeting Highlights** - This past Sunday at our voters' meeting:

- The voters' gave approval for St. Paul's to enter into the Special Needs Scholarship Program. See below for a brief explanation.
- Clarification was given on *Staff Ministry*. Any graduate from Martin Luther College meets the general qualifications to be a staff minister by virtue of the training and degree. When a congregation needs a full time person in a defined role of ministry, such as worship, counseling, or administration, often the title given is *staff minister*. A teacher or pastor may have those specific abilities and be called to serve in that capacity, or, further training may be given to shape a person to have those gifts. For a full time position, a new call should be issued for the person to contemplate the position.
- The voters' gave approval for development of a financial campaign to eliminate our congregational debt and then proceed to raise funds for a future building project.
- The name of our congregation on our Constitution was updated for accreditation purposes. It now reads, "St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool of Howards Grove." The change acknowledges the preschool.
- We already have 16 students registered for 4K next school year.

**Special Needs Scholarship Program** - The members of St. Paul's recently approved enrollment in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. SNSP provides students with disabilities the option to collect a voucher from the state. Voucher money is used to assist students according to their needs plan. We are excited about this opportunity to help us better serve our school families and carry out our mission. If you have any questions about SNSP, please contact Principal Marohn.

**Wisconsin Parental Choice Program** - St. Paul's Lutheran School is a participant in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This is a program designed to assist families who desire private schooling for their children but would benefit from financial assistance.

Families who meet income and residency requirements are eligible to receive a tuition voucher from the state to attend St. Paul's Lutheran School. No tuition is charged to the family. Children receive a high quality, Christian education.

Any student entering 4K, Kindergarten, or 1st grade is eligible to apply for the WPCP. Students transferring from the public school system, or out of state, or homeschool education, may apply at any grade level. If you have any questions about WPCP, please contact Principal Marohn.

**Mindful Moms** - We meet every Wednesday at 10 am. February 5th is our next playdate. Please join us to hear about the alphabet. On February 12, we will study the Lord's Prayer with applications for moms and young children. Child care is provided during the study.

**Men of His Word Conference** - On February 8 in Oshkosh, MLC Professor Dave Scharf will be the keynote speaker presenting "God's 20/20 Vision for your Future". This conference, coordinated by one of our WELS churches in Appleton, will also feature 17 other sessions on timely topics for Christian men. Check out [menofhisword.org](http://menofhisword.org) for more information and to register. Today (February 2) is the last day to register.

**Marriage Enrichment Workshop** - Public health leaders have identified “social determinants of health” – things that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality of life. Jesus has identified “determinants of a healthy marriage” – things that affect the health of your marriage. As it turns out, the same factors that contribute to a healthy life with Jesus contribute to a healthy marriage. Luther Curia will be hosting a marriage enrichment retreat at the Osthoff Resort Friday-Saturday, March 13-14. The retreat will help you learn those “determinants of a healthy marriage.” More than that, it will equip you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage long after this memorable weekend get-away. Flyers with event details and registration forms can be found in the member room. Contact Luther with any questions:

**[luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org](mailto:luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org)**

**Howards Grove Fire Department Brat Fry** –If you would like to help the fire department by supplying cakes and tortes for their annual brat fry on Sunday, February 23rd, please sign up in the member room. Please label your pans with your name and church so they can make sure that all the pans can get back to us. Thank you in advance for your help.

**Audio/Visual Volunteers Needed** - Our church services are broadcast on local cable TV and on the internet. We are looking for help in uploading the video and audio files in a timely manner to maintain this part of St. Paul's ministry. This involves using either the A/V computer at church or your own computer at home to upload files to the internet each Sunday. We would like to have 2-3 volunteers to fill this need. Please contact Dan Rehbein or Nathan Kracht if you are interested or have any questions.

### **Installation of Lay Leadership**

**President** - Todd Marten

**Treasurer** - Jim Van Alstine

**Financial Secretary** - Joey Balge

**Evangelism** - Nick Schmidt

**Recording Secretary** - Kevin Reinemann

**Stewardship** - Jeremy Nesemann

**Board of Education** – Travis Krell; Dan Radue; Thomas Cameron; Zach Theobald

**Board of Elders** – Corey Schroeder; Ed Strauss; Bill Reichardt; Ron Kallies; Mark Kolosovsky; Eric Eickhoff; Don Last

**Board of Trustees** – John Marten; Jeremy Pieper; Terry Roehrborn; Mark Eichhorst