

IN THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY "GOD: THE SERIES"

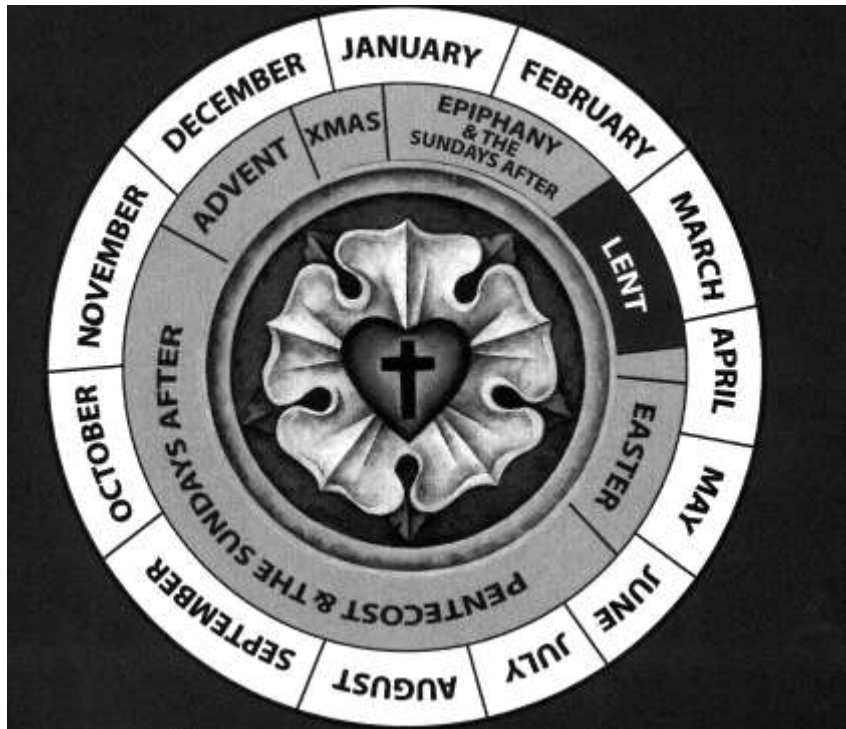



- Less 1 - God: My 1 Desire
- Less 2 - Creation Glorifies The Creator
- Less 3- God's Holy Name Is All Hearts Need
- Less 4 - 31,173 Verses, 1 Big Idea (SUNDAY - Feb 10)
- Less 5 - God Makes Eternity Exciting
- Less 6 - Jesus Gets Us To God
- Less 7 - Christians Are Called To Declare God's Glory!

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE EDUCATION WING • COME GROW TOGETHER!

Looking ahead...

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH





Making Friends For Eternity

St Paul Lutheran Church

PASTOR WILLIAM A FINN † N926 Dale Avenue, Dale, WI. 54931 † OFFICE PHONE: 779-6777
 CELL PHONE: 538-1567 † PASTOR EMAIL: REVWFINN@GMAIL.COM
 A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

"For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope that even creation itself will be set free...to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God." ~ Romans 8:20-21

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: ***"Brrrrrrr!"***

Walking in the post office someone asked, *"Who ordered this cold weather anyway!"*

"Wasn't my idea!" I replied.

In Romans 8:20 it's clear this extreme cold wasn't the creation's idea either! It was subjected, *"Not by its own will,"* the apostle says, *"but by the will of the one who subjected it."*

When it says, *"subjected to futility"* the point is that creation can no longer attain the purpose intended for it by the Creator. God originally fashioned the world for our happiness and enjoyment. But when sin entered the world, that purpose could no longer be fully realized. Cold weather's just one example of that. We're at the mercy of the creation and can't control what it does. A meteorologist can predict it. He can explain it with terms like "arctic air" or "polar vortex," but we have no power over it. We bundle up head to toe to avoid exposure. We crank up the furnace in our homes (Thank God for fossil fuels!)

Bottom line: people dream about overcoming the effects of sin by working together toward common goals to bring more prosperity, peace, and harmony to the people of the earth. But just about the time modest progress is made, the presence of sin in every person frustrates that progress at every turn it seems.

In the verse above Paul teaches us why God "subjected" things like bitter cold on the creation. He did this "in the hope" that we in our mad pursuit of worldly happiness, might stop and look instead to Him real hope and a better future in Christ His Son. Even the creation

appears to look to God's promise of a future hope that's anchored in the redeeming work of Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus came to undo the ruin Satan brought into this world by leading Adam and Eve into sin. His death and resurrection not only sets us free from sin and death; it motivates us to extend the same promise of hope and new life to our neighbor, so that we can have heaven *in heaven* some day.

No, we don't have any control over the creation; nor are we able to undo all the other far-reaching effects of sin either, including death, the worst effect of all, but we do have full deliverance from all this in Christ! No matter how cold it is outside, God's love in Christ warms our hearts and gives us an eternal source of hope and joy!

Pastor Bill Finn



ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS & notes

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The February collection date will be Sunday, February 10, 2019, which is the 2nd Sunday of the month. The following is a list of items currently in need of at the pantry: Chunky soup, all crackers, cookies, all canned meats such as salmon & beef, rice, canned fruit, jam/jelly, frosting, paper toweling, diapers & baby items. Thank you for your generous and continued support of the WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry. We are very appreciative of the support we continue to receive from you. A happy and blessed new year to you! Cindy Wundrow, WELS AVFP Communicator (920-419-1946).



BECOME A MEMBER OF ST PAUL



Keys to Life

A spiritual and personal study to grow closer to God through...

- Four key words and
- Six key questions about Christianity

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Pace yourself. Take just a few keys at a time-- maybe do the four key words--then see if you want to keep going--Or, study all ten key words and questions in a row).

Schedule Keys to Life with Pastor Finn Today!

- growth opportunities. Details on how to nominate a teacher are found at fvlhs.org.

EVENTS & COCURRICULARS

- *FVL Musicfest* is set for Sunday, January 27, from noon until 4 PM. Doors open at 11:30 AM.
- *Fox Trek* events for 5-6th graders take place on January 29-30.
- The school hosted its 4th annual FVL VEX Experience on January 19. This competition has grown to be the state of Wisconsin's largest VEX Robotics Tournament.
- Senior Jakob Ulman (St. Peter-Appleton) received this year's *Red Smith Student-Athlete Award*; long-time FVL coach Rev. Erich Schaser was recognized with the *Fans of the Foxes Award*.
- The annual FVL ski trip took place on the weekend of January 12-13.
- FVL Theatre is in need of a Costume Designer for the March musical. Sewing and people skills are a must. Contact **Sharon Mundt** at smundt@fvlhs.org if interested.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Federation offerings for the FVL Operating Fund are ahead of last year for December and year-to-date, with the total collected standing at \$449K.
- Currently \$100K has been collected or pledged toward the *Let the Children Come* debt retirement goal payment of \$475K that will be due every November 1 until 2038. Gifts to meet this goal are always needed and appreciated.
- Donors participating in the *\$66 for 66 Years Legacy Project* continue to support the growth of the FVL Foundation and its focus of tuition assistance.
- Watch for the 2019 *FVL Sponsor Directory* coming to your Federation church soon.



~ With you, serving Jesus – Principal Steve Granberg

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FVL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION - NOV 2018

FVL MISSION: Partners with families and Federation churches, providing students with a Christ-centered education preparing teens for lives of service and for eternity.

SCHOOL NEWS

- The second semester began with 648 students. (Last year was 615 students.)
- Currently, 150 eighth graders have indicated that they will attend FVL next year. Another 50 are still undecided. The Class of 2023 will replace our graduating senior class of 148.
- The application window for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) opens on February 1 and closes April 20. WPCP offers families the chance to have their student's FVL tuition fully funded for all four years! Go to fvlhs.org to find easy-to-read eligibility charts. Also this year FVL's Tuition Assistance program application window will be the same (from February 1 – April 20). Those who don't qualify for WPCP can apply to this program if there is a financial need.
- Parents interested in enrolling 8th graders for 2019-20 should complete the online registration form at fvlhs.org. They will receive a link to sign up for sessions on 2/27 or to choose a different date.
- Host families are needed for FVL's international program for next school year. Interested parents should contact Monica Uhlenbrauck at muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org.

STAFFING NEWS

- **Mrs. Katelynn Dorn** (Science) and **Mr. Seth Jaeger** (Phy Ed, Coaching) have accepted our calls to join our ministry team for 2019-20. Mrs. Dorn will be one of our STEM Biomedical Science teachers. Mr. Jaeger will coach varsity football and teach Phy Ed classes. Additional calls will be placed yet this spring as FVL seeks to replace retiring teachers **Mr. Dave Voss**, **Mrs. Donna King**, and **Miss Jane Polley**.
- FVL is again looking to hire a 2nd shift custodian. Details available at fvlhs.org.
- Nominations are still open for the Trout Family Educator Award until the end of January. This award recognizes teacher excellence and dedication by providing a financial award for professional



ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS & notes Continued...

→ CHANCEL PAINTING PROJECT COMPLETE!!



In January we were excited to watch the progress of our church chancel painting project that is now completed! Here's a breakdown of the cost for this project:

- Plastering - \$1500
- Painting - \$2967.02
- Detail work - (\$600-700)

TOTAL: \$5167.02

Thank you to all members donating toward this project. A Special thanks also to the family of Caroline Schroeder for the memorial gifts designated that got this project started! The last time our church was painted was back in August/September 1983 in anticipation of St Paul's 125th Anniversary (1984). At that time the front entrance and interior of the church were remodeled and repainted. Services were conducted in the education wing while this extensive work was in progress.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd - Ashley Mihna	22 nd - Cindy Williams
Anna Schuelke	23 rd - Patricia Dahm
4 th - Kurt Koerner	Sherry Roloff
5 th - Tony Hannemann	24 th - Loren Hauk
9 th - Edgar Bartelt	Savannah Swinford
15 th - Mario Anaya	25 th - Lawrence Jungwirth
16 th - Peter Gubbels	Carol Magolski
19 th - Chris Mihna	26 th - Ian Koerner
21 st - Jeff Thompson	28 th - Megan Diehn





SPECIAL MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY, FEB 10 9 AM

Sunday School Children Sing + Special Offering

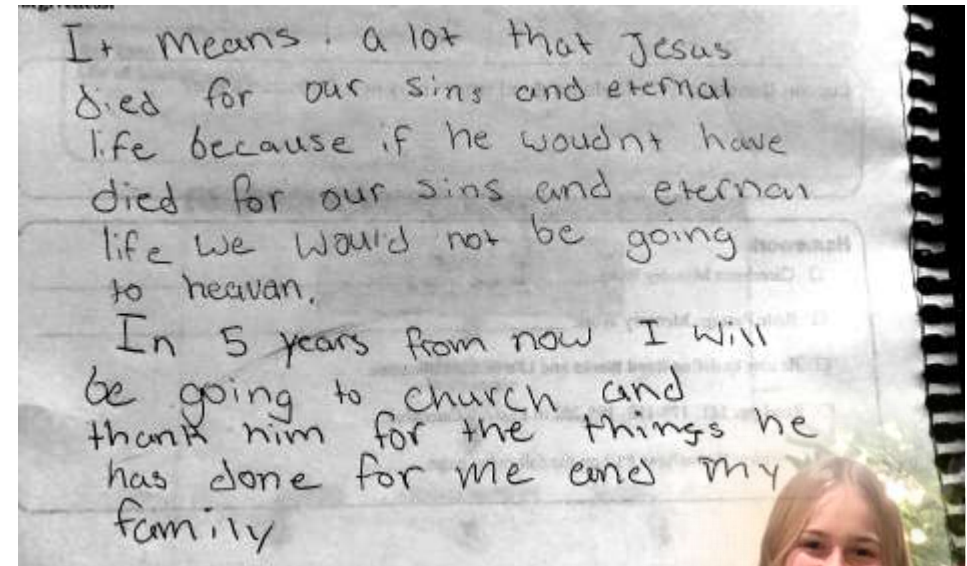
St. Paul is participating in the special effort to fund the brand new mission opportunity in Vietnam. To date other churches in WELS have donated more than **\$500,000 toward this mission. Our goal is raise \$2 million** to fund the land purchase, building construction, and the first two years of operational costs for a theological training facility in Hanoi, Vietnam. Gifts to date have gotten us well on our way to purchasing the land needed to build the training facility. This project will be a rich blessing to the 100,000+ members of the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam! Praise God for moving his people to fervent prayer and generous support of this mission endeavor!

WELS is the first Christian church to be welcomed into this communist country. **You have an opportunity to join in the support this coming Sunday, Feb 10.** A special Mission Sunday is planned. Please prayerfully consider ways you will perhaps contribute toward the progress of the gospel in this brand new mission field!



An expression of faith from one of our youth...

Students from the Grade 7-8 Catechism class were asked to write a paragraph including the following thoughts: (1) What does it mean to you that Jesus died to give you eternal life and (2) what you think you'll be doing five years from now to serve and thank Jesus for his forgiveness. Here's what one of our students (Olivia Peters) submitted...



Our confirmation students just finished studying about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, and are beginning to study about the Holy Spirit's work of creating faith in our hearts through the Means of Grace in Word and sacrament.

They learned about the most important teaching in the Bible ("Justification") the teaching that all sinners are declared forgiven and holy in God's sight because of Christ's finished work on the cross.

Their next lesson asks the question: "What role do good works play in a Christian's life?" Most religions of the world and even many Christian denominations answer this question wrong. The Bible teaches that good works flow from a heart of faith in Jesus and that they are the way we show our thanks to God for his forgiveness. They are not the reason we are forgiven. They are the joy-filled response to God's free gift of forgiveness and salvation +

2018 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Weekly average = 62
(2017=66)(2016=66)(2015=68)(2014=70)(2013=74)(2012=84)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Christmas Eve	155	92	118	137	136	143	205	169
Christmas Day	60	61	68	49	56	54	46	70
New Year's Eve	9	48	31	28	--	--	--	--
Midwk Lent Avg	38	35	39	42	46	42	46	49
Maundy Thursday	36	40	39	37	45	46	52	50
Good Friday	35	65	53	42	60	60	69	62
Easter Sunday	130	158	174	148	155	161	176	200
Thanksgiving	44	42	42	41	38	40	50	59

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS ATTENDANCE

1. **Sunday School attendance** - 11
2. **Gr.7-8 Youth Confirmation:** 6
3. **Teen Bible study:** 10-18 attending
4. **Adult Bible Study:** 8-12 attending Sunday am group

CRADLE ROLL (Baptized Infants thru Age 4)

**Indicates baptized non-member*

Mareah Foate* (3mo)	Anna Schuelke (3yr,11mo)
Ezekiel Grossman (1yr,5mo)	Claire Selle (3yr,11mo)
Georgia Smith* (1yr,5mo)	Ellison Haase* (3yr,3mo)
Freya Sickenger (1yr,6mo)	Oliver Vanderwielen (4yr,4mo)
Ameilia Zeinert* (2yr)	

SUNDAY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

**Indicates baptized non-member*

PreK-Gr.2

Liam Anaya (5yr,8mo)
Leahann Grossman (7yr,4mo)
Brooklyn Gordee (6yr)
Ella Peters (6yr,10mo)
Savannah Swinford (7yr,11mo)
Madyson Brandt (7yr)
Anthony Brandt (8yr,2mo)
Hazel Brandt (7yr,8mo)
Chad & McKenzie Grunwald)(9yr)
Kinsley Huettl (8yr)
Kaleb Herbst (7yr,mo)
Jaxon Laabs (8yr,5mo)
Riley Vanderwielen (7yr,11mo)
(Alaina Zeinert* (5yr)

GRADES 3-6

Braelyn Huettl (9)
Savannah Rickert (10yr,3mo)
RJ Dougherty (10yr,4mo)
Parker & Kylie Heise (10yr,9mo)
Kaden Herbst (13yr,3mo)

GR.7 CONFIRMATION

Olivia Peters (Gr.6)
Madeline Dougherty (Gr7)
Madeline Danke (Gr7)

GR.8 CONFIRMATION

Ben Harrmann
Connor Grossman-Powell
Ethan Peters

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - 2018 IN REVIEW

The year 2018 brought in a new organization called "Women's Fellowship." We have been meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the afternoon, in the education wing of the church. This group is open to all women (& friends) of the congregation at St Paul. The meeting times can be changed if some evening meetings would be of interest to members. At our meetings Pastor Finn has a Bible study, prayer and a hymn is sung. Time is taken for discussion of topics of interest. We sent various cards to encourage members this past year. We served for Lenten Fellowships. With the congregation's help we were able to have a variety of cookies to pack and deliver to the some of our members.

Our purpose: To serve our members and church in any way we can. We would love to have you come and join us!

Sincerely, Jean Smith (Reporter)

ST PAUL LIBRARY - UPDATE

Our church is fortunate to have so many books in its library. We have the following in-depth doctrinal series:

- ✦ **The People's Bible Teachings**
- ✦ **The People's Bible Commentaries**

A couple other helpful titles include: *"For Such a Time As This."* (A series of daily devotions gleaned for past years of Meditations booklets). Recently, Pastor Finn introduced *"Prepared to Answer,"* a two-volume series that I found interesting. It's packed full of articles meant to help you handle just about every objection to the Christian faith. A few of Pastor Luchterhand's titles are in the library as well. Come browse, read and enjoy!

~ Submitted by Evelyn Ruppel

