

# Good News

## Connecting People to Jesus

### Please pray:

- for our VBS volunteers and helpers. Bless them with the qualities needed: patience, understanding, energy to teach the word of God, and fun for everyone.
- that we may be given the ability to recognize and resist temptation in whatever way it comes calling. As redeemed children, may all of our actions show our thanks to the Savior and the salvation He has won.
- with thanksgiving for faithful men and women who have given up the comforts of home and family to faithfully serve on the mission field.

### Inside this issue:

Come to the Party	2
Librarian Reviews	3
A Bit About Pastor Riggs	4
Lutheran Laymen's League	5
Youth News	6
Calendar	7

### Good News

July 2018

## “Tertius, Tychicus, Silvanus, You, and Me” *by Pastor Riggs*

I seldom feel like a winner after playing Bible Trivia. Even if my score is the highest in the room, with every correct answer the response is, “Well of course he knows, he is the pastor.” If I get one wrong there is the cry, “Even the pastor doesn’t know that.” If I get a couple wrong in a row, some ask to look at my certificate of ordination. When playing Bible Trivia, at best, I survive.

Who is Tertius? Who is Tychicus? Who is Silvanus? Good questions for a round of Bible Trivia. Before giving the answers, let me tell you what they had in common. They were all sinners who were united to their Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. Having been forgiven, they served their Lord according to the gifts given them. Through them the Lord has given gifts to others.

By the grace of God, we have that in common with them. We have been called to trust the same Lord for the forgiveness of our sins. We have opportunities to serve. Through us the Lord is at work to encourage and care for His people.

I have been at St. Paul for less than a week, and already I have seen and heard of many people like Tertius, Tychicus, and Silvanus. Musicians using their talents to enable us to praise

God, quilters supporting the mission of Lutheran World Relief, Bible study participants encouraging each other through friendships and shared insights, Old-Timers doing jobs that help with the upkeep of our place to worship, gardeners working the ground to improve the landscape and grow food, Daisy’s Pantry providing food for those in need, plans being made for Vacation Bible School, and more. While I have gotten to know a wonderful staff that leads, I know they would be the first to say that without many forgiven sinners working together, nothing would happen. As we work together, the Lord guides and blesses His church.

This work of God, by His grace, is not only at St. Paul Lutheran. We can respond to His gifts in acts of service to others in our homes, with our neighbors, at our workplaces, and wherever the Lord places us. What incredible blessings God gives through His people!

Let’s get back to Tertius, Tychicus, and Silvanus. Here is where you will find them in the New Testament.

- Tertius—Romans 16:22 “I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.” St. Paul was the author of Romans. Yet he often used “secretaries”. Tertius put the words of Paul on paper.



- Tychicus—Colossians 4:7 “Tychicus will tell you about my activities...” St. Paul wrote Colossians while in prison. He could not use a mail system. He could use a fellow Christian to carry a letter.
- Silvanus—I Peter 5:12 “By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you.” The vocabulary and syntax of 1 Peter are much more polished than 2 Peter. Why? Peter was a fisherman. The likely reason for the difference between 1 Peter and 2 Peter is the assistance of Silvanus.

A secretary, a letter carrier, and a grammarian. Romans, Colossians, and 1 Peter are in our Bibles, in part, because of God’s work in and through them.

The Lord loves all His people. The Lord uses all His people. The Lord gives gifts through His people.

No person and no act of service is trivial. Let us move forward with all our Lord has won for us.

## Come to the Party *by Tim Hurst*

In my lifelong Christian pilgrimage, one unforgettable experience that occurred long ago began when the pastor declared his intention to preach every Sunday for a month on the parable of The Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11-32). And this was a month with five Sundays! I did not believe that such a simple story contained such depth, or would require a month of a pastor's time. In that month I came to appreciate the extensive insight this short narrative includes, describing our attitude toward our Father's offer of grace, forgiveness, and salvation.

In this story, with whom do you identify most comfortably, the prodigal son or the righteous son? The younger son is impetuous, self-willed, self-indulgent and irresponsible. Even in his humble repentance, he rehearses his manipulative behavior. He is uncouth, inclined toward the seamy side of living. Also, though he resists authority he realizes that, somehow, things were better when he lived in his father's house.

The older son is entirely different. He stays at home, follows the traditional ways, is a success. He is practical, proud, and driven by duty. But he does not enjoy his servile position. He envies the freedom of his younger brother, but would not take the risk of charting his own course. And most of all, he has an unforgiving attitude and refuses to rejoice at the homecoming of his brother.

From the vantage point of our (mostly) respectable lives, it is easy for us to condemn the behavior of the younger son.

We are less comfortable when we envision ourselves in the situation of the older son. C.S. Lewis, in his thought-provoking short story "The Great Divorce", suggested a somewhat unique view of what Hell is like. The story is worth reading, just for that description. But more importantly, Lewis indicates that when we turn our backs on Heaven and stay in Hell, it is by personal preference, because we are so firmly attached to our attitudes and prejudices that we cannot consider abandoning them. We want our own way so completely, that we sometimes build a shell around ourselves to insulate us from the companionship and love of our fellow pilgrims as well as our loving Father.

In our contemporary culture, we have abandoned the authority of a Divine Providence to chart the standards of behavior for our society. We still have very rigid rules, but we have decided to determine righteousness and sin by majority vote, using only human reason, based on premises that few can articulate. We glorify diversity, equality, and freedom, but each individual asserts his own definition, and we quarrel incessantly about "right" and "wrong." Today it is hopelessly old-fashioned to cry out humbly, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

The parable teaches us that living in the father's house requires a change of attitude. We cannot have the freedom of anarchy. But also, we cannot live joyfully with an oppressive dread of unpleasant duty. Our attitude must be that of a loyal child, finding joy each day in



following our wise and loving leader, setting aside our own arrogance and ambition, and cheerfully performing the work our loving Father has prepared for our hands. Our efforts may fall short, but God doesn't ask us to be successful, only to be obedient. Jesus asks us to follow in faith.

In the parable, both sons were invited to the homecoming party. The father greets the younger brother with forgiveness and joy. The older brother sulks and refuses to attend. Why? Is it simply that he resents the favor the father shows to an undeserving brother, who should be punished rather than being given a party? Or is he just expressing anger toward his father for favoring a "bad" son over a "good" son? Has he judged himself a superior person to his brother? Is he envious because, in his heart, he desired the freedom of action that his brother took without counting the consequences? Does he believe that the father's love is so limited that forgiveness of the younger son diminishes the love of the father available to him? Has he served the father cheerfully and unselfishly, or has he expected greater love from the father in exchange for duty?

The parable doesn't explore the mental attitude of the elder son but tells us that by his gloomy self-absorption, he isolates himself from both his younger brother and his father. Perhaps, for us, the parable has the wrong

**“...living in the father's house requires a change of attitude. ...”**

*Continued on page 3*

## Librarian Reviews *by Jean Schneider*

### **Joseph and His Brothers,** *DVD, CD, Youth*

The Bible comes alive in this delightful animated series. Each uplifting story has been specially adapted for children and will inspire the faith and devotion.

Episode 1: The Sons of Jacob

Episode 2: Joseph and the Pharaoh

Episode 3: Twelve Tribes

### **Luther (DVD)**

Joseph Fiennes (Shakespeare in Love) stars as Martin Luther, the brilliant man of God whose defiant actions changed the world, in this epic, ravishingly beautiful (*The New York Times*) film that traces Luther's ex-

traordinary and exhilarating quest for the people's liberation. Regional princes and the powerful Church wield a fast, firm and merciless grip on 16th-century Germany. But when Martin Luther issues a shocking challenge to their authority, the people declare him their new leader and hero. Even when threatened with violent death, Luther refuses to back down, sparking a bloody revolution that shakes the entire continent to its core.

### **Martin Luther, the Idea that Changed the World (DVD)**

Narrated by Hugh Bonneville, this film brings to life the great adventure story of Luther's

struggle. Undoubtedly, Martin Luther was one of the most influential and interesting people of the last millennium. The film vividly portrays the key moments in his story: the massive lightning storm that nearly killed him, the bleak self-punishment of his time in the monastery, the corruption that unleashed his anger, the theological breakthrough that reset Christian thought, his trail before the most powerful man in Europe, the stage kidnapping that helped him escape the death penalty, and his ongoing drive to reform the church.




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## Newsletter Information *by Lynda Minger*

**Just a reminder:** you will find more copies of the newsletter being placed in the narthex. Our current manner of distributing the newsletter is one of three ways: by electronic means, printed copies in the narthex,

and mailing. To save on costs of mailing so many newsletters, we use the bulk mail rate which is much slower than first class. Most receive their mailed newsletter at least two weeks later. You can also sign up for e

-news on the website under "How Do I". If you sign up for e-news or pick up at church and would like to discontinue your mailed hard copy, please send a quick email to [stpaul@stpaulhamburg.com](mailto:stpaul@stpaulhamburg.com)

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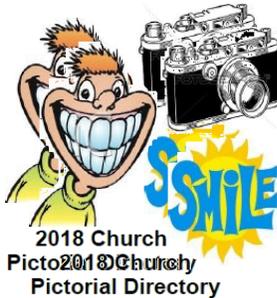
## "Come to the Party" *Continued*

name. Maybe "The Prodigal Son" should be renamed "The Parable of the Self-righteous Brother."

has invited all different kinds of people - even you and me. Will you attend?

The Father is giving a homecoming party to last for eternity. He

## Exciting News! *by Cindy Elowsky*



It is time for our new pictorial church directory. Since we already have our new Intentional Interim Pastor and our Settled Pastor will be here soon, having a current directory will help them get to know us. We have selected Mowers Photography to help

us with the endeavor. The dates for photography will be July 30, 31, August 1, 18, 19, 25, and 26. Additional days may be added if needed. Sign-up began Sunday, July 1, so be sure to check your calendars and stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall to make the

appointment for your portrait session. If you would like to be a part of the directory committee or help in any way, please contact Cindy Elowsky, [celowsky@charter.net](mailto:celowsky@charter.net) or 810-231-3851.

## A Bit About Pastor Riggs *by Pastor Riggs*

Pastor Riggs and his wife, Lynne, are so grateful for the warm welcome received from everyone at St. Paul. They look forward to their time with us as Pastor Riggs serves as an Intentional Interim Pastor.

If you were with us last Sunday, you heard the difference between a “settled” pastor and an “intentional interim” pastor. The former is a pastor who has settled in with the anticipation of years of service as the Lord may lead. Pastor Gaertner’s 10 years here are an example of a settled pastor. The latter is a pastor who intentionally is with a congregation during a time of transition. He encourages and supports the congregation in considering (a) God’s faithfulness in the past, (b) the gifts the Lord has given us today, (c) the community which we strive to serve, and (d) how God can use us in the future in connecting people to Jesus. By the grace of God, this can all be used in the calling of the next settled pastor.

This time of reflection between settled pastors is for the entire congregation. But there is a need for a leadership team. Ideally, it would consist of 5-7 members of the congregation who represent a cross-section of St. Paul. They should be people who:

- (1) can think creatively and are open minded;
- (2) can talk to people and listen to people;
- (3) know well at least some aspects (the more the better) of the ministry of St. Paul;
- (4) are willing to give significant time between mid-July to December for this effort; and
- (5) make the time for study and prayerful reflection on Scripture between sessions.

Pastor Riggs will be sharing resources and ideas with this leadership team. However, this is not a cookbook approach. Shaping, molding, and putting into to action what would best work here, is the work of this leadership

team. This group is not the call committee for the next pastor. Yet their work can be a great benefit to the call committee.

We will be calling this group 3-T. (When you see things in 3-D you see another dimension. When the 3-T group meets they will be looking for every dimension of being a “Transition Thinking Team”.) Do you know of someone you would like to nominate to be on the 3T group? If so, Pastor Riggs would be glad to hear from you.

What every pastor has in common is the great blessing of sharing God’s Word and Sacraments with His people. As we look toward the future, Pastor Riggs is thankful to serve the members of St. Paul today. If you have any pastoral needs, he would be glad to hear from you. His cell phone number is 614-562-9222 and email is: [RoberVRiggs@gmail.com](mailto:RoberVRiggs@gmail.com).

## Lutheran Laymens League is 100 years old *from LHM website*

The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is a dedicated group of supporters and volunteers who are active in ministry domestically and around the world. These are people of all ages and walks of life. The ministry of the organization is currently expressed through a wide range of Christ-centered outreach efforts under the name of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). Originally called the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) upon its formation in 1917, the organization was renamed the International Lutheran Laymen's League in 1972 to reflect its growing impact globally. Today, the Int'l LLL's business and financial affairs are overseen by a Board of Directors consisting of a chair, vice chair and 12 directors.

### Our Heritage: 1917-Present

In 1917, a group of 12 men attending a convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Milwaukee met to settle a \$100,000 debt incurred by the church body. They accomplished that goal, and in the process formed the Lutheran Laymen's League. The LLL next raised more than \$2.7 million to fund a pension plan for professional church workers.

### Radio Programming

In 1930, the LLL made a commitment to fund one year of broadcasting a weekly national radio program to be called **The Lutheran Hour®**. The first program was broadcast October 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world's oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered

radio program.

The success of **The Lutheran Hour** led the organization to pick up another radio show in 1993. **Woman to Woman**, hosted by Phyllis Wallace, took an in-depth look at issues facing women and handled these topics in a caring Christian manner. The program, ended following Wallace's retirement in August 2011.

### International Ministries

In 1940, the international thrust of the LLL ministry began with **The Lutheran Hour** being broadcast by Dr. Andrew Melendez in Spanish. In 1940, the LLL opened its first international ministry center in the Philippines. Five years later, it opened a ministry center in Australia. Today, the Int'l LLL has ministry centers located in 31 countries throughout the world, staffed almost entirely by nationals of the countries where it operates. These devout Christians use radio and TV programming, the Internet, dramas, music, Bible Correspondence Courses, printed materials, and other culturally relevant programs and venues to share Christ in and around their countries.

### Television Programming

In 1952, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Laymen's League ventured into television with a dramatic series entitled **This Is the Life**. The program examined contemporary moral problems and gave Christian solutions. In the early years, **This Is the Life** was a drama series featuring the Fisher Family. In the later years, it was an anthology series with a differ-



ent set of characters each week. Several famous actors made guest appearances on **This Is the Life** during this period, including Jack Nicholson, Buddy Ebsen, and Leonard Nimoy. The program aired from 1952 until 1988, first in syndication and then on NBC. **This Is the Life** reruns continue today on a limited basis in the U.S. and other countries, where the voices are often dubbed into native languages.

**On Main Street** was also a popular Int'l LLL TV program. Hosted by Dr. Dale Meyer, the former Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**, the program shared practical spiritual teaching on the day's issues from a Christ-centered, Biblical perspective. Guests included Jimmy Carter, Kathy Ireland, and Mary Lou Retton. Broadcast on more than 100 over-the-air stations and nearly 125 cable stations, **On Main Street** at one time had a potential reach of more than 50 million viewing households per week.

In more recent years the organization's television programming has included five animated holiday specials dubbed into several languages and broadcast on stations around the world through LHM's international ministry centers. In 2011, a full-length television special entitled **The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt** aired on around 600 stations (including nationwide broadcasts on the Inspiration and National

*Continued pg 6*

# Youth News

by Mike Hausch

## Sunday Youth Bible Study

**Sunday Morning Holy Huddle and High School Bible Study** combine during the months of July and August. Christianity Explored is the theme. Topics include Our Identity, Sin, the Cross, the

Resurrection and Grace all found in the Gospel of Mark. This study meets in Room 5 on the lower level. Those participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of confirmation instruction, the recently confirmed, and high schoolers

are encouraged to attend. Confirmands receive Holy Huddle credits for attendance during the summer months.

## Wednesdays

**Wickedly Awesome Wednesdays** will meet July 18 and 25 this month. (The first Wednesday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and the second is

participation at Camp Restore Detroit. In August we will meet August 15, 22 and 29.

## Service Projects

**Camp Restore Detroit Service Project** begins on Sunday, July 8 and concludes Saturday, July 14. We will leave from church on Sunday at 3:00 pm and return on Saturday, July 14 by 11:00 am. If you have not completed registration materi-

als, please contact Mike Hausch as soon as possible.

**Appalachia Habitat for Humanity Service Project** is Sunday, August 5 through Saturday, August 11. We will leave St. Paul at 11:00 am on

Sunday and return, Saturday, August 11 around 6:00 pm. If you have not received registration materials see Mike or check the clip boards in the small fellowship hall.

## Lutheran Laymen's League *Continued*

Religious Broadcasters Networks). Another television documentary, **The Intersection of Church & State**, aired nationally on Fox Business Channel as paid programming in Fall 2012 in advance of the national elections.

### A New Identity

In 1992, due to the popularity of **The Lutheran Hour** radio program, the International Lutheran Laymen's League chose Lutheran Hour Ministries as the overall identity for its media outreach programs. Based in St. Louis, Missouri, Lutheran Hour Ministries continues to explore

new media and to expand its use of others to serve congregations as a partner in God's mission.

Today, through ministry programs such as **The Lutheran Hour, International Ministries, Men's NetWork, MISSION U** and others, Lutheran Hour Ministries is calling our communities, our country and our world back to God. Lutheran Hour Ministries is ready to meet the challenges of a post-Christian culture by bringing a message of rescue, restoration and renewal in Jesus Christ to millions of people who desperately need to hear

it.

Lutheran Hour Ministries looks forward to a bright future as remarkable media breakthroughs open new doors to sharing the Gospel with more people around the world who long for answers, love, and meaning in their lives. LHM will be ready to respond in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*

# July 2018

## St. Paul Special Events

## Daily Readings

July 5	9am	Hymn Selection
July 8-13	12pm	Camp Restore: Detroit
July 12	7	VBS Band Practice
July 17	1pm 7pm	Blood Drive Church Council Meeting
July 19	7pm	VBS Band Practice
July 20—22	All Day	VBS setup
July 22	12:15pm 4pm	VBS Volunteer training VBS Band Practice
July 23-27	9am –12pm	VBS – Splash Canyon
July 29	12:15	Splash Canyon Cookout
July 30, 31		Photo shoot for directory sign-up for times

7/1	Joshua 6:6-27	Acts 10:18-33
7/2	Joshua 7:1-26	Acts 10:34-48
7/3	Joshua 8:1-28	Acts 11:1-18
7/4	Joshua 10:1-25	Acts 11:19-30
7/5	Joshua 23:1-16	Acts 12:1-25
7/6	Joshua 24:1-31	Acts 13:1-12
7/8	Judges 3:7-31	Acts 13:42-52
7/7	Judges 2:6-23	Acts 13:13-41
7/9	Judges 4:1-24	Acts 14:1-18
7/10	Judges 6:1-24	Acts 14:19--15:5
7/11	Judges 6:25-40	Acts 15:6-21
7/12	Judges 7:1-23	Galatians 1:1-24
7/13	Judges 13:1-25	Galatians 2:1-21
7/14	Judges 14:1-20	Galatians 3:1-22
7/15	Judges 15:1-16:3	Galatians 3:23-4:1
7/16	Judges 16:4-30	Galatians 4:12-31
7/17	I Samuel 1:1-20	Galatians 5:1-26
7/18	I Samuel 1:21-2:17	Galatians 6:1-18
7/19	I Samuel 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41
7/20	I Samuel 3:1-21	Acts 16:1-22
7/21	I Samuel 4:1-22	Acts 16:23-40
7/22	I Samuel 5:1-6:3, 10-16	Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
7/23	I Samuel 6:19-7:17	Acts 19:1-22
7/24	I Samuel 8:1-22	Acts 21:15-36
7/25	I Samuel 9:1-27	Acts 21:37--22:16
7/26	I Samuel 10:1-27	Acts 22:17-29
7/27	I Samuel 12:1-25	Acts 22:30--23:11
7/28	I Samuel 13:1-18	Acts 23:12-35
7/29	I Samuel 14:47-15:9	Acts 24:1-23
7/30	I Samuel 15:10-35	Acts 24:24--25:12

### Weekly Schedule

#### Sunday

- 7:30am Fresh Brew Bible Study
- 8:30am Divine Service
- 9:45am Education Hour
- 11:00am Divine Service & Kids' Connection

#### Monday

- 9:00am Quilters
- 11:00am Women's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Worship

#### Tuesday

- 9:00am Old Timers
- 1:30pm Knitting Group
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

#### Wednesday

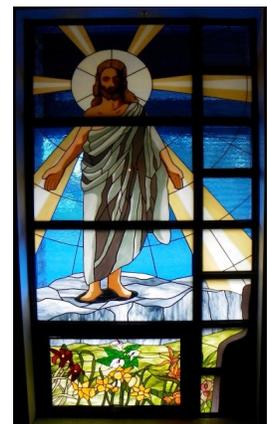
- 6:30pm Wickedly Awesome

#### Thursday

- 6:30pm Bucrek Life Group

#### Saturday

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study
- 9:00am Altar Preparation
- 10:30am AA/Alanon





St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 490  
 Hamburg, MI 48139  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Worship Times**

**Sunday**

**8:30 am** Traditional Divine Service

**9:45 am** Christian Education Hour for all ages

**10:45 am** Fellowship Time

**11:00 am** Blended Divine Service

**11:00 am** Kids Connection for preschool-2nd grade after the Children's Message

**Monday** (During the Summer)

**7:00 pm** Traditional Divine Service

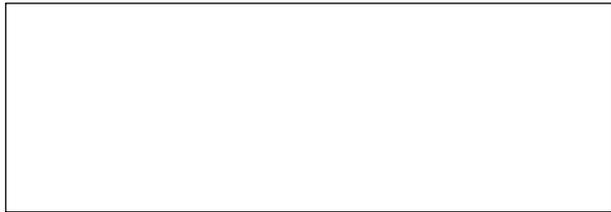
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**VBS Is Almost Here!!**

If you haven't registered your kids in VBS, today is a great day to do that! Registration can be done at StPaulHamburg.com/VBS or the table in the narthex. Enjoy great free fun that shares the true stories of how Jesus gathers us to Him.

**Volunteers Needed**

We still could use more volunteers. As VBS staff you can live out the theme "God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride" If you are interested in helping out at VBS, please fill out the volunteer registration at the table in the narthex or at tinyurl.com/stpaulvolunteer.

There is another **Volunteer Training** on July 22 at 12:15pm so it's not too late. Lunch will be provided. Contact Ashleigh Mowers (amowers@icloud.com) for more info!

**VBS Band**

Our VBS band has had its first practice and we are well on our way to lead Splash Canyon music! The next set of practices are:  
 Thursday, July 12 from 7 – 8:30 pm  
 Thursday, July 19 from 7-8:30 pm  
 Sunday, July 22 from 4-5 pm

Please contact Miriam ([miriam@stpaulhamburg.com](mailto:miriam@stpaulhamburg.com)) if you are interested in joining the VBS band.



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