

# The Messenger

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL (WELS), GREEN BAY

## As White As Snow

— Pastor Nathan Nass

February, 2019

God loves to use the simple things we see around us to remind us of his love. Birds and flowers remind us that we don't ever have to worry. If God takes care of them, he will certainly take care of us! Mountains remind us of the direction to look when we're in trouble: Up! Even something as simple as water reminds us of our baptism into God's family. God loves connecting his truth with the simple things we see around us to constantly remind us of his love.

Here's one picture from the Bible that we in Green Bay can especially relate to: Snow! When you see snow, do you think of Jesus? You could! Here's what God promised his people long ago: " 'Come now, let us reason together,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool' " (Isaiah 1:18).

You may not like the cold. You may not like the snow. But it's hard to deny how beautiful it looks to have everything covered with a fresh layer of snow. That's one of the many pictures that God uses to help us understand the beauty of his forgiveness. You're as white as snow!

If we're honest, that should be impossible. As pure and clean as snow? Not me! Our sins stain us like my kids each evening after supper. Ketchup here. Corn there. Applesauce there. Bitterness here. Anger there. Adultery there. Drunkenness there... We could go on and on, couldn't

we? How would we really look if we wore our sins around on our sleeves? We wouldn't even want to go outside!

By God's grace, we don't have to imagine that. No matter what stains cloud your life, do you know what God sees when he looks at you? You are as pure and clean as fresh snow. How? Because "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). That doesn't sound right, does it? Blood cleans? Yes! It's blood—the blood of our Savior Jesus—that took all of our sins away. Those stains of sin are gone—every last one of them. To God, you are as white as snow!

But how long does snow stay fresh and pure? Not long, right? Soon it mixes with salt and sand on the streets, with dirty footprints and dogs doing their business. It doesn't stay white for long. Isn't it true that we also take the clothes God gives us in Christ and make them dirty all over again? How great to know that God's mercies are new every morning! While we may not want it to snow every day, it's a blessing to know that Jesus' forgiveness covers us each day like fresh snow.

God loves to use the simple things we see around us to remind us of his love. We



may not have mountains, the birds have all flown south, and the water is frozen solid, but at least we have snow! Every time you see snow, think of Jesus your Savior and his

### Inside this issue:

CALL RECEIVED	2
COLUMBIA UPDATE	3
SCHOOL NEWS	4
THE SARGENTS ARE BACK	4-5
VIETNAM OFFERING	6

# The Messenger

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## Call Received — A Letter from Mr. Nate Reich

January 23, 2019

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Paul,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord!

“Let the Children Come” is the theme this school year here at St. Paul. This theme sums up nicely the purpose of a Lutheran school. Lutheran schools exist not only to provide a high quality academic and social education but, most importantly, to instruct children in God’s plan of salvation.

This past Sunday, January 20, I received a divine call to be the principal and upper grade teacher at Grace Lutheran School in Kenai, Alaska. What a humbling experience for another congregation to ask me to be their school leader.

Over the next few weeks, I will be talking with leaders, faculty, church members, and school families from Grace in order to learn more about their mission and to see if I am the right person to lead their school.

I will also be talking with leaders, faculty, church members, and school families here at St. Paul, evaluating how I fit into the future plans of our church and school and if this is the time for me to leave or not.

I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I deliberate where to serve our Savior. I also ask that you keep Grace in your prayers, as they look for a new school leader, and for St. Paul, as we discuss our current ministry and mission and plan for the future.

As I deliberate this new call and the call I currently have here at St. Paul, please reach out to me with your advice and encouragement.

Your brother in Christ,  
Nate Reich

## Will you host MLC Choir Members?

The Martin Luther College Choir is stopping in Green Bay on Saturday, March 2, presenting a 7:00 p.m. sacred concert at St. Paul as part of their 2019 Spring Tour.

Please make sure you have this concert date on your

calendar. You will be uplifted by the music and glad that you took the time to attend.

We are now seeking, in earnest, people to house the choir members that evening. After last month’s announcement, about 1/4

of the students have a place to stay. We still need host families for the remaining 45 students. Hosting means providing overnight accommodations and breakfast for 2 or more college-age people. Talk to Peter to sign up or for more details.

### Colombia Immersion Trip Update

It was a blessing for me to have the chance to travel to Colombia from January 5-19. I really appreciate our congregation's support for my continuing education in both the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. My trip to Colombia was part of an annual program through Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary called SPICE – Spanish Immersion and Cultural Experience. It was my sixth two-week trip to a Latin American country to study Spanish and connect with local Lutheran churches. My previous five trips were all to Mexico, and this was my first opportunity to travel to Colombia. I traveled with a group of nine students and one professor from our Seminary, along with another WELS pastor from Arizona.

Most of our time in Colombia was spent in the large city of Medellin. Medellin was known as the murder capital of the world in the 1990s. I learned a lot about drug trafficking while I was there. Thankfully, the city has experienced a remarkable turnaround since the 1990s and has recently won awards for being one of the most innovative cities in the world.

Our first week was spent studying Spanish at a small Spanish school in Medellin. I had Spanish classes for four hours each morning and two additional hours each afternoon. It was

excellent to have the chance to grow in my Spanish-speaking abilities. Spanish is spoken a little differently in each Latin American country—kind of like the English of the U.S. is different than the English of Australia. Since I'm most familiar with Mexican Spanish, it was good to be immersed in the accent and vocabulary of Colombia. During our time at the Spanish school, we stayed in pairs in homes of Colombian host families. I stayed at the home of a woman named Olga, who is a doctor in Medellin. It was very interesting to talk with her and her family in the evenings.

Our second week was spent learning about the ministry of our Lutheran churches in Colombia. We attended the Sunday morning service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Medellin. The church was packed with around 100 people for the service, and many came early for Sunday school and Bible study. This Lutheran Church in Medellin is the largest Lutheran church we have in Latin America. On Tuesday through Thursday, we traveled with Pastor Henry Herrera to a neighboring city, where he is starting a mission congregation. The 120-mile trip took seven hours each way! I was very encouraged by the faith and mission-mindedness of our brothers and sisters in Medellin. Would

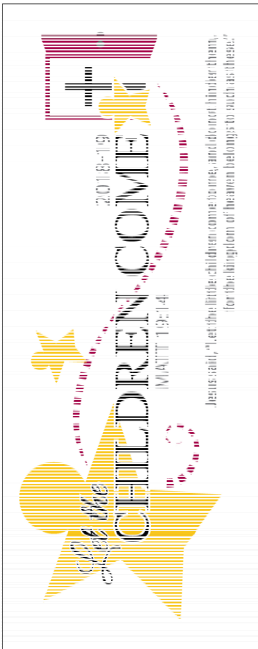


we be willing to travel seven hours each week to share the Gospel with new people?

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to travel to Colombia. I have been having a presentation about my trip on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. I'd love to have you come and hear about my experiences. Remember that mission work isn't something that just happens in Colombia—it happens right here in Green Bay too!

Pastor Nass





## Accreditation Highlight — Positive Environment

Last fall, one of the strongest commendations our school received from the accreditation visiting team was the warm and welcoming environment St. Paul has. To be honest, this commendation surprised me a little. No, I don't think our students are out of control and that there is chaos around the building, but for me, this should just be a given to any Lutheran school. What does our school have that other Lutherans schools do not have? While all Lutheran schools do have the love of Christ guiding them, it is clearly evident here at St. Paul. The accreditation team consisted of teachers from other WELS and public schools, but they all said that St. Paul stands out among other schools. Our students clearly treat each

other with kindness and respect. They generally follow the rules and put others first. No one is perfect, so there are times when students and teachers do not show Christian love like they should, but overall, there is a positive, welcoming atmosphere here at St. Paul!

The first week of February is one of the most exciting weeks of the year - Spirit Week! From dress up days, Penny Wars, to the Pep Fest, there is lots of fun around the school. The entire congregation is invited to Eagle Spirit Night on Friday, February 8, from 4:30 - 7:30. Come and watch your St. Paul Eagles play their last home basketball game of the year. There will be other prizes, a raffle, special treats from the concession

— *Principal Nate Reich*

stand, and audience games to play. Eagle Spirit Night is a great way to support our students!

We are now enrolling students for the 2019-2020 school year. Enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is also open through April 20. If you know of anyone looking for a top-notch Christian school, please have them contact me!

I am still deliberating on my divine call I have received to be principal and upper grade teacher at Grace, Kenai, Alaska. Thank you for your prayers, comments, and words of encouragement as I figure out where I should serve our Savior.

## The Sargent's Are Back

On October 30, 1988, Pastor Dan Sargent, a son of St. Paul congregation, was ordained into the ministry and installed as a missionary to Africa by Pastor Roy Rose. Just a few weeks later, Pas-

tor Sargent and his new bride, Lisa Siebert, arrived at their new home in the small town of Chipata, in the Eastern Province of Zambia. As he began his work in Africa, this young minister had to

learn a new language, Chewa, and was involved in church planting and the training of elders. He helped establish congregations and parish unions so

*Continued on the next page*

### ***The Sargents Are Back*** ***continued from page 4***

they could call their own Zambian Pastor. During the 22 years that the Sargents lived in Chipata and raised their son, Nathan, there, 10 Zambian pastors were placed in parishes in the province, serving 35 congregations with just over 3000 souls.

In 2010 the Sargents moved to the Zambian capital, Lusaka, that Dan might serve as the Coordinator of the Mission, an advisor (like a Circuit Pastor) to the National Pastors in the Northwest, Copperbelt, and Eastern provinces. He continued assisting with the training of men to enter the Seminary through our synod's Theological Education by Extension Program. From time to time he

served as a vacancy pastor in congregations who did not have a pastor.

Missionary Sargent also served our new WELS outreach in Kenya. He was blessed to be part of fellowship discussions between the 16 pastors of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and the Lutheran Church of Central Africa in September, 2018.

It was while in Kenya last September, that Pastor Sargent received and accepted a Call to serve back in the United States at St. John, Grover, Wisconsin — near Algoma and not far from family in Green Bay. After 30 years, the Sargents are back.

Dan, Lisa, and Nathan worshipped at St. Paul with us



several times in January before installation took place at St. John. We look forward to seeing them more often and hearing stories about the culture shock they are experiencing as they settle back in the Midwest after life in Africa.

*Above: Pastor Dan Sargent (center, back) with members of one of his African congregations. Below: Nathan, Lisa, and Dan*



## **LWMS News**

**“Hearts for Missions”:** Heart shaped cookies, decorated by our St. Paul students, will be available for a free-will donation after services on February 10 & 11. Monies raised will be given to the LWMS Kids C.A.R.E. project, *Kids Summer Bible Camps*.

**Befriend a Mission (BAM):** We received new

BAM assignments starting January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020. Home Mission: The Word – Stevens Point Campus Ministry, Missionary Jerry Worden. World Mission: Zambia, Missionary John G. Hartmann. I have information about these missions and missionaries posted on the bulletin board.

**Save the Date:** April 6<sup>th</sup> for the LWMS Paperland Circuit 2019 Spring Rally. More details to come....

**LWMS 2019 Convention Registration is open:** LWMS.org has all of the details, but feel free to contact me with questions or assistance with registering. Hotels fill-up fast, so book early. The conven-

tion will be in Des Moines, IA on June 27-30.

May GOD continue to bless the efforts of our Missionaries and LWMS.

Lisa Koenig - LWMS Reporter  
[CookieBaker@1791.com](mailto:CookieBaker@1791.com)  
920-469-1758



St. Paul Lutheran Church exists to celebrate our freedom from sin, death, and hell through Jesus Christ; to nurture our church family with God's Word for lives of service to Him; and joyfully to share the good news of salvation with the world around us.

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL (WELS)

514 S. Clay St., Green Bay, WI 54301, [www.stpaulgreenbay.com](http://www.stpaulgreenbay.com), (920) 435-8468, Facebook, Twitter

### Vietnam Offering

The December 2018 WELS Connection video highlighted a remarkable invitation extended to our synod by the Vietnamese government. Recognizing the peace that comes through faith in Jesus, Vietnamese leaders are encouraging WELS to build a theological training facility in Hanoi to equip Hmong pastors to share the truth of the gospel.

God's grace has opened doors to this unprecedented mission opportunity in communist Vietnam.

Our synod officials are moving quickly to take advantage of this invitation, but our help is needed.

A special synodwide offering is underway to support Hmong outreach in Vietnam. The goal of the "Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam" offering is to receive gifts totaling \$2 million by June 30, 2019, to fund the land purchase, building construction, and the first two years of operational costs for this theological training facility. The offering will assist WELS World Missions as it shares the message of grace with hundreds of church leaders in the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC) and, in turn, the more than 100,000 members who make up the HFC.

Already, the Holy Spirit has enabled many WELS congregations, schools, and individuals to offer God more than **\$500,000 toward the goal of \$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.

St. Paul congregation is participating in this offering, providing continuing information and encouragement now and distributing special offering brochures and envelopes to our members in March. As you wait for these materials, consider how you, in thankful response for the Lord's blessings to you through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus our Savior, can give so that many others might also know of God's grace in Christ.

If you just can't wait for the offering materials to come and would like more information, or if you would like to donate now online, go to [www.wels.net/serving-others/missions/asia/vietnam/](http://www.wels.net/serving-others/missions/asia/vietnam/). On this page of our synod's website, you can also track the progress of the offering for this exciting project.

Praise the Lord for his wondrous working in our world!

Colossians 1:6 — *In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world — just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.*



# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

## February 2019

January 2019							February 2019							March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Jan 27</b> 8:00am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Service 11:40am Sunday Catechism 12:00pm FVL Musicfest 12:30pm Spanish Service	<b>28</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Service	<b>29</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Pastoral Visit Night	<b>30</b> 6:00am Bible Study 8:20am Chapel 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Choir	<b>31</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service 11:30am Experience St. Paul 11:40am Sunday Catechism 12:30pm Spanish Service	<b>4</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Communion Service	<b>5</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Pastoral Visit Night	<b>6</b> 6:00am Bible Study 8:20am Chapel 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Ladies Aid - Mr. Joel Gaertner 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Choir 6:30pm Board of Outreach 7:30pm Prayer at the Close of Day	<b>7</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>8</b> 3:30pm Food Pantry 4:30pm St. Paul Spirit Night - BB Home Games vs. ML, Oshkosh	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Service 11:40am Sunday Catechism 12:30pm Spanish Service	<b>11</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Promotions Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Service	<b>12</b> 3:30pm Faculty Bible Study 6:00pm ESL 6:00pm Board of Stewardship 6:30pm Board of Ed. 7:00pm Board of Elders	<b>13</b> 6:00am Bible Study 8:20am Chapel 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Choir	<b>14</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00am Communion Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Communion Service 11:40am Sunday Catechism 12:30pm Spanish Service	<b>18</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Communion Service	<b>19</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Council	<b>20</b> 6:00am Bible Study 8:20am Chapel 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Choir	<b>21</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00am Service 9:15am Bible Hour 10:30am Service 11:40am Sunday Catechism 12:30pm Spanish Service	<b>25</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Service	<b>26</b> 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Pastoral Visit Night	<b>27</b> 6:00am Bible Study 8:20am Chapel 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ESL 6:30pm Church Choir	<b>28</b> 9:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Team Ministry	<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>2</b> 5:00pm Meal for Choir 7:00pm MLC Concert Choir; at St Paul

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran School

## February 2019

January 2019							February 2019							March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2						1	2
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28			31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Jan 27</b> <div>8:00am Service</div> <div>9:15am Bible Hour</div> <div>10:30am Service</div> <div>12:00pm FVL Musicfest</div> <div>12:30pm Spanish Service</div>	<b>28</b> <div>Library Day</div> <div>6:30pm Service</div>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <div>8:20am Chapel</div>	<b>31</b> <div>4:30pm BB Away Games vs. St. Peter, Weyauwega</div>	<b>Feb 1</b> <div>Fox Valley WELS Tournament (Girls &amp; Boys B) at SVLS, Menasha</div>	<b>2</b> <div>Fox Valley WELS Tournament (Girls &amp; Boys B) at SVLS, Menasha</div>
<b>3</b> <div>8:00am Communion Service</div> <div>9:15am Bible Hour</div> <div>10:30am Communion Service</div> <div>11:30am Experience St Paul</div> <div>12:30pm Spanish Service</div>	<b>4</b> <div>Library Day</div> <div>6:30pm Communion Service</div>	<b>5</b> <div>4:30pm BB Away Games vs. SVLS, Menasha</div>	<b>6</b> <div>8:20am Chapel</div> <div>9:45am Fox Fun 2nd Grade Tour at FVL</div> <div>7:30pm Prayer at the Close of Day</div>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <div>3:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>4:30pm St. Paul Spirit Night - BB Home Games ?</div> <div>4:30pm BB Home Games vs. ML, Oshkosh</div>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <div>8:00am Service</div> <div>9:15am Bible Hour</div> <div>10:30am Service</div> <div>12:30pm Spanish Service</div>	<b>11</b> <div>Library Day</div> <div>5:00pm BB Home Game vs. Zion, Wayside (Boys A only)</div> <div>6:30pm Promotions Committee Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm Service</div>	<b>12</b> <div>3:30pm Faculty Bible Study</div> <div>6:30pm Board of Education</div>	<b>13</b> <div>8:20am Chapel</div>	<b>14</b> <div>Teachers Conference - No School</div>	<b>15</b> <div>Fox Valley WELS Cheer Competition at FVL, Appleton</div> <div>5:00pm FVL Cheer Competition ??</div>	<b>16</b> <div>Fox Valley WELS Tourna</div>
<b>17</b> <div>Fox Valley WELS Tourna</div> <div>8:00am Communion Service</div> <div>9:15am Bible Hour</div> <div>10:30am Communion Service</div> <div>12:30pm Spanish Service</div>	<b>18</b> <div>Teachers Conference - No School</div> <div>6:30pm Communion Service</div>	<b>19</b> <div>3:30pm Faculty Meeting</div> <div>6:30pm Church Council</div>	<b>20</b> <div>8:20am Chapel</div>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <div>8:00am Service</div> <div>9:15am Bible Hour</div> <div>10:30am Service</div> <div>12:30pm Spanish Service</div> <div>1:00pm Family BB Games</div>	<b>25</b> <div>Library Day</div> <div>6:30pm Service</div>	<b>26</b> <div>3:30pm Faculty Book Club</div>	<b>27</b> <div>8:20am Chapel</div>	<b>28</b> <div>4:00pm Team Ministry</div>	<b>Mar 1</b> <div>10:15am Meet the Foxes</div>	<b>2</b> <div>7:00pm MLC Concert Choir</div>