

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran School
210 South Ringold Street
Janesville WI 53545
608-754-4471
www.stpaulsjanesville.com

Fall 2019

The Flamethrower

St. Paul's Alumni Association Newsletter

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



Dear St. Paul's School Alumni!

September 30, 2019

Another school year has passed and again we have seen how our sweet Savior Jesus Christ has greatly blessed our Church and School. He has answered our prayers by sending Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen to be our Associate Pastor. We are also blessed to welcome Anne Jesgarz, who accepted our Call to be a teacher here at St. Paul's. We say *thank you* to Lois Wahrle and Kathy Overley for their years of service and are now enjoying retirement. Our sweet Savior Jesus is good.

We thank all of our staff and the hundreds of volunteers who serve in so many capacities here at St. Paul's to further God's kingdom. Our Bible studies, youth ministries, women's/family Ministry, and small groups have exploded in attendance and involvement this year and we hope to see more ministry expansion in the coming year. Our sweet Savior Jesus is good.

We also look to expand our ministry outside the four walls of our church to bring God's love to more people, especially the unchurched. May our comfort dog continue to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the lonely, imprisoned, sick, and dying. Worship services in the park, Christian grief support groups, divorce support groups, and a concentrated focus on showing kindness and compassion to the Roosevelt School parents from across our street. Our sweet Savior Jesus is good.

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ST. Paul's
Lutheran Church, School & Daycare

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Our sweet Savior has blessed us with many new children to our infant care, daycare, preschool, grade school, and middle school. Since I last wrote to you three St. Paul's students were baptized this past summer and currently two more will be baptized next month. This year, we have embarked on a feasibility study to explore the potential expansion of both the Church and the School, which would then allow us to reach more people with the Good News of Salvation. We await the final results of the study to see what direction God wants us to take, and if the results favor an expansion, I am confident that our sweet Savior Jesus will again meet the challenge that He has set before us. Our sweet Savior Jesus is good.

Please keep these efforts in your prayers. I would also ask that you would look back at the blessings you received through St. Paul's and then prayerfully consider financially supporting its ministry efforts. Many of you attended St. Paul's School when there was no tuition. At that time St. Paul's Church financially supported the majority of the cost of educating students. While St. Paul's Church still does meet much of the financial cost of educating students, its ability to do so is waning as overall charitable giving in our country has not increased since the 1970's. But we should not forget that our sweet Savior is good. So good He has given us an eternal life time filled with His Cross-earned love, forgiveness, and hope.

Our sweet Savior Jesus challenged His Church to seek first His Kingdom and all the things of life will be added to it. By God's grace, St. Paul's is trying to do just that. Please join all of St. Paul's alumni in praising God for His blessings through St. Paul's School! Our sweet Savior is good and I pray that He continues to be especially good to you.

Daniel Decker, Senior Pastor



In Memorium

Alumni death notices

Mary Schultz Roder '59
12.20.2018 / Melbourne FL

Dale Brockway '88
8.9..2019 / Janesville, WI

Phillip A. Lobrano '68
9.5..2019 / Madison, WI

LaVerne Heine '49
10.15..2019 / Janesville, WI

Note: If you have information on the death of any St. Paul's alumnus it may be mailed to:

St. Paul's Lutheran School
Alumni Association
210 St. Ringold Street
Janesville, WI 53545

Or emailed to
Churchoffice
@stpaulsjanesville.com

Or call the church office
(608) 754-4471 ext. 3

Watch for our next newsletter
in Spring 2020



The Potter

With mindful purpose
I was formed
Of earthly particles of clay
And cast upon the
Potter's wheel
For shaping in a special
way—
Through tides of trials
with swords of pain
The Master Craftsman
tempered me
Yet suffered so much
more than I
Upon that Cross at
Calvary.

This poem was written by a former member of St. Paul's Church, Lucille Gorrell Lembrich, and was published in a collection entitled, "With Silver Trumpets." We thank Lucille's family for sharing her works with us.



Let Me Introduce Myself

I want to thank you all for inviting me to write about myself and the ministry that is going on here at St Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Janesville, Wisconsin. I have only the Lord to thank for bringing me here. He has been preparing me to come to St. Paul's for as long as Pastor Decker has been here. I graduated with a theology degree out of Concordia Chicago in 2015, and then immediately went to the Seminary in St. Louis. While studying there I also served for a year of vicarage up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I am so thankful to be here, the Spirit is moving and I am glad to be a part of it.

Pastor Decker has already brought me on board for a wide variety of ministries. We are currently working our way into serving the homeless. I am also trying to find ways that we can connect with nonbelievers within our community here in Janesville.

I also am in charge of assimilating new members into the congregation. In order to do this we have developed a class called *Faith in Action* that is designed to teach people how to live out their Christian lives.

I have also been trying to focus on showing how the Biblical message is applicable to everyday life through the Sunday Morning *Route 66* Bible study class.

This ministry would not be possible without your prayers and support. I thank you all for everything that you do. If you have any questions about the ministries going on here at St. Paul's please come and visit me, I would love to hear from you!

Pastor G.
Joshua Grotelueschen, Associate Pastor





St. Paul's School Continues to Grow

I know that St. Paul's holds a special place for all of you, and we have the opportunity to expand our facility to reach even more families with the message of the Gospel. Through God's grace, we have been growing, and that means we are at the limits of what our building currently can hold. With our needs for more space and our growth in mind, we began a building feasibility study last year to explore the possibility of an expansion that has three parts.

1. **A daycare wing built specifically for the needs of a daycare center.** This wing would be on the north side of the building, and it would include 6 daycare classrooms and a gymnasium specifically for daycare use. This would be built with the plan of having the daycare center licensed through the state. This new daycare addition also means that we are in search of a Called daycare director to lead us into the future of that program.

2. **A school addition of 6 more classrooms and a large common area.** This would be above the new daycare wing, and it would allow us to continue to grow and reach more families through our teaching ministry. Those additional classrooms would enable us to reach 225 more students at full capacity than we can currently teach. What a great opportunity! The school portion would also move the main office to a newly built space by the parking lot, and it would add an elevator to the Ringold street entrance that would reach the basement, tunnel, first and second floors.

3. **A church addition that includes a larger narthex and a large multi-purpose room.** This would provide greater opportunities for fellowship, and also more space for church events and activities during the school day.

Please pray for the church, school, and daycare as we continue this process. We should have the results of our feasibility study by November. Those results will be shared with the congregation, and then it is in God's hands as to what the future of that plan will be.

If you have any questions about this process, about our plans, or about the school or daycare in general, feel free to call or email me. I would be happy to answer any of those questions for you.

Blessings,

Rob Lunak
Principal



Vibrant, Welcoming, and Outreach

Hello, My name is Anne Jesgarz. I am the new third-grade teacher here at St. Paul's. I am originally from Central Illinois. I recently graduated from Concordia University in Nebraska. I am so excited to be here at St. Paul's this year. After my initial visit and my first few months here there are three things that I noticed right away that I feel are key characteristics of St. Paul's, at least from an outsider's perspective. These characteristics are vibrant, welcoming, and outreach.

After walking through the school on my first visit day, my mom and I went to the conference room to talk about what we had just seen for a little while. Her first question was along the lines of "What do you think", my first response was, "It is so vibrant." The hallways were alive. Alive with the sounds of students. Alive with the vibrant colors of students' artwork. I could feel the excitement found here, just walking through the hallways.

On my visit, everyone I met was incredibly welcoming. When I first moved up here everyone I met was incredibly welcoming. In the course of just a few weeks, I was invited to several different Bible study groups

and countless other social events. At church, especially the first few weeks, I was so blessed with many people coming and introducing themselves to me and welcoming me to St. Paul's.

The third main thing I noticed was the outreach at this school and in this congregation. Everything seems to be so focused on outreach and how we can share Jesus with others. During the children's message on the first Sunday I went to church here, Pastor Decker had the children stand in a circle facing outward and talked about how that was the direction we need to look to go tell other people about Jesus. That theme has stayed very consistent throughout the projects I see and the different groups that are an outreach here.

I am so excited to be a part of this vibrant, welcoming, outreach centered community!

Anne Jesgarz
Third Grade Teacher



My Time at St. Paul's

Hi. My name is Katie Decker and I graduated from St. Paul's in 2005.

I attended St. Paul's from the time I was 3 years old in Mrs. Garchow's Pre-K 3year old class until Mr. Fenrick's 8th grade class. The bonds I was able to form with all of my classmates throughout the years were amazing. To be with some of the same kids for about 10 years was so special--we grew up together. Even as we went on to high school, college and now 'real life,' there will always be a special bond with my St. Paul's classmates. On top of the bond created with my classmates, I am so thankful for the friendships formed through both JLIT (the Janesville Lutheran Invitational [Basketball] Tournament) and EIBT (Eagles Invitational Basketball Tournament in Lombard, Illinois). These tournaments brought me one of my best friends to this day.



This summer, I attended a wedding in Chicago, Illinois, with one of my longest friends. I have been friends with Kelsey (Jones) since the time she started at St. Paul's a few years after I had already been there. The wedding we attended was the wedding of a girl named Kate. Kelsey and I met Kate in 5th grade while roaming the halls at JLIT. Kate was from St. John's in Lombard. For the next three years, Kelsey and I were housed by Kate's family at EIBT. This friendship allowed us to become friends with all of Kate's friends as well. We would spend time down in Illinois during the summer in both middle school and high school, just making our bond stronger and stronger. Had it not been for our time at St. Paul's and being involved with EIBT and JLIT, we would never have made this lifelong friend---that turned into our Illinois family.

While at Kate's wedding, we ran into Pastor Dan (Wegrzyn) of St. John's (Lombard, IL). As we chatted with him and his wife, we talked about the boys my family housed at JLIT every year. It was so fun to reminisce on all of the memories we were so lucky to have made throughout the years. We talked about my sister who is 31 and just attended the wedding of another girl from St. John's—they met through JLIT and EIBT as well. To know these bonds are something that are cherished by more than just me is amazing.

I feel so fortunate to have had the chance to create these special bonds with my classmates, as well as my friends through the basketball tournaments. I am so thankful for my time at St. Paul's and truly feel so blessed that this is where my parents chose for me to not only receive my education but to grow up. I would not trade my time and experiences at St. Paul's for anything!





How Do You Remember St. Paul's?

Do you remember your first day at St. Paul's? We have some new students in our Jr. High this year. Being curious I asked them how St. Paul's was different from their last school. Answers varied from, we have more male teachers, there are different teaching styles, they feel challenged, and it is bigger.

Things that they like about St. Paul's are the teachers, pastors, and the lunches. If you have not eaten a meal in Memaw's kitchen, you are missing out! As they look forward to the rest of the school year,

they are anxious for the DC and Florida trip. Wait til they experience JLIT!

What teachers and pastors do you remember from St. Paul's? Did they challenge you? Who was the cook when you were here, and what was your favorite meal? It's fun seeing St. Paul's through the eyes of new students. As we grow and change, we continue to bring more sheep to God's flock.

By: Jill Fenrick
Upper Grade Teacher
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"I Just Wanna Be A Sheep" 2019-20 School Year Theme



St. Paul's has been blessed to have many families attend our school over multiple generations.

If you have a "Generations at St. Paul's" story to tell send it to:

Churchoffice
@stpaulsjanesville.com

Help Send a Child to St. Paul's

Many things have changed since most of you graduated from St. Paul's. One big change is that now everyone pays tuition to send their child to school, even the members. This causes some parents considerable financial problems, and may, in some cases, prevent them from sending their child to St. Paul's.

One way to help solve this problem is to donate to St. Paul's Family Tuition Assistance Fund. This money goes to the families having difficulty affording a Christian education.

We are asking you to consider a donation to this fund. It could be done by sending a check to the school office (210 S. Ringold St, Janesville, WI 53545) or by putting it in the weekly offering basket, and marking it for this fund. Thank you in advance for considering this.

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran
Church, School and
Day Care
210 South Ringold Street
Janesville WI 53545

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ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran
Church, School and
Day Care
Alumni Association**

Our sole purpose for forming this Alumni Association is **"to connect the past with the future at St. Paul'."** In order to do this at this time we have a charter to do four things: 1) Create a database of current contact information. 2) Create a multi-faceted communication vehicle to keep alumni informed and connected. 3) Facilitate alumni gatherings. 4) Provide opportunities for alumni who wish to support the school.

**"Connecting
the Past with the Future
at St. Paul's"**

Do We Have Your Email Address?

To be good stewards of the gift's the Lord has given us, we'd like to send *The Flamethrower* to you electronically. To do that, we'll need some information.

Send us an email to: SchoolOffice@stpaulsjanesville.com. Include your name; (maiden name); years you attended St. Paul's School; current mailing address; current phone number; and email address. Please put "Alumni Info" in the subject line.

Thank you for helping us to keep in touch!

