The Monthly Herald ~ August 2026

I have been reflecting of late on the many transitions and changes that God has brought my family through. In twenty-five years of marriage my wife and I have gone through no less than fourteen moves. Aidan, our oldest was involved in almost all of them, Brodie and Caitlin nearly as many as Aidan. Ten of them were in our first seven years of marriage. Transitions, moves are times of many changes. And now, more changes: one out of the nest and two in college.

In some ways, summer can seem to be a season of few changes. The leaves are already green and blooming. The flowers in bloom stay that way, or those of spring have come and gone already. But the more I think about it, the more I realize that summer is actually a time of great transition. In the garden, or on the farmer's field, our crops grow abundantly. You see this most clearly when you pass by corn fields and watch them grow from being at your ankles in early summer to knee high by the fourth of July to over your head by the end of August.

Transition happens during the summer for families too. Children finish one grade in May or June and start a new one with a new teacher as early as mid August. For little ones especially, we have seen summers where the shoes the kids were in fit fine at the beginning of summer and by the end they were not fitting anymore.

And, speaking of moving, think of how many families relocate during the summer months. And, why is that? Because it is the easiest transition point for children who are school-aged. Transition is certainly a part of life, and change is constantly happening. As they say, the one thing that never changes is that nothing ever stays the same. And so it has been with us.

With those changes and transitions stresses arise. Struggles happen in families when a teenager is going through changes and transitions and begins to walk away from the faith into which they have been raised. Stress descends upon those who are packing boxes, and unpacking them again. It arises in the midst of meetings for buying and selling homes. It happens in the transition times, waiting for trucks and watching the movers. Stress happens when starting new jobs; and in having to say goodbye to loved ones, possibly never having another opportunity to see them again. Stress hits with the adjustments that must be made when a new baby enters the family. At every point where transition happens, so to does stress.

St. Paul's Church and School is moving into a new school year. Students will once again be filling the halls in a matter of weeks. Bible classes, and committees that stopped meeting in May or June will pick up again as we head into the fall. Some people in our midst in worship, Bible study, or school will be new and some of the "stalwarts" whom we are used to seeing week after week, day after day, will no longer be in our midst.

Isn't it a wonderful thing to know that in every season, God is with us. He is the constant companion who will never leave us even if we find it hard to adjust to the changes that we experience in our lives. To be known is to be loved. And that is exactly what each one of us is ... Loved by the one who is our Rock of Ages. Our God of all Seasons; the one who "changes not."

I am thankful that as I transition into this new life situation, I have the privilege of experiencing it with you as my brothers and sisters in Christ. May we always be comforted by His constant presence in our life of transitions.

Yours, in Christ,

Pastor Schneider

St. Paul's Food Pantry *is in need of donations of canned food and paper products. Please see the display in the narthex near the church doors.*

Bible Studies

Classes will Resume in September

Sunday Morning Christian Education and Fellowship

Sunday morning Bible class does not meet for the summer months. There will be a Meet and Greet for our guest preacher on August 12,15-16: Pastor Brad Akey (son of the congregation) Hope to see you there!

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran members –

As many of you may be aware, all exterior doors of the main Lincoln Avenue church and school campus were re-keyed this summer.

The main impetus for this work was the safety and security of everyone using the facility, especially the students entrusted to the care of the day school. Physical plant security is an increasingly important element of school accreditation. And without that accreditation, St. Paul's would not be allowed to take part in the School Choice programs which are a key element of the congregation's overall budget.

Congregation leadership has defined the roles that require individuals to have a key, and the majority of individuals who are in those roles have received their new key.

For those who did receive a new key, there are a few rules to remember:

- Your key is not to be loaned to or used by anyone else. When the school accreditation team is onsite, we don't want our principal to have to say she's not sure who has keys when asked.

- When your time in the role for which you received a key is complete, the key must be returned to the office and documented as having been returned. Keys may not be passed on to anyone else…all keys must be returned to the office.

- Even if you have a key, if you are entering the facility during a day and time when school is in session, you must first check in at the office. We also ask that you use the Lincoln Avenue door. The office staff must be aware of any non student/non staff members who are in the building during school hours.

Congregation leadership appreciates everyone's understanding with this new "security reality" in which we find ourselves. Some may need to adjust their routine to ensure that they are coming to the Lincoln Avenue campus during office hours so that office staff can let them. Others may need to adjust the entrance they use if they are entering the facility during school hours. Regardless, know that these requests are for the safety and security of all.

If you have questions about the re-keying, please do not hesitate to reach out to congregation president Greg Margrett at gmargrett@gmail.com or 262.894.3445

Ladies & Men's Groups

Widows and Widowers Lunch

On Wednesday, August 12 we will meet at 11:00am at Open Flame 5081 S. 108th Street. Please call Rosie Pups at 414-243-7793 to make your reservation.

Quilters

It seems like summer just started and now it is back to school for the kids. The supplies are being stocked, ready for parents to buy their child all the school needs. I was presented with a supply list when I took a beginner quilting class… Fabric, scissors, rulers, thread, batting, etc. Our group is only missing one necessary supply item…YOU. Even if you don't sew, come learn how to put a quilt together and stay for the fellowship.

We meet in the fellowship hall at 9am to 11:30am the first, third and fifth Mondays of the month.

Below are the dates that we meet for the remainder of the year

- August 3, 17 and 31
- September 21 and 28
- October 3 (put the quilts out at church), 5 , and 19
- November 2, 16 and 30

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, you may contact Dawn Ziolecki via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com or call or text 414-841-6097

Ladies Guild

I am so looking forward to this coming year for Ladies Guild. The ladies want to be involved with fundraising and helping where they can. Our first summer fundraiser didn't even make it out of the May meeting. Two glider rockers were purchased for the child care center's infant room. One was in memory of Jean Fortner's daughter Lisa. New mission grants were voted on at the LWML district convention on June 19 and 20. So fill up those mite boxes and empty them into the mite box in the narthex on the first weekend of the month.

Our next meeting will be August 24 at 6pm. All ladies 18 years old and older are invited to join us. Come check us out, share your ideas and you may have plenty of laughs. For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com

Sharing God's Bounty

God Calls Us to be His Workers

In spite of our foolish and sinful ways, God calls us to be his workers. Scripture tells us that Jesus did not pick people from society's elite when he chose his workers. Jesus' disciples were peasants, fishermen, and even a tax collector. Paul wrote, "*Brothers, think of what you when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . .*" (1 Corinthians 1:26-28). The majority of God's work was done and continues to be done by the lowly and oppressed people.

Certainly, God can use celebrities and very successful people in his work. However, we need to remember that, even though we may not have accomplished anything of worldly significance, broken any records, or won any awards, God can use and transform us into effective workers in his kingdom. "*I can do everything through him who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13). Society gives many accolades to those who succeed, but there is no greater honor or privilege than to be chosen as God's vehicle to spread the Gospel. As John states in his Gospel, it is Jesus who does the choosing. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" (John 15:16).

So why does God elevate the foolish and the lowly to be his workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "so that no one may boast before him." It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in his service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, "*Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

"Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works and generous, sharing what they have." (1 Timothy 6:18) May Timothy's letter move us to better see how we are using all that the Lord has entrusted to us; our income, our talents. This sense of stewardship will help us grow in faith and concern one for another. That's what faith community is all about."

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.

https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/ Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions! Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities! Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1926 – 2026

100th Anniversary

On the weekend of September 12 & 13, we will be celebrating our church's first 100 years.

On Sunday, September 13 at 9:00am we will hold a special worship service which will include

Guest Preacher LCMS District President

Rev. Nathan Meador.

After the worship service there will be a celebratory lunch and program held in our Lincoln Avenue gym.

Please sign up early for the lunch because space is limited.

100th Anniversary Guest Preachers

Joseph Bender, 4th year seminarian: April 18-19, 2026
Pastor Noah Kegley, Immanuel, Batavia, IL: May 23-24, 2026
Rev. Dr. Paul Grime, Concordia Theo. Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN: June 17, 20-21
Pastor J. J. Stefanic, Holy Cross, Renault, IL: July 25-26, 2026
Pastor Brad Akey, Immanuel, Gaylord, MN: August 12, 15-16, 2026

Rev. Brad Akey — August 12, 15 & 16, 2026

Blessings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
I am Rev. Bradley David Akey. I was born April 10, 1991, to Cliff and Pam Akey. I attended Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade at St. Paul's, then high school at Martin Luther. For college, I attended Concordia University Wisconsin, where I double majored in Pre-Seminary and Theological Languages. For seminary I moved out of Wisconsin for the first time and went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, attending Concordia Theological Seminary. My first call was then to serve as associate pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Seymour, IN. There, I served for seven years and I am now serving in Gaylord, MN, as sole pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School.

In 2019 I married Sarah (Onken) while she was finishing her dissertation work at Hillsdale College. We have 4 children: Elizabeth "Ellie" (Age 6), David (Age 4), Jonathan "JT" (Age 2), and our newest Eve (3 months).

One of the questions I am most frequently asked is why I wanted to become a pastor. I have been told from an early age that I wanted to be whatever was popular or a pastor. But the big turning point for me was when I was in 7th grade, my father passed away from cancer. My family, congregation, and most notably my pastors (at the time Rev. John Lescow & Rev. Gregg Stanton) made it a priority that my mother and I were taken care of.

Then about a year-and-a-half later, my mother experienced kidney failure, which I am sure many of you know, as she is still a member of St. Paul's. While having had the kidney transplant it has brought about some difficulties, some she still deals with. Despite doing so much for us not long before with my father's death, again St. Paul's and especially the pastors made sure that we were taken care of. Seeing how my pastors helped me, stirred in me a desire to help others who are going through difficult situations and suffering, by bringing to them the Word of God and His magnificent promises.

In my free time I seek to spend as much time as I can with my family. As for leisure, I am very interested in sports, willing to play almost any sport that I can (favorites being football and volleyball) and learning and playing new games on different platforms (video, board, card, and tabletop). I have recently been trying my hand at gardening and learning what I can through my many mistakes. In my school years, I worked at Miller Park, as a food and drink vendor. I did that for one season, and then went to college where my summer job was working for the city of West Allis, doing mainly road construction with the tar crew.
I praise the Lord and celebrate with the saints at St. Paul's for the honor of returning and given the opportunity to share God's Word in the blessings that you are celebrating this anniversary.

May God be will you and I look forward to seeing you soon!

In Christ, Rev. Brad Akey

The Ministry of St. Paul's Cradle Roll

This ministry is one that has been at St. Paul's for over 60 years but is one you may not know much about or that it even exists. St. Paul's Cradle roll was started by Dr. Karl Barth, then senior Pastor at St. Paul's, and Sunday School Superintendent Lance King; together they worked with Elenor Spitzer who brought the Cradle Roll to life for over 50 years.

So what is the Cradle Roll? Using material from Concordia Publishing House Elenor would prepare information to give to families having a child baptized and throughout the child's first three years of life.

Approximately 10 years ago Elenor passed on "Cradle Roll" to Diane Ross who has continued fulfilling this ministry to new parents for their baby. Using the Enduring the Faith curriculum from Concordia Publishing House; Diane prepares a packet given to the parents when their child is baptized, and the child's Baptism is acknowledged on the large bulletin board located in the mailbox room. There is also a pamphlet included and given to the sponsors at the time of the Baptism. The Enduring the Faith packet includes various pamphlets and booklets given to the families for the child's first, second and third birthdays and also for their Baptismal birthdays – these pamphlets/booklets give spiritual encouragement for the parents and simple Jesus books for the child as they grow. Although Cradle Roll hasn't been used for the entire 100 years of St. Paul's it has offered nurturing and encouragement for many parents and boys and girls.

We praise God for all the families Cradle Roll has ministered to in the past and for those children of God yet to be baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Allis.

Thank you to Diane Ross for her faithful service caring for all the children baptized!

God's Faithfulness Endures!

100th Anniversary Capital Campaign

Thank you for your generous contributions to kick off our 100th Anniversary Campaign.

Here's an update:

Boiler Fund balance: $ 280,605.80
Financial Bridge balance: $ 51,589.20

TRIVIA CORNER

Question last month: In what year did St. Paul's begin their radio ministry – broadcasting each Sunday morning.

Answer: Our church history file shows the year as 1973. Steve Rolefson, our Radio Broadcast Engineer, states that there was a contract dispute with the radio station at the end of 1972. I called the Radio Station to confirm the date and their records do not go back that far. Therefore, we have 2 winners this month: Steve Rolefson with the guess of 1972 and Fred Zahn with the guess of 1973.

Donations are being accepted to help defray the cost of our 100th Anniversary's Catered Lunch that will be held for everyone on Sunday September 13.

Special Envelopes can be found at the Welcome Center in the narthex (lobby) or by the elevator.

Youth Group

Back to School Picnic – August 23
1:00 – 3:00pm

Join us as we prepare to head back to school for the year! The picnic will be held on the playground at St. Paul's. We will have a variety of fun activities and games as well as discussions about navigating transitions in life.

Music Notes

As you know, on September 12 and 13, St. Paul's will celebrate 100 years. Let's make it a great musical celebration! To that end, I'm inviting you all to sing and/or play for this special event. Even if you normally don't sing in the choir or play bells or another instrument, consider this one-time opportunity to praise and thank God with music for His blessings on St. Paul's. We'll have just a few practices, so it wouldn't be a huge commitment. However, in order to choose music appropriate for the musicians, it would be good to know who might be participating.
Please contact me (carole.king@splcwa.org) and let me know what instrument(s) you play or voice part you sing. Also let me know if you can attend both the Saturday night and Sunday morning services.

Thank you all for your concern about my appendicitis. Since a lot of people have questions about it, Here is a long story made short. Not only was the appendix inflamed, but the inflammation spread to the colon and cecum, so much so that the original CT scan made it look like there was a mass on the colon. Really it was just inflammation. I was given antibiotics to reduce the inflammation. But the surgeon said that it would be safer to wait for those tissues to heal up so they would hold stitches. So my outpatient surgery is scheduled for August 17. I will be out a few days after that.

Blessings on the rest of your summer!
Deaconess Carole

School News

St. Paul's Lutheran School

100 Years of Growing God's Children – Rooted in Christ

We are expanding our Before and After School Care for our full-day students at both buildings. Would you or someone you know be interested in joining our team?
Please contact Danielle Jackson if you have questions or are interested in learning more about our openings for Before School Care and After School Care supervisors.

Congratulations and God's Blessings: St. Paul's Class of 2026

We are gearing up to celebrate our school turning 100! God has been working in and through St. Paul's all that time and we look forward to seeking testimonials to that and sharing them with you.

We pray everyone is having a safe, relaxing, and fun summer break. Work continues here at school waxing and cleaning, ordering new supplies, and meeting with prospective new families and staff members.

We are grateful to see God's abundant blessings here as we enter our new school year.

Do you have a hobby/skill you'd be interested in sharing/teaching to a group of students in the upcoming school year? Gardening. Card making. Cookie Decorating. Baking. Sewing. Woodworking. Chess. Cribbage. Fill in the blank. We are looking for opportunities to expand our students' learning and for members of the church community to participate in that. A single session. Something ongoing. Geared for our younger or older students – we'll work on the details together. Please contact Danielle Jackson (danielle@splcwa.org) if you are interested in learning more.

We welcome our students back to school the weekend of August 22-23 for Supply Drop Off and Backpack blessings. Our 1st day of school is Tuesday, August 25th. It's going to be a GREAT year!

Thank you for all of your support and prayers for our school!

Like and Follow us on Facebook – **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School & Childcare**

Gift Card Fundraiser to Support Our School

We no longer sell RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP) gift cards after worship services, but this continues to be an **ongoing opportunity** for you to **help the school** raise funds – and all you do is purchase gift cards. Use them on groceries, gas, gifts, dining out. There are dozens of options!

Contact the school office (414-541-6251 or schooloffice@splcwa.org) **anytime you want** to place an order and we will coordinate payment and pick-up.
If you want to learn how to connect a RaiseRight account to your phone to contribute funds for our school anytime, anywhere, we can give you the details on that as well.

Support Our Students

Our St. Paul's Community has many opportunities to support our students – and we are so blessed by your generosity!
One way to provide support is through our Tuition Assistance program.

As we are enrolling for the upcoming school year, to help us retain current students and help attract new students, I am humbly asking for contributions to student tuition assistance.

This can allow students to receive an incredible Christ-centered education here at St. Paul's. Contributions can be sent directly to the school office or by noting "Tuition Assistance" on your church offering.

If you would consider sponsoring a student's full tuition, please contact me.

Your sister in Christ, Danielle Jackson

A Place Of Refuge
For Pregnant Women & Pre-born Children

LIFE WALK 2026

September 12th, 2026

Hosted by: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

11313 N. Riverland Rd. Mequon, WI 53092

Schedule
9:00 am Registration and Silent Auction
10:00am Welcome, Opening Prayer and Worship
10:30 Walk Begins
11:30 Lunch, Prizes, Concluding Prayer
Register and Download a Sponsor form at https://www.aplaceofrefuge.org/life-walk-registration and join us in making a difference!
By sponsoring Life Walk, you can help provide essential support to pregnant women and children.

Every contribution will go directly to those in need.
Ask your friends and family to help sponsor your walk
Donations can be made directly to Life Walk on the day of the walk

Calling all youth 6th-12 Grade!

South Wisconsin District

SLICK CITY ACTION PARK

1435 N 113th St, Wauwatosa

AUGUST 9TH

5:30-7:30PM

GUARDIANS WILL NEED TO FILL OUT A WAIVER AT DROP OFF BEFORE YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

FREE

Please let us know if you can make it by July 30th

https://tinyurl.com/2zrx9y9a

Please email spwayouth@gmail.com with any questions.

**** Please note long sleeves and pants are required!****

YOU'RE INVITED!

FREE OUTDOOR

Movie Nights!

We are happy to announce that this year's Free Movie Nights will also include a potluck meal before every movie. The Board of Missional Community will provide the main dish. Please sign up to bring a side! Water and lemonade will also be provided.

7:00PM DINNER | 7:50PM DEVOTION | 8:00PM MOVIE

6/17

ENCANTO

Tacos

7/15

THE STAR

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Pulled Pork

8/12

THE INCREDIBLES

Brats + Hot Dogs

ST. PAUL'S PLAYGROUND - 79TH & LINCOLN - WEST ALLIS