

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9

NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST



Friendship Sunday

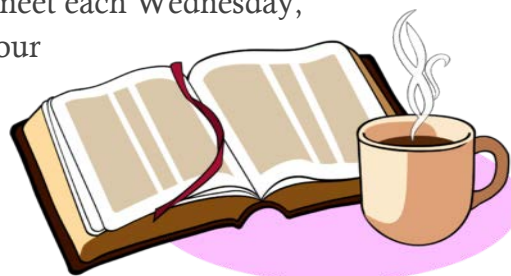
10:30 a.m.

September 8

Trillium Creek

Family Bible Hour

Another year of Sunday School and Bible Class begins on Sunday, September 15. Classes will be held at 9:15 am each Sunday; we will meet at St. Paul's for the first half of the school year, and at Grace after Christmas. Coffee and a light snack will be served during this fellowship time; if you could kindly serve one week, please sign up on the table. Catechism classes for the 7th & 8th graders begin on Wednesday, September 4; they meet each Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. at Grace. Please join our classes this year, and enrich your knowledge of God and his Word for you and your family!



Join us for our annual Friendship Sunday! Grace, St. Paul's, and Trinity will join together for worship at the Trillium Creek barn, followed by a potluck fellowship meal. Grace will provide the meat this year, with everyone sharing salads, sides, or desserts to complement the meal. Trinity will handle set-up, and St. Paul's the clean-up. Please use this opportunity to invite friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors to worship with you. We have such a great message to share with those we love: forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and eternal life in heaven!

September
St. Paul's Greeters ----- Grace Ushers

Pastor Edwards' Retirement

September 1
 Gene & Sharon Bartelt
September 8
 Joy Taylor
September 15
 Mark & Joline Bartelt
September 22
 DuWayne Zamzow
September 29
 Lee McCauley

September 1
 C Neumann, J Neumann
September 8
 G Pagel, D Blaubach
September 15
 S Christian, D Prazuch
September 22
 B Blaubach, G Pagel
September 29
 W Zastrow, J Neumann

Pastor Robert Edwards of Our Savior's in Wausau will be retiring after 40 years of service in the public Ministry. He will preach his final sermon on September 1. The congregation is holding an open house in his honor on that afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. We are all cordially invited to attend to express our thanks for his work, and wish him and his wife well. Pastor Edwards served our congregations during the interim between our Pastors Biebert and Willitz.

St. Paul's Financial Update

July Income: \$ 5,484.00
 July Disbursements: \$ 6,995.53
 Christian Ed Fund: \$ 2,958.00
 (2020-2021, begun July 1, 2019)
 YTD NLHS Offerings: \$ 2,537.25
 '19 NLHS Commitment: \$ 3,500.00
 YTD Mission Offerings: \$ 1,335.00
 2019 Mission Goal: \$ 1,800.00
 Front Sidewalk Fund: \$ 295.00

Grace Financial Update

July Income: \$ 6,183.50
 July Disbursements: \$ 7,367.67
 2019 Mission Goal: \$ 4,330.00
 YTD Mission Offering: \$ 2,517.24
 Percentage of Goal: 58.13%
 Parsonage Garage Fund: \$ 565.00
 Checkbook Balance: \$ -1,331.77



Hayride & Bonfire! Trinity-Berlin will be holding a family ministry event with a hayride, bonfire, food and fun! We are welcome to join them for this event on September 28, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Mission Festival

Mission Festival 2019 has been scheduled for Sunday, October 6. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Phil Henselin of the WELS Institution Ministries; he will tell us about the Prison Ministry our synod carries out across the nation. Pastor Henselin will preach at both services, and conduct the Fellowship/Bible Hour in between at St. Paul's. All are encouraged to attend; please bring something nice for our fellowship snacks if you wish!

**I WAS IN PRISON
 AND YOU CAME TO
 VISIT ME MATTHEW 25:36b**

Special Funds have been set up

at both churches for some needed upgrades. Special donations toward all these projects are encouraged.

At St. Paul's, the goal for a front sidewalk is \$2,500; we also need \$3000 for painting trimwork. Donations toward the Christian Education Fund are strongly encouraged.

Grace is hoping to raise \$13,000 - \$16,000 for a new parsonage garage. Please give generously!



What Is The Answer To Wickedness?

Dear members and friends of Grace and St. Paul's,

Recently someone asked me, "Pastor, what is the answer to the numerous horrific mass shootings in our country?" That's a good question that everyone should be asking.

Dear Christians are also asking, "How can God allow such tragedies to occur?" Some even wonder if God somehow causes such calamities.

Those who don't understand the utter sinfulness of mankind, and don't look to Jesus as the Savior of lost humanity ask the question, "What is the cause of atrocious acts such as mass shootings?" They are astounded, baffled and horrified that they can come up with no real answers. They clumsily fumble about striving to find solutions to one horrifying act after another, and helplessly fail miserably to prevent them in the future.

Some blame guns, but guns are not the real culprit. Wicked people can obtain weapons illegally, and they can carry out destructive and deadly rampages with means other than guns. Some blame mental illness, and think that there are only a few sick people who are capable of such wicked acts. Then the questions loom, "Just who are those people prone to such violence, and why, and what should we do with them?"

The fact of the matter is all people are sinful through and through. Each and every person is capable of such crimes, you and I included. All of us are by nature prone to wickedness. The Bible tells us the chilling truth about sinful mankind, "Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart (is) only evil all the time" [Genesis 6:5]. Romans 3 reports, "There is no one who does good, not even one...Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know" [vs. 12, 15-17].

Yet there is an answer to wickedness, the violence in the world around us, and yes, the evil in our own hearts and lives. Praise God, he alone has provided it. God so loved this most unworthy world, us included, that he gave his own Son to live here in the midst of our violence. On the cross Jesus endured all of our violence, the violence of every mass shooter, all the violence of the whole world. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" [1 John 2:2].

"Where sin increased, grace increased all the more" [Romans 5:20]. Full and free forgiveness in Christ is the only answer for wicked sinners like us. It is the sure, total and glorious answer that only God could provide. It is the answer that changes our hearts so that we say "No" to sin and "Yes" to living according to God's right ways. It is the motivating answer that leads us to proclaim God's great salvation to other sinners around us and throughout our world. God's grace in Christ is the only answer that will save wicked people for eternity and lead them to turn from their violence to serving the Lord.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz



What's happening at Northland?

25th Annual Wildcat Open Saturday, September 14

- Pine Valley Golf Course
- 11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, Four-Person Scramble (all groups/singles welcome)
- Adults: (19 & over) \$75
- Students: (18 & under) \$45
- Meal Only: \$25
- Benefits Athletics and Engineering Programs
- Cost includes 18 holes, Cart, Lunch, Door Prizes



13th Annual 5K Run/Walk Saturday, September 21

- 10:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. sign-in)
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Awards
- \$25 for Individuals
- \$75 for Families (immediate members)
- Benefits Tuition Fund
- Cost includes Lunch and T-shirt



Register for one or both at nlhs.org