



First Things – October, 2022

Too Much On Your Plate?

Ever feel like you have too much on your plate, like the Lord is asking you to do too much?

Moses felt like that, when the LORD appeared to him in the burning bush and said, ***The cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, GO. I am sending YOU to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:9,10).***

Moses replied, ***Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?***

And the LORD told Moses, ***I will be with you.*** More than that, the LORD gave Moses two signs to show Moses (and everyone else) that he – the LORD – was with him. First, he was able to throw his staff on the ground and it became a snake. Then he could pick it up and it turned back into a staff. Second, he could put his hand inside his robe and it became leprous, and then put it back again and the leprosy was gone.

Throughout this amazing encounter with the Lord, Moses does what we often do as we evaluate what God has put on our plates and how he has called us to respond. Moses omits the ultimate fact that changes everything about the way we think and should respond to God's call. That fact is not the difficulty of the calling or our perceived ability to answer that call. It is not the size of the situation or the size of your wisdom and strength. This life-changing fact is that the God of glory and grace, who calls his people to do his will on earth, ALWAYS GOES WITH THEM as they obey his calling. He never sends without going too, with his power.

When he sends us, he also gives us two signs which prove that he is with us: Holy Baptism through which God has made us his own children and Holy Communion through which he gives us his actual body and blood.

Even after the LORD had given Moses the promise that he would be with him, and the special signs of his presence, he is still overwhelmed and tells God, ***Please send someone else*** (Exodus 4:13). It's clear that Moses does not yet understand the present power of his identity as a child of God. Because he is God's chosen child, he is never, ever alone. Because he is God's child, God will never send him

on a task by himself. Hope for Moses' success is not to be found in his personal strength and wisdom, but in the power and the promises of him who would one day send his Son to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world.

As we feel the pressure of too much on our plates, let us remember that we are never alone, that the One who told Moses ***I am with you*** says the same thing to us. And let us rely on his power to do what we are unable to do by ourselves.

Board for Lay Ministry Update

Finances

- Through the month of August, offerings and other income was **\$166,277**, compared to \$132,719 in 2021. Through the month of August, total expenses were **\$171,227**, compared to \$151,542 in 2021. So, the **deficit** for the year (through the month of August) is **\$4,951**.
- The roof repairs have been paid for with the special offerings that were received

Mortgage

Having heard no disagreement on the recommendation (presented in the September newsletter) to refinance the church mortgage to a 180-month (15-year) loan, the Board is in the process of carrying out this plan.

Funds from the building/mortgage fund will be used to pay the principal down to \$300,000. This will leave approximately \$62,000 in the building/mortgage fund.

The monthly mortgage payment will be approximately \$200 per month more than it was in the past, approximately \$2,350.

Other News

Planning continues for updating the church sign on the outside of the entryway and refreshing the interior of the entryway.

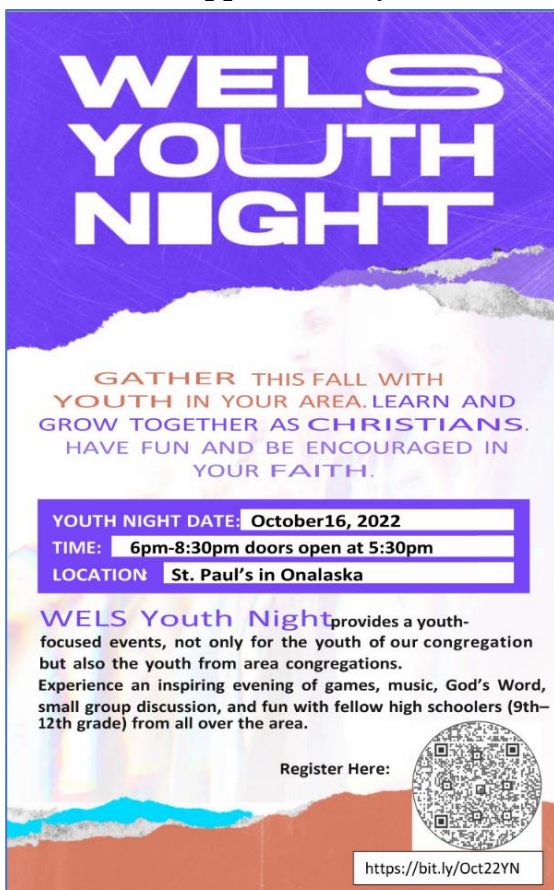
CrossTalk

CrossTalk, our children's ministry, has begun to meet after worship services once again.

Thanks to all those who helped repaint and redecorate the CrossTalk room.

We are investigating the possibility of purchasing a smart TV for the CrossTalk room so that we can use multi-media presentations more easily.

More volunteers are always welcome. Contact Pastor Mark.




**WELS
YOUTH
NIGHT**

GATHER THIS FALL WITH
YOUTH IN YOUR AREA. LEARN AND
GROW TOGETHER AS CHRISTIANS.
HAVE FUN AND BE ENCOURAGED IN
YOUR FAITH.

YOUTH NIGHT DATE: **October 16, 2022**
TIME: **6pm-8:30pm doors open at 5:30pm**
LOCATION: **St. Paul's in Onalaska**

WELS Youth Night provides a youth-focused events, not only for the youth of our congregation but also the youth from area congregations. Experience an inspiring evening of games, music, God's Word, small group discussion, and fun with fellow high schoolers (9th-12th grade) from all over the area.

Register Here: 

<https://bit.ly/Oct22YN>

Area WELS Update

Praise the Lord! **Pastor Wolf Parsons** of Shawano, Wisconsin accepted the call to serve the saints at St. John's Lutheran Church in Nodine. He will be installed on Sunday, November 6 at a 3:30 PM worship service. That means Pastor Mark will only be preaching up at Nodine two more times – Sunday, October 2 and Sunday, November 6. Other area congregations which are vacant are: 1. Rock of Ages in Rochester, 2. Our Savior's in Kasson, and 3. Good Shepherd in Holmen. St. John's in Caledonia is calling a second pastor. And the Rochester multi-site congregation – called Resurrection and Life – is calling a third pastor. Please remember all of these congregations in your prayers.

Other Area Events

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) – there's a local group of WELS members over 55 who meet at First Lutheran (the East or Wisconsin Campus) in La Crosse on a monthly basis. OWLS from across the country will be flocking to Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska for their annual convention, October 11-13. Check out what will be happening online [HERE](#).

The **Men of His Word Conference** will take place in Rochester on Saturday, October 22. You can find more information and register [HERE](#).

The **WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership** will take place January 16-18 in Chicago. In 2020, 600 attended this conference and more are expected this time. There is an extensive number of workshops. You can find more information and/or register [HERE](#).

October at First Lutheran

1. Sundays

- October 16 – **Quarterly Meeting** after worship
- October 23 – **Mission Sunday**
- October 30 – **Reformation Sunday**

2. **Monday Bible Study** is in progress. We meet in the church fellowship hall on Mondays at 9:00 AM and are studying Paul's Epistle to the **Galatians**

3. **Confirmation Class** for 7th and 8th graders meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

4. **Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

5. **Women Of the Word (WOW)** is still organizing its October schedule. Watch for more details.

6. **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 PM – *What Would Jesus Say To Your Woke Neighbor?*

7. Christian musical artist **Wendysue Fluegge** will perform a CONCERT at First on Thursday, October 13 at 6:00 PM.

8. **First Women** is offering two meeting opportunities: Saturday, October 15 at 10:00 AM and Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 PM



Wendysue Fluegge

Listen to her music [HERE](#).