

## **Persevere with Thanksgiving**

Hopefully you are aware that “**Persevere with Thanksgiving**” is the 18<sup>th</sup> month long theme for our anniversary celebration of 160 years of our beloved school and 165 years of our beloved congregation, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. We have been sharing our history from the very beginning through bulletin inserts, Facebook posts, but most thoroughly in the Timeline that is on the cafeteria wall at School. PLEASE take time to visit the timeline and soak in our history. It is so much fun to visually see our history!!

I was never interested in history much when I was in school. To me, it was a bunch of names and dates that didn’t have a whole lot of relevance in my life, but I was a KID! As an ADULT, I see things much differently, and this year, working on St. Paul’s history and sharing that with you, has brought our—St. Paul’s congregation’s—history to “life”! I pray that the same is true for you!! Not only our history, but **most importantly, God’s grace, mercy and faithfulness to us here at St. Paul’s**. The Lord has seen this congregation through SO many hard times!! His Word does not fail. And it is the ONLY source of eternal LIFE.

So, what does it mean to PERSEVERE? Our St. Paul’s ancestors PERSEVERED!! Daily life was HARD!! They had to keep going and push through the temptations to give up when the going got tough. And what kept them going more than anything else?? Their LOVE and TRUST and FAITH in the Lord.

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5-6***

In this day and age, “daily life” is so different. We don’t have to cut wood in order to build a house or have heat to cook our dinner. We don’t have to go out and hunt for our food. We have cars for transportation, grocery stores for food, fast food and sit-down restaurants where we are served. We have electricity and in-door toilets!! We have running water in an instant. Warm showers. We are SO used to all of these, that we take them for granted without **one** thought of how we are SO blessed to have all of them or even who is providing them.

So how do **we** need to PERSEVERE with THANKSGIVING? From my perspective, we need to **push through the onslaught of Satan and his lies**...his lies of instant gratification, of winning at all costs, etc., etc., and most importantly, the lie that knowing Jesus as your Savior is not that important right now. He convinces us that we have plenty of time for that. And yet...we never know when our last breath will be. It could be years from now, tomorrow, or even in the next hour! Knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior IS the most important “THING” in our life and in the lives of those we love. AND for EVERYONE! There is NO second chance to know Him as our Savior once we leave this life.

Our mission here at St. Paul’s is changing lives through worship, compassion and Christian education. Sharing the GREAT news that Jesus loves everyone, paid the price for everyone’s sins, and rose from the dead in victory over Satan and his lies is the center of everything we do here at St. Paul’s. We receive and are assured of God’s forgiveness and mercy in Worship. We share each other’s pain and burdens by listening to and caring for each other. And we share the GREAT News of eternal life through Jesus with our students and their families, many of whom do not know Him as their Savior when they first come to St. Paul’s.

One very tangible way for us to show our thankfulness for God’s precious gift of eternal life for us is through our monetary gifts, supporting the sharing of this GREAT news. Have you considered using the special envelopes that are available on the wall at the school or on the easels at the downtown campus? OR...have you considered raising your weekly thank offering to St. Paul’s? Please pray for God to lead you. He will bless your faithfulness in your serving Him in this way.

In His service,

Nancy Eden

160/165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Committee chairman