



**B**uilding  
**O**n a  
**L**egacy  
**D**evoted...  
to God and his Word  
**S**upporting  
**T**rusting  
**E**ncouraging  
**P**raying  
**S**haring

# St John Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street | Wrightstown, WI 54180 | 920-532-4865 | [stjohnwrightstown.com](http://stjohnwrightstown.com)

## WHAT SHALL WE SEE HERE?

As we gathered for worship on August 8 we were confronted with the account of God's providing an abundance of manna and quail in the wilderness. Permit here a paraphrase of the commentary that preceded that reading from Exodus.

*Note the point of God's generosity even in temporal bread: Then you'll know that I am the LORD your God. That's always the point of God's invisible hand giving visible blessings, that we may see behind them nothing but the power of God and the grace of the Savior....God sustains the body with the perishable, so that he may fill the soul with himself.*

Of course the perishable which God showers upon us is immeasurable, but here we'll focus on three blessings of perishable stuff through which God expects us to see himself.

First, there is the unexpected offer by the Village of Wrightstown to buy our school and property at a favorable price, while allowing for our continued use of the building for several years. A \$200,000 blessing – big as manna.

Then there is the offer by a gentleman from Minnesota to buy our church building with some of its surrounding property for music, lessons, concerts, and recitals. A \$230,000 blessing – big as quail.

Finally, although our brothers and sisters in faith at St. Paul's Greenleaf could have decided to dissolve their congregation years ago or at some time in the future, they instead made that decision now, and offered us their property – a place to worship until our facility is built, and upon its sale additional dollars for construction. Another undeniable blessing.

**So what shall we see here? Nothing but the generous hand of God so that he can all the more fill us with himself!**

## ST. PAUL'S GREENLEAF OFFER

Earlier this year St. Paul's at Greenleaf voted to dissolve by the end of the year 2021. More recently they offered us their church and parking lot properties, for use and sale as we see fit. On August 15<sup>th</sup> we had an open forum to discuss St. Paul's generous offer. A printed document, handed to all open forum participants, listed side-by-side the advantages and disadvantages of either continuing worship here in Wrightstown on a rental basis or moving our worship and other church activity to Greenleaf. What follows are selected notes from that meeting:

### Greenleaf Disadvantages:

- Not central to our membership
- Not handicap accessible
- Less seating capacity
- No internet or air conditioning
- Can't hold larger funerals and luncheons
- Limited storage space

### Greenleaf Advantages:

- Site available to us 24/7
- Office space for Pastor Gehl
- No weekly set-up/take-down for worship
- Property counts as collateral for our loan and can be sold to advantage our building fund
- Possibly lower cost for rent, insurance, utilities, etc.

After the open forum, the Voters cast 28 ballots in favor of accepting the Greenleaf offer, with one dissenting vote. The voters took an optimistic view of this obvious blessing from God!

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.” --  
Winston Churchill

### CALENDAR OF KEY EVENTS

- Sept 19 WELS National Hymnal Week – Worship and Hymn Sing
- Sept 26 Decommissioning of the church edifice – final worship at the current location
- Sept 28 Closing on sale of church
- Sept 30 Last day of use of current church building
- Oct 3 Worship in Greenleaf (7:45 and 10:15)
- Oct 14 Resume Thursday worship – at 6:30 in Greenleaf

### CO-OCCUPANCY FOR A TIME

Legally, property ownership transfers from seller to buyer at “closing,” scheduled for September 28, or earlier if legal paperwork is ready. However, the seller (St. John) and buyer (Walter Croll of Minnesota) have arranged for the transfer in a way that advantages each party. Mr. Croll has already begun moving his personal and music-business belongings into the church, and we will continue to use the property for a time after closing. Is this another in a string of blessings? Hint: “Every...perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights” James 1:17.

### REMOVAL & STORAGE

If you've moved your household belongings to a new home lately, you know that not every aspect of the move goes as planned, not every turn of events can be foreseen, and that to some degree one must “wing it.” So it will be with the move out of our church.



Church groups and organizations are already full at it with moving the belongings of their respective organizations. Some things will be moved into our temporary location in Greenleaf, others will be kept at member homes, and still others will go into storage until our new facility is finished.

Each Saturday morning in September will be “official” time for packing/moving/storage. No, George won't be

doing it all, nor could he if he tried. This move is in accord with the commitment made by us as a congregation. We all “own” it. **Call the office now to say you're eager to lend a hearty hand.**

“Whatever you do, keep working at it with all your heart, as for the Lord....” – the Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:23)

### BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Building Committee recently traveled to Fond du Lac to meet again with our architect and builder. As a result we have updated plans showing more clearly just what we plan to build in Phase One, together with various tweaks to the interior space. These updates are on display in the church entry. Because of the careful pace at which we are proceeding, we have determined that site preparation, originally scheduled for this fall, will instead begin next spring. It is likely, then, that the 2022-2023 school year will begin in the old school building.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thick were the packets of financial information recently submitted to three financial institutions. In addition, your Finance Committee has met personally with officials from two of those institutions. There is much for those institutions to study, to consider, to weigh, so this is not a speedy process.

To keep the average interest commitments as low as possible, you will soon be invited to consider a new means by which members can support the B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S project. At this point let's say only this: Even though you may never have heard of this concept before, don't be frightened by it. The commercial lending officers from two local financial institutions considered the idea as novel, but also said the plan was sound and workable. Stay tuned!

**St. Paul's Greenleaf Church**

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