



# PANTHER PATTERN

A weekly newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran School (August 31, 2017)



Texas National Guard soldiers assist residents affected by flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Aug. 27, 2017. National Guard photo by Lt. Zachary West

Hurricane Harvey has set records for the most rainfall from a single storm – in some areas of Texas more than 50 inches of rain have fallen. Heavy wind and rain for four days! It is difficult to imagine. Assessment of the devastation is just beginning. As I write this, Harvey is paying a visit to Louisiana.

Pastor Andrew Schroer of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Edna, Texas, wrote an article before the Harvey hit that is posted on wels.net. The sermon he had been preparing for Sunday was from Matthew 14:22-34 - Jesus walks on water and calms the storm. Pastor Schroer points out that Jesus sent his disciples onto the Sea of Galilee, fully aware of the storm that was coming. Below is an excerpt from his article.

*Principal, Ben Bain*

God often sends us directly into the storm – be it hurricanes, cancer, divorce, or whatever problems pound you with rain, hail and heartache. He sends us into the storm because he knows it will be for our good.

Jesus sent his disciples into the storm to teach them to trust in his power and love. Through the storms of life, God teaches us to trust in him and not in ourselves. He reminds us of what is truly important. He reminds us that we are not in control and shows us that he is.

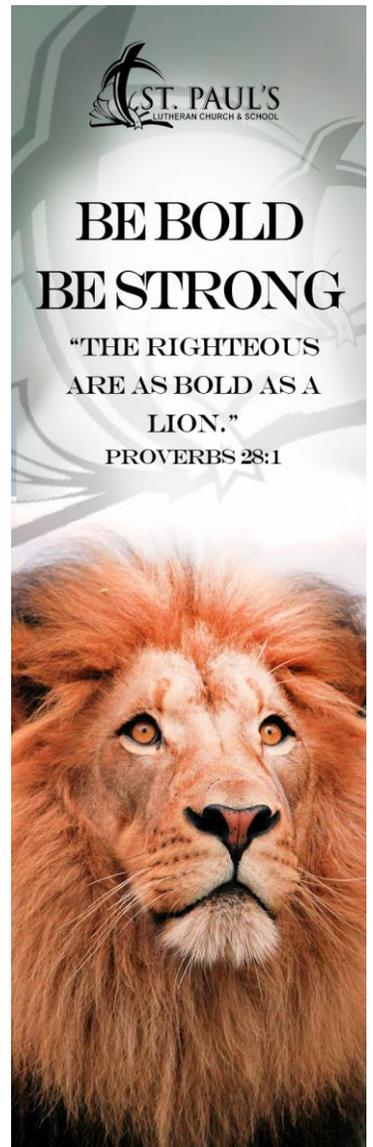
That doesn't mean it will be easy. Just like Peter, our feet are going to get wet. It's going to be hard. But God doesn't send us into the storm alone. He comes to us in his Word and promises. Though we cannot see him, he stands beside us, watching over us, protecting us and at times carrying us through the flood in his powerful arms.

And he promises us that the storm will end. Right now we are in the middle of it, but the pain and problems caused by Harvey will end one day. That's God's promise. Even if we struggle through storms our whole lives here on earth, Jesus has won for us a home in heaven where there are no hurricanes, floods or any other pain or problem.

As you stand in the middle of the storm, don't forget that. Good will come from this. Your Savior is standing by your side. He will get you through.

The storm will end.

*Those wishing to read updates of how Hurricane Harvey has affected our WELS churches and schools, as well as to offer aid, may visit wels.net. Christian Aid and Relief are working to coordinate support efforts. Above all, pray for the victims of this disaster.*



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

**BE BOLD  
BE STRONG**

"THE RIGHTEOUS  
ARE AS BOLD AS A  
LION."  
PROVERBS 28:1

## BUSING CONCERNS AND EARLY DISMISSALS

Throughout the school year, we have several early dismissals scheduled. We have worked out transportation issues with both the Onalaska and Holmen Public Schools so that we will dismiss at noon on those dates. Both school districts will have special routes set up to transport your children to your homes on those dates. **Be sure to check the back of your 2017-18 school calendar or the Holmen or Onalaska school district calendars for special days for you to make arrangements for our early dismissals.** Remember that when Luther does not have school or if they have early dismissals due to finals, etc., those buses will not be running and you will have to find another way of getting your child to and from school. Lunch will be served on early dismissal days.

## MORNING ARRIVALS OF STUDENTS

We are thankful for the efforts being made by parents to arrive no earlier than 7:30 am. We realize that the timing of your arrivals may vary, but we ask that you not drop off your children before the doors open. If you do arrive early, please keep your child in your car until the bell rings and the doors open. This will alleviate any need for the supervision of students before school begins. Our teachers meet each morning 7:20-7:30 for devotion and prayer. We appreciate your cooperation.

## PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

We are blessed to have wonderful playground equipment that the children love to play on. Parental supervision after school is a must so that the children can play in a safe environment. We ask parents who are picking up their children to please, collect them by the main school and church doors. With parental supervision, the playground may be used after the buses leave. We really appreciate your help with this. The safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us.

## PARKING LOT SAFETY

We want to thank you for taking extra precautions as you enter and leave the parking lot. We have a great deal of congestion in the school parking lot both before and after school hours as parents drop their children off for school and pick them up at the end of the school day. It is wonderful that so many parents are able to drive their children to and from school each day, but that means that there are a lot of children arriving at the same time, and we do not want any of them to get hurt.

When picking up your children after preschool, kindergarten, or at the end of the school day, please park in the parking spaces provided. Do not park under the canopy, or in the areas where there are "No Parking During School Hours" signs along the west side of the school building and by the playground. We caution the children to walk to their cars and to always look for oncoming vehicles, but it is extremely difficult to monitor every single child as they walk through the parking lot. We would appreciate parents also speaking to their children about looking both ways when they enter the parking area and walking at all times. Thank you for your careful driving.

## SINGING SCHEDULE

Grades 7 and 8 will sing in the 8:00 am service Sunday, September 10. The Junior Choir will sing at both the 8:00 & 10:30 am services Sunday, September 17. Grades 3 and 4 will sing in the 10:30 am service Sunday, September 24.

## BAND NEWS

We have 32 students participating in band this year. New students will begin lessons on Wednesday, September 6. **Regular weekly band lessons will be held on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays starting September 13.** Please note that band lessons will be billed through our school office. Please make your checks out to Luther High School, but submit them to Lori or Elaine in the school office.

## SCHOOL PICTURES

We will be using LifeTouch School Portraits out of Eau Claire again this year. It is a pre-purchase package. You pay when the pictures are taken. LifeTouch guarantees that you will be satisfied or they will take your child's picture again or refund your money. ***Please be sure to send the form and money in the envelope provided to school on Picture Day, Tuesday, September 12 or order online at [www.mylifetouch.com](http://www.mylifetouch.com) and enter in the picture day ID: MI427187YO.*** All children will have their pictures taken so that they will be included in the class composites. Please have your child dress appropriately even if you are not purchasing pictures. ***Make all checks out to LifeTouch, not the school.***

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### PLEASE REPORT

#### ANY TRANSPORTATION CHANGES TO YOUR TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENTS:

*Onalaska School District, Shelly Kult, 608.783.5489  
Holmen School District, Beth Hobbs, 608.526.4752  
GoRiteWay (Luther High Bus), Pam, 608.881.6372*

**Please note: only children living in the Holmen School District may ride the Holmen bus.**

### ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

According to the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) 40 CFR 763.93 (g)(4) the responsible official for the school must inform all employees, parents, and teachers organizations that a complete inspection for asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) was conducted by an accredited inspector. All locations of identified or assumed ACBM are described in an asbestos management plan. The management plan is available for anyone to review and is located in the church files in the Staff Minister's office. These notices must be given in writing on an annual basis.