



Taking Christ's Light to Campus

Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel (UW-Madison)

Lent 2017

My Resolution - A Message from Our New Pastor

"High School students can sense someone who is fake from a mile away."

Those were words of advice I received from a veteran teacher when I began teaching in high school 17 years ago. I remember being anxious about how I would relate to the teen students I was instructing. That counsel served me well in my interactions with the students, because it was an encouragement to simply be myself.

God has placed before me a new challenge, to serve God's people in Madison at the Chapel. This new ministry fills me with excitement – but it also brings with it some fear and anxiety. The Chapel members and its supporters are gifted Christians who are highly intelligent! How am I ever going to live up to such a challenge?



Pastor Jon and Mary Bilitz

When those thoughts creep into my head, I am comforted by the only source of peace – the Word of our God. I recall the apostle Paul feeling similar anxiety as he entered the city of Corinth to preach to the gifted people there. Should he try eloquence? Should he demonstrate superior wisdom? That wasn't his job! Paul made this promise to himself and the people of Corinth: ***"I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*** (1 Corinthians 2:2)

What a resolution! Paul got it. He understood that only Jesus would make a difference in the lives of the Corinthians. He directed their attention to the Savior.

As I consider my own apprehensions, I am comforted by the job God has given me to do and the promises he has made. *"You plant and water,"* God says, *"and I will make things grow."* My resolution is the same as Paul's and my goal is his, too. I will use the strength that God alone gives to focus on Jesus Christ and him crucified.

I can't wait to get started. I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of the faithful workers who have gone before me. Please pray with me that God will continue to bless the Chapel as we seek to know Jesus Christ and make him known on Campus. God bless you all!

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Jon Bilitz



Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel & Student Center - University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Baptizing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)



Pastor Trapp celebrating Youmi's baptism, joined by her Christian boyfriend from Korea, Dohun Lee.

We are certainly blessed to have many international students come through our doors to hear about Jesus. One such person is Youmi Suk from South Korea, studying for her Ph.D in educational psychology at UW-Madison. She was baptized in early February, and warmly welcomed into the Chapel congregation. In her testimony at the baptism, she prayed, "I thank you Jesus, for all the work that you have done for me. I thank you for having me as your child. I promise that I will live for your glory now and forever." She is one of the 130 international students we serve weekly on campus.



Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel & Student Center (WELS)

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Winter Get-Away 2017

Building Christ-like Leaders...

Testimony from a Leader of Faith

Late in my freshman year at UW, God brought me to Chapel for counseling after a college friend unexpectedly passed away. Even with my WELS K-12 upbringing, this was the first time I had actually talked about my faith, and God used it to start a spark. The following years, God brought me into small groups and part-time work at Chapel which allowed me to talk about my faith weekly – turning that spark into a flame. He fanned those flames with Vespers, drama team, and (eternal) friends from the annual Winter Get-Away. Finally, in the student leadership retreat my senior year, God instilled in me the astounding love of an infinite God giving up everything to serve insignificant sinful me.

From that point on, Chapel has been about opportunities to give back. Since graduating, I have been blessed to serve in drama, worship, small groups, and Judy's Student Outreach Support Team – always praying for God to start a few more sparks in the students we reach. Today, God has blessed me in serving financially through donations, on the Chapel Governing Board, and helping plan the Next Steps for bringing Chapel's transformational ministry to the future lay leaders of his Church! - Steve Ludwig



Governing Board member and Financial Donor Steve Ludwig with his wife, Ashley