

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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By: Gary Jahnke

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**St. Paul Lutheran Dedication Ceremony for \$2MM Early Childhood Center**

**(Appleton, Wis.)** – St. Paul Lutheran Church is proud to announce a Dedication and Grand Opening Ceremony for its new Early Childhood Center located at the corner of N. Morrison and E. Harris Streets in downtown, Appleton, WI on Sunday, September 13th. The event begins with a cornerstone laying at noon. Among the guests invited to attend the ceremony: Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, Wisconsin's 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Reid Ribble, and WELS National Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministries, Cindi Holman.

Serving all families in the Fox Valley, the \$2MM Early Childhood Center (ECC) opened on September 1, 2015 and accommodates up to 68 children ages six weeks to five years old.

Rev. Kenneth Frey, Senior Pastor at St. Paul is excited about the new building and opportunities for outreach, "The first thing you notice about the Early Childhood Center is how bright it is. Large windows and skylights bring a lot of natural light into the building. We thank Catalyst Construction for the wonderful job they did with design and construction. We believe the people who live and work in downtown Appleton will have a place where their children will grow physically, intellectually and spiritually in a quality environment."

Catalyst Construction Senior Project Manager, Dave Rhoda, believes good teamwork and communication led to the success of the project, "We were proud to partner with St. Paul to create the new, safe, supportive and Christ-centered Early Childhood Center. It is always exciting to work on projects that include great leadership and impressive designs."

St. Paul ECC Director, Ashley Steinmetz knows the new ECC has the staff parents and children will appreciate, "You can walk through our halls and hear highly qualified teachers interacting with the children they are entrusted to care for. All of our lead teachers have either their Bachelor's degree in Education or their Associate's degree in Early Childhood. We believe that each child is a unique child of God and that is reflected in our classrooms everyday! "

Immediately following the Dedication Ceremony there will be tours of the new facility and a reception in the school gym.

The Dedication Ceremony and facility tours are open to the public. Free parking is available in the Appleton City Parking Ramp on Franklin and in the St. Paul Church parking lot.

***St. Paul Early Childhood Center (ECC) is open to all families in the Fox Valley and provides year round full-time and part-time Christian Childcare to children ages six weeks to five years. Serving the Appleton area for over 15 years, the ECC is staffed by dedicated and caring teachers who possess the training and passion to create warm and engaging learning environments for children's overall development. Teachers provide individual attention, developmentally appropriate activities and continuous encouragement. Both teachers and support staff work in partnership with parents so they have peace of mind that their children are in a loving, safe and enjoyable environment. For more information, contact St. Paul Early Childhood Center Director, Ashley Steinmetz (920) 733-9061.***

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