

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **January 9 at 9:00 a.m.** Little Dresses. (Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **January 23 from 9:00-3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

BIBLE STUDY

Sack Lunch Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays, **January 8, 15, 22 & 29** at 12:30 p.m. in the church lounge.

Men's Early Risers will meet at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, **January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30** at Cook's Café.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **January 14 at 2:30 p.m.** at Gladys Drenkow's home.
Bible Study/Hostess: Carleen Kehrberg

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes will resume on **January 6 (10:15 - 11:20 a.m.)**.

JAM

The JAM Program (2nd-5th grades) will resume on Wednesday, **January 2, from 5-6:15 p.m.** with a meal being served each week.

ST. PAUL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jr. High Youth: January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (**5:00-6:20 p.m.**) Youth Group Meets - Meal Served
January 27 (**10:15-11:45 a.m.**) Babysitting During Annual Meeting

Sr. High Youth: January 2 (**7:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth/Parents/Pastor Night
January 9, 16, 23 & 30 (**7:30-8:30 p.m.**) Youth Group Meets
January 27 (**10:15-11:45 a.m.**) Babysitting During Annual Meeting

St. Paul Lutheran Church LIVE Radio Broadcast
on KIWA - FM 100.7 Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

2019 RADIO BROADCAST/FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR/COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

The sign-up charts are located on the balcony bulletin board. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored or volunteered for any of these special services for St. Paul.

Please notify the office (324-3049) for any changes, additions, or cancellations.

Radio Broadcast Open Dates: January 6, 20, 28; February 3, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 9, 16, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 18, 25; September 1, 8, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 24; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 24(4:30 p.m.), 29. To sponsor a radio broadcast it is \$80.



Coffee Fellowship Open Dates: February 3, 17; March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 28; May 5, 12, 19; June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Cookies and bars are optional. Please check the kitchen to make sure you have coffee and juice to serve. If you would like to be on the volunteer list for Coffee Fellowship to serve on an open Sunday, please call the church office.

Flowers On The Altar Open Dates: January 6, 13, 20, 27; February 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19; June 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1, 8, 22, 29; October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.



St. Paul Website: www.stpaulsheldon.org Office: (712) 324-3049

Pastor Craig Nissen: pastor@nethtc.net Or (712) 348-4740 Parsonage: (712) 324-0036

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals: Marjorie Wood (non member)
Dorothy Grave

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year Income	\$247,625.18
Fiscal Year Expense	\$254,738.51
Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	\$ - 7,113.33

November

Total Income	\$23,580.45
Total Expense	\$20,619.08
Income Less Expense	\$ 2,961.37

Roof Repair Project

Balance on Loan as of 12/7/18 \$ 0.00



ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All reports for the Annual Report are due in the church office NO LATER than Thursday, December 27, 2018! Please make sure to get your report in on time.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019, following the worship service at 10:15 a.m. The Jr. and Sr. High will provide childcare during the meeting. A dinner will be provided by the Camp Committee following the meeting. Free will offering and everyone is welcome. Proceeds go to camp scholarships.

ST. PAUL OFFICE HOURS

Please note, the St. Paul Offices will be CLOSED on January 1.

FINANCIAL BOOKS

The financial books for the church year at St. Paul Lutheran will close on Monday, December 31, 2018. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2019 giving.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP AND SUPPER

St. Paul will have a New Year's Eve Worship service on Monday, December 31 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Potluck Supper following the service at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for worship, food, fellowship, and fun this New Year's Eve.

CAMP COMMITTEE

The Camp Committee will be hosting the luncheon following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27 in the fellowship hall for a free will offering. Please come join us for a delicious meal and to support our kids for summer camp. Youth and parents are asked to help with this meal and to provide a salad or dessert. Please refer to the letter you will receive as to which you are to bring.

PARENT CAMP MEETING

There will be a brief meeting for parents of our youth interested in attending IOLBC Camp this summer on Sunday, January 13 following the Worship service at 10:15 a.m. We will hand out registration forms and parent commitment forms at this time and answer any questions. Please note if you are planning on a Camp Scholarship from St. Paul Camp Committee, registrations MUST be turned into the Church office no later than February 20.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSEMBLE ANNUAL REPORT

We will be assembling the Annual Report at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 11. If anyone would like to assist with assembling the Annual Report, please notify the office.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2019 offering envelope boxes are completed and in your church mailbox. If you did not receive an offering envelope box and wish to have one, please contact the church office (324-3049). Please notice mailboxes have been moved due to updating.

PANCAKE SUPPER IN FEBRUARY

Mark you calendars for the Annual St. Paul Lutheran Church Pancake and Sausage Supper on Monday, February 4 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Free will offering will be taken.



ST. PAUL TO DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS IN MARCH

Volunteers are needed as St. Paul will be delivering Meals On Wheels in March! Two volunteers with one vehicle is needed to deliver the Meals On Wheels in the month of March, Monday through Friday. Please see the sign-up calendar in the narthex, thank you.

TOUCH OF HOPE HAITI

St. Paul has an ongoing mission started by our youth to support Lensley Raymond from Simonette, Haiti. This sponsorship will help with his school expenses each year. If you would like to make a donation towards Lensley's school tuition through your offering, there is a dedicated fund set up (Touch of Hope Haiti).

From Pastor Craig

Brothers and Sisters of St Paul Lutheran Church,

Have you ever seen this on a bumper sticker, a poster, or perhaps a meme on Facebook?

“Please be patient, God isn’t finished with me yet!”

Though I’m not a fan of bumperstickers, I’ve always liked this one when I’ve seen it. Despite the problems of communicating complexities and nuance in our twitter and bumpersticker age, this one carries a lot of truth. And it’s not a bad slogan for starting a new year.

The notion that “God isn’t finished with me yet” embraces two things:

- 1) that there will always be room for me to be improved in this life, and
- 2) that I’ve gladly left the project under God’s direction.

I’m not expected to be perfect now. I don’t have to *pretend that I am*, or believe that my sins are a *shock to God* or that they make me *worse than anybody else*. But I know God sees aspects of my life, my character, my thinking, that *do* require pruning, growing, redirecting, confronting, and light. (Luther would accurately say, death and resurrection.)

We are never finished in this life, but we can see in Jesus what God is *always* aiming for. We are never finished in this life, but we are not expected or even able to perfect ourselves – because our aim is not so true.

We are never finished in this life, *but this is not an excuse or permission for sin* against God – it does not absolve us from responsibility to our neighbors near or far. Becoming who God calls us to be is about recognizing and surrendering to God’s target – knowing Christ, pledging allegiance, falling in love.

(Caution: it’s easy to replace the Biblical Jesus with one of our own creation, one that thinks a LOT like us.)

A disciple is a person who has decided that the most important thing in their life is to learn how to do what Jesus said to do. A disciple is not a person who has things under control, or knows a lot of things. Disciples simply are people who are constantly revising their affairs to carry through on their belief in Jesus. ~ Dallas Willard

What we are about is not success, but faithfulness. ~ Clarence Jordan

Good ideas to hold anytime we start over, and as we begin again, a New Year!

From Fuller Seminary's Youth Institute:

The Most Important Relationship Skill Anyone Can Learn *3 steps to being a more attentive listener*

Recently we asked two therapists to share advice on what to do and say when a young person discloses sexual abuse. Today we welcome Megan Lundgren back to the blog as she begins a two-part series offering professional, practical advice for adults responding to students who are hurting. Let's nurture empathy for young people as they follow Jesus toward a transformative faith.

Have you ever felt deeply heard by someone? In "Caring Enough to Hear and Be Heard," David Augsburger writes, "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable."

If the deepest human desires are to be known and loved, listening intently to another person is a clear path to fulfilling these desires. **Attentive listening is, in my opinion, the most significant relational skill a Christian can possess.**

Do you sometimes feel like you missed a class on relationship skills? We are not born with a skillset for active listening; it is a discipline that is learned and honed over time. Though some families model and teach active listening well, many others do not. Adults who have not received a helpful model for listening skills in childhood often do not have opportunities to receive this education via curriculum in university or seminary settings. **For adults who desire to listen (and thus, love) well, here are three steps you can take, based on principles used to train therapists.**

Let's consider the scenario of a student in your youth group who shares information with you which is sensitive and vulnerable.

1. Encourage

Step one is to encourage the young person in order to affirm their willingness to speak vulnerably. The following strategies are methods for reflecting respect and validation of the student, in hopes that they will prompt the student to share more of their experience:

- Hold a silence after he or she shares vulnerable information rather than trying to fill the space immediately with words.
- Use the person's name when responding to their sharing.
- Pick out key feeling words that the student is expressing, and reflect them back with a question tone; this encourages the student to expand further on these feelings. For example, if a student shares, "I feel insecure," you might respond simply, "Insecure?"

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2. Paraphrase

Paraphrasing and reflecting the student's content are active listening tools which meet multiple needs. In reflecting content back to the student, the listener develops rapport because the student knows that their words were heard. This also decreases the burden on the student to work harder to ensure their feelings and thoughts matter to the listener. If you've ever wondered why people sometimes repeat themselves, increase volume or emotional intensity, or exaggerate, it may boil down to deeper needs of feeling heard or validated.

- Reflect back the vulnerable content that the girl or boy shared, highlighting key feelings and thoughts. Try to use the student's exact language for feelings and thoughts when possible. E.g, "It sounds like you feel ... [insert feelings and thoughts shared by the student]."
- End with a clarifying question: "Is that right? Am I hearing you correctly?"

3. Summarize

Synthesize all of the information that was shared as a means of providing the student with closure to the experience of sharing vulnerable information. Summarizing is similar to paraphrasing in that it reflects what was shared, but summarizing focuses on the most significant feelings and needs. Summarizing may be reflected back to the student as the listener thanks the speaker for their vulnerable sharing. If appropriate, you may also ask if you can pray for the student, and summarize the student's feelings and needs in your prayer.

Active listening is deceptively simple. The most common *mistakes* include:

- Fixating on content (what is being said) rather than feelings (how they felt);
- Prioritizing problem solving above listening, and;
- Withdrawing rather than engaging.

When adults listen well, children and teenagers have an opportunity to feel that they are deeply known and loved—ultimately something that we all want. Truly, to listen to students well may be one of the most practical ways parents and care givers can love our neighbor as ourselves (c.f. Matthew 27.39).

Adult Sunday School Options

Pastor Craig will be offering adult Sunday School again, beginning January 6 and through the Spring. He has several short (4-6 week) studies in mind.

Please contact Pastor Craig if you're interested in the 6-week course "Holding Your Family Together." This is ideal for families with young children and/or teenagers. Not many books on Amazon get 99% five star reviews. Let's read it together!

Other course options will be "Love Does" based on the book of the same name, and more series from the collection "That the World May Know" by Ray Vanderlaan.

EPIC/PACT APPLICATION FORM

Any high school senior or college student planning on applying for EPIC/PACT funds for the 2019/2020 school year needs to complete and turn in this form to the church office by Sunday, **January 27, 2019.**

Name: _____
College: _____

For Office Use: Date Submitted: _____ Received By: _____ Awarded Scholarship: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Amount Awarded: _____

REV. DR. KENNETH H. ARNOLD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The “Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund” has been established by St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa, in deep appreciation for the ministry of Pastor Arnold at St. Paul from 2000-2006, and in recognition of his faithful support of Lutheran colleges and seminaries.

The scholarship fund monies will be invested and only the interest will be used to grant one scholarship per year to:

- A member of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa, who is attending, full time:
- Lutheran College
 - Wittenberg Institute, Lutheran Graduate School of Theology, Everett, Washington
 - Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania
 - Any Other NALC Related Seminaries

The Church Council will review applications, choose a recipient, and determine the amount of the scholarship each year. Scholarship recipients may reapply each year, but the scholarship will be awarded first to an applicant who has not been a past recipient of this scholarship. Application:

Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Application Form

Name: _____
College: _____

For Office Use: Date Submitted: _____ Received By: _____ Awarded Scholarship: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Amount Awarded: _____

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Arnold Memorial Scholarship Application Form Deadline: January 6, 2019.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The By-Laws of the Endowment Fund Committee state that the committee may appropriate money for “scholarships for members of St. Paul Lutheran Church attending Lutheran educational institutions, including seminaries, universities, colleges, high schools, elementary schools, and preschools or daycare...” To this end, the committee is entertaining requests from member-applicants who will be attending college or university affiliated with the Lutheran Church next fall. These funds could also be requested for a member-applicant attending Noah’s Ark Preschool. Qualified persons should also submit an application to the church office which includes the Lutheran school which they will attend this fall. Applications will be accepted until **Friday, January 4, 2019.** Scholarships cannot be used towards EPIC/PACT. Contact the church office for more information.

ENDOWMENT FUND FORM

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for funds to be used for worldwide missions and for missions in the congregation and/or surrounding community. Forms will be made available in the newsletter and at the back of the church, or you may contact the church office. These funds are not to be used for any normally budgeted operating expenses of St. Paul. Requests should be addressed to the Endowment Fund Committee and sent or delivered to the church office by **Friday, January 4, 2019.**

Name of individual, group, or organization for which funds are being requested:

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Date Needed: _____

Proposed use for requested funds:

Additional information:

Contact Person:

Name _____

Phone _____

Recipient's Address:

Date Submitted: _____