



River's Edge

St. James and St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 2, Issue 12

Special points of interest:

- Cookie Walk— December 8th after church
- St. James Children's Christmas Service— Dec. 15th.
- St. Paul's Family Christmas Service— Dec. 22nd.
- Church Council— Dec. 19th
- Trustees— December 10.

Inside this issue:

- PreSchool News 2
- Firing Up the Youth 2
- Our Jesus Tree 2
- Birthdays and Anniversaries 3
- Above and Beyond Award 3
- A special Thank you 3
- Continued from pg. 4

During the month of December, I find myself super busy trying to get everything done. Sounds like a common refrain. Being a pastor, there are additional things that come up that don't just include the Christmas Parties, Shopping, Wrapping, Baking, and Decorating. There are more sermons to write, more bulletins to prep, along with coordinating different Advent and Christmas Events here at the church. Not to mention all my normal pastoral business, such as visiting shut-ins and the like. I get so busy, that oftentimes, I forget to pray.

This year, God has placed something in my life to make sure I keep praying. On November 18, I learned that I have received a Divine Call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Kroschel (Hinckley), MN.

Season's Greetings, Everyone! Well, here we are at the most wonderful time of the year-and what's for many-the busiest time of the year! Please make time to be reflective about our dear Savior's birth and what it means for you by attending Advent services and taking time to read devotions and God's Word.

We've been busy here at St. Paul's! The banner-makers finished up two new beautiful banners that

Praying during Advent



So at the time of this writing I have two Calls, my present Call here at St. James and St. Paul's and now this call to St. John's. I have been praying for the Lord to guide me in which Call I will follow. As I pray and meditate on Scripture, I would ask that you would pray for my family and me, as well as your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St.

John's in Kroschel. In no way is this an easy decision. Remember, whether the Lord leads me to leave or to stay, that is the Lord's will. I seek to have a decision for each congregation by December 15.

How's your Advent prayer life? Might I ask that as you continue to go through your Advent preparations for Christmas, seek His face, and go to Him in prayer asking for the Lord's guidance in all of life's circumstances? He will lead you. I also ask that as you take time to pray this Advent season, take time out to worship the Coming King, who has already come once into the world.

May God bless all of you this Advent Season.

St. Paul's News and Notes

are such a blessing! Thanks to all who have helped and contributed. Our first soup & sandwich of the season was great as we greeted old friends and met some new ones. It's always nice to see our St. James people, too. Our next luncheon is on Wednesday, the 11th.

We had two bake sales with a brat fry to help us contribute to Camp LuWiSoMo. Helping them out is

sure a worthy cause. While our deer hunters were out in the woods we decided not to get ahead of them in our Sunday morning Bible Study, so we used the time to write out some cards for the Christmas for Heroes program. Thanks Pastor for the opportunity to express our appreciation.

I like to include thoughtful little sayings, poems, etc. in this column. If you have any to share feel free

(Continued on page 4)

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PreSchool News



November was wonderful! We learned about “The Battle of Jericho,” “Ruth,” “Samuel as a Boy,” “David and Goliath,” and “Daniel and the Lions Den.” Brown was our color of the month and we are counting up the number 7. We can do our ABCs up letter K. We continue to count with the calendar each day and recognizing our names is much easier now.

November is a great month to remember everything for which we are thankful. I am thankful for my wonderful family. I am thankful for the great house I live in and the fact that God provides for all my needs. I am thankful for all the wonderful students that God has given us and the Transition Group that helps us. We thank God for each snack that we share together and talked about the Pilgrims and Squanto

who, with the aid of lots and lots of Native Americans, put together the first fantastic Thanksgiving dinner, which lasted for days. We shared a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner and talked about all of our blessing. I all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

God’s Blessings to all of you,
Alivia, Channing, Daemen, Isabella, Josiah, Maddix, Mikaylee, Nolan, Sofi, and Sandy.

“Firing up the Youth”

We have so much to be thankful for. Our youth have been so blessed with your support.



Again this year with the holidays right around the corner the youth are having a “Love Light Christmas Tree”. The youth will be selling lights for \$1.00 each. You may purchase them in memory of a loved one or to honor a family member or friend. The tree will

be lit on December 4th, which is the first Advent Service.

Then on December 8th we are planning on having a “Cookie Walk”. We will be baking all kinds of cut out sugar cookies on Saturday the 7th. If you wish to donate cookies for the walk please sign up on the board in the Fellowship Hall. They may be dropped off at church Saturday afternoon December 7th 2 to 6.

Don’t forget we are selling 2014 calendars and religious Christmas cards also this month as well. The calendars are beautiful with great Bible verses and only \$7.00. All of our efforts are to help Camp LuWiSiMo continue to operate. Your support is appreciated.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

**Terry & Linda Schmidt,
Youth Leaders**



Once you’ve seen
our Jesus Tree
You’ll know the
story’s end,
For Jesus is our
Christmas Gift,
Our Savior and
our Friend!

It is that time of year once again for our children to tell us, as only as they can, in their precious little voices, about the very first Christmas. They will be telling everyone (including radio-land) about Jesus’ birth on Sunday, December 15 at our 10:30 worship service so please keep that morning open and come and hear them speak and sing. Bring grandparents, neighbors, and friends, but remember, no flash pictures—it is a worship

“Our Jesus Tree”

service. This is one of our largest attended services and is a great chance for new member outreach.

It takes a lot of courage and practice to get these little ones “brave” and ready for that day so they need encouraging help at home. The children have been given their speaking parts and songs to learn.

Practices will be:

- Dec. 1 immediately following church until 2 PM
 - Dec. 8 immediately following church until 2 PM
- (Both of these days lunch will be provided.)
- December 11 from 4-6 PM

Please come and listen to these little ones once again, in a unique and different way, tell us that wonderful story.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

St. James Birthdays

Dec. 1—Ben Smelcer
 Dec. 3—Lisa Smelcer
 Dec. 8—Taylor Stott
 Dec. 9—Mike Bluell
 Dec. 11—Kathy Hardy
 Shayla Elliott-Bell
 Dec. 13—Randy Randall
 Dec. 14—Dave Hess
 Dec. 15—Jan Elliott-Bell
 Lori Winters
 Dec. 16—Brittany Coots
 Wendy Horbinski
 Dec. 17—Tom Winters
 Dec. 21—Gary Jump
 Kanda Stott
 Devon Ruskowsky

Dec. 23—Noah Waltemath
 Dec. 27—Vivian Elliott
 Dec. 29—Sheri Reichel
 Dec. 30—Taylor Brooks
 Dec. 31—Isabell Negaard
 Tyler Reichel
 Kristen Elliott

St. James Anniversaries

Dec. 1—Kelly and Bernice Jump
 Dec. 19—Palmer and MaryAnn Peterson

St. Paul's Birthdays

Dec. 18—Glenn Bennett
 Dec. 19—Grant Huebner
 Dec. 31—Glen Skibba

St. Paul's Anniversaries

Dec. 31—Chris and Tracey Draper



Above and Beyond Award

After last year's Swiss Steak Dinner, we knew there was going to be a change at who was heading up the Swiss Steak Dinner this year.

First, we would like to thank Linda Schmidt for her many years of leading the Swiss-Steak Dinner along with her counterpart Doris Anderson.

The last couple of years Sherry Randall stepped into Doris' place.

This year, Loretta Saunders and Erik Torgerson stepped up in a big way and ran the Swiss Steak Dinner.

With that being said, our Above and Beyond Award for November goes to Loretta and

Erik for all their hard work.

However, we can't just say thank you to them. We give a big thank you to all of you who helped in one way or another for the dinner. Without you it would not be a success.

"Our Above and Beyond Award for November goes to Loretta and Erik."

Thank—YOU

We want to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Mike and Terry Schmidt for their recent visit to our home. It was great to have them as guests. Our visit with them was in a casual setting and it was an opportunity to discuss a variety of things and share ideas to increase church mem-

bership and membership retention.

Assuredly there will be many ideas generated during coming visits with other congregation members and will no doubt create interesting topics to share in larger groups.

We know both Pastor and Terry have very busy schedules and the time they spent with us was much appreciated.

Dave and Mary Lou Arnold



Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In With the Lord



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Please keep Pastor Mike, Emily and Hannah in your prayers as they deliberate a Call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Kroschel (Hinckley), MN.

(continued from page 1)

to email me at: gospel-gall@hotmail.com

Jim, I and everyone at St. Paul's want to wish each of you a very happy and blessed Christmas! I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you what's happening here and add my occasional personal comments as well.

I'd like to share this lovely poem with you in my last column for 2013. Take care and God's richest blessings!

Deb Winters

The Lord's Light Within

Lord, we reflect with thankful hearts

On the wonder of your birth
The love you expressed when

you left

Your glory to come to earth
For your life was like a beacon,
Lord

Shining brightly in the night
Filling the world with the radiance of

The Father's glorious light

And we, too, long to have inside
Your light for others to see
The beautiful reflection of your grace

And the wonder of your majesty

For as your life indwells our hearts,

We can shine wherever we are

And arise to take hold of each new day

With your light ablaze in our hearts

So rekindle the flame within us,
Lord

So it will not flicker nor dim
Ignite us with the light of your love,

So you will shine brightly within

By M.S. Lowndes

