



St. James and St. Paul's River's Edge

St. James and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

Volume 3, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Pastor Declined the Call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Kroschel, MN.
- Above and Beyond Award goes to...
- Bible Readings are on page 3.
- If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically go to our website and enter your name and email address.

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This Advent season has been much more chaotic than I remember past Advents being. I am sure this is due to several things. Number one, I am a dad; Hannah takes up time that I used to use on other things. (I don't remember what those things are!) Secondly, we are preparing for the birth of our second daughter, coming quickly in the month of January. Thirdly, on November 18, I received a phone call that potentially could have changed the course of my ministry. I received a phone call from the circuit counselor in the Kettle River Circuit in Minnesota telling me that St. John's in Kroschel voted to call me to be their next pastor.

I'm Staying!



Upon receiving the Call Documents on November 21, I immediately started praying and asking the Lord where he intended for me to serve. Many thoughts and emotions went through my mind as I worked my way through Thanksgiving and headed into the Advent Season. I had no idea what God had in store for me.

After visiting St. John's Lutheran Church in Kroschel, MN, I learned many things

about the church, my ministry, and my Call to St. James and St. Paul's. Over time though, the Lord was nudging me to stay here at St. James and St. Paul's. This is the Call that I have decided to keep and I have returned to the Call to St. John's. As I remain as your pastor, I would ask that you work with me as we serve our God in this place. I ask that you serve alongside me as we serve the people in our communities. Let's be the church that God is calling us to be. Let's be that beacon in the night.

I don't know how long the Lord will have me serve these two congregations.

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St. Paul's News and Notes

Happy New Year, Everyone!

I know I'm not the only one wondering where 2013 went...into the history books I guess!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday. We sure enjoyed ours. It's always a blessing to celebrate with our family and that includes our dear church family. That's something that we've been trying to promote here, getting together more as a family as well as a congregation.

Lord willing we can do it even more in 2014!

We are sure glad that Pastor Mike, Emily, Hannah and the new baby will be continuing on this journey called life here with us at St. James and St. Paul's. We need to let them know that we are all partners in the ministry of spreading the Gospel!

The next Soup and Sandwich will be on Wednesday, the 8th.

This has been Denna and my 3rd season with this endeavor. God has always guided and provided for us. We are "just" two women with one focus-to offer a good lunch and some loving fellowship to whoever can join us. Please remember that everyone is invited. You will always be greeted with a smile-and-if you don't mind, a hug!

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PreSchool News

It was a wonderful December! We talked about the REAL reason we celebrate Christmas—the birth of our Savior. We decorated our Christmas tree and made lots of ornaments to take home for our trees.

Our color was blue and we reviewed N, O, P and 8.

Our Bible Stories were: “The Birth of John,” “The First Christmas,” and “A Star Leads

the Way.”

We celebrated our last day before our holiday vacation by having a Christmas Party with our families. We sang “Away in a Manger”, “Jingle Bells” and gave everyone a special message —

**We Wish You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

God’s Blessings!

Alivia, Channing, Daemen,
Isabella, Josiah, Maddix,
Mikaylee, Nolan, Sofi
and Sandy



May the love our Lord Jesus bring you a healthy and prosperous New Year in 2014.

We would like to thank all those who helped with our Youth Cookie Walk and those who supported our efforts in buying cookies to help Camp LuWiSiMo.

We will also be holding a

Firing up the Youth

Superbowl Sub Sandwich sale on SuperBowl Sunday, February 2nd. We will be making the sandwiches Saturday February 1st from 9 till finished. Pre-order sales will be taken in the weeks before, January 12th through 26th. You will have a choice of Ham, Turkey or combo sandwich to order. Sign up on the order

chart in the Fellowship Hall . Cost of each Sub Sandwich will be \$5 and you will need to make arrangements to pick them up on **SuperBowl Sunday following the Church Service.**

Have a Blessed New Year
Terry & Linda Schmidt,
Youth Leaders



The lack of children in our Sunday School continues to be a problem, but yet Sunday School continues. We continue to hear the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the coming month we will see how Jesus grows into a man and begins his ministry and Calls his first disciples.

In the past month we celebrated the birthday of our Savior, even

with a birthday cake for Jesus. The young children even shared the message of the Savior’s birth with the congregation. It would be nice if all of these young children would be part of our Sunday School on a weekly basis.

As 2014 is upon us, once again VBS is going to be here before we know it. VBS 2014 is in need of a director. Please talk to Pastor

Children’s Ministry

Mike if you are interested. Our theme this year will be “Gangway to Galilee”. We will be looking at different stories of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee.

Come help make VBS 2014 a much bigger success than 2013 was.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

St. James Birthdays

Jan. 7-Ruth Berggren
 Jan. 8-Ellen Brobst
 Jan. 9-Elizabeth Chisick
 Selina Walters
 Jan. 10-Jenna Bistodeau
 Jan. 11-Gary Ruskowsky
 Jan. 12-Timothy Hess
 Jan. 15-Dayton Oens
 Jennie Steen
 Jan. 16-Loretta Saunders
 Jan. 17-Danny Winters

Jan. 18-Eva Simonson
 Jan. 19-Melanie Hess
 Jan. 20-Doris Hayden
 Jan. 21-Thomas Oens
 Jan. 29-Shan Bloomer
 Missie Gregar
 Jan. 31-Chelsea Kiesling

St. Paul's Birthdays

Jan. 11-Sheryl Bennett
 Kaitlyn Exner
 Jan. 22-Jaden Lewis

Jan. 23-Stephanie Exner
 Jan. 29-Nikki Pfannerstill

St. Paul's Anniversaries

Jan. 16- Pam & Scott Murray



Above and Beyond Award

It takes many people to make our worship services available on a weekly basis. There is one person that deserves this award that always goes above and beyond the call of duty.

During the month of December, she has taken the lead on the Children's Christmas Service the last two years. So

therefore without any further to do. Our December Above and Beyond Award winner is our organist, Sharon Lutz.

When you see Sharon this month, say thank you for all that she does.

An Honorable mention for December's Above and Beyond Award goes to our choir

who having gained a few new faces are definitely providing us with some beautiful music during this Holiday Season.

" Our December Above and Beyond Award winner is our organist, Sharon Lutz."

Bible Readings for January

For 2014 and 2015 we will go back to reading the entire Bible in two years. May God bless your journey through God's Word .

Week 1

January 6 – Genesis 1:1-2:25
 January 7 – Genesis 3:1-24
 January 8 – Genesis 4:1-6:8
 January 9 – Genesis 6:9-8:22
 January 10 – Genesis 9:1 -10:32
 January 11- Genesis 11:1-12:9
 January 12 – Come to the Lord's House and hear the Word of God

Week 2

January 13 – Genesis 12:10-13:18
 January 14 – Genesis 14:1-15:21
 January 15 – Genesis 16:1 – 17:27
 January 16 – Genesis 18:1-19:38
 January 17 – Genesis 20:1 – 21:33
 January 18 – Genesis 22:1-23
 January 19 – Come to the Lord's House and hear the Word of God

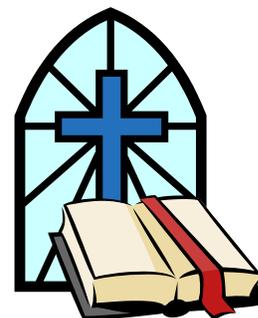
Week 3

January 20 – Genesis 23:1-24:66
 January 21 – Genesis 25:1-26:35
 January 22 – Genesis 27:1-28:22
 January 23 – Genesis 29:1 – 30:43
 January 24 – Genesis 31:1 – 33:20

January 25 – Genesis 34:1 – 35:29
 January 26 – Come to the Lord's House and hear the Word of God

Week 4

January 27 – Genesis 36:1-37:36
 January 28 – Genesis 38:1-39:23
 January 29 – Genesis 40:1-23
 January 30- Genesis 41:1-40
 January 31 – Genesis 41:41-57
 February 1 – Genesis 42:1-44:34
 February 2 – Come to the Lord's House and hear the Word of God



Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In With the Lord



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Tentatively planned for the 12th the St. Paul's ladies will have a meeting to revive our Ladies Aide group.

We'll be picking up Sunday morning Bible study with our wonderful material on understanding the Bible. We have already been through the Books of the Law, Books of History and will be continuing into the Books of Poetry. If you ask anyone who attends they will tell you how much we've all learned. Our focus is on seeing Jesus Christ in every book of the Bible. He's in there!

St. Paul's, Jim and I pray God's richest blessings on you all. I'll close with a poem that seems a good fit as we start a new year.

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Lord, help me appreciate the wonders of your ways,
To not get lost and desperate caught up in hectic days.
Can I recognize the beauty of a flower kissed by dew?
Do I realize the miracle of my being born anew?
Lord, teach me to meditate, to be still and feel your care.
Keep me from all worldly ways as I reach out to You in prayer.
May life never get too busy-may priorities never get confused.
For only then, Dear Jesus, am I ready to be used.

Until next month, take care and God Bless,
Deb

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I don't know when the Lord will call me elsewhere to serve another congregation in God's kingdom. The one thing I do know is that I am still in this place; I am still the pastor God desires to have in this place. Please remember that both congregations have a special place in my heart and know that I love each of you dearly and know that I pray for you. I would ask that you do the same for me and my family as we enter into 2014 with another life-altering event about to take place, the birth of our second child.

