



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:4-5

Many people do not like winter. They complain about the snow and especially the cold. However, I do not necessarily share that sentiment. I didn't really mind what they called cold when I was in Illinois, and I still haven't been bothered too much by my reintroduction to real winters. I remember my first winter in Illinois. Right after I arrived, there was a storm that they called “the blizzard of 99.” That was followed by what was called a snowfall record. I remembered thinking to myself, “Really? Is this as bad as it gets here?” We'll see if I still feel the same about winter here in Wisconsin when we reach the end of it...which at the rate things are going should be about the middle of May.

However, there is one thing about winter that I really don't like, and have never liked no matter where I was, and that is the lack of daylight. I don't like getting up in the dark and having it get dark again before supper. I don't like sitting at the breakfast table, staring out the dining room window, and seeing darkness that's as thick as the coffee in my cup only to have that same view again at supper. I suspect I am not alone on that.

I can only recall one time in my life hearing someone talk about how much they liked the dark. My one brother was constantly in trouble during his teenage years. He didn't just get into trouble at home but also at school and also with the local law enforcement. I remember complaining one time as a kid that I didn't like it when it got dark (after all the dark can be quite scary for young children), and he said that he loved it when it got dark. He started talking about how when it was dark it was easier to get away with things. He explained that he could go out and do things without getting caught. That really is the only reason for loving darkness, isn't it? Scripture equates darkness with evil.

Those of the light do not like darkness. Darkness scares more than just children, doesn't it? I suspect that there are parents even in our area who will not let their children walk alone after dark. People are often times afraid to go to places in the dark that they have no fear of when it is light. Darkness covers evil while the light exposes evil.

Christmas is all about light coming into the world. Some historians argue that Christmas was originally celebrated on December 25th because of the winter solstice. The idea was that Christmas would correspond to the end of the sun's retreat to the south showing that it had not been conquered by the darkness. The idea was that the Christians were showing that in the midst of the dark days of winter that the true Son, the light of the world, had come. It is impossible to know if that's how the date was set, but we do know that Christmas is all about the true light coming into the world. It is about Jesus penetrating the darkness that is so prevalent in our world.

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Mission Statement

The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran is to strengthen and support our members in their Christian faith through God's Word, the Sacraments, education, prayer and fellowship; thereby preparing them to be witnesses of the Gospel in our community and the world, so that all who believe shall receive the gift of eternal life.

Continued

Indeed, we do see darkness all around us, don't we? We see violence not just on our televisions, but on the streets of the cities in our country. We see people embracing sinful behavior and loving darkness. We see people immersing themselves in a sort of materialism at this time of the year that is more pronounced than at any other time. We see people living in absolute darkness. We see more and more people living without Christ and without any hope. We also experience darkness in our own lives. We experience the darkness that comes from the death of loved ones. We experience the darkness that is experienced from broken relationships. We see the darkness that so often exists in our own hearts.

It is into this darkness that the true light comes. It is at Christmas that we celebrate the true light, Jesus Christ, coming into the world and overcoming the darkness. That light would shine at Jesus' birth. It would be at the cross that the darkness would be the thickest, but it would be on Easter Sunday that the light would truly overcome the darkness.

It is in the midst of the darkness that we see all around us that the light of Christ shines. It is in the midst of the darkness of our own lives that the light of Christ shines. He comes and brings us light and hope in our lives.

Have a blessed Christmas,
Pastor Olson

Mission Festival will be celebrated on December 7. Pastor David Faulkner will be our guest preacher that day. Pastor Faulkner and his family will be serving as full time missionaries in Uruguay. Pastor Faulkner will be seeking to plant new churches in Uruguay and his wife Julie will be working with Colegio San Pablo School. We look forward to hearing Pastor Faulkner talk about the mission opportunities in Uruguay.

CHAPEL OFFERINGS: We had fantastic first quarter offerings from the Sunday School and St. Paul Lutheran School. Together our combined offerings raised \$581.19. Our offerings went to Heifer International based out of Little Rock, AR. They put farm animals into impoverished families around the world so they can make a living. Our money was able to buy a water buffalo, sheep, pig, rabbits and honeybees. We have started our second quarter offerings which will be used to buy books written in Spanish to go to missionary Rev. Faulkner as he goes to Uruguay.

St. Paul Charger News

2014-15 Theme: SOAR (Solid as a Rock)--“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

“And while they were, the time came for her to give birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:6

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, we pray that you will experience the joy of the salvation that is yours through Jesus Christ. The staff of St. Paul Lutheran School wishes you God’s blessings during this time.

Silent Night, Holy Night

***St. Paul Lutheran School Christmas Program
December 18, 7:00 pm***

Come join us as the children tell us the story of the birth of Jesus Christ through readings and songs.

There will also be pre-service music played by the music students

4K Registration

4K registration for the 2015-2016 school year is underway. We offer a five day a week all day program with morning and afternoon bussing. Please help spread the word about outstanding program. Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Tiffany Dart at tdart@stpaullux.org or by calling the school office.

Chapel Offerings

For the second quarter, the children will be directing their chapel offerings to Pastor David Faulkner and the work that he will be doing in Uruguay. The children will specifically be raising money to buy Spanish language books for the school that Rev. Faulkner will be working with in Uruguay.

Honor Roll Grades 3-8

The following students obtained honor roll status for the first quarter:

High Honors: Jane Olson, Shawna Shaw, Ruth Olson, Derek Chervenka

Honors: Logan Guilette, Logan Kilgore, Grant Bartel, Hunter Guilette, Ty Tenor, Samantha Trembl, Rebekah Gregorich, Anna Olson, Jesse Gregorich

Congratulations to these students for their hard work and dedication to academics.

4K: Whoooo's Wondering What's Happening in 4K?

The 4K students have been very busy working on their math this past month. We worked on number order, writing numbers, positional words, and building patterns. All of the students were able to build their own AB pattern with blocks! In phy. ed, we had a blast playing badminton. We simplified our game a bit by using paddles and balloons instead of racquets and birdies. We also talked about families. We counted how many people are in our family, how many are boys or girls and made a special picture of our family. We are very thankful that God blessed us with such special people..

5K: November was a very busy month. We loved learning our songs to sing for the Veteran's Service and making some fun patriotic crafts. We made some slime in science and learned about polymers! We learned about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. We are starting to work on Christmas music for our program next month. We got our first quarter report cards and everyone is doing well!!

1st and 2nd grade: CHRISTmas greetings from 1st and 2nd Grade! Our classroom continues to be alive with learning. We have been studying the continents, the 50 states, and memorizing our addresses. We have also finished learning all 10 of the commandments. Our class has also spent lots of time reading fun and exciting new books! We look forward to all of the celebrations of the Christmas season and most importantly the celebration of our Savior's birth. Merry Christmas from all of us!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have been busy learning this past month! The 3rd-4th grade science class has been learning about the Earth, Moon, and Sun. We used Oreos to model the moon phases and enjoyed eating our finished products! The 5th graders have been learning about plant processes and plant reproduction. We dissected lima beans and corn kernels to find out how seeds help a new plant grow. In reading recently, the 3rd-4th grade class read the comical book *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume while the 5th-6th grade class enjoyed a more serious book, *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick. Feel free to check out pictures from our school year by visiting stpaulchargers.shutterfly.com/pictures.



6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: November has been a busy one. In Science, we finished our unit on earthquakes and are beginning to look at volcanoes. The students enjoyed their first take-a-part day. It was interesting looking at what makes computers and radios work. They also enjoyed making junk sculptures from the scraps.

The 7th and 8th graders are looking at poetry in their Literature course and will be working on creating their own poems. It is a joy to see them exploring a genre that they do not read often.

Social Studies has 6th -8th grade looking at colonial America. The 7th and 8th grade are learning about the causes and effects of the Revolutionary War. The 6th grade is learning about the early settlements in America. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

St. Paul Lutheran Endowment Fund

The endowment fund receives financial gifts and invests them. The principal is kept intact and the interest is used. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

Question: Do I need a will?

Answer: Without a will, state law determines who will manage your estate assets and how those assets will be dispersed to pay outstanding obligations and to be distributed to your heirs. The state's plan for your assets may not include all of the persons you would like to benefit and definitely will not include gifts to your church and other charities. A will allows you to appoint a guardian for your minor children, choose a representative to carry out your wishes and decide the final destination of your estate assets.

Making a charitable bequest (i.e., giving assets to your church) is the simplest way to make a planned gift. You can specify in your will the amount or percentage of assets that are to be passed to the church. Your estate will receive an estate tax deduction for the bequest. There is no limit on the amount of the charitable gift made by bequest or on the amount that can be deducted for estate tax purposes.

To be sure that you have an enforceable will that accomplishes your objectives, it is best to work with an experienced estate planning attorney.

Endowment brochures and envelopes are available in the narthex. To obtain the Endowment Bylaws or if you have any other questions, please feel free to contact an Endowment Committee Board Member:

Kevin Dahlke 536-0274, Jean Doell 845-5162, Steve Doell 471-7580,
Lon Fager 360-6061, Paul Zeitler 845-2500

The Auction Committee would like to thank Noah's Ark!

The Auction Committee sent a donation request to Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells. They donated 2 park passes for the 2015 season. Mr. Greg Laughnan of their Sales & Marketing Department signed his name and wrote the following at the bottom, "We are proud to support St. Paul Lutheran of Luxemburg. Don't stop believing!" May God bless Mr. Laughnan!



The choir will go Christmas caroling to the Nursing Homes and the homes of shut-ins on Saturday, December 13. If you would like the choir to sing at your home or if you know of a shut-in, please call Jean Doell at 845-5162.



Youth are needed to assemble to fruit baskets. We will put together fruit baskets on Saturday, December 6th at 1pm and deliver them after they are made. After all the baskets are delivered, the youth will go bowling and have pizza at Rendezvous in Luxemburg. Call Sherry Byrne with any questions @ 920-606-2000.

Fruit Baskets

All Primetimers 70 years and older- Be on the lookout for your fruit basket to be delivered on Saturday, December 6th in the afternoon!

Christian Service Guild News:

The monthly meeting of the Christian Service Guild will be held December 3, 2014 at 7:30pm in the church meeting room. Our devotion will be "the Christmas Story" (no bibles needed). A celebration of Christmas will follow. All ladies are invited to come hear the story and join the celebration.

Quilting: Our quilting group will start getting together Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in the church meeting room from 9:30am to 3pm. If you have any questions, please contact Faye Dahlke or Dianne Zeitler.

The Guild wishes to again thank everyone who contributed in any way towards are many efforts throughout the year. We strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of hurting, helpless and unbelieving people at home and throughout the World. We are working together for God's glory.



Veteran's Service



Holy Humor

My daughter came home from our Lutheran school one day when in the first grade and I asked what she had learned. She said about the three wisemen, so I asked her what gifts they had brought and she said, "Gold, 'Frankenstein' and myrrh."

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

Pastor & Principal: Rev. Dr. Daniel Olson: pastorolson@stpaullux.org

4K Teacher: Tiffany Dart: tdart@stpaullux.org

5K Teacher: Sherry Byrne: sbyrne@stpaullux.org

1st & 2nd Grade: Heidi Pahnke: hpahnke@stpaullux.org

3rd & 4th Grade: Ruth Bernau: rbernau@stpaullux.org

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: Sarah Ludwig: sludwig@stpaullux.org

Secretary: Jenny Tenor: jtenor@stpaullux.org

Newsletter: Angie Peterson: apeterson0727@yahoo.com

Funerals: Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137

Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048

Prayer Chain: Tina Peterson –920-863-5137



DVD's are available of the church service. Call the church office at 920-845-2095 and one of our volunteers will deliver it to you.

Need a ride to church? Please notify the church office for a ride to and from church services.

Newsletter Deadline: the 21st of the month.

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