

December 2015

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

My Christmas Wish List

What is on your Christmas wish list? If you ask kids what they want for Christmas, most of them have a pretty quick answer (some also have a very long answer). They have their ideas about what they want for Christmas, and what they believe will give them a joy filled Christmas. Of course, it isn't just kids. Adults might have different ideas about what will make their Christmas a truly joyful one, but they have ideas. Adults may not be hoping for the latest video game, but they have hopes for Christmas. Some hope that all of their kids will be able to be home for Christmas. Others hope that everyone who comes for Christmas will get along. Others hope to be able to meet all of the extra expenses at Christmas.

Having a Christmas wish list is nothing new. God's people of old have always looked forward to Christmas with great anticipation. That's why we see the blue altar paraments at this time of the year leading up to Christmas. The color blue, in the church, symbolizes hope and anticipation. We are reminded of how God's people of old hoped for a Savior. They waited with anticipation for the day when the Savior would come and fulfill God's Law for them and make the payment for their sins. In the Old Testament, God's people regularly made sacrifices of various animals. Every time they saw an animal die on the altar of the temple, it reminded them that their sin made them deserving of death. It reminded them of their need for a Savior to come and make the full and complete payment for their sins. God's people of old longed for the Savior to come.

That message of the birth of the Savior brought great joy to the shepherds and others. They were filled with joy because they understood that Jesus was the one who had come to fulfill everything that the Old Testament pointed to. They understood that Jesus had come so that He might make that perfect sacrifice on the cross that all of those animal sacrifices pointed to. Jesus would fulfill the Law and overcome death through His resurrection. The gift of Christmas was the Savior who had come to bring life and salvation.

As Christmas draws near, we focus on that same gift. We want, and need, a merry Christmas. We want, and need, the joy that Christmas brings. We receive that same joy that the shepherds and others did because we receive the same Savior. We are daily reminded of our sin. We see the pain and hurt that exists in this world, and we know how our own words and actions so often add to it. We are familiar with the evil that dwells in our hearts. Like the people of old, we understand that our sin makes us deserving of death and condemnation. We celebrate that Jesus has come that He might receive our punishment. Christmas is about Jesus taking our sins and giving us forgiveness and life. It is that knowledge of sins forgiven and the gift of salvation that fills our Christmas with joy. Jesus gives us all that we could ever wish for.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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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.

St. Paul Lutheran School News

2015-2016 Theme: Saved with Amazing Grace (SWAG).
“For by grace you have been saved through faith.” Ephesians 2:8

“The Shepherd’s Christmas Story”
St. Paul Lutheran School Christmas Program
December 17, 7:00 pm

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

The music students will also play pre-service music. Please arrive a short time prior to the service to hear them.

Christmas Bingo

Please join the students for Christmas bingo on December 16. The day will begin with chapel at 8:15 am. Mrs. Philips will have her students play some pieces at the end of chapel. We will then head to the gym for bingo and refreshments.

4K Registration

4k registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. We offer a five day a week all day program with morning and afternoon busing available. St. Paul offers an outstanding Christian education. If you have any questions, you can contact Mrs. Cheslock at bcheslock@stpaullux.org or by calling the school office. St. Paul Lutheran School also participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program allows qualifying students to receive a voucher that covers all the costs of a child’s education here at St. Paul. If you have any questions on the WPCP, you should contact Pastor Olson at the school office.

Honor Roll Grades 3-8

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

High Honors: Ruth Olson, Shawna Shaw, Jane Olson, Logan Guilette, Logan Kilgore, James Tilot, Reagan Doell, Bridget Tilot, Jacob Tremel

Honors: Jesse Gregorich, Anna Olson, Sami Tremel, Paige Girardi, Corinna VandenAvond, Alex Wagner, Sara Noskowiak

Upcoming Dates:

Christmas Bingo	December 16
Christmas Program	December 17
Christmas Break	December 23-January 1



4K: We have had a fun and busy month in our 4 K class. This month we have enjoyed lots of fun hands-on ways to learn our letters. From games to songs to fun and messy projects we have also enjoyed learning about all of the wonderful gifts God gives in the autumn season.

In science we have been learning all about the amazing way God made trees and plants and how they provide food, shelter, oxygen, and many other basic needs we have. We became little scientists and experimented with seeds creating sprout houses and learning that seeds can sprout with our soil.

In math we have been creating patterns, graphing leaves, making turkeys out of shapes and going on number scavenger hunts. We have put our math skills to the test manipulating shapes to create various pictures, learning to count to 100 by ones and 10's and pretending to buy things in class as we learn about money.

This month we also learned about the first Thanksgiving as we explored what it was like for the Pilgrims as well as the Native American Indians. We learned how God was with the Pilgrims and provided new friends to teach them how to provide for their basic needs and how they returned thanks to God for this blessing.

Lastly in Bible we have been learning about God's faithfulness to the Israelites as God frees them as slaves in Egypt, provides for them in the desert, and provides the 10 Commandments for the benefit of His people. We learned how God loves us and is always with us despite our sinful nature. It has been another fun month of learning in 4k!

5K: November was a busy month. We loved learning the songs we sang at the Veteran's Service. We got our first quarter report cards and the class is doing fantastic work. The teachers got to attend a teacher's conference in Wisconsin Dells and learned some great things and got motivated. We talked about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. We are starting to work on Christmas music for the Christmas service. We look forward to the celebrations of the Christmas season and the celebration of our Savior's birth.

1st and 2nd grade: November in 1st and 2nd Grade was a short but wonderful month. We are learning many new things and having a lot of fun! The end of November held fun celebrations of Thanksgiving with the 4K and 5K. We also got to take a trip to Aissen tree farm to learn about Christmas trees and even make our own wreath! Christmas will be coming so fast and we will be starting our Christmas program practices very soon. In Religion class we will begin our Advent celebrations and in Social Studies we will continue to learn about maps and globes. We pray that God will bless all of you as we enter the Advent season and look forward to the coming of our Christ Child.

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of November is a time we remember things we are thankful for. I am thankful for students who continue to work hard and grow and learn, the many questions that are asked, and for the smiles and the laughs we have together. I am thankful for the learning opportunity at the teacher conference and for the conferences with all of the parents. I am thankful that I am able to share Jesus with the students, for the coming Advent season and all the excitement that it brings. I am thankful for time with family. Mostly I am thankful for the free gift of salvation through our risen Lord, Jesus. May the true Light of Christmas shine through your holiday season!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Oh, give thanks to the Lord for he is good! It has been a great month and I am thankful for the blessing of our school and students. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders have been busy with their studies and projects. We started the month on being thankful for our Veterans and the freedom they offer us. The students worked hard on many art projects to show their support. God has blessed our students with creative and artistic minds. In Literature, we finished reading *Where the Red Fern Grows*. We had the opportunity to talk about our faith in this book, got to know a grandparent a little better and even watched the movie! We are thankful for our 4k B.E.A.R. buddies and the time we get to read, learn and be a kid again. We read Thanksgiving books and made turkey projects together. We even were able to use glitter!



Scrip Ordering for the Holidays

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
And filled with **Scrip** Gift Cards for everyone there!

Find a present they'll love while earning for St. Paul,
What a wonderful Christmas will be had by all!
With easy shopping and no wrong gifts;
Have a happier holiday with **Scrip**!



Scrip is being ordered on a weekly basis to help meet the Christmas gift-giving needs. Scrip will be ordered every week through **December 19th**. Orders placed by December 19th should be received and filled by Wednesday, December 23rd and can be picked up in the school office on December 23rd from 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Please note that items on the front of the form with an asterisk (*) and all items on the back of the form must be ordered. Please make sure and check out the back as there are a lot of vendors that take Scrip and can be ordered. Please note that there may be a bit of delay in getting some orders through Great Lakes Scrip due to the demand and volume that they are dealing with during the holidays. Therefore, we are urging you to order early. The sooner in the season you order for holiday gift-giving, the better we are able to ensure that you will have what you need. We hope that the increase in ordering will help to meet the needs for those ordering Scrip for the holidays. Also, please note that Scrip will be sold during both services on Christmas Eve but will not be sold during the service on Christmas Day. Scrip will be sold on Sunday, December 27th but will not be sold at the New Year's Eve service on December 31st. Thank you for your continued support and use of the Scrip program!



It is fruit basket time. Youth please come to the gym on Sunday, December 6th at 11am(after church) to assemble fruit baskets. We will then distribute them to the Prime Time members of the congregation. We are hoping that we will find our members at home that day.

ADULT INSTRUCTION: A new unit of adult instruction will begin on Sunday, December 6. The class will meet immediately after church on Sunday mornings. We will go through the basic teachings of the Bible. Who should attend? Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of St. Paul, anyone who is already a member of the congregation and wants to learn more about the basic teachings of the Bible, anyone who is already a member of the congregation and wants to review the teachings of the church. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Olson.

Christian Service Guild News:

Ladies of the congregation are invited to join us December 2, 2015 at 7:30pm in the church meeting room for a Christmas reading on the Twelve Days of Christmas. We will also reflect on "Christmas Past". A short business meeting will follow.

Change Challenge: We thank everyone who participated in our Change Challenge for Veterans. Results will appear in the December 6th bulletin.



Mitten and Hat Giving Tree: November 29-December 20th, the Christian Service Guild will have a mitten and hat giving tree in the Narthex. We are looking for donations of hats, mittens, and gloves for children, teens, and adults. Donations will be taken to Freedom House in Green Bay on December 21st. Any questions, please call Bonnie Kratz at 920.680.3029.

Quilting will begin on Wednesday, January 6th from 9:30am to 3pm in the meeting room. Bring a bag lunch along, coffee will be provided. If you have used mattress pads, sheets, bedspreads, drapes or material that we can use for squares, please bring the materials to the meeting room by January 6 or soon after. Any questions, call Faye at 845- 5808 or Dianne at 845-2840. Join us for fellowship and a worthwhile cause.

The guild received \$250 from Thrivent to purchase needed quilting supplies. Any Thrivent member can apply for a project twice a year.



Lakeshore Lutherans for Life- the next LFL meeting will be held on Mon Dec 7th at 7:30pm at St Paul Lutheran Church meeting room.

Christmas Open House:

Please join us Sunday, December 20th! Enjoy dessert, snacks, a cup (or 2) of Christmas cheer, and singing carols with us at our home, 104 Woodview Lane, Luxemburg, from 6-9 PM. We hope you can help us celebrate our Saviour's birth!

Pastor, Katie, and family

Stewardship News & Views

Giving By Living

Is there a song in your heart these days? Does the melody linger on into the lives of others? Let us remember that Christmas is not only a time of receiving, but more than that, is a time for giving. It began that way. God gave His only Son in order that whoever believes in Him might have eternal life. His one concern was for others. Christmas will have meaning for us only if we reflect that same loving spirit. We are in the world not only to receive the blessings of Almighty God but also to reflect Him in our living by the giving of our talents to the happiness of others and the glory of God.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Yours in Christ,

The Board of Stewardship
Paul Janda, Sue Heim, Don Mullen

The choir will go Christmas caroling to the Nursing Homes and to the homes of the shut-ins on Saturday, December 12. If you would like the choir to sing at your house or if you know of a shut-in, please call Jean Doell at 845-5162.



Holy Humor

You Might Be a Lutheran if...

A midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnal to the new one.

Rather than introducing yourself to a visitor at church, you check their name out in the guest book.

You know all the words to the first verse of "Silent Night" in German but can't speak a word of it.

Faculty/Staff Contact Info

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

4K Teacher: Beth Cheslock: bcheslock@stpaullux.org

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

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

3rd & 4th Grade: Laura McClellan: lmclellan@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



Sunday School Grades 1-8

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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