

December 2017

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

There was a book put out some years back titled *The War on Christmas*. Of course, we have seen that phrase come up quite a bit in recent years. We see articles with that title, and we hear people talk in those terms. What people usually are referring to is that it has become politically incorrect to say "Merry Christmas" to people because it might offend someone. But the conversation involves more than just getting rid of the phrase "Merry Christmas." We see that there is a concerted effort in our world today to downplay the impact of Christmas on the world. We now see schools holding their "Winter Concerts" and taking "Winter Break" and advertisers having "Holiday Sales."

As Christians, of course, we often lament the efforts to cover up or get rid of Christmas. It should indeed make us sad when people reject the joy that God gives as a result of the events of Christmas. However, we sometimes act as if this is something new. The Gospel of John starts out differently than Luke. John, when He describes Christmas, uses the images of light and darkness rather than just telling the Christmas story as Luke does. John tells us that Christmas was all about light coming into the world.

When I wake up at this time of the year, and I look out my kitchen window, it's completely dark outside. You can't see a thing. John is talking about spiritual darkness. He is talking about the darkness of sin, and the darkness that comes from not knowing Jesus. Christmas is all about light. It's about Jesus coming and bringing light into a world that is so filled with darkness. Jesus came so that He might bring the light that comes from being able to see heaven itself through faith in Him. Jesus came so that He might take the darkness of our sin into Himself and pay for it on the cross. Jesus comes to us and gives the light that comes from knowing that He has overcome death itself for us.

However, John also tells us that the darkness resists the light. John tells us that the war on Christmas has been going on since the first Christmas, and even before. But John tells us that the darkness cannot overcome the light. Despite the efforts of Herod and others, Jesus still came into this world. He still brought Christmas joy. This Christmas will be the same as any other in that sense. The darkness will not understand the light, but the light will still shine. We will still be filled with Christmas joy.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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Mission Statement

*"Proclaiming
the saving
grace of
Jesus Christ
to all."*

Sermon Text and Themes

November 30 & December 3: This week begins a new church year. We celebrate the First Sunday in Advent. Our attention now turns to preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We focus on preparing our hearts for the coming of the Savior. Our text this week is Isaiah 64:1-9. The title of the sermon is "The Potter and the Clay." We see how God makes us into His people. He takes lumps of clay and turns them into something good.

December 7 & 10: We come into this world needing comfort, and that need continues throughout life. Our text this week is Isaiah 40:1-11. The title for the sermon is "The Need for Comfort." We focus on our need for comfort. We look to the comfort that Jesus was coming to bring at Christmas.

December 14 & 17: Decorating with lights is a big part of the Christmas celebration. We love to see all of the lights that are put on trees and buildings at this time of the year. We love to see light shining during these dark winter months. The title of the sermon for this week is "Christmas Light" and is based on John 1:6-8. We learn how all of the lights that are put up at this time of the year remind us of true light that was coming into the world at Christmas.

December 21 & 24: We will hear the Christmas message proclaimed to us by the day school children on Thursday and the Sunday School children on Sunday.

December 24: Our text for the Christmas Eve candlelight service will be from Luke 2:1-20. The title will be "God's Gift." We will focus on the gift that God gives to us at Christmas in the birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

December 25: The text for the sermon on Christmas Day will be from Isaiah 52:7-10. The title will be "Christmas Socks." We hear in our Old Testament reading how the feet of him who brings good news are blessed. On this day, we have good news brought to us.

December 31: We will have our regular Sunday morning service as well as our New Year's Eve service in the evening.



St. Paul Lutheran School News

“Built on Christ” I Corinthians 3:11

“The CHRISTmas Tree”

St. Paul Lutheran School Program

December 21, 7:00pm

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. We are blessed with a large number of music students again this year. Please arrive at a reasonable time prior to the service to hear them.

Christmas Bingo

Please join the students for Christmas bingo on December 20. The day will begin with chapel at 8:15am. 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 is underway for the 2017-2018 school year. We have already filled more than half of the spaces available for next year. We offer a five day a week all day program with morning and afternoon busing. 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. It should also be noted that the income limits for the voucher program have been increased this year. Many more families will be able to qualify for this program than in the past. If you have any questions on the WPCP, you should contact the school office.

Honor Roll Grades 3-8

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

High Honors: Jane Olson, Anna Olson, Marcis Doell, Reagan Doell, Dylan Dahlke, Micah Gray, Jadelynn Kroll, Claire Schleis, Connor Kilgore

Honors: Paige Girardi, Logan Kilgore, Corrinna VandenAvond, Alex Wagner, Rebekah Gregorich, Jacob Treml, Brayden Duescher, Sara Noskowiak, Rachel Gregorich, Austin Budworth, Marshall Engelking

Christmas Break: December 25-29, Merry Christmas!

4K: We have had a busy and fun month in 4K! The month of November has been filled with activities learning about thankfulness! We spent a lot of time learning that all good things come from God and as we worked through our Bible lessons we talked about how God always provides what His children need not necessarily what they want. This was a good, eye opening lesson as we talked about how sometimes God answers our prayers with a 'no' - and that's okay. In reading, our theme was about the First Thanksgiving and turkeys! We read fun stories about Pilgrims and Native Americans as we explored life back then. Our favorite stories were about turkeys trying to get out of being Thanksgiving dinner, Our class had fun disguising their turkeys as princesses, hunters, superheroes and more! We had lots of learning.. in both math and phonics! We have been cruising through our alphabet enjoying fun songs, projects, and more! In math, we have been all about time, patterns, graphing, counting, measuring, money, and more! It has been a great month! A special thanks to all the parents that come in to class to help out for our in class events! I am very thankful for wonderful students and parents to partner with in their education!

5K: We are very thankful this month. We are thankful for the Veterans and we were able to sing for them in our special church service. We are thankful for report cards and parent-teacher conferences. It was good to talk to the parents and share how well their children are progressing in school. We are thankful for field trips to Aissen's tree farm and getting ready for the upcoming Christmas season. We are thankful for parent volunteers that come in to help us have a fun Thanksgiving celebration with lots of fun games. We are thankful that we were able to get a lot of school work into our month. We learned about Moses, God's people in the desert and then getting to the promised land, and the Battle of Jericho. We also worked on money and time during math. We continue to work on reading and our time we spend on the kindles is a lot of fun. We look forward to starting the Advent season and preparing for the birth of Christ.

1st and 2nd grade: Another month has come to a close, and what a month it was! We spent lots of time in the past 30 days celebrating the holiday of Thanksgiving in many different ways. We began by decorating turkeys with our families. Our family of turkeys is looking great all decked out in everything from noodles to glitter, leaves to feathers, and even some candy pieces! We also put together our first book reports in the shape of turkeys! Our reports included listing the setting, characters, problem, and solution in each of our books! We also made some fun turkey crafts, read several articles on the Pilgrims and Native Americans, and topped it all off with a Thanksgiving celebration! This month we also had some special visitors in our classroom. Three of our favorite veterans visit us each year to teach us about the flag. It was great to see them again and be able to tell them all "Thank You" for their service. Another exciting tradition for us is our annual trip to Aissen Tree Farm the end of the month. We always enjoy learning about Christmas trees, seeing the beautiful shop decorations, and of course a cookie and a story! There are so many blessings to be thankful for, not only this month, but all year through. We praise and thank God for all of the wonderful things that he has given to us!

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 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: Greetings from the 6-8th grade! Over the past month the middle school has been hard at work prepping for our various church services as well as several in-school projects. Both the Reformation celebration and the Veterans service went off without a hitch. The students did a wonderful job playing the bells and singing. The students also prepared art projects honoring our veterans and the Reformation, both of which could be seen in the school halls. Outside of church related activities have been working hard on many different subjects, including in 6th grade science where we just finished up a project on renewable resources, with a few students even going the extra mile to design miniature working version of common renewable resource machines. Also, in 7th and 8th we have been diving into some great debates and discussions about creationism vs. evolution focusing on God's beautiful design for our planet and the life that he formed within it. Most recently, as part of our history and science classes, the upper grades and the 3-5th took a trip down to Manitowoc to spend the day at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. The students took an in depth tour of the USS Cobia, a WWII submarine moored at the museum and also participated in activities about Lake Michigan shipwrecks and the home-front during WWII. That's all the news from the upper grades! May you all have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Jr. High School Youth

December 3rd, 2017- Junior High Youth Group Bowling at Chuck's Dyckesville Bowl. We will be meeting after church in the school gym to discuss the upcoming January event at Camp Luther. After that we will head over to the bowling alley to have some fun and see who is the best bowler of the group!!!



December 10th, 2017- Fruit Baskets: The youth (both Junior and Senior High Groups) will be assembling and delivering fruit baskets to the Primetimers of our congregation on Sunday, December 10th. Youth are needed to stay after church on that day to help and assemble the fruit baskets. The youth will then get a list of some of the families to deliver the fruit baskets to that afternoon. We have a large number of fruit baskets to get out this year, so the more youth families we have to deliver, the fewer stops everyone will have to make. Please contact Sherry Byrne or John Ketterer if you are able to participate. And Primetimers, please be on the lookout for your basket to be delivered on Sunday, Dec.10th.

January- We are looking at going to Camp Luther on January 12th-14th for their Big Chill Event. We will be discussing this event more on December 3rd before we go bowling. If you have any questions or concerns, please Contact John Ketterer @ jketterer@stpallux.org or 920-845-2095.

February- St Paul's Youth Group will be having a Lock-In where we will have some different activities for the night along with a devotion/ Bible Study and a chance for the youth to learn more about each other and discuss more events for the future.

Open Gym- This is available for all youth (6th-12th grades) on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-7pm. We do different games and activities for the youth. Hope to see you all there.

St. Paul Sunday School and Day School collected offerings for the first quarter. The project that they collected them for was the Derricks family. Elliot and Serena grew up in the Green Bay/Wayside area and work for Lutheran Bible Translators. They will be missionaries going to Cameroon, Africa in February. The children collected \$459.60 to send to the Derricks family. The second quarter offerings will be going to Camp Luther.

Stewardship News & Views

If we are honest with ourselves, we don't really deserve the Christmas gifts we receive. Our gracious God has given us a gift - His only Son. This is the greatest gift we can receive. It is free, but expensive. It cost the Father His Son. It cost the Son his life. Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving. In faith, we receive Him who is our only Savior for this life and the life to come, the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation.

During this Christmas season we should all think about what we can give. Be it time, treasure or talent.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

Don Mullen, Cindy Doell, Linda Dahlke

Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 1pm in the church meeting room. We will have a devotion and a skit. All ladies are welcome to join us!

Bethesda Volunteer Day – December 14 at 9am.

Quilting:

Quilting will begin on Monday, January 8. We will work in the Church meeting room from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Bring your lunch along, coffee will be provided. There is a need for used sheets, bedspreads, mattress pads, drapes and large pieces of material. Material to be cut in squares is always needed. Bring your items to the meeting room by January 8 or soon after.

Any questions call: 845-2840 or 845-5048



The choir will go Christmas caroling to the nursing homes and to the homes of shut-ins on Sunday, December 10. If you know of a shut-in or if you would like the choir to sing at your home, please call Jean Doell at 845-5162.

St. Paul Lutheran Church recently revised our *Facility Use (Building and Equipment) Policy*. The new policy includes restrictions on some uses of the building and offsite use of church equipment, including tables and chairs. Copies of the entire policy, along with fee structure and reservation agreement forms are available in the office.

Upcoming Holiday Services:

December 21: Day School Christmas Program (No Communion) – 7pm

December 24: Sunday School Program (No Communion) – 9:30 am

December 24: **NO 3:00pm Service**

December 24: Christmas Eve Service – 7:30pm

December 25: Christmas Day –9:30am

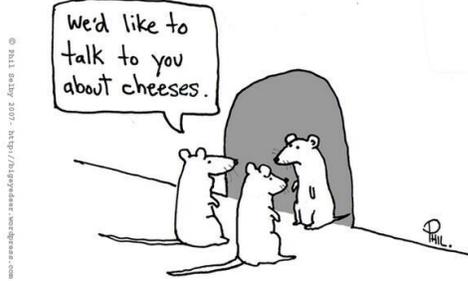
December 28: **No Worship Service**

December 31: New Years Eve –9:30am and 7:30pm

Day School and Sunday
School Students
celebrating the 500th
anniversary of the
Reformation.



Holy Humor



Church Mice.

Faculty/Staff Contact

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 & 5th Grade: Laura McClellan: lmcclellan@stpaullux.org

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: Tim Eigenfeld: teigenfeld@stpaullux.org

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Reformation Walk

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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