

December 2018

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

"Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore." Isaiah 9:7

LET THE ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT BEGIN

Those who know me might find my title to be a bit surprising. Those who know me know that I am no fan of big government. I don't like to see the government taking any more money from me than absolutely necessary. As I look at history, I see too many problems that come when government grows and grows. It tends to interfere with freedom.

However, there is a difference between bad big government and good big government. Isaiah 9:7 is telling us that Christmas is all about big government. Christmas is all about government growing and growing. But the amazing thing is that the growth of this government doesn't infringe on peoples' freedoms. Instead, it actually gives freedom, real freedom.

The government that Isaiah is talking about is the kingdom that Jesus came to bring at Christmas. We are told that Jesus came to reign on the throne of David, and we are told that there is no end to the increase of His government. What is Isaiah talking about? He's not talking about an earthly government. We are told that Jesus came into this world to establish and extend His kingdom. But His kingdom is very different from the kingdoms of this world! Jesus came to establish this kingdom through His death and resurrection. His is an eternal spiritual kingdom. He came that you might live as members of His kingdom. He came that you might have true freedom, freedom from sin and death.

Now that is a government that we want to see grow! We are excited that through faith in Jesus we are members of that kingdom. Jesus continues to rule His kingdom with justice and righteousness. We want to see that kingdom extended further and further. We want to see more and more people know of this king who was born as a baby at Bethlehem and continues to rule in peace today.

That's what Christmas is all about! It is about the coming of our king at Christmas that we might live as citizens in His kingdom. This is a ruler who does everything for the citizens of His kingdom. He provides us with the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of heaven itself. Christmas does indeed mark the beginning of the era of big government. We see our king coming and doing it all for us that we might serve Him in His kingdom. So, we celebrate His birth at Christmas and the establishment of His kingdom.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

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Mission Statement

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

Sermon Texts and Titles

November 29 & December 2: Our text for the 1st Sunday in Advent will be Psalm 25:1-3. In our Psalm for this day, King David talks about being put to shame. We think of all of the things that should cause us to feel shame as well. However, we hear the good news that Jesus took our shame upon Himself when He went to the cross. The title of the sermon is "No Shame!"

December 6 & 9: Our text for the 2nd Sunday in Advent is our epistle reading from Philippians 1:2-11. The title of the sermon is "Excellence: Holding to What Matters Most." The Apostle Paul tells us that since we have been given faith in Jesus as our Savior there are certain things that we want to have as our focus. We will look at those things that are excellent.

December 13 & 16: There is a lot of things that cause us fear in our lives. Our Old Testament reading for the 3rd Sunday in Advent is from Zephaniah 3:14-18 and is the text for the sermon. Zephaniah was talking to people who had a lot of reasons to be afraid. He comes to them and tells them not to be afraid because Christmas is coming. The title of the sermon for this week will be "Fear Not!"

December 20: Day school children's Christmas program.

December 23: Sunday School children's Christmas program.

December 24: Our Christmas Eve services will be at 3 and 7:30 pm. The text for the sermon will be Luke 2:1-20. The title of the sermon will be "Reckless Love." We focus on how God's love for us knows no limits.

December 25: We will gather together at 9:30 am to celebrate our Lord's birth. The text of the sermon will be Luke 2:1-20. The title will be "A Child is Born." We will focus on all that the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ means for us.



St. Paul Lutheran School News

Our Mission is Fishin' Matthew 4:19

Christmas Program

The St. Paul Lutheran School Christmas program will be on December 20 at 7:00 pm. The title of the program is, "A Reason to Celebrate." We do indeed have reason to celebrate. We look forward celebrating all that the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ means for us. The music students will also play pre-service music. Please arrive early to hear the music students play their pieces.

Christmas Bingo

Please join the students for Christmas bingo on December 19. 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.

Christmas Break

December 24-January 1. Merry Christmas!

Honor Roll Grades 3-8

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

High Honors: Marcis Doell, Claire Schleis, Brayden Duescher, Grant Bartel, Reagan Doell

Honors: Logan Kilgore, Jacob Treml, Corinna Vanden Avond, Jadelynn Kroll, Stella Schleis, Peyton Weidner, Diesel Bosdeck, Bryce Belter, Connor Kilgore, Austin Budworth, Micah Gray, Trinity Koenig, Rachel Gregorich

4K Registration:

4k registration is underway for the 2018-2019 school 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 or 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. St. Paul also participates in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP). This program allows students with some special needs to receive a voucher that covers the cost of attending St. Paul Lutheran School. If you have any questions about either voucher program, you can get more information by contacting the school office.



4K: It is hard to believe it is already November with the Christmas season on the horizon! Even as I write this I am looking out my window and see snow on the ground already. We had the joy of experiencing the first snowfall of the season right here at school. There is something so exciting about the first snow fall. My class was beyond excited to go out and play in it, making for an energized room filled with anticipation and enthusiasm. In a lot of ways, I felt the same way. If the truth be told, I wanted to go outside just as much as they did. Just like them, I couldn't wait to "play" or catch a snowflake or two on my tongue. Even as an adult, I have always been like a kid when it comes to snow. When my girls were little I would wake them up in the middle of the night of the first snow fall just to go play with me in the snow. It got me to thinking, do I have the same excitement when I go to worship and hear God's Word, or do I leave Bible study with the same level of enthusiasm? Do I wait with great anticipation to receive forgiveness or partake in the Lord's supper? If I was honest with myself, I would have to humbly admit, that I more often than not, don't have that same excitement or enthusiasm. Why is that? I remember when I was younger, I loved going to church and I would leave so joy-filled. Sometimes it is easy for the stress of day to day life to rob us of the joy that could fill our hearts as we spend time with our Savior. I watch my class as they sing songs during our All School Devotions and see their excitement to praise Jesus and it's infectious. I think that's why I love teaching this age - their child-like faith is both convicting and contagious. I am definitely thankful for my 15 little friends! So as you get ready for this Advent season - I pray you approach it like a first snow fall or like the child-like faith of a four year old! Have a great month!

5K: We are very thankful this month. We are thankful for Veterans and the service to our country. We were proud to sing for them at the Veterans service. We are thankful for report cards and parent-teacher conferences. It is wonderful to speak with parents about how well their child is progressing in school. We are thankful for the PTL hot Lunch crew that put together a wonderful thanksgiving feast for our school to eat. We are thankful for field trips and going to Aissen's Tree Farm to prepare ourselves for the upcoming season of Christmas. We are thankful for learning things at school....this month we learned about Moses, God's people in the desert and going to the promised land, and the battle of Jericho. We were introduced to time and money in math. We continue to work on our letters and reading. We look forward to starting the Advent season and preparing for the birth of Christ!

1st and 2nd Grade: No article.

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: No article.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Greetings and Happy Advent from the upper grade classroom! As we move into December our focus is on major projects and preparing for holiday events. The 5th and 6th graders have been hard at work finishing up a project centered on a specific state in the United States. Each child picked a state of interest to them to present its history, geography, industry, among others to the class. Also, our students in the upper grades are exploring options for the upcoming science fair in January. It should be an exciting event for our students to share their experiments to the school, parents, and the community. In the Christmas spirit, we are also starting our work on the school Christmas service and even studying the classic Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Across the board we are working toward ending 2018 ready to start the new year with a bang. Until then, have a very Merry Christmas!

Please Join Us at Our Next Lutherans for Life Meeting!

**St. Paul's Church and School- Luxemburg
Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30PM**

**For Questions Contact Nola Duescher (920) 845-2196, Dianne Zeitler (920) 845-2840 or
Brittney Duescher (920) 493-3782**



Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) Season

Are you required to make a minimum required distribution (MRD) this year? *If so, you may want to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to avoid tax penalties.*

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your minimum required distributions (MRD) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

There are certain requirements, such as a person must be 70½ or older to make a QCD. If you are interested in making a QCD to the church, the Endowment Committee has a financial advisor willing to assist you through this process. 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

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.

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Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild will be held on Wednesday, December 5 at 1:00pm in the church meeting room. Bonnie Kratz will lead us in a bible study. "Every Picture Can Tell God's Story – Exposing the Light". All ladies are welcome to join us.

Bethesda Volunteer Day – Thursday, December 13 at 9am
Bethesda ½ Off Sale is December 28th and December 29th





The youth will be assembling and delivering fruit baskets to the primetimers of our congregation on Sunday, December 9th. Youth, please come to the gym after church service to assemble the basket, it will take about 20 minutes. You will then be given a 4-6 baskets to deliver on your way home from church. Please contact John Ketterer to let him know you will be helping out with this event. And primetimers, be on the lookout for your basket to be delivered on Sunday, December 9th. If you need to make other arrangements, please contact Sherry Byrne.

Stewardship News & Views

The vision for stewardship in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is that the stewardship culture in every congregation would be one where every professional church worker, every man, woman and child would know that they are God’s steward by His grace, live as His disciples and manage the gifts He entrusts to them with joy and generosity. We should do all this so that His purposes would be accomplished and His mission enhanced. As we enter this busy Christmas season remember to keep God in your daily thoughts and prayers with your family and friends.

With the New Year approaching lets ALL make it our “resolution” to be better stewards of the church. We can ALL do that by giving better of our treasures, our time, and our talents.

Have a very Blessed Christmas.

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee
Cindy Doell, Patricia Brand, Linda Dahlke

Offerings

The Sunday School and Day School collected their 1st quarter offering for the Derricks family, who are missionaries for the Lutheran Bible Translators in Camaroon, Africa. Our offerings totaled \$455.95. Our second quarter offerings are going to N.E.W. Lutheran High School for the purchase of a projector in a classroom.



Scrip Update

The Christmas and New Year's holidays are right around the corner and people will be busy shopping for gifts and preparing for holiday meals and parties. To help meet the demands for this busy time of year, we will be ordering Scrip on a weekly basis in December. **Scrip will be ordered on the following Saturdays in December: December 1, 8, and 15. December 15th will be the last time Scrip will be ordered before the holidays and for the rest of this year.** Therefore, Scrip should be available for those cards that are normally kept in stock and special orders will come in on a weekly basis. So, whether you are planning to give gift cards as gifts or to get Scrip gift cards for shopping, we should be able to fill your requests on a quicker basis. 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.

Scrip Retailer Update: We have added ULTA \$25 to stocked Inventory so it is now on the front of the Scrip Form under Great Lakes Scrip and removed from the back of the form as it will not have to be ordered. We have also added two new Luxemburg businesses: Don's Bakery available in \$5 and \$10 with a 3% rebate and Ron's Cheese available in \$10 with a 10% rebate and you do not have to spend the entire amount in one visit at these businesses. New vendors on the back of the form to be ordered are DSW for \$25 with an 8% rebate and Scheels for \$25 with an 8% rebate. **The form has been updated so please use the Scrip form dated 11/12/2018 and discard all old forms.**

Special Small Denomination Gift Cards: There will also be a limited number of small denomination gift cards available to be ordered which will be perfect for stocking stuffers and holiday gift-giving! The low denomination gift cards would be a great gift idea and at the same time support the Scrip Program. The low denomination cards will only be available until Friday, December 14 **or while supplies last**, so don't wait to place your orders. The following cards will be available to be ordered: Amazon.com-\$10; Applebee's-\$10; Barnes & Noble-\$5; Cold Stone Creamery-\$5; CVS Pharmacy-\$10; Olive Garden/Longhorn Steakhouse-\$10; Home Depot-\$10; IHOP-\$10; Meijer-\$10; Outback Steakhouse-\$10; Panera Bread-\$5; Red Lobster-\$10; Starbuck's -\$5; Target-\$10; Taco Bell-\$5; and Walmart-\$10. If you would like to order these special low denomination gift cards, please write them in on the **back of the order form**. Even though some of these vendors are available on the front of the order form, these are special orders and should be written in on the back of the Scrip form. To order these cards, please write them on the blank lines on the back of the order form and on the front of the form please mark the box indicating that there is an order on the back.

Scrip Sales during the month of December: This year we will **not** be selling Scrip at the following services: Day School Christmas Program on Thursday, December 20, Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 23, both services on Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24), Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25), Thursday, December 27 (no church service) or on New Year's Eve (Monday, December 31). We **will** be selling on Sunday, December 30. So, the last day Scrip will be sold during the month of December before and after church services is Sunday, December 30. The last day to purchase Scrip in the school office before the holidays is Friday, December 21. So please plan accordingly to have all of the Scrip cards you will need during the holidays.



Request for two vendors – Aldi’s and Hobby Lobby - to be on Scrip: The Scrip Committee has received requests to have Aldi’s and Hobby Lobby on the Scrip Program. Both of the businesses were contacted and will not be on the Scrip Program. Aldi’s has a policy that their gift cards cannot be re-sold. They were informed about the number of businesses/vendors on Scrip for this fundraising program and that it could potentially increase their business and if they would still continue to consider a change in their policy. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. would like to be able to donate to all of the wonderful communities, ministries and organizations in our area. They further stated that regrettably, this is not possible due to the thousands of requests they receive annually. Instead, Hobby Lobby has chosen to donate to, and substantially support several charities and organizations that the Green family has selected based on each charity’s specific needs and mission.

Scrip Contest: A proposal was submitted for new playground equipment through Shop with Scrip and Home Depot. The Smart Starts Contest was from Home Depot to upgrade our school. There was one grand prize winner – a \$25,000 upgrade for the school including materials and labor and one runner-up - \$2,000 in Home Depot physical gift cards. Unfortunately, we did not receive the funding. The winner of the \$25,000 school upgrade is the Liberty School District in Liberty, Illinois while Holy Cross School in Omaha, Nebraska was the runner-up receiving \$2,000 in Home Depot gift cards.

Scrip Coordinator Needed: The Scrip Committee is looking for someone to be the coordinator of the group. Please contact the school office for more information.

All Scrip purchases results in profits for St. Paul. Thank you for your continued support and use of the Scrip program!

The Scrip Committee



Holy Humor

Two little boys were known troublemakers, stealing everything they would get their hands on, even from the church. One day a pastor stopped one of the boys and asked, "Where is God?" The boy shrugged and the pastor repeated, "Where is God?" The boy ran out of the church, crying, to his home, where he hid in a closet. Eventually his brother found him and asked, "What's wrong?" The crying boy replied, "We're in trouble now! God is missing and they think we took him!"

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

DCE Intern: John Ketterer: jketterer@stpaullux.org

Office Staff: Yvonne Janda: secretary@stpaullux.org

Leanne Budworth: secretary@stpaullux.org

Newsletter: Angie Peterson: apeterson0727@yahoo.com

Funerals: Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137

Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048



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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