

February 2019

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

**"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope."
Jeremiah 29:11**

It was a year and a half ago that John arrived to serve as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) intern. It was to be a one year internship. Due to the availability of a call for John, it extended for another six months. John's time at St. Paul came to an end at the end of January. We are excited for John and Katie that he received a call to serve as the fulltime DCE in Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is an exciting time for them, and we wish them God's richest blessings.

John's departure also creates some challenges for us here at St. Paul. It was decided by the voters of the congregation some time ago that we would seek a person who could fill the role of Director of Parish Music and Director of Christian Education. In other words, it was recognized that the congregation needed someone who could work with youth but also direct the music program of the congregation. This has become even more apparent now, not just with the departure of John, but also with Jean Doell indicating that her time as music director will be coming to an end, most likely, this summer.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a person who can fill the role that the congregation has created. I am continuing to communicate with our colleges in pursuit of a graduate. We are also pursuing other possibilities as they are presented.

What to do in the meantime? There are a few things that John has started with the youth that we obviously want to see continued. There are also certain things that John was covering that will need to be rearranged. One of the things for which we can be very thankful is high school Bible study. It is sad that so many people believe that their instruction in God's Word ends when they are confirmed. In order to keep the Sunday morning high school Bible study going, I will be teaching that class for the time being. This will continue at least through March, and could extend through May. Jeff Brand and Mike Peterson will teach adult Bible study in the meantime. Sixth grade confirmation will be taught by Joe Kramer, Jeff Brand, and Mike Peterson. I will closely supervise the curriculum for the sixth grade class, as I do currently, and work with them to see that the goals of that class are met. I will then assume most of the other duties that John has been fulfilling. Sadly, Thursday evening Bible study will have to be suspended for the time being.

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Mission Statement

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

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It is my hope that this situation will be temporary. It is never desirable for a church to reduce its ministry. Our goal, based on the guidance that Jesus gives us, is to do as much as we can to carry out the work our Lord has given to us. It is my hope that the reduction in staff will be temporary. In the meantime, I want to express my thanks to the various boards for their additional service to St. Paul. I especially want to thank Mike, Joe, and Jeff for their willingness to serve in such important ways at this time. I am thankful that St. Paul is blessed with such spiritually minded men who are willing to step up and take on such important responsibilities.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

Sermon Texts and Titles

January 31 and February 3: The text for the sermon on the 4th Sunday of Epiphany will be the epistle reading from I Corinthians 12:31-13:13. The title of the sermon will be "Real Love." I Corinthians 13 is sometimes referred to as the love chapter of the Bible. It is often read at weddings. It is here that the Bible gives us a clear description of what love looks like.

February 7 and February 10: The text for the sermon on the 5th Sunday of Epiphany will be the Gospel reading from Luke 5:1-11. The title of the sermon will be "Let down the nets!" We see Jesus in this reading teaches us about reaching out with the Gospel message.

February 14 and February 17: Our text for the 6th Sunday of Epiphany will be the Psalm for the day, Psalm 1. The title of the sermon will be "Blessed." We will consider what it means to be blessed by God.

February 21 and February 24: We will be observing 7 Sundays in Epiphany this year. Easter is almost as late as it can get. The text for this Sunday will be Genesis 45:5&8, part of our Old Testament reading. The title of the sermon will be "The Hand of God. We will consider the plan that God has for your life. We look at the assurance that God gives to us that He is guiding our lives.

St. Paul Lutheran School News

Excellence in Christ-Centered Education

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year: Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is now open. Please contact the school office with any questions you may have.

4k Registration: We still have openings in the 4k program for the 2019-2020 school year. Please contact the school office or Mrs. Cheslock if you have any questions.

Voucher Enrollment: Enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) opens February 1. St. Paul Lutheran School participates in this program. If a family qualifies, the voucher program would cover the cost of all education related expenses, including tuition and registration. There is a link on our website that will take you to the Department of Public Instruction website for the online application. It is important for families to complete the information accurately. Please contact the school office with any questions that you might have on this program. If you are unsure of how to fill out the application, it is best to contact the school office for help before submitting.

Special Needs Scholarship Program: St. Paul Lutheran School participates in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP). This program allows students with certain special needs to be able to attend St. Paul. There are not income limits on this program as it is based on special needs. If a student qualifies, the program covers all costs of education including tuition and registration. Please contact the school office with any questions that you might have on this program.

Annual Auction: The auction will be held on February 16 at Beverly Gardens in Denmark. You can purchase meal tickets in the school office or after church in the church narthex. The doors open at 4:00 pm. The dinner is at 5:30 pm and the live auction begins at 7:00 pm. This event raises a large amount of money for our school each year. Please come out and show your support for St. Paul School.

Midterm: The third quarter midterm is February 21.



4K: It has been a busy month of learning in 4K! We began the month with a wintry room and are ending it in the rain forest! One of my favorite parts of teaching this age is the excitement they have for learning when you create a different atmosphere to work and play in. In these next few weeks we will use this habitat to teach us various science lessons, math activities, explore great literature, create fun art projects, learn some fun songs - and all of it using one of God's greatest parts of creation! This month we also began our Passport to the World program! We started by learning about our world and the seven continents and took our first "trip" to Brazil - to explore the Amazon Rain Forest! As we travel to the various countries we have the chance to learn about it's culture, language, landmarks, and try some food native to that country! It's a lot of fun and a great way to make God's great big world just a little bit smaller. Finally, in Bible this month we began learning about Jesus' ministry. We learned about His baptism, His temptation in the desert, and began learning about His public ministry. We discovered that in our baptism we are joined to Jesus in His death and resurrection and set out on an amazing journey in faith. We also learned what a miracle is and just how blessed we are to have a God that is all powerful! Just a reminder - we have had some brave members from the congregation come in to be a Mystery Reader for our class (and they all left glad they did it)...it's not too late for you to be one too! If you want to come in just send me an email! God's Blessings on a great month!

5K: We got back into the swing of things after a restful Christmas Break. We continued the celebration of Jesus birth by touching on the stories of Simeon and Anna, the Wisemen, and Jesus as a boy at the Temple. We measured, figured out time to the hour, and counted dimes in math. We made a lot of penguins and snowmen in art. We also had to fit in time to do some standardized testing. We ended the month with Lutheran Schools Week. We are very blessed to be a part of a Lutheran School and appreciate all the continuing support of our great school. We had some fun dress-up days, science fair, movies, open house, and bowling. Preview Day is Friday, February 8th, 8-11:20am. If you know anyone who would be interested in 5K, please call Sherry Byrne at 845-2095 to set up a visit.

1st and 2nd Grade: Today in Religion class we read the account of Jesus blessing the children. Our memory verse was "Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God" Mark 10:14 When we finished reading one of my students had a look of awe on their face. They were delighted to hear how important children are to Jesus! As we end the month of January with National Lutheran Schools Week I can't help but reflect on how awesome it is to be in a place where we can be actively engaged in our faith life each and every day. I love to watch the faith of the children in my classroom grow and mature as they continue to learn about their Savior. And it is an incredible blessing to be able to be a part of that. Thank you for continuing to support our school and the importance of not only an academic education but a spiritual education as well! Aside from our religion class, we have been working hard in many other areas as well. In science we have been discussing force and motion. Learning that for objects to move or stop a force must be applied. This was fun to test in the classroom! We are also studying where we live. We have been learning about the continents, our country, our state and our cities. That's a lot of places for a 1st and 2nd Grader to try and keep straight! :) We also completed another round of MAP and Guided Reading Assessments. It is so great to see the progress that the kids have made. They are doing an excellent job!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of January has been very busy. We took a field trip to Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve to learn about fur trade in early Wisconsin and adaptations animals have to survive Wisconsin's winter. God blessed us with great weather for the day! We ended second quarter. And we began third quarter with lots of excitement celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. This is a special week to celebrate Jesus in our school. What a joy and privilege it is to be able to talk about, learn about, and share Jesus all day long at school! We sang praises in church, had a science fair, an open house, special dress days, invited family and friends to breakfast, and other different activities all week long! Then the week ended with bowling. It was a great time!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Greetings from the upper grade classroom! January has been a great month for the 6-8th graders, from field trips to science fairs, and other events in between. We came back together after what was a much needed break, but ready to move into the second half of the school year. A main focus has been our work on projects for the end of the month science fair. Each child picked a topic of interest and then designed an experiment around that topic to later present in front of our judges. During this same final week of January the students participate in the annual National Geographic Geography Bee, a competition testing student knowledge of God's creation. During this month the 3-8th graders had the opportunity to experience that creation first hand on a trip to Barkhausen Refuge in Suamico to learn about early Wisconsin fur trading and winter animal adaptations. It was cold, but the kids had a great time. It sure has been a fantastic month all-around and we look forward to sharing more in the next newsletter.

Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild will be held on February 6 at 1:00pm in the church meeting room. Our Bible study will be a responsive reading- LWML "Living as God's People". All ladies are welcome.

Stamps for Missions:

Keep saving especially commemorative stamps.

Quilting:

Will be on Mondays in the meeting room starting at 9:30am-3:00pm. Bring your lunch – coffee will be provided. We can use sheets, especially the flat sheets which we use for the back of quilts. Also any large pieces of fabric, even new material, drapes, mattress pads and things to cut up. Thank you for any donation!

Bethesda Volunteer Day – Thursday, February 14 at 9am

There is Basketball Open Gyms on Sunday nights in the St. Paul gym.
Open gym is open to anyone 16 years old and up.
We meet from 6-8pm on Sunday nights.
The schedule is as follows.....
January 27- No Open Gym
February 3- No Open Gym
February 10- 6-8pm
February 17- 6-8pm
February 24- 6-8pm
March 3- 6-8pm Last Open Gym





The 2nd quarter chapel offerings from the day school and Sunday School totaled \$390 that we have sent to N.E.W. Lutheran High School for them to replace a projector for a classroom. The next quarter offerings will go to Camp Luther and their Hearts for Jesus program. The money collected will go towards the purchase of dining room tables to go into the new dining hall they are building.



Stewardship News & Views

Matthew 8:25-26 – “**And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Save us, Lord; we are perishing.’ And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.**” Faith means trusts. And if you trust your Heavenly Father, what need is there to fear? On the other hand, if you give in to your fears, you’ll find that your faith fades to the background. A lot of our unfaithfulness in stewardship comes from fear. How would our generosity change if we trusted the Lord more?

Matthew 20:9 – “**And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.**” That’s not what they were expecting! The generosity of God is surprising because we are often so tight-fisted. But the Lord gives out of His grace better than we could deserve or even hope. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God, and, surely, one of the foundations of God’s being is His surprising generosity. How is the Lord calling you to generous living in His image?

These Bible verses question our stewardship in our everyday lives and how we can serve the Lord. Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

We are in the new year, so then let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

In Christ,
The Stewardship Committee
Cindy Doell, Linda Dahlke, and Tricia Brand

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Thank you

A big Thank You to the St. Paul School Board for the Christmas gifts for the children of the Sunday School and the Day School. The teachers are also thankful for the gifts presented to them.





Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone that helped take down the Christmas decorations inside of church.

Thank you to:

Karen Bosdeck, Jean Doell, Pat & Angie Doell, Tim & Katie Eigenfeld, Beverly Graunke, Mary Lou Karnopp, Dianne Kilgore, Jim & Sue Kratz, Roger & Candy Krohn, Heidi Pahnke, Sarah Shin, and Paul Zeitler.



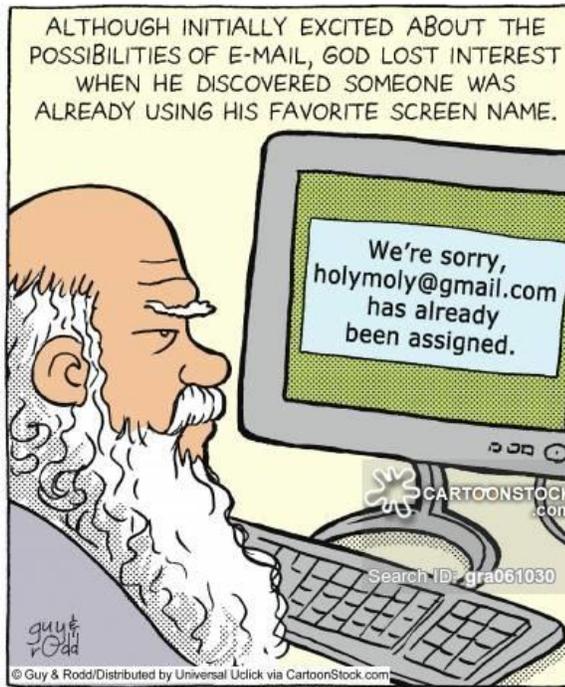
A big thank you to those that helped take down the Christmas Nativity outside of church:
Jim & Sue Kratz and John Kratz

Thank you to Barney Janda for watering the trees!

Thank you to Orville and Sedonie Zeitler for storing the outside Nativity figurines and stable at their house.



Holy Humor



Faculty/Staff Contact

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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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