



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

The lengthening of days has begun. It seems like it is almost imperceptible at this time of the year yet, but the days have indeed started to get longer. Little by little now, we will notice that there will be more daylight. The light will begin to increase and the darkness decrease. As Christians, we were reminded of that as we celebrated the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrated the true light coming into the world. We celebrated how Jesus came into a world filled with the darkness of sin and death. He came so that He might take the darkness of our sin into Himself at the cross and pay for it. It was three days later, when Jesus rose from the dead, that the light would shine. His resurrection would show that the darkness of sin and death could not overcome the true light that He had come to bring. That true light continues to shine in our world today.

We live in a world that is filled with darkness. We see that darkness showing itself in so many ways in our world today. We see the darkness of terrorist attacks and all manner of violence in our world today. We live in a world that is filled with death. It is in January that we are especially reminded of the darkness of abortion. We are reminded of the famous “Roe versus Wade” decision by the Supreme Court that made abortion legal in our country. This decision by our Supreme Court has led to the death of millions of unborn children. We grieve over such an embracing of darkness in our nation. That decision of course has greatly impacted our society’s view of life. We live in a world where many do not see life as being a precious gift of God. As result, we have even seen the spread of so-called right to die laws. There are many who believe that if a person is facing suffering or confronting a terminal illness (or whatever rationale might be given) that they should be able to get assistance in ending their life. We see an embracing of darkness.

Of course, we know how much darkness we find in our own hearts. We understand the darkness of sin that so dwells within us. We live in a world filled with darkness; but yet, we know that the light still shines. We know that the darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ. We celebrated that light coming into the world at Christmas. We continue to celebrate the light of Christ that shines in our own lives. We celebrate that Jesus has taken away the darkness of our own sin and gives us forgiveness and the light of His salvation.

We shine that light of Jesus in our world. We proclaim to a world that so often embraces darkness that Jesus has come to bring light. We proclaim the good news that all life is precious in God’s sight. We proclaim the good news that Jesus has come, not only to give us life now, but life eternally. We see how that light of Christ penetrates the darkness of our world.

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

Excellence in Christ-Centered Education for now and eternity

Registration for the 2016-2017 School Year: Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is open. St. Paul Lutheran School provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to receive an excellent academic education in a Christian environment. Our classes begin each day with instruction in God's Word and God's Word permeates every aspect of school life. Students who attend St. Paul excel in high school and beyond. St. Paul Lutheran School not only prepares students for their future in this world but it focuses on preparing them for eternity. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Olson.

Voucher Program: St. Paul Lutheran School participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program allows qualifying families to send their children to St. Paul Lutheran School for free. If a student qualifies for a voucher, tuition and all educational related expenses are covered for the student. The open enrollment period this year begins on February 1st. There are many families that would qualify for this program but don't realize it. If you have any questions about the qualifications for the voucher program, you should contact Pastor Olson. The voucher program is a wonderful opportunity that gives more families the opportunity to attend St. Paul Lutheran School.

National Lutheran Schools Week: National Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated January 24-29. The week will begin with students singing in church on January 24 and will have many exciting events throughout the week.

Open House: As part of National Lutheran Schools Week we will have an open house and science fair at the school. The school will be open to anyone interested in viewing the classrooms. The students will also have their science fair projects on display, and there will be lunch available for purchase. This is a great opportunity to learn what is going on in the school.

Grandparent Breakfast: Grandparent breakfast will be on January 26 at 8:30. The students are looking forward to having their grandparents join them that morning.

Chapel Offerings: Our chapel offerings for the 2nd quarter have been going to Lutheran Church Charities. The offerings have been going to support their comfort dog program.

School Resumes	January 4
National Lutheran Schools Week	January 24-29
Open House/Science Fair	January 24
Grandparent Breakfast	January 26
End of 2nd Quarter	January 29



5K: December was filled with much excitement of getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We had a fantastic Christmas service in which we sang our loudest and dressed as shepherds and angels! We made tree ornaments, crafts, and gifts for our parents. We kept working on school work in the middle of that excitement which was challenging on some days. A science fair project was sent home to work on over the Christmas break for our big Science Fair during Lutheran Schools Week. 5K will again have Preview Day on Friday, February 12th from 8-11:20am. If you know someone who is interested or have any questions, please contact Sherry Byrne @845-2876. We hope you all had as much fun as we did preparing for our Savior's birth!

1st and 2nd grade: Happy New Year from First and Second Grade! 2016 already! Wow! Well December is always a very fun month. We spent a lot of time preparing for our Christmas service. The kids did an excellent job of sharing the story of the birth of our Savior! We even learned to sing "Silent Night" in German. In the classroom, we enjoyed our Advent devotions each morning and lit our Advent wreath, as we learned about the prophets, angels, and the coming of our King. This year our devotions were based on carols. We sang a different verse from well known carols each day. We also worked on a "Christmas Around the World" book. We took time to learn about 10 different countries and how they celebrate Christmas including Australia, Iceland, Brazil, and the Philippines. The kids learned that some traditions and cultures are far different than ours. After learning about their traditions we then found them on the map and made our very own Christmas around the world globe. Thank you for your continued prayers and support throughout another year. God's Blessings on each of you in 2016!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: Happy New Year! December was a very active month. We had the excitement of preparing for our Christmas Service. The students worked very hard and did a great job at the service. We talked about our family traditions at Christmas time and even learned about the Christmas customs in other countries. We would like to wish you a safe and blessed New Year! May the Christ child's light shine through your whole year!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: December was an exciting time as we prepared for the birth of our Lord! The students worked hard learning their songs and parts for our Christmas program. They decorated our classroom and had fun with a secret gift exchange. Each day we read a part from Luke to help keep our focus on CHRIST. In Social Studies, we finished learning about India. As for science, we worked hard on cell synthesis and learning about DNA. As we get into the New Year, the students will be working on their Science Fair projects. Come check them out on January 24th! Blessings as you begin 2016 and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Thank You:

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts, and gifts this Christmas.

We truly appreciate your kindness.

May God grant each of you a blessed New Year!

Pastor, Katie, and Family

We are looking at expanding the extracurricular offerings of St. Paul and are looking for individuals interested in coaching any of the following sports.

- Co-Ed Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys & Girls Cross Country
- Girls Basketball
- Future Business Leaders of America



If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Olson or Steve Doell (920) 471-7580

Christian Service Guild

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.

Thank you: God Bless all who donated to this year's Giving Tree. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to deliver 3 scarfs, 54 hats, and 88 gloves/mittens to Freedom House in Green Bay.



Stewardship News & Views

"THE BEST GIFT OF ALL"

Christmas 2015 is past--soon we will be busy putting away the Christmas decorations and taking down the tree.

Our gracious God has given us a gift--His only Son, what a gift!

This is the greatest gift we can receive. It is free, but it cost the Father His Son. None of us deserves this gift. Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving. So let's not put Jesus aside, but keep Him in our hearts all year long. Let's share the good news with others by witnessing for Jesus--just like the shepherds so long ago. Let's reach out to others by inviting them to church services and other activities. Church positions will soon need to be filled--please pray and consider serving the Lord in this way. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

A blessed new year in Christ!

The board of stewardship,
Paul Janda, Sue Heim, Don Mullen

January Sermon Texts and Themes

New Year's Eve: We will have the opportunity to gather together on December 31 to greet the New Year. The sermon on New Year's Eve will focus on Ecclesiastes 1:9-10; 3:14. We will focus on how so much of what we see in our world seems like the same old thing. However, in Christ, there is something new. Christ gives us a new start by washing away the sins of the past with His shed blood on the cross. He gives us a truly new start.

January 3: Christmas is over...or is it? For much of our world, the birth of Jesus will have already been forgotten by now, if it was ever remembered to begin with. We see that following the first Christmas Mary and Joseph experienced the pain of losing Jesus. They left Him behind in Jerusalem. However, we see from our text on this day, Luke 2:40-52, that Jesus wasn't really lost. He was going about the work of accomplishing our salvation. We know how easy it is to lose Jesus in the busyness of our everyday lives, but Jesus shows us where it is that He can always be found. He shows us that He is always in the Father's house, His church, wanting to speak to us. We know that as we gather in the Father's house Jesus comes and dwells with us.

January 7 & 10: Do you remember your baptism? Well, you do every time you hear the words of the Invocation (in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit) when the worship service begins and at other times. It is on this Sunday that we focus on the Baptism of Our Lord. As we focus on Jesus' baptism, we also focus on what our own baptism means. The sermon will be based on Romans 6:4 and will focus on the meaning of baptism.

January 14 & 17: Do you remember what Jesus' first miracle was? Our text for this week, John 2:1-11, records Jesus' first miracle. We see Jesus showing up to a wedding banquet and turning the water into wine. It is in this text that we see how Jesus comes to people who were facing a crisis of sorts and provides them His help. The sermon this week will be titled "180 Gallons of Grace." It will focus on the grace and forgiveness that Jesus gives to us. He gives us a grace that is overflowing. It will also focus on the help that Jesus gives us everyday in our lives.

January 21 & 24: Our text for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany will be I Corinthians 12:12-31. The sermon title will be "Welcome to the Team." It is in our epistle reading for this day that the Apostle Paul talks about our life in the body of Christ. He talks about the part that each individual Christian plays in the life of Christ's church.



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
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Funerals: Tina Peterson – 920-863-5137
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Sunday School

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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