

January 2018

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” John 1:46

Many years ago, I was auditing a class at the community college in Rochester, Minnesota. It was on January 6. It was a blistering cold Minnesota day. Christmas was over. The decorations that had been put up on that campus (as minimal as they were) had been taken down. Everyone had set into the post-holiday blahs. I remember the instructor asking this group of young college aged kids what day it was. None of them had the slightest idea that it was Epiphany. My surprise did not end there. When the instructor explained to them that it was Epiphany, not one of them had any idea what Epiphany was.

It illustrated for me why these people had settled into the post-holiday blahs: they had no idea what had happened at Christmas and what happened after Christmas. Epiphany simply means manifestation. It means to reveal something. The Epiphany Season, which begins on January 6 is all about the gift of Christmas being revealed.

That manifestation or revealing of Christmas began with the wise men. Nativity scenes everywhere have the wise men, or Magi, out at Christmas. However, the wise men weren't there at Christmas. We don't know when they arrived, but we know it was later. The wise men followed the star, and they beheld the gift of Christmas. The gift of Christmas was revealed to them. They saw the salvation that God had sent in the person of Jesus.

All of our readings during the Epiphany Season show us how the gift of Jesus was revealed to people. We see Philip saying to his brother Nathanael, “Come and see.” We see how the gift of Christmas is revealed to Nathanael.

“Come and see.” We celebrated that gift of Jesus coming down at Christmas. We celebrated how God sent His Son into this world to suffer for our sins and overcome death for us. We, during the Epiphany Season, see how that gift of Jesus was revealed to others and is also revealed to us. The Holy Spirit comes to us in the Word and reveals all that Jesus coming into this world means for us. Not only that, we tell the world around us, “Come and see.” Our world is filled with people who missed out on what Christmas is really all about. We have the cure for the post-holiday blahs. We have Jesus. We tell the world around us, “Come and see.”

In His service,
Pastor Olson

N4118 Cty Rd AB
Luxemburg, WI 54217

Church Office:
P: 920-845-2095
F: 920-845-9075

www.stpaullux.org

Mission Statement

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

Sermon Text and Themes

January 4 & 7: The first Sunday of Epiphany is observed as the Baptism of our Lord. The text for this day will be our epistle reading from Romans 6:1-11. The title will be "Baptized into Christ." When Jesus was baptized, He was identifying Himself with us. When we are baptized, we are identified with Jesus. Our text tells us that it is in the waters of Baptism that we are entered into Christ's death and resurrection. The Apostle Paul tells us of the great blessings that we receive in the waters of Baptism.

January 11 & 14: Our text for the Second Sunday of Epiphany is our Gospel reading from John 1:43-51. The title of the sermon is "Come and See." We see how the gift of the Savior continued to be revealed after Christmas. We see how God continues to reveal the gift of Jesus to us today. We are encouraged to "Come and see." We are encouraged to come and see all that the gift of Jesus means for us.

January 18 & 21: On this Sunday, we will recognize "Life Sunday." It is a time when we are reminded of the tragedy of abortion in our country. This Sunday will also mark the beginning of National Lutheran Schools Week. The readings for the day are the assigned readings for the Third Sunday of Epiphany. The text for this week's sermon will be the epistle reading from I Corinthians 7:29-31. The title of the sermon will be "The Time is Short!" The Apostle Paul is impressing upon us how short our time is in this world. The Apostle Paul tells us how this realization impacts our attitude towards things right now.

January 25 & 28: This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany. The epistle reading for the day will serve as the text for the sermon. The title of the sermon will be "To Eat or Not to Eat." In our epistle reading for this day, the Apostle Paul talks about our life in the church. He specifically is telling us about the concern that we are to have for our fellow believers. We often talk about our Christian freedom. The freedom that we have in Christ means that we are free to do a lot of different things. However, the Apostle Paul is telling us that our freedom is guided by how our actions impact the faith of those around us. Paul uses a specific historical situation to give us a timeless teaching.

St. Paul Lutheran School News

“Built on Christ” I Corinthians 3:11

Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year: Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open. St. Paul Lutheran School offers excellence in Christ-centered education. Our students have the opportunity to receive daily religion classes and sound instruction in God’s Word in addition to an excellent academic education. We have weekly chapel services where students gather to hear God’s Word, sing His praises, and learn the hymns of the church.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (vouchers): St. Paul participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program covers all educational expenses for qualifying students. It should be noted that the income levels for this program have been raised from 185% of poverty to 220% of poverty. These changes will allow more families to participate in this program. If you have any questions about this program, you should contact the school office.

Toys for Tots: The students collected toys for tots again this year. Sheriff Joski picked up the toys and visited with the children on December 15.

National Lutheran Schools Week: National Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated January 21-26. The week will begin with the students singing in church on January 21. There will be an open house after the service on January 21. The students will have their Social Studies projects on display. The school will also be open to anyone interested in viewing the classrooms. There will be many exciting events throughout the week. This year we will top off NLSW with Friday afternoon bowling. More information will be going out to parents in early January.

Grandparent Breakfast: There will be a grandparent breakfast at 8:30 On January 23 as part of National Lutheran School Week. It should be noted that the children will be doing their Social Studies project presentations at the end of this event.

Upcoming Events:

School Resumes after Christmas Break	January 2
End of 2 nd Quarter	January 19
Open House/Social Studies Fair	January 21
Grandparent Breakfast	January 23



4K: Well, it is hard to believe Christmas is just a couple days away and one of my favorite times of the school year is here! I love Christmas and I love all of the preparation and anticipation of our Savior's Birth! We have had so much fun in class this month as we learned about, read about, sang about, and created projects, all centering around Christmas and the birth of Christ! One of the best things about teaching little people is daily being reminded of the joy that Christmas brings. They are good at helping me remember that all the things that keep us distracted like shopping, gift buying, and presents, are not the most important part - all it takes is watching then sing with enthusiasm about Jesus and all of those stresses seem to disappear. One of the highlights of this month was our Christmas Around the World program that we enjoyed with 5K and 1st and 2nd grade, We had fun traveling to different countries and learning about various traditions and cultures and enjoyed some yummy treats! What a blessing to have two fantastic teachers to work with on this - Mrs. Pahnke and Mrs. Byrne! It was a fun and busy month filled with lots of learning and celebrating! I feel blessed to teach such sweet little children! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

5K: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from 5K! It has been a joyful month with alot of excitement getting ready for the birth of Jesus! We looked forward to lighting our advent wreath each day and reading the devotions. We prepared for the Christmas service and it proclaimed to reason for His birth so he could die and save us. We collected Toys for Tots and had a fun Christmas Recital and Bingo with many in attendance. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending 5K next school year, please mention that there will be a Preview Day on Friday, February 9th 8-11:20am. We pray that each of you have a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

1st and 2nd Grade: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior! The month of December found us incredibly busy learning about Christmas, practicing for Christmas, and crafting for Christmas. We had a great month of Advent devotions in which we followed different people from the Christmas story as they made their way to Bethlehem. We also drew pictures for the Knights of Columbus "True Meaning of Christmas" contest. Many days were spent rehearsing for our Christmas Service the last couple weeks. We were so excited to share the news of our Savior's birth through word and song. We also went on a very exciting adventure throughout the month of December. We joined our friends in 4K and 5K to celebrate Christmas around the world. We visited 8 different countries including Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Australia and several more. It was such a fun trip! As we head into January we pray continued blessings on all of you in the year ahead!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of December has been a very busy month! Along with regular school work, the students worked hard on the school Christmas service. All of the students did a wonderful job sharing the story and the joy of our newborn Savior! Because of His willingness to pay for our sins we have the gift of eternal life in heaven! Happy New Year and may the light of Christ shine through your life all year!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Greetings and Merry Christmas from the 6-8th grade! It has been a great month so far in the upper grades. Our main focus of the last few weeks has been our preparation of the Christmas service. The students have been hard at work memorizing their lines and songs all to give glory to God. Beyond our program, most of our efforts have been with various mid-year projects, specifically in social studies and science. For 7th and 8th the students just presented an assignment emphasizing the fine points of the Roman republic and its success. The 5th and 6th are in the midst of completing a task created to get them to focus on the different parts of animal and plant cells by making large scale 3D representations of them. Some students even made theirs out of food. Science sure can be delicious! In all grades, starting now, and continuing over the Christmas break, each student is to research a historical individual and create a biographical presentation that will be given in character later next month. These are just a few of the many things going on here in the classroom. We definitely look forward to what the new year has in store for us after the break! Amongst all the goings on here in the upper grades we are taking this time now to try and relax as best as is possible to focus on what truly matters, the coming reminder of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. From our hearts to yours the 6th-8th grade wishes all of you the merriest of Christmases and the most blessed of New Years.

Jr. High School Youth

December 3rd, 2017- Junior High Youth Group Bowling at Chuck's Dyckesville Bowl was a success. We had 17 youth show up to the event Matthew B., Owen C., Alisa G., Paige G., Rebekah G., Logan G., Logan K., Mercedes K., Anna O., Jane O., Evan P., Olivia P., Natalie S., Thomas S., Corinna V., Kyan V., and Rhyah V. Come check out our pictures on Facebook, Youth Board, and the church website for all of the fun and action pact bowling that took place.

December 10th, 2017- Fruit Baskets: The youth (both Junior and Senior High Groups) assembled and delivered fruit baskets to the primetimers of our congregation on Sunday, December 10th. We had Eight Families come and help with this servant event. Many Thanks to the Peters, Vlies, Vanden Avond's, Stangel's, Olson's, Brand's, Kroll's and Ketterer's for getting the baskets put together and delivering them to our primetimers.

January- We are looking at going to Camp Luther on January 12th-14th for their Big Chill Event. Those who have signed up for the event we will be meeting January 12th at the church at 3pm and head to Camp Luther Friday January 12th at 3:30pm to arrive at Camp Luther at 7pm. This event will last until Sunday January 14th ending at 10:30am and we will be arriving back at church around 2pm for pick-up. This is a community focused event which will help show our youth that there are like minded individuals, in the Christian and Lutheran faith, that will provide an opportunity to build faithful friends and show our youth that they are not alone in this world. This event will also help build upon the foundation of their faith that has been laid before them and will provide them new ways to develop their faith in a Christian environment. However, all work and no play makes us a dull ... no worries!!! There will be fun activities, for our youth to have a great experience filled with fun and excitement for an enjoyable time.

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.

!!We are bringing back the Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser for the Youth Group to open up different opportunities for them to be able to attend different events coming up in the Year!!

We will have order forms in the Pidgeon holes in the church for all members to have orders for Subs and Booyah for your Super Bowl party! We will make the Subs on February 3rd to be picked up on Sunday the 4th after church.

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.



Stewardship News & Views

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

The Stewardship would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May you continue to keep Christ in your hearts throughout all of 2018.

Yours in Christ,
Don Mullen, Cindy Doell and Linda Dahlke



Christian Service Guild News:

Christian Service Guild January – No Meeting. At our December meeting we donated a total of \$530.00 to several organizations and Pastor and DCE. This is one of our projects we do every December.

Stamps for Missions – Keep saving stamps, especially commemorative. We DO NOT collect Flag or Christmas stamps.

Our next Bethesda Volunteer day is January 11, 2018.

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

Lutherans for Life Sunday

January 21, 2017

Porkie Pancake Breakfast

When: Sunday, January 21, 2017

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church, N4118 County Road AB, Luxemburg (Montpelier)

Serving 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Sponsored by Lakeshore Lutherans for Life

Fee: \$6.00 (12+ years), \$3.00 (4-12years), children 3 and under are free

Pennies for Life Collection

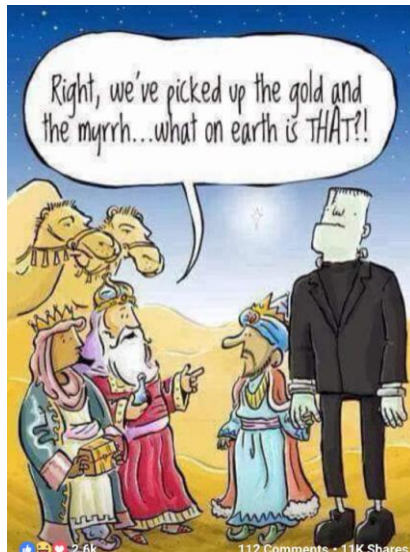
What is Pennies for Life? This is a way to give to the Lord and Lutherans for Life. There will be a basket in the narthex on Life Sunday (January 21, 2017) and the following week, to place any donations. The suggested donation is to give one penny for each year of life the Lord has granted you. Thank you and God bless.

Maternity and Baby Clothes Drive

New and gently used baby clothes and maternity clothes will be collected on Life Sunday. These items will be given to area homes of mothers who choose life instead of abortion.



Holy Humor



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

Prayer Chain: Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048



Youth Group Fruit Basket Delivery

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.

Join us on Facebook: Search for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School and **LIKE** us today!