

News N' Notes



ST. Paul's
Lutheran Church, School & Daycare

What's Happening in St. Paul's

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Greetings in the wonderful Name of our Lenten Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray this newsletter finds you well and well blessed.

You are reading the now fourth installment of articles entitled: **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST. PAUL'S**. The purpose of these articles is to answer the age old cry, "We never hear what is going on at church." Well, each month our church staff will be reporting on what has happened the past month or so in their particular area of ministry, as well as touch on some upcoming ministry opportunities.

By the time you read this we will be in the fifth week of Lent with only two more weeks left before Easter. This year our midweek and Holy Week Lenten sermon series is based on the book of Job and is entitled **BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD**. The services take place on Wednesdays at 12:15p or 6:30p or otherwise designated. Please join us for the following:

4/5 *A Good Pilot* – Job 38:1-11

4/13 *On Earth Is Not His Equal* – Job 41:20-34 (Maundy Thursday services)

4/14 *Tearing Down Spite House* – Job 42:7-9 (Good Friday: Regular service at 12:15p, Passion Play at 6:30p)

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Easter Breakfast

This year on Easter Sunday, April 16, St. Paul's Youth will be preparing and serving our Easter Breakfast from 6:45 - 8 a.m. and 9 - 10:00 a.m.

The menu will include scrambled eggs, French toast, casserole, ham, cheesy hash browns, baked goods, fruit and beverages.

Advance Tickets are \$6 adults; \$3 children ages 3-10; under 3 eat free. Advance tickets can be purchased after services or from the school/church office. You can also order tickets by emailing koverley@stpaulsjanesville.com.

Tickets will be available at the door on Sunday, April 16, for \$7 adults; \$3.50 children ages 3-10.

What's Happening in St. Paul's

Our Sunday and Holy Week Lenten sermon series is based on the Gospel writer Mark's account of the events of the last week before Jesus' death and is entitled: **RANSOM**. Please join us for the following:

4/1 The Ransom – Part 5: *Witness* based on Mark 14:66-72

4/9 The Ransom – Part 6: *Dead Man Walking* based on Mark 15:1-2

4/15 The Ransom – Part 7: *Into Darkness* based on Mark 15:24-39 (Holy Saturday)

4/16 The Ransom – Part 8: *God Doubts? He Is Risen* based on Mark 16:8 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Also, I would encourage you to invite friends and relatives to join you in FILLING YOUR PEW for the 6a, 8a, and 10:30a Easter services. May each of your days this month be filled with the Cross-empowered and empty tomb-demonstrated love, forgiveness, and hope of our once dead but now live Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

God's Blessings!
Pastor Decker

What's Happening in School Ministry

As we look forward to Easter we are also looking forward to next school year. We are in re-enrollment season, and that brings with it new opportunities. If you know anyone who is looking for a school for next year please share with them information about St. Paul's. We have a fantastic school, and that is something we should always share with our community.

We are also excited to announce that we will be implementing a One to One Chromebook program in our middle school next year. This is going to help us better equip our students for the future. If you would like to donate to help this program we would love that. Anything helps.

Lastly, our Gala of Giving Auction is coming up. Please purchase a ticket if you haven't yet. It is going to be a wonderful event that helps our ministry!

Rob Lunak

Spring Break or Holy Week?

By Jared Stiek

The second week of April is both spring break for our school and holy week in the life of the church. Spring break is fairly self-explanatory; a vacation from the regular school routine followed by the final month and a half of the school year. Holy week on the other hand could use a more detailed explanation.

During the season of Lent we have gathered for worship each Wednesday in addition to our weekend worship services. As Lent comes to an end and we prepare to celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection on Easter, the week between these seasons is known as "holy week."

Holy week includes a series of services that retrace the final events before Jesus' death.

Palm Sunday begins the week as we mark Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with His disciples to celebrate the Passover festival. Children of the congregation will assist with this celebration as they participate in a procession with palm branches the way the crowd welcomed Jesus.

On **Maundy Thursday** we celebrate the gift of the Lord's Supper as Jesus has His final meal with His disciples and gives them this gift, which we continue to receive regularly in worship. Maundy is an Anglicized distortion of the Latin phrase "mandatum novum" meaning a new commandment. Jesus gave the command, or the gift of the Lord's Supper to the disciples and thus the entire Christian church. Communion services will be at **12:15** and **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, April 13.**

Good Friday is the remembrance of Jesus' arrest, trial, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial. The day is known as Good Friday due to the good gift of forgiveness that is won for us by Christ on this day. This somber day is a reminder of the cost of our sin and payment Jesus offered in our place, His life. We gather for a service of readings, songs and sermon at **12:15 p.m.** on **Friday, April 14.** A service of drama, readings, songs and message will take place at **6:30 p.m.** The evening service includes an intense portrayal of Jesus suffering and crucifixion.

Saturday is known as the **Easter Vigil**. This is a time to reflect on Jesus' death as He was in the tomb following His death on a Friday. It is a service focused on remembering one's baptism and the promises of eternal life, faith, and forgiveness that were given to us there. **April 15** we will gather at **6:00 p.m.** to "keep vigil" awaiting Jesus' glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus triumphant victory over sin, death, and the devil by rising from the dead. The **6:00 a.m. sunrise service** marks the early news that Jesus is no longer in the tomb, but He is risen. The **8:00 a.m. service** will include festive music led by the Joyful Noise Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Handbell Choir. The **10:30 a.m. service** will be led by the Worship Team and include powerful music telling of Jesus' resurrection. All three Easter Sunday services will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The St. Paul's youth group will be serving breakfast in the fellowship hall between the morning worship services.

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Spring Break or Holy Week?

Holy week is a great time to walk through important events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It is also a wonderful time to remember the impact of those events on our life and introduce others to Jesus powerful and forgiving love. Invite your friends and family to join us for worship throughout holy week.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Weekend

Saturday 6:00 p.m. ~ Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Communion Services 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

Worship Service 12:15 p.m. ~ Passion Drama Service 6:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Communion Services 6:00, 8:00, and 10:30 a.m.



Holy Week

What's Happening in Women's Ministry & Family Ministry

Women's Ministry

In March, our ladies began a 6 week Bible study called "*Keep It Shut*". It teaches us what the Bible says about how we should use our words, both in person and online, and when we should just zip our lips. We have two sessions that meet each week. There is a morning and an evening session.

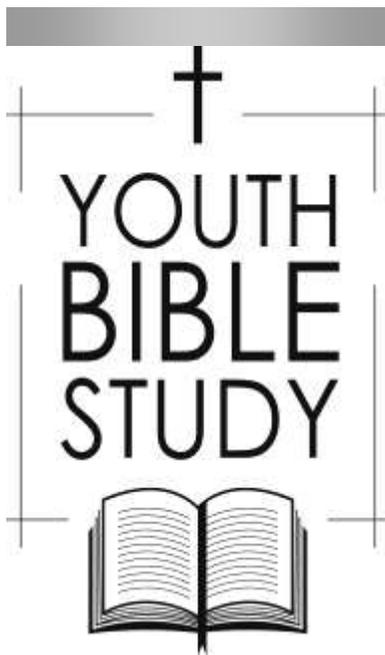
Family Ministry

Date Night Out began with our first of four monthly sessions. Date Night Out is a dinner and Bible study designed specifically to help strengthen our marriages with God's Word. It is also a way for married couples to meet and enjoy fellowship with other Christian couples from our congregation and community. In February, we learned about connecting with each other through spending time and having fun together with our spouse. Couples were given a challenge to go on a fun date and take a picture of it to share at our next Date Night. We will be continuing this month with a study on love and respect through communication.

Journey to the Cross: As our families attended our Lenten worship services on Wednesday evenings, we have learned about the path Jesus walked on His Journey to the Cross. During our children's messages, through skits portraying Jesus' journey, we have had visitors like Mary Magdalene, a gardener from the Garden of Gethsemane, and Roman Soldiers tell us of what they witnessed. Following each service, all families received a visual reminder of those messages of Jesus' journey by receiving a cross, a purple cloth smelling of perfume, praying hands, a whip, and a nail. They have been encouraged to place the cross and their pieces in a prominent place in their homes as a reminder of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Each week in April leading up to Easter, we will continue to receive our cross pieces as we learn of the story of Jesus' great love for us.

Kathy Pingel





What's Happening in Youth Ministry

The Youth Group has been having a very fun start to the new year.

We completed our Bible study series on snack food. We have now started a new Bible study series called, "There is a Verse for That". This is a play on the phrase, "There is an App for That". We are going through the Bible and showing that there is a verse for anything that life throws at us.

We have talked about forgiveness. How when we mess up and hurt someone we need to ask them for forgiveness. But also when someone hurts us we need to give them forgiveness.

We also talked about where we can find true joy. Our world

tells us that we need to be happy but the world's happiness fails. What we need is joy in the Lord.

We will continue this Bible study series for the weeks to come.

Our Youth Group is open to all students in 6 to 12th grades—so bring your friends! We meet in the gym every Sunday from 6:00p to 7:30p. Please come by and see how fun youth group is. We are planning a trip to a trampoline park on a Friday or a Saturday.

We would also would like to invite everyone to the Passion Play drama on Good Friday, April 14 at 6:30p.

John Mueller

Comfort Dog Ministry Update

The last Lenten Supper of the 2017 season will be dedicated to the dogs....the Comfort Dogs that is! The weekly cost supper served in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6 PM before the evening Lenten service on April 5 will be a picnic menu of brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut, baked beans, chips, beverages and of course those yummy St. Paul's desserts. Donations will be used to help promote the Comfort Dog ministry in our surrounding communities. We wish to thank Thrivent for their support of this event through the Thrivent Action Team project.

Our Comfort Dog web page is beginning to take shape on the church website www.StPaulsJanesville.com, so be sure to check it out as well as the bulletin board in the church narthex (back of church).

August may seem like a ways off, but mark your calendars now for a fun event for everyone on Sunday, August 27 at Skelly's Farm Market, Janesville. It will be our second annual Corn Roast and Cookout, which will not only be a fund raiser for the ministry but an invitation to the community to find out more about the Comfort Dog ministry at St. Paul's. And seeing that school begins the next week it will be a great kickoff to another wonderful school year!

What's Happening in Finance

Work is ongoing in a few major areas:

- Simplification of accounting and reporting
- Implementation of control procedures recommended by auditor
- Restructuring of bank accounts – closing unnecessary accounts, maximizing interest income

The 2017-18 budget is currently the major focus. You should all have received a letter from Pastor Decker that included the budget process schedule, along with an invitation to a “listening post” on March 19th. The purpose of that session was to hear your questions and concerns about the budget or anything else related to finances at St. Paul’s, in advance of the Voter’s Meeting on April 23, when the completed budget will be presented for approval . If you were unable to attend the March 19th session or if you still have questions, please feel free to call me at 754-4471 X307 or email me at cperkins@stpaulsjanesville.com.

Budgeting is always a challenge, and this year is no exception. I would like to draw your attention to offerings. In the current year budget, we built in a 2.5% challenge to member giving. Pastor Decker communicated that challenge at the voters meeting last year, as well as in several sermons throughout the year. The 2nd quarter reports through 12/31/16, available in the narthex, showed that we were not meeting our budget for offerings. I am forecasting that if the trend continues, offerings will be \$36,000 below budget by the end of June.

I believe there may have been some misunderstanding of what the 2.5% challenge meant. The 2.5% would be as a percent of your current giving amount, **not 2.5% of your income**. Here are some examples of what this might mean for you:

<u>Current weekly giving</u>	<u>2.5% increase</u>	<u>New weekly total</u>
\$25	.63	\$25.63
\$50	\$1.25	\$51.25
\$100	\$2.50	\$102.50

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. Paul’s!



God's Richest Blessings,

Cindy Perkins

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Church, School
And Day Care

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Brian Garcia, Treasurer
608-449-4711
Sarah Williams, Chair
608-295-2806
Jack Eden
608-751-5999
Jennifer O'Connell
608-359-3544
Nate Simmons
608-436-6720

Regular Worship Schedule:

Thursdays at 6:30p
Saturdays at 6p
Sundays at 8a & 10:30a

Gala of Giving

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr, Janesville, Wisconsin, for our second annual fundraising event, *Gala of Giving*. Doors open at 5p.

The *Gala of Giving* is an evening of fun including dinner and a live and silent auction to support St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School and Daycare. The cost of the event is \$55 per person. Reservations are required.

Opportunities for sponsoring tables as a family or a business are also available. Details can be found on the registration form.

Reservation forms can be found in the back of church or can be picked up from the school/church office. Mail the completed registration form and check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran (memo line: Gala of Giving) to 210 S. Ringold Street, Janesville WI 53545. Registration closes May 1, 2017.

With Sympathy:

Please remember in your prayers everyone who is mourning someone close to them.

We remember: Michael Kraffack on the loss of his mother, Esther Kraffack; Jeff Hassinger on the loss of his brother, John Hassinger; Cathy Schneider on the loss of her father, Delmer Lawrence; Ruth Wier on the loss of her mother, Lois Staubitz.

Official Acts:

Baptism:

02-19-17 Oaklee Jean Karlen
Parents: Matthew & Brianne (nee Pomplun) Karlen
Sponsors: Andrew & Shannon Terry

Deaths:

02-28-2017 Delmer R. Lawrence

No membership changes.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!

Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning we begin an entire season of celebration. The season of Easter is a time to see that Jesus kept all of the promises that were made about Him. He took away our sin, died in our place, and rose from the dead.

Christians all around the world join together in celebrating the glorious news that Jesus is not in the tomb, but He is risen. We will certainly sing a lot of songs during the season of Easter that remind us of Jesus resurrection, but our song of the month will be a key feature of the Easter season. “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” is a wonderful Easter song that comes to us from our brothers and sisters in Christ in Tanzania.

The joyful melody and complex rhythmic accompaniment of this African song reflect the joy of the Easter message. Using the word “alleluia” we sing our praises to God for the great gifts won for us on Easter morning. The refrain of the text summarizes those gifts well.

*Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!*

Stanza four is to the point...

*Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won.*

Join us this month as we sing and celebrate the great news that “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!”

Jared Stiek

