

News N' Notes



ST. Paul's
Lutheran Church, School & Daycare

What's Happening in St. Paul's

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

He is risen! Greetings in the wonderful Name of our once dead but now living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I wish you all of our Lord's Easter blessings of forgiveness, life, and hope!

You are reading the now fifth installment of a series of articles entitled: **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST. PAUL'S**. The purpose of these articles is to share with you both what has happened at St. Paul's last month and some of what will happen here this month.

By the time you read this article we will be in the second week of the Easter season. During the weeks of Lent we were privileged to walk with a special person named Job in our midweek Lenten services and learn from him what it means that our Lord Jesus made His weary way to the Cross for us. What a blessing it was to see so many people in our midweek Lenten suppers and services. Thanks goes to the Lord of the Church for the good food and the dear folks who prepared it. Thanks to Him also for the hard work of the musicians, choirs, students, *Journey to the Cross* actors, Jared Stiek, John Mueller, Kathy Pingel, and all others who made the services so spiritually strengthening for adults and children alike. During the Lenten Sunday services and sermon series entitled *Ransom*, we watched the Gospel writer Mark paint for us a picture of the twenty-four hours leading up to Jesus' death. Through our Holy Week services our faith was well-prepared for what took place three days after Good Friday; and again, thanks goes to the Lord of the Church for the hard work of our musicians, youth, counselors, altar guild, and all other faithful and generous members.

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What's Happening in St. Paul's

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On Easter it was our privilege to join Christians throughout the world in the great Easter cry of victory: **He is risen!** But Easter did not simply take place on April 16th only to be forgotten until Easter next year (which by the way, will be on April 1). We are privileged to currently be in the Easter season. Our Bible lessons assigned for each Sunday through May 28th focus our attention on how our resurrected Redeemer continues to bring about much needed changes in our world and our lives. Our celebration of Easter will continue through our current sermon series entitled: *Easter Changes Everything*.

Creation Museum Trip

Also, this past month nearly forty St. Paul's members and their friends travelled to Kentucky to experience the life sized replica of the Ark and tour the Creation Museum. It was a fantastic time for fun, fellowship, and faith affirmation in our Creator and Savior Jesus Christ. Similar trips are being planned.

Confirmation

On Sunday, May 21st the Lord of the Church will bless 26 junior confirmation students with an opportunity to sincerely confess their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Confirmation will take place at the 8 and 10:30 a.m. services. Please keep the following in your prayers:

Levi Ames; Presley Belk; Grace Bolden; Samantha Jessie; Jaida Jones; Layla Kleeman; Ben Knuth; Josh Knuth; Katie Leach; Evan Lloyd; Makayla Maurer; Kianah Michaels; Karalynn Pingel; Claire Rusert; Tayelin Sihabouth; Kennedy Straight; Jayda Swopes; Lauryn Swopes; Savannah Swopes; Lorien Teval; Sydney Thompson; Ellen Toberman; Tyler Vincetich; Chris Wier; Kadin Wojcik; and Kiel Wolff.

Summer Worship Schedule

Finally, for several weekends last summer, the Sunday 8 and 10:30 a.m. services were combined into one service. This summer we will expand the one service per Sunday schedule to all Sundays from Memorial weekend, May 28th through Labor Day weekend, September 3rd. The Lord's Supper will be offered on those Sundays that follow Saturday services in which the Sacrament is not offered. Thursday and Saturday services will continue to be offered at their regular times.

Again, may each of your days this month be filled with the Cross-empowered and empty tomb-based love, forgiveness, and hope of our once dead but now living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He is risen!

God's Blessings!
Pastor Decker

What's Happening in School Ministry

As we return from Easter break we begin the sprint towards the end of the 2016-2017 school year. There is always a lot going on at St. Paul's, and this month is no different.

Class Trips

Our 7th and 8th graders are taking their trips in a few weeks, and they are looking forward to the memories they will make on those trips. (7th Grade goes to Washington DC and the 8th Grade travels to Florida.)

Operetta

The upper grade operetta is only a few days away, and all the hard work and hours the students have put into it will be well worth it. I would like to invite all of you to the performance for the operetta on the April 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

Chromebook Pilot

In other news, the 8th graders have begun the Chromebook pilot program. They will be testing them out before we do a middle school wide rollout next year. If you would like to donate to that program any amount is appreciated.

Tuition Assistance

Lastly, as we look forward to next school year there is an area of need that directly impacts whether a student has the opportunity to attend St. Paul's, and that is tuition assistance. This program is vital to our ministry because it allows us to provide a quality Lutheran education to all people no matter their financial situation. If the Lord so moves you, please give your time, talents, or treasures to improving our already wonderful ministry.

Rob Lunak



"There is always a lot going on at St. Paul's . . ."



Summer Worship Schedule

Worship is an opportunity for God's people to gather around His Word and His Sacraments. It is a time for His family to receive forgiveness and celebrate God's love. Our congregation is blessed to gather for worship weekly at a variety of times.

In our busy, modern world it is very practical that a large congregation have multiple worship services. However, it is also important that the various segments of our congregation come together on occasion as the larger body of Christ.

Throughout the summer we will have the opportunity to gather for "One-Service Sundays." This summer's Sunday worship services will allow congregation members to in-

teract with members who typically attend a different worship service.

Our congregation is blessed with a variety of musical ensembles that faithfully serve as musicians for our worship services. The "One-Service Sundays" will be a chance for our various music ensembles to collaborate and work together for special music for the summer.

Thursday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 6:00 p.m. worship will continue throughout the summer while Sunday worship will move to 9:00 a.m. This schedule will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend (May 28 through September 3).

Comfort Dog Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lenten Supper and supported the Comfort Dog Ministry. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial for their generous support through the Thrivent Action Team program.

The ministry team is beginning to reach out to facilities, institutions, and organizations in Janesville and surrounding communities that would like to have a relationship with our ministry. The Comfort Dog page on the church and school website is beginning to evolve. Once we have our own dog this will be a way for you to follow our dog's activities. Until then this page will have links to Lutheran Church Charities and information about their K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, as well as the activities of our own ministry team.

Remember to save the date of Sunday, August 27 to attend the Comfort Dog Cookout at Skelly's Farm Market in Janesville. If you have any questions about this ministry please contact Cheryl Skelly (608-322-1536) or Kathy Overley.(608-754-3245).

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

Women's Ministry

Both our morning and evening groups finished our Bible study on "Keep It Shut". We learned what to say, how to say it, and when to say nothing at all as we studied about what the Bible says about the ways we use our words in person and online. We will begin a new study in June.

Our spring WWW event, *Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever*, was held on April 1. The event can be summed up as good old fashioned fun! We learned from Carolyn Fish about promises God gave to Hannah in the Old Testament and how those promises still apply today. We learned from Sara Knuth that we can use God's promises in the Bible today as we face various situations in our lives. And Elizabeth Decker taught us how we can look to our future and the promises God gives us as we await our forever heavenly home. The classic 1950s theme included songs, videos, decor, and even burgers and shakes as we strolled down memory lane.

Family Ministry

Each Lenten service, families received a "piece of the journey" to remind them of events that happened as Jesus journeyed to the cross. In addition to the small table sized cross, they received a purple cloth, praying hands, nail, sponge, and whip.



Sunday School

Sunday School, which meets each Sunday morning, participated in the Palm Sunday Procession at both 8a and 10:30a church services. They waved Palm Branches and sang Hosannas as they processed to the front of church. What a blessing to hear the children sing and praise their Lord!

Kathy Pingel

Date Night Out

We held our second of four sessions at the Italian House in Janesville.

We learned that sometimes we need to connect more often with our spouse in order to better communicate with him/her.

The more we connect, the better our communication, and the better our communication, the stronger our marriages will become.

What a blessing it was to have seventeen couples join us!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran
Church, School
And Day Care

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Official Acts

Baptism:

04-09-17 Lily Harper Horn
Parents: Jamie & Allicia (nee Milz) Horn
Sponsors: Mark & Christine Langdok

Membership Changes:

New Members:

03-24-2017 Tanner Holt
735 Prairie Ave, Janesville WI 53545
608-289-5981
Received by transfer from Redeemer Lutheran
Church, Beaumont, Texas (LCMS)

03-24-2017 Paul & Nicole Zellmer, Olin and Reese
834 Sentinel Dr, Janesville WI 53546
608-563-0422
Received by release from St. Matthew's Lutheran
Church, Janesville WI (WELS)

Members Leaving:

03-20-2017 Earl, Ruth and Madeline Sais
removed per Pastor Decker

Church Council 2016-2017

Ralph Bock
608-563-2129
Bridget Lindau, Secretary
608-290-1460
Quentin Schrader
608-346-0252
Chad Slama, Vice-Chair
608-346-9485
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

With Sympathy:

Please remember these families in your prayers, as they mourn the loss of someone special to them.

We remember: Georgia Quinn on the loss of her brother, John Carr and Beverly Strickert on the loss of her son, Ron Strickert.



God's Own Child I Gladly Say It

Birthdays mark a celebration of life, they mark a change in our age and they are inevitable. Regardless of our age, we are all children of God. Our life in Christ began at our baptism when we were forgiven, adopted in God's family and given the gift of eternal life. Just as we celebrate our birthday each year, we can give thanks and celebrate our baptismal birthday and beyond our baptismal birthday we celebrate our entire life in Christ. As baptized children of God we begin each new day with God's forgiveness and love.

Our song of the month for May, "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It," includes a powerful text about the gifts of baptism that we are privileged to receive each and everyday. The text first appeared in Lutheran hymnals with a rather dry and stodgy tune and was therefore seldom sung in worship. Music professor Dr. Joesph Herl was researching hymn tunes throughout Europe and came across the tune "Bachofen" in an old hymnal. He recommended this tune be used with the text for publication in the Hymnal Supplement 98.

At first Dr. Herl's plan was rejected because the tune was considered to be too challenging and too busy. However, he was persuasive in arguing the joy of the fast moving melody matched the tremendous joy we have as God's baptized children. The hymn was then included in the 2006 Lutheran Service Book because it was rated as one of the most frequently sung songs of the Hymnal Supplement 98.

Another unique feature of this song is stanza three. This is one of only a few instances when the congregation speaks directly to the devil...

*Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, all your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!*

This bold statement speaks directly to the devil pointing out we do not belong to him. We are God's children, baptized in Christ and united with Him. The final stanza of hymn summarizes the great promises of our baptism.

*There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!*



Jared Stiek

Lutheran Women in Mission: Bringing Cheer to Those Around Us

Are you loving this spring weather??? Won't you please help us bring some spring cheer to people who are unable to get out of the house much??

On Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., the St Paul's LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) will be hosting a service project in Fellowship Hall (the church basement)! We will be assembling baskets to bring to the homebound members of our church.

For the ingathering we will each bring some diabetic-friendly treats, and fun items to pack in the baskets/boxes. Each person present will select a homebound person's name and address and then fill a box/basket from the available treats/items that were brought by the group. We will each deliver the baskets to our recipient in the following days, when it is convenient.

Also that night, to grow our knowledge of God's Word, Judy Sullivan will lead us in a Bible Trivia contest! And as always, we will share fellowship over a dessert or snack. Questions? Call [608-234-8081](tel:608-234-8081). Please JOIN US!!

Prayer Service

You're invited to a National Day of Prayer Service: The Zone 19 LWML will be organizing a National Day of Prayer Service on Thursday May 4, 2017 at 9 AM, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 207 High St, Edgerton. All are welcome to join us.

