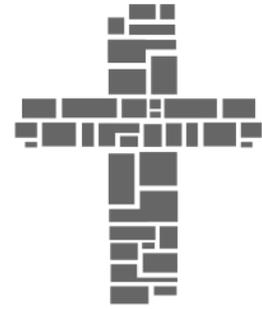


News N' Notes



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 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray this newsletter finds you well and well blessed. You are reading the now third 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 article our three week sermon series entitled: **MY CHURCH, MY MINISTRY** will have finished and we will have celebrated our 45th anniversary of JLIT!

The church season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, March 1. Midweek Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. (a short 25 minute service held over the lunch hour) and at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a Lenten supper and family ministry.

The Lenten midweek sermon series will focus on the book of Job and is entitled: **BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD!** The idea behind this midweek sermon series is that we all suffer—personally and privately. We also suffer in more public ways. A husband loses a job. A couple gets divorced. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more and more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the book of Job, now, more than ever.

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Visual Journey to the Cross

Our Lenten series begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1. At the 6:30p worship service each family will receive a small standing cross that will fit on a table.

Each Wednesday evening service from March 8 through April 5 will include a skit related to Jesus' Journey on the cross. Every family attending will receive a "weekly remembrance" to add to their table cross as a reminder of that journey.

We look forward to your family participating!

Make sure you stop by our "Journey to the Cross" table as you leave worship to receive your Lenten remembrance items.

What's Happening in St. Paul's

Here's the schedule:

- 3/1 ***Flying Blind*** – Job 1:1-12
- 3/8 ***Sweet Surrender*** – Job 1:13-22
- 3/15 ***Learning to Lament*** – Job 3:1-26
- 3/22 ***It is Enough*** – Job 14:1-14
- 3/29 ***Understanding How It All Works Together*** – Job 23:1-17

This year we will also be observing a Sunday Lenten sermon series entitled: **RANSOM**. This series will look at Mark's Gospel, examining the events that led up to the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Mark took great lengths to communicate why the cross was necessary and what it accomplished for us. Namely, that the King of the Universe came to give Himself as a ransom for a world that gathered to mock Him, so that they could become people who worship Him. The entire book culminates in the declaration of the centurion from the foot of the cross, "Surely this man was the Son of God".

Here's the schedule:

- 3/5 **The Ransom – Part 1: *One For All***
Lesson: Mark 10:32-45
- 3/12 **The Ransom – Part 2: *Blood Brother***
Lesson: Mark 14:12-52
- 3/19 **The Ransom – Part 3: *The Kiss of Death***
Lesson: Mark 14:43-51
- 3/26 **The Ransom – Part 4: *True Confession***
Lesson: Mark 14:53-65

Also, I would encourage you to attend a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, March 19th from 3-4 p.m. During this time information concerning the 2017/18 budget will be shared.

Finally check out the articles throughout this edition of *News N Notes* to find out **What's Happening in St. Paul's!** May each of your days this month be filled with the Cross-empowered love, Cross-earned forgiveness, and Cross-based hope of our Savior Jesus Christ!

God's Blessings!
Pastor Decker

Question and Answers about Wednesdays in Lent

Why do we gather twice a week for worship during Lent?

For centuries Lutherans have gathered as God's guests for midweek services during the Lenten season. We do so as a way to "interrupt" our normal routine and remind ourselves of our sin, our need for a Savior, the suffering Jesus endured in our place, and we anticipate the celebration of His resurrection on Easter, the end of the season of Lent.

What are the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten worship services like?

This year the evening Lenten services will be a blend of powerful congregational music, school choirs, church music ensembles, Scripture readings, drama, children's messages, a sermon series on the book of Job, and prayer. Each night an item will be given to the congregation to take home as a reminder of the Scripture passage that was portrayed through drama. Family devotion and discussion materials will also be available.

What are the 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Lenten worship services like?

The midday Lenten services are a brief worship opportunity with simple music, spoken liturgy, Scripture readings, and a sermon series on the book of Job.

The services are for which age groups?

The midday services are for adults available during the day or on their lunch break. The evening services are designed for people of all ages. Families are encouraged to gather together as a family for worship on Wednesday evenings. These Wednesday services are unique and are not repeats of the school chapel services.

When do we have Wednesday services?

From March 1 through April 5 we will gather every Wednesday for worship in addition to our weekend worship. Please Note: There will be NO Thursday evening worship during Lent.

What is Holy Week?

Following the six Wednesdays of Lent, we have a week known as "Holy Week" when we gather for worship on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in preparation for our Easter celebration.

- **Maundy Thursday** is a time to celebrate Jesus' gift of communion.
12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Communion Worship Services
- **Good Friday** is an opportunity to remember Christ's suffering and death for our sin.
12:15 p.m. Worship including Scripture, sermon, and music
6:30 p.m. Worship including Passion Drama, Scripture, sermon, and music
- **Holy Saturday**, known as the Easter Vigil, is a time to remember our baptism.
6:00 p.m. Worship including Scripture, sermon, music, and baptismal remembrance



With Sympathy

Our prayers go out to the following families who've recently lost someone special to them.

We remember: Bonnie, Eric and Laura Sasse on the loss of mother/grandmother Kathleen Greenland; Mike Manor and family on the loss of his uncle, Peter Schneider; Gloria Schmidt and Mike Schmidt and family on loss of granddaughter/niece Kimberly Nesburg; Wes Crosby and Lynn Demerath and family on loss of wife/mother Nel Crosby; Lisa Wedel and family on loss of grandfather, Dick Trick.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

What's Happening in Women's Ministry

Ladies, save the date!!

Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall (the church basement), our Women Walking in the Word will be hosting "Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever" — a 1950's style half-day women's event.

For the record, it is sure to be great fun! Study how Jesus has kept His promises in the past and will continue in the future, take a stroll down memory lane, make blessing bags, and enjoy burgers, fries, and milkshakes at St. Paul's Diner, and even take a selfie

by our 1950s car and juke box.

Join us for a morning of friendship, Bible study, laughter, service projects, lunch, and more.

RSVP by Monday, March 27 to kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com.



What's Happening in School Ministry

The school has been a busy place this month. We are gearing up for re-enrollment, and racing towards JLIT (the Janesville Lutheran Invitational [Basketball] Tournament).

By the time you read this, JLIT will be in full swing. This is a huge undertaking, and it is only successful because of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and volunteers. I hope to see you there that weekend!

We just recently held a successful Open House, and we are blessed to be able to share our quality Christian education with the community.

Rob Lunak

Song of the Month: Forgive Oh Lord

By Jared Stiek

March brings the season of Lent. As we spend a season focusing on Christ's suffering, death, and saving victory over sin, we reflect on our need for forgiveness. This month's song focuses on this precious gift of forgiveness that is given to us regularly in worship. Gathered at the font for baptism, the altar for communion, or participating in confession and absolution, we receive God's gift of forgiveness. Each day that we live as baptized child of God we once again receive Christ's love through forgiveness.

The song "Forgive Oh Lord" was written by members of St. Paul's, Ted and Jennifer Diedrick. The Diedricks were active in the worship team and wrote this song prior to 2000. While relatively "new" the message it communicates is timeless as it explores God's gift of forgiveness won by Christ's resurrection on Easter morning.

*Forgive oh Lord, and wash me clean
Send Your Spirit now to abide in me.*

*How can I come, but for Your Son
To Your presence my Father
I would ever be lost eternally
Trapped in my torment and sorrow*

*You had a plan, a perfect Man
Pure, righteous and holy
Would die willingly, because of
His love for me
New life is breathed in my spirit.*

*So now I come to You, Holy One
Your Son the sacrifice given
To taste the wine and bread,
I hear what Jesus said
That this is His body and blood.*

*To Your table Oh Lord I come
True repentance I bring
Now joyfully I come.*

Often sung during communion, this song speaks of the great blessing of forgiveness we receive when we participate in the Lord's Supper.



Old Smart Phones Wanted



St. Paul's School is seeking donations of old smart phones (with chargers) to be used in the classroom for use with Google Expeditions. If you don't have an old smart phone to donate, we are also looking for cash donations for the purchase of Google Cardboard (used as a viewer). Bring donations to the School/Church office.

What is Google Expedition?

Google Expedition will enable teachers to bring students on virtual trips to places like museums, underwater, and outer space. Expeditions are collections of linked virtual reality (VR) content and supporting materials that can be used alongside existing curriculum.

Comfort Dog Ministry

To show the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to Those Who are Suffering and in Need – Mission statement of Lutheran Church Charities

St. Paul's K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry team is very excited to see this ministry gradually taking shape! We have been and will continue to work hand in hand with Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) as we learn how to use this ministry in our church, school, and community. We probably will not receive our dog until sometime early in 2018, but there is much work to be accomplished before then. There is now a page on our church web site that will be growing as the ministry evolves. Please start checking this out soon. We will also be putting up a bulletin board in the back of church (the narthex) early next month with information about the ministry.

On Monday, March 13 there will be a ministry meeting at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (the church basement). We have had over two dozen individuals already express interest in working with this ministry and they will all be invited to attend this meeting. If you did not attend our first meeting last fall, but would like to learn more about how you could become involved please come on the 13th, or call Cheryl Skelly (608-322-1536) or Kathy Overley (608-346-5713). Pray for this ministry and its' leaders as we go forward.



Comfort Dogs

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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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

Official Acts

Deaths:

01-20-2017 Nelita "Nel" J. Crosby

Membership Changes:

New Members:

02-03-2017 Terry & Deborah Gilster
Karl and James Anderson
Alyssa and Anthony Gilster
Received by transfer from St. John's Lutheran
Church, Wadena, Minnesota (LCMS)

3905 E County Rd S
Beloit WI 53511
262-725-2972

Members Leaving:

02-03-2017

Steve & Kelly Frisque, Ashley and Steffan, transferred to Wood-
bury Lutheran Church, Woodbury MN (LCMS)

02-06-2017

Marcus Murdy transferred to Grace Lutheran Church, Jackson-
ville FL (LCMS)

02-03-2017

Tadd & Sarah Iverson, Cody, Samuel and Laney, released to
Faith Lutheran Church, Janesville WI (ELCA)

02-03-2017

Gwen Schaeffer released to New Life Assembly of God, Janes-
ville WI

Removed by Own Request:

02-03-2017 Bruce Campbell

02-03-2017 Chloe Prange