

News N' Notes



CHRIST IS BORN!

And Because He is, You Are Cordially Invited To

Fill Your Pew at

St. Paul's Christmas Services!

Christmas Eve: 4, 6:30, and 9 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9 a.m.

A recent report indicates that the number of Americans who *identify* themselves as Christians has dropped from 75% to 65% in the last ten years. How many of us have family members who are a part of those statistics? How many of our **loved ones who were baptized and taught here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School** that Jesus loves them have now dropped out of our worship life? Have our loved ones ever **received a specific invitation to come back to St. Paul's?**

Please consider being a part of a homecoming effort here at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School called *FILL YOUR PEW***. Picture the pew that you normally sit in (you all know you have one). Picture your loved one, good friend, or close neighbor being given a personal invitation by you to *FILL YOUR PEW* on **Christmas! Isn't that a beautiful picture?!**

We hope to see you there!

God Bless You!

Pastor Daniel Decker

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Share Your Holiday with Others

St. Paul's Congregation delivers Christmas Cheer Baskets to members who need a little extra help to make ends meet. You can help by contributing dish washing liquid, laundry detergent, bath soap, facial tissue, paper towels, toilet paper, canned soups (mushroom, tomato, chicken, etc.), canned cranberry sauce, canned tuna, peanut butter and jams/jellies; or any non-perishable food item. Please bring your gifts to Fellowship Hall by December 17. There will be a table set up for your donations. Thank you!

Could you or someone you know use a Christmas Cheer Basket? Please contact David Jass at 608-755-0564. All calls remain confidential.

Ladies' Aid Collecting Items for Rock Haven's Canteen

The canteen provides residents of Rock Haven the opportunity to "purchase" items for themselves and for their family or friends. We're looking for new or gently used items.

Rock Haven has very few restrictions and many interests that include: those free calendars, wrapping paper and cards you receive in the mail or free samples of shampoo, conditioner, and lotions; movies on VHS and DVD; Music CDs and cassettes; Books; stuffed animals are popular to give to grandkids and toys for all ages; knick-knacks; clothes—all sizes for men and women, fuzzy socks and slippers; jewelry and nail polish (this is VERY popular); craft supplies; purses, coin purses, make-up bags, hair scrunchies, makeup. The list is endless.

There will be a box in Fellowship Hall for your donations. Please make your donations by December 16, 2018. Thank you!



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Counting Every Blessing

This time of year it's easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season. As you are preparing for Christmas, I want to share these lyrics with you from Rend Collective,

*"God, You were there in the valley of shadows,
You were there in the depth of my sorrows,
You're my strength, my hope for tomorrow.
I've been blessed beyond all measure!
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing,
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see.
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing,
Surely every season you are good to me."*

I hope you take the time to count your blessings and remember where they come. God is with you today and always! If you are interested in playing or singing with the praise team, please let me know. Our 10:30a Sunday service especially would welcome some additional singers. May your Advent and Christmas season be filled with joyful music and God's blessings!

Ann Henny

Ladies Aid and LWML December Lunch at Mac's Pizza Shack

The December meeting for Women in Mission (LWML) will be a fellowship lunch gathering with Ladies Aid held at Mac's Pizza Shack on Thursday, December 6th, at 12:30p.

Remember to bring your mites that day or to Advent by Candlelight.

Also, please be praying and preparing to vote on mission grants in January.

Mary



St. Paul's
Comfort Dog

³⁵ *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.*

³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:35-39

Did you know this is the story that Comfort Dog Mary's Bible verse is taken from? And the story from which her name was chosen!

Mary continues to be very busy visiting schools, senior living facilities, veterans' events, libraries, the Rock Co. Jail and 911 Command Center. But we want to use our page this month to tell you about how some of the 130 other LCC Comfort Dogs have been sharing the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 7, another tragic shooting occurred in Thousand Oaks, CA. By Thursday evening November 8, four LCC comfort dogs from Northbrook, IL, one from Colorado and one from Las Vegas were deployed and joined one of the California based dogs at a prayer vigil held at California Lutheran University. The plan was to spend the next week with students, survivors, the injured and first responders. Plans were formed to bring another team of dogs to Thousand Oaks (we even discussed the possibility of Mary and two handlers joining the second deployment). But as LCC posted on Facebook, "we responded to the mass shooting and God had more plans for us!" Massive wildfires, some of the worst to ever affect California, spread quickly. So the dogs were now being used in shelters to comfort those impacted by the wildfires. The second deployment was put on hold, and at the time of this writing is not going forward, because of the danger from the fires. At the same time these seven dogs were serving in California, four dogs went to Panama City, FL to comfort impacted residents, first responders, and volunteers still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

The following is a quote from Tim Hetzner, CEO of LCC:

"I appreciate the emails from some of you asking how we doing. We are keeping our heads above water just enough to see the Feet of Jesus walking on it! Knowing that we are never alone, and where we are, Jesus showed up before us and we follow HIS lead! It keeps us going! It keeps us serving."

One of the ways you can help these teams being deployed is by going to the LCC web site, www.lutheranchurchcharities.org, and using the following tabs: Ways to Give/K9 Comfort Dogs/Travel Expenses. LCC never charges those they serve.

As always, your continued prayers for our ministry here at St. Paul's and the entire LCC Comfort Dog ministry across the country are important. Our entire team wishes you a blessed Christmas.

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, Dec. 2 from 4-6:30 pm

in Fellowship Hall (the church basement)

This wonderful event is open to all women of St. Paul's, friends, and relatives for a night to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Buffet of appetizers and desserts, entertainment, devotion, and fellowship. Sign up in the back of church. Please bring a donation of non-food items for Cheer Baskets.

Questions: Brenda Eden 608-751-3228

Handmade Gifts

Caring Cards Ministry and Knitting for a Purpose

supports GIFTS Men's Shelter -

Monday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 pm in room 204.

We will be having stations to create handmade Christmas cards and to knit hats to be given to GIFTS. You are welcome to participate in either or both of the stations as you wish. If you plan on knitting, we have looms you may use or you can bring your own needles. We'd appreciate it if you could bring your own yarn, any color.

Contact Kathy Pingel at kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com with questions.

Lit 'n Lattes

Lit 'n Lattes Christian Women's Book Club, has chosen The Masterpiece by Francine Rivers for our next discussion. If you are interested in participating, you'll need to read the book and be ready to discuss it on Tues., Jan. 8, at 6:30p in room 204 of St. Paul's School.

New Women's Bible Study

Altogether Beautiful, a video-based study of the book, Song of Songs, written by Heidi Goehmann, our speaker for our spring event, will be held Wednesdays at 9a and 2p or Thursdays at 6p beginning, Jan. 9 and 10, 2019. The cost of the workbook is \$13.00. Contact Kathy Pingel at kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com by Jan., 3, 2019, to reserve your spot and to order a book.

Official Acts

Baptisms:

10-20-2018

Cato Craig Michael Lunak

Parents: Robert & Brooke
(née Zeddies) Lunak

Sponsors: Daniel Zeddies
and Kirsten Pffingsten

11-04-2018

Kelsi Allison Drascic

Parents: Christopher & Kari
(née Ramage) Drascic

Sponsors: John & Lindsey
Safford

11-11-2018

Joshua Matthew Titan Miller

Parents: Jacob & Brianne
(née Brazil) Miller

Sponsors: Eric Terrill and
Sarah Butcher

11-18-2018

Tate Archer Wilson and

Jett Royce Wilson

Parents: Bruce & Hayley
(née Gordhamer) Wilson

Sponsors: Jen O'Connell;
Heath & Heidi Mandel

Membership Changes:

Transferred from LCMS

Congregation:

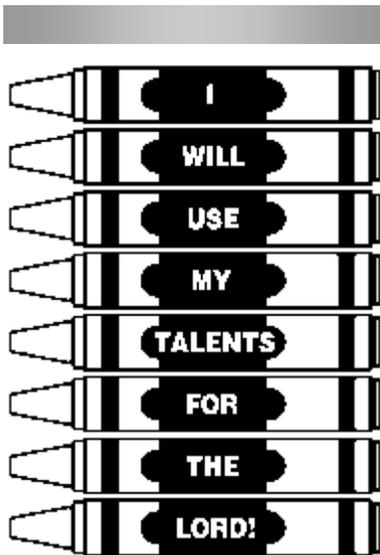
Ann Henny transferred from
Trinity Lutheran, Rockledge
FL [Oct. 19, 2018]

Adult Confirmation on No-

vember 4, 2018: Kari Vail
and Taylor Murwin; Blair &

Heather Winn (Addley and
Brienna); Nate & Jenn

Sawyer



Broken Crayons Still Color

Our spring Women's event, is Saturday, March 30, 2019, from 8:30a-3:30p.

Our guest speaker, Heidi Goehmann from *ilovemyshepherd.com*, will talk about God's grace and mercy that comes to us when we feel broken, lost., and alone.

There will be light hearted breakout sessions, food, fun, and fellowship.

Registration begins in February. More info to come! Contact Kathy Pingel at kpingel@stpaulsjanesville for questions.

"Joy to the world, The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King"



Hearts at Home 2.0

Conference for Christian Moms

Legacy: Gather, Grow, Go

March 15-16, 2019

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Register at <https://www.heartsathome2.org/2019conference/>

Nov. 1-Jan.31 registration fee is \$100.

Feb. 1 - 28 the fee goes up to \$120.

This "Mommy School" is a great way to be refueled, learn from other moms, and be equipped for the parenting challenges you face.

St. Paul's is looking to take a group of moms to the conference. We will leave at 3:30 pm on Friday, March 15 and will return the evening of Sat., March 16. The cost of the hotel room is \$45 per person. If you are interested, you will need to register on your own. Then contact Kathy Pingel at kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com or 754-4471 ext 306 so she can save you spot for you.

This will be an amazing weekend filled with fun, laughter, and learning. We have had several who have gone in the past and they will tell you that it was well worth the time. We'd love to have you participate.

7th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip Fundraiser

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Jeff Elser	608-752-5120
Tom Neumann	608-756-1978
Laura Manke	608-563-1142
Jen Ellis	608-449-3072
Jason Harvey	608-322-9443
Barb Frank	608-718-1278

Regular Worship Schedule:

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