

# News N' Notes



ST. Paul's  
Lutheran Church, School & Daycare

## What's Happening at St. Paul's

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Recently I made a presentation in our four weekly services entitled 99 OR 1 OR BOTH based on Jesus' words in Luke 15:4: ***"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"*** Jesus isn't really talking about sheep here but about souls, souls for whom He died and rose again to give everlasting salvation. Think of the "99" as St. Paul's members who hopefully know they have a Savior in Jesus Christ. The "1" is someone who either never knew Jesus or have drifted away from the Christian faith. So, what kind of ministry should St. Paul's be: 99 OR 1 OR BOTH?

A. HOW ABOUT THE "99"? Here are some recent statistics concerning the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod:

1. The LCMS has lost 20+% of its baptized members since the 1970s.
2. The LCMS has lost 250,000 people alone over a ten-year period.
3. We baptize only about 1/4 of the children we baptized in the 1960s.
4. We now have more adult confirmations than infant baptisms (this is not quite true here at St. Paul's because of the high number of young people due to our school – rare is the week lately when we don't have a Baptism).
5. 90% of LCMS babies baptized shortly after WWII went on to be confirmed. Today only 50% of LCMS

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February 2019

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baptized babies go on to be confirmed.

## B. Rock County and the World:

1. There are 11 LCMS congregations in Rock County and all have lower worship attendance than 10 years ago.
2. 38% of the US population lists “none” for religious preference.

## C. St. Paul's Care for the “99”:

1. Youth & Children's Ministry under John Mueller's leadership has flourished and youth Bible studies and ministries have begun in the area high schools.
2. Women's and Family Ministry under Kathy Pingel have exploded with fully attended Bible studies, fellowship events, and an upcoming women's retreat: *Broken Crayons Still Color*.
3. Worship under the direction of Dennis Warhle and Ann Henny continues to bring us God's Word and the Sacraments.
4. Service/Outreach goes on with visits made by our Front Porch Callers and Mary the Comfort Dog.
5. St. Paul's school ministry continues to reach more students and families – adding about 20 students per year.
6. Associate Pastor: Our Associate Pastor will hopefully come this summer to lead St. Paul's in the areas of Generosity (Stewardship), Assimilation (bringing new members into an active spiritual life here), and Missions (more on this later).

## 2. HOW ABOUT THE “1”?

1. 53% of Rock County residents are unreached/de-churched
2. Church attendance/impressions of the church are at their lowest in history, especially among the millennials (22-35 year olds).
3. 59% of millennials raised in the church have dropped out.
4. 35% of millennials believe the church does more harm than good.
5. Millennials are the least likely age group to attend church at 4%.

## WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

1. Use our school as a mission effort into the community through continued use of the *Reach* program (first time school families receive free or reduced tuition for their first year), P4J, and the voucher program.
2. Recently I read on article entitled: “*12 Reasons Millennials Are OVER Church.*” You can find it at: <https://tosavealife.com/faith/12-reasons-millennials-church/> The author, a Christian millennial gives several reasons why she believes younger people see no

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need for church. Here is . . .

*Reason 12: You're Failing to Adapt – Here's the bottom line, church—you aren't reaching millennials. Enough with the excuses and the blame; we need to accept reality and intentionally move toward this generation that is terrifyingly anti-church.*

3. How can St. Paul's move toward this anti-church generation?
  - a) First of all, take Jesus' words seriously in **Luke 15:4: *Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?***
  - b) Secondly, St. Paul's needs to catch the missionary zeal that the early Christians had. "That the early Christians recognized their duty to spread the church by sending out missionaries can be gathered from Acts 13:1-5. At the end of the first century AD there may have been some 200,000 professed Christians, at the end of the time of Emperor Constantine, AD 325, the whole Roman Empire already was dotted with Christian churches, there being possible some eight million Christians." Concordia Cyclopedia, 1927, pg. 481

ST. PAUL'S NEEDS TO SEND OUT A MISSIONARY – OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR!

## ST. PAUL'S SATELLITE MISSION PLAN

### Goal:

To send our associate pastor out as a missionary to establish a welcoming, off-site satellite ministry that enables the "nones" and members of all disconnected generations of the Janesville, Wisconsin area to enter into a spiritual journey toward a saving faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Means:

1. Engaging in social interaction with those separated from God and/or the church.
2. Develop small groups as a means of discipleship ministry.
3. Develop a welcoming off-site worship with an ultra-contemporary format for those unreached people who will not enter a regular church building.
4. Conduct a community needs assessment with resulting ministry and community outreach to include but not be limited to:
  - Family ministry events
  - Fellowship events
  - Service events

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5. Please note that this off-site ministry will not become a separate church from St. Paul's but will be a satellite mission to be permanently supported by St. Paul's. Those who would join this mission through Confirmation and Baptism would always be counted as St. Paul's members.

## Mission Plan:

The associate pastor will have one calendar year from his installation date to formulate and present an acceptable plan to the senior pastor for the establishment of this mission. To facilitate the formation of this acceptable mission plan St. Paul's and the associate pastor will seek partnership services with the LCMS Center for United States Missions\*; LCMS - Mission Field: USA; LCMS South Wisconsin District Missions (Executive: Rev. Jonah P. Burakowski); and any other acceptable mission entities as needed.

\*The LCMS Center for United States Missions provides mission training courses entitled: Church Planter Assessment, Churches Planting Churches, Church Planting Essentials, Growing New Churches, Mentoring Church Planters, Planting the Missional Church.

CONCLUSION: Please regularly offer this prayer for this exciting missionary effort:

- Lord, may St. Paul's not simply settle for the 99 of our church. But also put on our hearts an overwhelming passion for the lost "1". They are our children, grandchildren, family members, and friends. May we be a "both" a church and school that cares for the 99 sheep safe in Jesus' care but also searches for the lost one through our satellite mission. And so, we ask that You would send to us the right missionary pastor to lead us in the search for the "1". We pray in the Name of the Savior Who went to hell for us all so that He would not have to go back to Heaven without us all. Amen.

God's Blessings!

*Pastor Decker*



# Giving Thanks

Mary and her team are so thankful to the wonderful people of this congregation. As we approach the one year anniversary of Mary being placed at St. Paul's, we are so grateful for the support that the Comfort Dog Ministry receives from you. Your continued prayers and financial support are so greatly appreciated by Mary's team.

We would also like to say thank you to Country Roads Kennel who does a wonderful job of keeping Mary looking beautiful with her monthly groomings. A big thank you also goes out to Badger Veterinary Hospital who helps to keep Mary in tip top shape with her vet visits.

Please continue to keep Mary's ministry team in your prayers as they, along with Mary, bring the *Mercy, Compassion, Presence, and the Proclamation of Jesus Christ* to those who are suffering and in need.

Please contact Mary by email, through Facebook or by talking to one of her team members, if you know of someone, or someplace that would benefit by a visit from her. Her email address is : [Mary@K9Comfort.org](mailto:Mary@K9Comfort.org).

Find Mary on Facebook at Mary Comfort Dog. This is a great way to stay updated on what she is doing.



## With Sympathy

We remember in our prayers all those who've lost someone dear to them:

- Paige & Paris Olson on loss of father, Scott Olson;
- Rupert and Kristine Klitzke on loss of wife/mother Delores Klitzke;
- Terri and Jenny Hansen and Amy Santas on loss of father/grandfather Richard Ambrose;
- Brad and Dylan Hanson on loss of mother/grandmother Jean Giese;
- Lois Wahrle on loss of mother, Lucille Messerschmidt.

## A Good Meal and Fine Company Awaits You with the Adult Fellowship Club

The Adult Fellowship Club Invites You to Join Them for Dinner on Tuesday, February 5 at 6p in Fellowship Hall (the church basement).

Please bring a dish to share.

After enjoying a good meal and fine company we will hear an update of St. Paul's Comfort Dog Ministry.

Everyone is welcome!



"Why didn't God just send Adam and Eve to their rooms?"

from [joyfulnoiseletter.com](http://joyfulnoiseletter.com)  
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## Women in Mission — Serving Others

**St Paul's Women in Mission (LWML) invites the ladies** of the congregation to join us for our next meeting Tues. Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the church basement.

We will have a Bible Study, view an LWML video, and set aside time for fellowship as we prepare for more service projects in upcoming months.

We will be collecting toilet paper for Battered Women's Shelter as our ingathering, for those would like to contribute.

### Spring Rally on April 8, 2019

St. Paul's LWML will be hosting the Lutheran Women in Mission Spring Rally in April. As part of our hosting duties, we will be serving a meal. More details to come as the date draws closer.



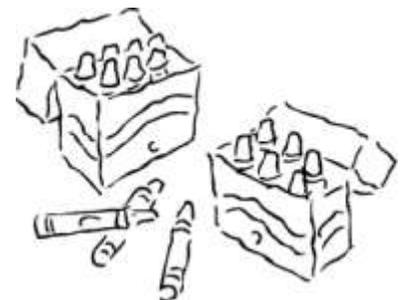
## Broken Crayons Still Color

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

Our guest speaker, Heidi Goehmann from [ilovemyshepherd.com](http://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.com](mailto:kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com) if you have questions.



**Did You Know?**

St. Paul's currently has 1,015 member households consisting of 2,113 individuals.

# Official Acts:

**Baptisms:**

*Phillip Edward Willis Lobrano*

Parents: Phillip James Lobrano and Tamra Lynne Vail

Sponsors: Kaileigh Lobrano and Jeffery Murwin

*Jagger Dean Timm*

Parents: Jeremy Michael & Laurie Lynn (née Jessie) Timm

Sponsors: Erika Bickle and Lucas Jessie

**Deaths:**

12-24-18

Delores E. Klitzke

12-25-18

Richard P. Ambrose

**Membership Changes:**

*Transferred from LCMS Congregation:*

01-18-19

David & Leone Wichelt from Holy Cross Lutheran, Eureka, Montana

*Transferred to LCMS Congregation:*

12-31-18

Peter Traynor (baptized Peyton) transferred to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Urbandale, Iowa

*Removed by Own Request:*

01-03-19

Jayne Schauer and Hannah Schauer

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

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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Jen Ellis

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**Regular Worship Schedule:**

Thursdays at 6:30p

Saturdays at 6p

Sundays at 8a & 10:30a

