

News N' Notes



ST. Paul's
Lutheran Church, School & Daycare

Comfort Dog Mary Providing Hope

Last month we told you how Mary and her team members had made well over 600 visits in her first two years with us at St. Paul's. These all were mostly routine visits for Mary and her team. Unfortunately, on February 26 with the Molson Coors shootings in Milwaukee our visits became more than routine. Our training had prepared us for emergency, crisis deployments, where we might be asked to respond in less than 24 hours. Now we were faced with such a situation, almost in our own back yard. We thought we would try to describe how our ministry served after this tragedy.

After receiving the request from Lutheran Church Charities early Thursday morning after the shooting, Mary and two of her handlers, Dianne and Tyler, were ready to travel to Milwaukee. Mary and six other dogs, mostly from the Milwaukee area, spent several hours that day at Story Elementary School. The school, located in the same neighborhood as the brewery, was put on lockdown after the shooting for several hours. Dianne described this visit: *"The classrooms were divided among the seven dogs. Mary visited one sixth grade class and three kindergarten classes. The kids and their teachers loved the dogs and the diversion from the previous day to start anew. We were happy to serve and provide love and compassion to Story school."* Two days later, on Saturday, Mary along with her handlers Dawn and Tyler again traveled to Milwaukee. This time they were available at a teamster's office to visit with brewery employees.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

Our Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak	3
Official Acts	3
LWML Meeting Planned	4
LWML Women's Scholarship	4
Gala of Giving	4
How You Can Help	5
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	4

(Continued from page 1)

The Monday after the shooting we would have been in Milwaukee again, however we had been asked to be at a local funeral home for a 13 year old boy who lost his life to cancer. This time we were requesting the help from other Comfort Dogs because of the large turnout that was expected at the visitation. Two dogs from Immanuel Lutheran in Belvidere, Kye and Bekka, came to serve with Mary. All three dogs were kept very busy providing comfort to the young man's family and friends.

We were in Milwaukee again that same week, this time splitting a long day between the medical examiner's office and the brewery. The medical examiner's office was a somewhat emotional visit according to Marys' handlers, Tom and Tom. The employees not only were dealing with the aftermath of the shooting but had dealt with a very tragic homicide case of a mother and her two young children only two weeks before, along with an extreme amount of deaths due to overdoses. Many of the employees spent time curled up next to Mary and the other comfort dogs, some choosing to talk about their experiences and some not. The chief medical examiner said no one had ever done anything like this for his employees. After leaving the medical examiner's office, Mary and the other dogs went to Molson Coors where employees were returning to work. Employees along with their families had the opportunity to spend time with the several dogs there before starting their shift.

Twenty-two dogs served at some point during this deployment, sharing the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. At the time of this writing, Marys' visits, along with all the other Comfort Dog visits, have been put on hold during this time of uncertainty and health concerns. Hopefully by the time this article is printed in two weeks there will be a more positive outlook. In the meantime, our ministry team is watching for ways we can serve in our community and share the love of Christ, such as the Kindness Karavan organized by some of our school parents.

Our team would also like to recognize one of Mary's handlers, Tyler Morehead, who this month will be deployed overseas with the U.S. Army. We ask for your prayers for Tyler and all those who serve our country. 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. Find Mary on Facebook at Mary Comfort Dog to stay updated on her comings and goings.





Our Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak

As a result of this public health emergency St. Paul's congregation has canceled many of our activities:

In-Person Worship has been suspended.

Holy Communion will not be offered at this time.

CANCELED ACTIVITIES:

Ladies' Aid Palm Sunday Bake Sale scheduled for April 4 & 5.

Youth Group's Scoopie Night scheduled for April 6.

Adult Fellowship Club scheduled for April 7.

The Orphan Grain Train collection scheduled for April 11.

The Easter Breakfast scheduled for April 12.

As of this writing, no decision has been made on Holy Week worship services. Please check our website or call the church office for more information.

Official Acts

Baptism:

March 14, 2020

Huntleigh Rae Velasquez

Parents: Johnn Boschna
and Avelina Velasquez

Sponsors: Ashley Kohn
and Nicole Harsha

Deaths:

03-01-2020

Marion E. Ludwig

03-10-2020

Jeff G. Hassinger

Membership Changes:

3-13-2020

Jameson Henning
transferred to Lord of
Glory Lutheran Church,
Grayslake, IL (LCMS)

With Sympathy:

Our prayers go out to all
who are mourning the
loss of someone special
to them.

We remember:

- The family of Marion Ludwig
- Nicole Steinke and family on loss of grandfather Robert Buehl
- Nancy Hassinger and children Brooke Staus, Kyle Hassinger, Heidi Bakke and Corey Hassinger on loss of husband/father Jeff Hassinger.
- Mary Toberman on loss of brother, David

Gala of Giving

This year's Gala of Giving is May 9, 2020.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the event with a table sponsorship and/or attendance.

Registration forms are available in the school office, the back of the church, or online.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Lindau at 290-1560.



LWML Meeting Planned

On Tuesday April 21st at 6:30 pm, the St Paul's Women in Mission (LWML) will be gather for spiritual growth and a business meeting in Fellowship Hall (the church basement). Please join us (member and guests) as Pastor Josh Gortelueschen leads us in a Bible Study.

Optional ingathering will be in preparation for the summer convention for the Lutheran Special School (basic school supplies and winter accessories) and for A Place of Refuge (diapers sizes 2-6, fragrance free hygiene products for children and adults, etc.) See the national or St Paul's Women in Mission web sites for more details.

With Covid 19 concerns, we will comply with government

recommendations at that time. If we need to cancel this meeting, members will be notified via e-mail. Non-members are asked to check the web site for up-to-date information: <http://www.stpaulsjanesville.com/church/lwml>



LWML Women's Scholarship

The Female Church Worker Scholarship Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 academic year. These grants are funded by the individual members of the Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)-South Wisconsin District through a percentage of Fall Retreat and Winter Getaway offerings, special gifts and interest on our funds.

To be eligible, a woman must be a resident of South Wisconsin District enrolled in one of our synodical institutions preparing for full time church work in a called position. Applications are available on our website, lwml-swd.org, by January 1st of each year and all application materials must be submitted by the following April 30th to be considered.

Please join us in praying for these and all of our young people preparing for a life of service in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. To God be the Glory!

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

210 South Ringold Street
Janesville WI 53545

Phone: 608-754-4471

Website:
www.StPaulsJanesville.com

Daniel J. Decker
Senior Pastor
608-754-4471 ext. 300
608-322-5839 cell
ddecker
@StPaulsJanesville.com

Josh Grotelueschen
Associate Pastor
608-754-4471 ext. 414
608-290-9837 cell
jgrotelueschen
@StPaulsJanesville.com

Rob Lunak, Principal
608-754-4471 ext. 302
schooloffice
@StPaulsJanesville.com

Church Council 2019-2020

Jeff Elser	608-752-5120
Tom Neumann	608-756-1978
Laura Manke	608-563-1142
Rhonda Schulze	920-946-7417
Jason Harvey	608-322-9443
Barb Frank	
Jack Eden	608-751-5999
Jennifer O'Connell	608-359-3544
Angie Stephens	608-921-0808

Regular Worship Schedule:

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

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for those who are affected by this pandemic. Pray for doctors, nurses, and medical personnel who are at risk. Pray for those whose jobs are being reduced or eliminated. Pray for the quick diminishing of COVID-19.

Also, please keep St. Paul's Church and School in your prayers. Pray for the students. Pray for the teachers. Pray for many of our hourly workers who will not be working during this time. Pray that the financial support of our ministries will not lag, requiring an interruption of paychecks for staff and faculty.

Pray that we can all work together to come back to a St. Paul's that can be stronger than the one we left. God's blessings!

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

SUPPORT

You can continue to support St. Paul's through our electronic giving options (SimplyGiving/GivePlus). You can set up a one time or recurring contribution.

1. Go to our website at www.stpaulsjanesville.com
2. Scroll down to the donate image
3. Follow the on screen prompts

Or, from a Smartphone:

1. Download the "GivePlus Church" free app from the App Store or Google Play
2. Set up an account
3. Search for our church by zip code or "St Pauls Evangelical Luth"