

JANUARY A.D. 2019

# THE EPISTLE

The monthly newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool, Garner, Iowa

Established 1894 & 1976

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation whose focus is "Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

## From Pastor's desk -

Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Some will say, "Yea, Happy New Year to you as well!" Others will say, "What's happy about it?" That is life in a fallen world: sometimes the sun shines and sometimes the sun does not shine. For some, 2018 was a very kind year to them. For others it was not. The good news for us is that the Son is always shining in our lives. Jesus has told us that we will have trouble in the world, but goes on to say that He has overcome the world.

It seems that many aspects of our lives and God's creation continue to spiral out of control. This should be no surprise to us as the Bible is very clear that prior to Jesus' return this will be the case. We are also told in the Bible that many will fall away. I am reminded of this every year as I witness greater and greater apathy in regards to church involvement.

I was told as I write this that we will have no Mary and Joseph for our Children's program. "How long," I ask myself, "before we don't have a children's program. How long before we don't have Sunday School?" One must ask themselves, do we have any

children left in our church anymore? The answer is yes, we do. Then why? Where are the parents? That is a good question. As you can tell this is a very sore subject with me. We will reap what we sow, God will not be mocked!

What can we do? Keep on encouraging, praying, providing Word and Sacrament ministry for all who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

I hope as we enter 2019 we will see a change in the direction of the church and of our nation. It is good to know that God is slow to anger and abounding in love. I also hope that 2019 will be kind to you and your family and that you and your family will "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added unto you" as well.

May God bless and keep you.

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek



## Statistics



The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from November 21 through December 25 Sunday Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
November 25	106	
December 02	41	41
December 09	127	105
December 16	167	
December 23	183	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 125</b>		

### Other Worshi

### p Attendance

	Worship	Communed
November 21	30	
November 28	29	
December 05	44	31
December 12	55	32
December 19	48	
December 24	191	127
December 25	43	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Average Other Worship Attendance: 73</b>		

## Contact Us

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek (*Off on Friday*)

Church Office: M-T-W-Th-F ... 8-12 & 1-4  
[stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net) - 641-923-2261

Fax: 641-923-2190

## January Servants

### Committees

**Altar** Mike & Eileen Madsen  
**Banner** Eileen Madsen  
**Flower** Janan Griggs

### Ushers

Todd Brager                      Tom Schutter  
 Jeremy Mills                      Earl Webner

### Acolytes

<b>January 06</b>	Aleah Brown, Alyssa Luppen
<b>January 13</b>	Reed Cataldo, Vanessa Waymier
<b>January 20</b>	Seneca Echelberger, Brody Frayne
<b>January 27</b>	Trever Gardner, Kenedee Frayne

**Acolytes, please remember that YOU** are responsible for serving as an acolyte for the entire week to which you are assigned, from Sunday through the next Saturday. If you are unable to acolyte when you are scheduled, please find a substitute and notify the church office (641-923-2261 or [stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net)) to advise who will take your place by the Thursday prior to your scheduled date.

## Courtesy Driver

**Elaine Olson**  
**641-923-2683**

**Thank you for serving  
and ALL that you do!!!**

## Mission Team

Interested in planning mission opportunities?  
Contact Barb Kozisek at 812-525-9464

## Military & Students

Please provide contact information: address,  
email & phone numbers to the Church Office.  
641-923-2261 or [stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net)

## Bible Study Opportunities

**Genesis**  
**Sundays @ 10:15am**  
**With Pastor Kozisek (Fellowship Hall)**

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**Mark**  
**Wednesdays @ 5:45pm**  
**Led by Bruce Jolivette**  
**Will resume January 30**

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**John**  
**Selected Mondays @ 7:00pm**  
**Led by Sheryl Rohlf**  
**Will resume in the Spring**  
**(perhaps April)**

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**NEW Bible Study led by Barb Kozisek.**  
**Let Barb know if you're interested**  
**(812-525-9464)**

## Help Is Needed:

- Those willing to serve as Courtesy Drivers (usually one month service)
- Those willing to monitor/maintain Children's Activity bags in the Narthex. [2 hours once a month would do it.]

Please contact the Church Office  
641-923-2261 or [stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net).

## Available Options for Church Offering

Your 2019 *Offering envelopes* are in your mailbox in the Narthex. If we missed providing them to you, please contact the Church Office.

St. Paul also offers an electronic option for making regular offerings through the Thrivent program "*Simply Giving*". Contributions are debited automatically from your checking or savings account to St. Paul's account. This electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Currently we have 13 families who choose to give in this manner. If you currently give on a weekly basis, you would no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. In the event that travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, the "*Simply Giving*" program will allow your weekly offerings

to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form is available from the Church Office and changes in amount and frequency can easily be made.

Additionally, a few members schedule regular automatic payments through their personal banking “**Bill Pay**” which provides a very efficient and worry-free alternative to giving. Try it: you determine how much and the frequency of your giving – weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Changes are easily made ... and you can always discontinue if it’s not for you.

Should you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Lisa Schroeder (641-587-2386) or the Church Office (641-923-2261).

## Lutherans for Life

*Lutherans for Life sends their sincerest appreciation for our monthly gift of \$200 whose mission is “Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life”.*

## Lutheran Family Service

*Lutherans Family Service sends their sincerest appreciation for our monthly gift of \$250 whose mission is “For Nothing is Impossible with God”.*

## Cross Trained



**What is it? A multi-generational Christian Gathering to learn from one another.**

**Sunday, January 20, 2019 – 6:30-8:00pm**

- ◆ 6:15pm Gather
- ◆ 6:30pm Devotion and Prayer
- ◆ 6:40pm Explanation of training stations and introduction of trainers
- ◆ 6:45pm Go to training station of choice:
  - ✘ Beer and Wine Making (Basement Kitchen)
  - ✘ Card Making (Basement Fellowship Hall)
  - ✘ What’s Your Story: Human Book (Sanctuary)
- ◆ 7:45pm Gather in basement for refreshments
- ◆ 7:55pm Departing Prayer
- ◆ 8:00pm Pick up stations and turn out the lights!

## Little Lambs Preschool



The month of December was short but very busy and lots of fun in the preschool. We held our Christmas program on December 8 – it went extremely well and we had a great turn out from our families within the preschool and with people within the community. We also had our Christmas party with the students in December. The students really enjoyed the party, but I think their favorite parts were when my parents, Greg & Sandy Rayhons, came in and read them *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* and when they were able to exchange their Christmas presents.

In January we will be welcoming the students back from Christmas break and learning about all the fun things they did over break. We will start working on our letters K, L, M, and N and our numbers. Through the month of January the students will be learning about how *Jesus Is All Powerful, Jairus's Daughter Lives!* (Luke 8:40-42, 49-56), *God Listens to Our Prayers, Jesus Heals a Blind Man* (Mark 10:46-52), *Jesus Is Caring and Powerful, Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (John 6:1-15), *Jesus Days to Show Mercy, The Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:25-37), and *God Forgives Those Who Repent, The Lost Son* (Luke 15:11-32) during chapel time.

The four-year-old preschoolers are continuing to visit their grand friends at Concord Care. The students and the residents look forward to it every month.

Finally, at the end of January we are having a beach day with the students. As a preschool we thought it would be fun to have a beach day and pretend that we are somewhere where there is warmer weather!

We extend a big “Thank You” to everyone who helped with our Christmas program. Without your help the program would not have gone as smoothly as it did! We would also like to say a very special “Thank You” to our Preschool Board for helping us set up, serving refreshments after the program, and for helping clean up on the night of our program! Thank you!

God's blessings

Ms. Alesha, Ms. Donna, and Ms. Mary

**Thank you for your continual support and dedication to St. Paul's Little Lambs Preschool!**



**Pies, Pies & More Pies  
Homemade Soup too!**

2019 LWML SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON  
Thursday, January 17, 2019  
11:00am – 1:00pm

## Youth News



**CALLING ALL THOSE INTERESTED**

### **Winter Jam**

**Friday, January 25 @ 7:00pm**

**Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines**

**\$15 donation at the door**

**Featuring: Newsboys, Danny Gokey,  
Mandisa, Rend Collective & Others.**

**[2019.jamtour.com](http://2019.jamtour.com)**

**Contact Amanda Clark (641-512-1853) or  
Barbra Kozisek (812-525-9464) if  
interested.**

**REAL.PRESENT.GOD.**

**LCMS Youth Gathering**

**Minneapolis July 11-15, 2019**

**Thank you for your continual  
support and dedication for our  
Youth Ministry here at St. Paul!**

## St. Paul Music Ministry

Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talent to enhance our worship services during the Advent and Christmas season. St. Paul Bell Choir, St. Paul Senior Choir, Sunday School children, Heather Lamb on flute and Liz Waddingham and Bev Cataldo piano duet provided music for our worship services.

A special thank you to those who participated in Christmas caroling and mini-concerts for the residents of Concord Care Center, Cardinal Grove and Prairie View Apartments on Sunday, December 17.

Terry Goepel tuned both pianos on December 4. Allen Moe did maintenance and tuning of the organ on December 5.

St. Paul Senior Choir WILL practice on Wednesday, January 2 @ 7:00pm to prepare music for Sunday, January 6 and Sunday, January 13.

St. Paul Praise Choir MAY lead the worship on Sunday, January 27. Check the preceding Sunday bulletins or your private e-mail.

St. Paul Bell Choir will not practice until notified by the Sunday bulletin, private e-mail, or texting. Rehearsals will resume the end of March to prepare music for Easter Sunday, April 21.

Bev Cataldo  
Director of Music

## January Birthdays



**A very “Happy Birthday” to members of St. Paul who celebrate their birthday this month!**

1 Taylor Vossberg	16	Evan Boge
2 Linda Ysker	16	Karen Duregger
3 Carlee Frayne	17	Lori Doble
5 Julie Barickman	18	Sadie Oulman
5 Seneca Echelberger	20	Abigail Eckert
6 Amanda Elliott	21	Kayla Stoychoff
7 Ryan Grummer	22	Missy Huling
10 Matt Frank	23	John Fank
10 Kathy Zeitz	25	Tera Hansen
11 Ronald Bachman	22	Linda Luppen
12 Austin Schutter	27	Josephine Schleusner
13 Richie Kozisek III	27	Trevor Schleusner
14 Bradley Kozisek	28	John Van Gerpen
14 Sarah Sperr	28	Diane VerHoef
15 William Horstman	30	Abigail Brager
15 Ruth Zill	31	Pamela Van Gerpen

**NOTE: If your birthday is not listed, or there is an error in the listing, please call the church office so we may correct our records. If you do not want your birth date published, please inform the church office at 923-2261.**

## January Anniversaries

Tom & Michelle Schutter	01-10-2015	4 years
Dale & Alice Roberts	01-12-1991	28 years

**God’s blessings to you!!**

## LWML

### LWML Highlights

The LWML Program schedule for 2019-2020 was prepared for printing and will be distributed in early January 2019. Please watch your church mail box for your copy.

The Christmas Brunch was held on December 8, 2018 at 10:00am. Bev Cataldo provided Christmas music while people gathered, enjoying punch. Bev also gave the welcome. Pastor Kozisek led us in a brief devotion and prayer before the brunch was served by the following men of the congregation: John Haugen, Butch Kozisek, Darwin Luedtke, Eric Luppen, Sherman Meyering, John Tammen and Earl Webner. *(The men also cleaned up after the brunch.)*

The program was given by Kelly Zwald, daughter of Jeanne & Jerry Zwald of Garner; she spoke on “Cure Rett Iowa”. She is co-chairman of the Cure Rett Iowa Strollathon. Kelly’s sister, Libby Stromer, assisted her telling us about the Rett syndrome disease, which is a neurological disorder. The Door Offering of \$160 was given to the Cure Rett Iowa fund.

The Year-End Christmas Gifts were given to the following missions: \$50 Bethesda Lutheran Communities; \$150 Mission Central (Clausing family); \$250 Concordia Seminary (St Louis); \$200 Lutheran Family Services of Iowa; \$50 5 Loaves 2 Fish; \$100 Lutheran Hour Ministries; \$100 Lutherans for Life; \$100 Garner Community Christian Day Care; \$400 Orphan Grain Train–Norfolk, NE (to be matched); \$150 Orphan Grain Train–Clemons, IA; \$250 Concordia Seminary (Fort Wayne); \$100 Camp Okoboji; \$100 Sheila Willms (Dream India school supplies).

The next LWML Board Meeting will be held later in January 2019.

Submitted by Janan Griggs

## Iowa District West "The Messenger"

The Messenger, January 2019 edition is available online. Log on to the link below to download new and information from Iowa District West.

<http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php>

### **DISTRICT NEWS**

#### **CALL RECEIVED**

Rev. Larry Lemke, EM, Solon, to Trinity, Cedar Rapids.

#### **CALL ACCEPTED**

Rev. Dr. Bruce Pepper, Messiah, Downey, CA, to Bethany, Sioux City.

#### **COMMISSIONED MINISTERS CALL ACCEPTED**

Russell Baumann, Certified Lay Minister, St. Paul, Carroll, to St. James, Montague, MI.

#### **CHANGE OF STATUS**

Kathleen Brammeier, Mt. Olive, Des Moines, to Emeritus, 5-31-2018.

#### **TRANSFERRED OUT**

Janice Schulz, Emeritus, Fort Dodge, to Northern Illinois District, 11-12-2018.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 1...New Year's Day, District Office Closed  
January 10...District Youth Committee and Circuit Youth Reps, District Office, Fort Dodge

January 12...Hinge Event, Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge  
January 13...Hinge Event, First English, Spencer

January 17...District Education Committee, District Office, Fort Dodge

January 22...District Human Care Committee, St. Paul, Carroll

January 24...District Missions Committee, District Office, Fort Dodge

January 24...Principals Meeting, District Office, Fort Dodge

January 29...District Stewardship Committee, District Office, Fort Dodge



*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, Iowa  
Celebrating 125 Years of Grace  
1894 ~ 2019

Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, October 13, 2019

Pass the word ~ there'll be *BIG DOINGS* ~ more details to follow

