

FEBRUARY 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 -

Dear Friends in Christ,

February is upon us. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a very bad February. We will see.

I hope this letter finds you keeping as warm as possible and hanging in and holding on.

The other night at Youth confirmation I had a little heart-to-heart with the 8th grade class. I talked to them about living out their faith. I told them every year the confirmands do a good job of showing they have an understanding of the 6 chief parts of the catechism. They do a good job of answering questions about Jesus and who He is as well as many others.

Then, the Sunday after they have confessed to not falling away from the faith even when facing death 90% of them are not in church.

I talked to them about knowing who Jesus is, head knowledge, but the heart is full of the world which does not let Jesus in.

I had them turn to Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me,

'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

This verse and many others should cause us all to examine our faith and relationship with Jesus: Is it just a head knowledge of Jesus and our lives do not exhibit a desire of building and cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus or just knowing His name and a few other Bible facts? Is it just acknowledging who our neighbor is and speak to them about everything except Jesus?

In James 2:14-17 we hear these words: "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

There are many other Bible passages which speak of a living faith which dwells in the head and the heart. This is a good reminder for us all as we live out our lives in this world.

Please keep all in your prayers and I hope you have a great February.
 God Bless!
 Rev. Scott A. Kozisek

Statistics



The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from December 30 through January 23 Sunday Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
December 30	115	
January 06	122	100
January 13	134	106
January 20	95	
TOTAL	456	206
Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 117		

Other Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
December 31	21	16
January 02	No service	
January 09	22	10
January 16	18	6
January 23	26	
TOTAL	87	17
Average Other Worship Attendance: 22		

Contact Us

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

Church Office: M-T-W-Th-F ... 8-12 & 1-4
stpauloffice@comm1net.net - 641-923-2261
 Fax: 641-923-2190

February Servants

Committees

Altar Doug & Jaci Hayes
Banner Eileen Madsen
Flower Janan Griggs, Eileen Madsen

Ushers

Chad Duregger Brad Upmeyer
 Pete Svare Dale Wood

Acolytes

February 03	Emma Goll, Gretta Gouge
February 10	Trevor Graham, Kale Johnson
February 17	Morgan Krein, Tori Johnson
February 24	Dalton Mills, Trey Johnson

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) to advise who will take your place by the Thursday prior to your scheduled date.

Courtesy Driver

Tim Anderson
641-923-3939

We could sure use your help.....

Looking for those willing to serve as Courtesy Drivers, to serve on a monthly basis.

Please contact the Church Office

641-923-2261 or stpauloffice@comm1net.net.

**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

Thank you ...

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 sends their sincerest appreciation for our monthly gift of \$250 whose mission is "For Nothing is Impossible with God".

Concordia Seminary [St. Louis & Ft. Wayne] send their sincerest appreciation for your faithful prayers and generous gifts to help your Seminary continue its mission to prepare caring, theologically strong pastors, deaconesses and other ministry leaders to reach out with the Gospel in your congregation, your community and beyond. Your gifts also help provide rich and practical resources of confessional Lutheranism for Christians around the world, encouraging church workers and lay people to grow in faith and discipleship

Bible Study Opportunities

Genesis

Sundays @ 10:15am (Fellowship Hall)

Led by Pastor Kozisek

The Story of Stories

Sundays @ 10:15am (Basement)

Led by Doug Hayes

Mark

Wednesdays @ 5:45pm

Led by Bruce Jolivette

Will resume January 30

John

Selected Mondays @ 7:00pm

Led by Sheryl Rohlf

Will resume in the Spring

(perhaps April)

Church Offering Options

Your **2019 Offering envelopes** are in your mailbox in the Narthex. If we missed providing them to you, please contact the Church Office @ 641-923-2261.

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" providing a very efficient, worry-free alternative to giving. Try it: you determine the amount and 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).



Quasquicentennial Celebration Sunday, October 13, 2019

St. Paul's 125th Anniversary Planning committee started meeting in January to outline activities this year to commemorate the quasquicentennial. Here is a recap of plans so far:

- ◆ Quasquicentennial Celebration (125th Anniversary) will be observed Sunday, October 13, 2019 and will include a morning service, afternoon service and meal.
- ◆ The Church Directory will be updated this spring, so stay tuned for the opportunity to schedule a family picture for the membership directory.
- ◆ Several 125th commemorative items will be available for purchase this year (including cutting boards, key chains and thermal mugs)
- ◆ Inscribed ink pens [1894-2019 125 Years of Grace, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, IA 50438] are available in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like more information about the 125th committee or upcoming activities, please contact planning chair, Bev Cataldo.

[Editor's note: See Page 9 of this publication for reflections of the beginnings of St. Paul]

**Chasing Away
The Winter Blues
@ Garner Rec Center
[aka Superbowl Party]**



**Sunday, February 03
5:00-7:00pm**

***Let's shake it up and chase away
those Winter Blues together!!***

***Play ping pong, chat with
friends while walking on the
elevated track, ride a bike, play
a card game, pump iron, shoot
some hoops, play "HORSE" with
Pastor ... @ Garner's Rec Center,***

365 W 8th Street

**Sandwiches & Beverages
provided**

Bring something to share:

Snack – Appetizer – Salad – Dessert

Come one, come all ages!!

Little Lambs Preschool



January has been a very busy month for the preschool. It was a lot of fun welcoming the students back from Christmas break and seeing them so excited about coming back to preschool.

In January, we continued to work on our letters and numbers and learning about different Bible stories during chapel time. Something new we are starting with the students this month is teaching them how to recognize and write their last names. The preschoolers were really excited when they saw their new name tags and being able to learn their last name. The four-year-old preschoolers are continuing to visit their grand friends at Concord Care and look forward to it every month. They were really excited to see them this past time because they were able to share with them what they had received at Christmas.

Coming up in February we will be learning our letters O, P, Q, and R. The preschoolers will be also working with the numbers 8 and 9.

During chapel time in February the students will be learning about how *Jesus Welcomes Children, Jesus Blesses Children* (Mark 10:13-16), *God's Word Is Most Important, Jesus Visits Friends* (Luke 10:38-42), *Jesus Came to Save*

Sinners, Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), and *We Pray in Jesus' Name, One Man Says Thank You* (Luke 17: 11-19).

Also in February, we will be having a Valentine's Day party with the students and also pajama and pancake day towards the end of the month.

As February is National Children's Dental Health Month, we will celebrate and learn about dental health by a field trip to Tesene, Maurer, and Maurer Dental.

Lastly, in the month of February we have two new students starting in our 3-year-old preschool, which we are very excited to welcome our new families into our preschool.

In closing we would like to say 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 thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for Ms. Donna these past few weeks. We are very grateful for everyone's support and we look forward to welcoming Ms. Donna back in the month of February! 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!

Iowa District West "The Messenger"

The Messenger, February 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 ACCEPTED

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

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Jeffrey Keuning, Casey/Dexter, to Zion, Hardwick, MN

Rev. Scott Porath, Immanuel, Eagle, NE, to Our Saviour, Des Moines

Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, St. Paul, Troy, IL, to St. John, Clarinda

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALL ACCEPTED

Izaak Wendorff, graduate of Concordia-Seward, NE, to DCE, Camp Okobojo, Milford

CALLED TO GLORY

Edwin A. Termuende, EM, Council Bluffs, August 20, 2018.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 14...Board of Directors, District Office

March 2...Strengthening Your Marriage Workshop, Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge

March 14-15...DCE Retreat, Lutheran Family Service Ministry Center, Fort Dodge

2019 Soup & Pie Luncheon

It's in the books! Thank you so much to all who participated in the 2019 LWML Soup & Pie Luncheon. It's a success - all because of YOU! A sincere "Thank You" to those who helped set up, cook, serve, cleanup - we couldn't do it without you!

Hope to see you next year!!

Youth News



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

St. Paul's Bell and Senior Choirs will have an abbreviated rehearsal schedule for February and March.

Bell Choir will not practice in February but will resume rehearsal on Wednesday, March 27.

Senior Choir Ladies are scheduled to sing on Sundays February 3 and 10. The **SATB Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, March 20.

St. Paul's **Sunday School children**, under the direction of Ruth Zill, will sing Sunday, February 17.

Bruce Jolivette will lead the **Praise Choir** for worship on Sunday, February 24.

There is an opportunity to share your time and talent by serving as a pianist or organist one or two times a month. The person who

showed an interest in serving as an organist last October has accepted a full time organist position at another church. Please contact Bev Cataldo or Liz Waddingham if you are interested.

I am very saddened to inform St. Paul that there will not be a Good Friday Tenebrae Service this year. The Latin word "Tenebrae" means darkness and commemorates the final hours of Jesus' death on the cross. This unique service was started at St. Paul in 1965 by Mrs. L.G. Leonard and Jim Helvik and I have participated in this service since 1966. The Tenebrae Service incorporated narration, music, lighting and the extinguishing of candles, leading us from the joyous crowds of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the Passion of Good Friday.

Thank you to all the participants in the Senior Choir, Bell Choir, vocal and instrumental soloists, accompanists, readers, acolytes, sound engineers and Deacons who have made this a successful tradition at St. Paul for 54 years!!!

Bev Cataldo
Director of Music

Please note, St. Paul will be having a Good Friday Service on Friday, April 19, 2019 at 7:00pm

February Birthdays



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

1	Daryl Eiffler	15	Sherry Zurn
1	Tim Molencamp	16	Cheyenne Barnett
2	Rachel Enright	16	Sara Christians
2	McCoy Mills	16	Karen Mayland
2	Lois Standley	17	Eason Upmeyer
4	Gar Grote	18	Ray Cataldo
5	Haley Blakesley	18	Jared Graham
5	Ryan Darg	19	Cameo Echelberger
5	Brandon Feuring	19	Reece Nedved
5	Juel Hanson	20	Sonja Brady
6	Tucker Barickman	20	Mark Waddingham
8	Dillon Bauer	21	Bryan Frayne
8	Zachery Eichmann	21	Gary Sandell
8	Sharon Fank	22	Sara Formanek
9	Krista Jolivette	23	Sonja Bertilson
9	Eileen Madsen	23	Sophia Juenger
12	Eric Dougherty	24	Benjamin Waddingham
12	Denise Haberkamp	25	Todd Echelberger
12	Paul Luppen	25	Nicholas Svare
12	Aggie Voss	25	Linda Webner
13	Cole Dakin	26	Cheryl Bakken
13	Bruce Jolivette	26	Tristan Smith
14	Kathryne Kozisek	27	Lorenzo Farris
14	Katelyn Lincicum	29	Claire Smith

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 641-923-2261.

February Anniversaries

Todd & Donna Wolf	02-01-1999	20 years
Gary & Dorothy Blakesley	02-05-2000	19 years
Chip & Brenda Thiedeman	02-09-1985	34 years
Eldon & Jennifer Hauptmann	02-10-1994	25 years
Mike & Karen Duregger	02-26-1972	47 years

*May you be blessed
with God's
amazing grace,
mercy and peace.*



**St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, Iowa
1894 ~ 2019 Celebrating 125 Years of Grace
Quasiquicentennial Celebration, Sunday, October 13, 2019**

Where we began ...

"It is fitting that, at this milestone in St. Paul's existence, we pause to give consideration to what has transpired in the past in order thereby to gain inspiration for our future endeavors as well as to give thanks to God for having showered us with His blessings during the past seventy-five years.

The early history of St. Paul's congregation is not to be found any where in a complete written form to the knowledge of the committee appointed to compile material for this booklet. We shall do our best, however, to give a word picture of the congregation's early history from the data at hand.

In the early nineties of the past century [1800's] a number of Lutheran families of this vicinity being spiritually minded and concerned about their salvation gathered with the families of the St. John's community to hold their regular worship.

When the local group started to grow, they felt the necessity of starting a preaching station of their own, holding services in various homes and school houses. The membership was some 90 souls with 23 voting members. This station was served by the neighboring pastors from St. Ansgar and Hampton, namely Pastors E. Weigner, E. Hantel, C.W. Dietrich and W. Berndt.

Thus on October 23, 1894, under the leadership of Pastor E.F.J. Richter of St. John's, the group organized and accepted a constitution in the name of The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The men who signed the constitution were Christian Reibe, Theodor Schumacher, John Baack, Carl Bahr, Karl Wurdelman, Carl Kloock and Fred Fritsch. This small group had faith and courage. At the very first meeting it was resolved to purchase a lot on South State Street at a price of \$60.00, on which to erect a new church.

Two days after the first meeting the cornerstone was laid and the new church was dedicated about six months later, April 28, 1895. The dedicatory services were conducted by the Pastors Baer and Dieterich."

*Reprinted from the
Seventy-fifth Anniversary booklet,
October 19, 1969*



