

MARCH A.D. 2018

THE EPISTLE

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

"The Mayberry of the Midwest"

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

From Pastor's desk -

Dear family and friends of St. Paul

As I strive to make the newsletter deadline we are experiencing an ice storm! If you're like me I would much rather have snow! So our winter in North Iowa grinds on. The good news is we are now in the season of Lent and moving toward Easter!

I am sure you are all holding your breath in anticipation of some more extremely profound tidbits from you fearless clergyman from St. Paul. As I write this our nation is at half mast due to the recent shooting at Parkland High School down in Florida. Our hearts go out to all those who lost loved ones and or were injured in the shooting. Once again people try to understand why this is happening as if it should be a surprise.

As I sit in the pastor's seat here at St. Paul, it is not surprise to me. I did not come to this on my own - I simply take a look around and see that for most people and in most homes God is dead! Oh, to be sure, some still exhibit a form of godliness, but as far as acknowledging its power, not so much. I have been here at St. Paul only a little over four years, but in that short time I have seen a dramatic drop in people's dedication to going to church and serving in their church. I am also very confident that this is not occurring only in our church but in most churches across the country. Many people have

stopped looking up and are looking at themselves and the world and its treasures for their connection.

As I said, or more importantly God says in His Word, this is the future for our world. We need just look to Matthew 24:3-14 [New King James Version]:

The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

³Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what **will** be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these **are** the beginning of sorrows.

⁹"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up

and deceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.** ¹³But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Then, of course, there is also 2 Timothy 3:1-5 [New International Version]:

³But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

These are sobering words to be sure. The Good News is there is still a God in Heaven who has shown His love to the world enough to send His Son. As far as you and I, we are simply called and empowered to be faithful unto the end. So be of good cheer and know by Grace through faith the house with many mansions and the banquet feast awaits!

As I look out the window we still have freezing rain! Maybe I can go ice skating a little later to break up the day. I hope this Epistle finds you well and hanging in there and holding on.

God Bless and Keep you and your family.

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek

March



[Editor's note: Think Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis?]

From Paige's desk -

To All the Children of God,

As we move into March I remember the saying my mom use to always tell us “in like a lion and out like a lamb.” Of course the saying could also be “in like a lamb and out like a lion”. Cyndi (my mom) was always talking about the weather in March. It was funny to think about the saying, because as we are all aware lambs are silly, stupid, and white... lions are big, scary, and sometimes mean. So how did these two animals go together in the same sentence? Now that I am older, I have a better understanding and even meaning to what that saying is. As we all know, she was talking about the weather.

In the Bible, there are hundreds of references about lions and lambs. In case you didn't know, we are the lambs. Most of the time we are stubborn, silly, and dumb. We choose our own ways over God's ways, we choose our own selfish pride versus God, and we like to think we know what we are doing. As a lamb, we are silly for thinking those thoughts. Isaiah 11:6-8 is full of imagery of what it might look like one day for all believers. Isaiah writes, “The lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of a cobra...” If I were a mother, I would not be allowing my child to play over the hole of a cobra! The images written here give us just a glimpse of what heaven will be like for us.

So is March coming in like a lion or a lamb? You decide. Just remember to always listen to God through it all, because we are just little lambs of God.

In other news Derek and I went to Indiana for a wedding shower hosted by my family. It was such a blessing to see so many family friends, and showered with lots of baking/cooking items, towels, and love! I will be seeing Derek again the beginning of March and his family is hosting a shower in North Dakota at the beginning of April. Wedding planning has been very fun, and at times overwhelming with grad classes too.

Grad school is going well; just finishing my first 8 weeks of the spring semester and getting ready to transition into the next 8-week class.

Derek and I ask that you continue to pray for us during this busy time in our lives. We give thanks for St. Paul, for your love, support, encouragement, and prayers.

In Christ,

Paige Fitzsimons, DCE

Statistics



The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from January 28 through February 21.
Sunday Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
January 28	124	
February 04	128	103
February 11	102	93
February 18	135	
TOTAL	489	196
Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 122		

Wednesday & Other Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
January 31	29	
February 07	14	8
February 14	88	64
February 21	59	
TOTAL	190	72
Ave. Wednesday Worship Attendance: 48		

Contact Us

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek

Friday is Pastor's day off.

DCE Paige M. Fitzsimons

Thursday is Paige's day off.

Church Office

Hours ~ M-F 8-12 & 1-4

641-923-2261

stpauloffice@comm1net.net

Fax: 641-923-2190

February Servants

Committees

Altar Becky Jolivette, Darlene Ziesmer
Banner Eileen Madsen
Flower Janan Griggs

Ushers

Harlan Block John Tammen
Doug Hayes Ellery Wood

Acolytes

March 04	Sam Wood, Morgan Krein
March 11	Aleah Brown, Dalton Mills
March 18	Ryan Darg, Owen Pueggel
March 25	Chloe Frank, Tristan Smith Rylee Frayne, Rachel Bierle Kylie Hughes, Braden Boehnke

Acolytes: Please remember, you are responsible for acolyting 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 to advise who will take your place by the Thursday prior to your scheduled date. (phone 641-923-2261 or email stpauloffice@comm1net.net)

March Courtesy Driver

Fred & Lisa Schroeder
641-587-2386



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 for serving and ALL that you do!!!

Bible Study Opportunities

Adult Bible Studies on Sundays
@ 10:15am
Kozisek (Fellowship Hall)
Hayes (Basement Fellowship Hall)

"The Truth Project"
Wednesday evenings @ 5:45pm

March Meetings & Events

Thursday, March 01
6:00pm Trustees

Sunday, March 04
FCA @ Garner E-Free

Tuesday, March 6
1:30pm Prairie View Service
Little Lambs Family Fun Night

Wednesday, March 07
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
plus *The Family Project*
6:00pm Bell Choir practice

7:00pm Lenten Worship/Communion

Thursday, March 08
7:30am Concord Prayer Breakfast
5:30pm Deacons
6:30pm Church Council

Monday, March 12
6:00pm LWML Joint Day of Prayer Service

Tuesday, March 13
Pastor's Conference @ Zion -LuVerne
9:00am Quilting
5:45pm Preschool Team

Wednesday, March 14
10:00am LWML Board Meeting
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
plus *The Family Project*
6:00pm Bell Choir practice

7:00pm Lenten Worship/Communion
7:40pm Senior Choir practice

Thursday, March 15
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope)

Friday-Saturday, March 16-17
Senior/Junior Youth Lock-In
Trinity-Algona

Saturday, March 17
5:00-7:00pm TNT @ Pastor Kozisek's Home

Saturday, March 17 – Friday, March 23
8DOH Mission Trip to Houston, TX

Monday, March 19
Deadline for April 2018 Newsletter & Calendar

Wednesday, March 21
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
plus *The Family Project*
6:00pm Bell Choir practice

7:00pm Lenten Worship
7:40pm Senior Choir practice

Palm Sunday, March 25
9:00am Palm Sunday Worship

Wednesday, March 28
6:00pm Bell Choir practice
7:00pm Senior Choir practice

Maundy Thursday, March 29
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Good Friday, March 30
7:30pm Tenebrae Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday, April 1
6:30am Sunrise Worship/Communion
7:45am Easter Breakfast
9:00am Worship & Communion

Little Lambs Preschool



The month of February has been very busy for the preschool. In the month of February, we have worked on the letters O, P, Q, and R. We have also been working on numbers 8 and 9.

The students have also been learning about Jesus during chapel time when we read the different Bible stories with Pastor and Zippy.

We have also had many fun events go on in the month of February. To start off the month we had our Valentine's Day party with the students. The students really enjoyed passing out their valentines to all of their friends at school. During the week that we were learning about the letter P we had a pajama and pancake day. This was a lot of fun with the preschoolers because we were able to see all of their fun pajamas and who doesn't like to eat pancakes for a snack! Finally, to round out the month we had our field trip to Tesene, Maurer, and Maurer Dental for their staff to talk with the students about keeping their teeth healthy especially since the month of February is Dental Health Month.

Coming up in the month of March we will be learning our letters S, T, and U. We will be also learning about the number 10. During Chapel time the students will be learning about God's People Praise Him, Jesus Rides into Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-38), Jesus Says to Serve, At the Last Supper (John 13:1-15, 34-35; Matthew 26:26-28), Jesus Saves Us from Sin, Jesus Suffers and Dies (Luke 23:26-24:8), and Jesus Gives Us New Life, Easter Morning (Luke 24:1-12). We will also be learning about how different words and objects rhyme and go together.

Also during March we be having several fun and big events. Our first big event is our Family Fun Night scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, which is where the students and their families have a fun evening together, participating in both fun and educational activities. We plan to hold our second round of parent/teacher conferences and end the month on a fund note – Spring/Easter break!

We thank everyone that continually supports the preschool and all the things that we do with the students. We would also like to give a big thanks for the van drivers that subbed for Bob while he was gone on vacation.

From the preschool staff we hope you have a wonderful and blessed Easter season.

God's Blessings,

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

God's blessings

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

TNT

20's, 30's & 40's



We plan to meet at Pastor Kozisek's home on March 17 from 5:00-7:00pm. The meal will be provided. Please bring a snack/dessert to share and your choice of beverage. For any questions, please contact DCE Paige Fitzsimons.

8 Days of Hope (8DOH)



...St. Paul's group will be leaving March 17 and returning the following Friday, March 23. They would like to thank St. Paul for all the support, love, and prayers. They are excited to share the trip with you upon their return. The group will still be accepting donations up until departure. **Thank You!** If you should have any questions, please contact Jay Larkin or Paige Fitzsimons.

Youth News



Sunday School youth will be singing for the service on Sunday, March 4.

Junior Youth Group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 4:00pm.

On March 11 the Youth will be offering a coffee sampling for our newest fundraiser from Giving Bean Company! We hope you can join us after church to try some delicious coffees! They are available in whole bean, ground, and K-cups, along with cookies and other goodies!

March 21 is the next Parent Night because there is NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION on March 28.

This Spring's Lock-In "Whose U R" will be held March 16-17. Lutheran Family Services will be hosting and leading the breakout sessions.

Palm Sunday is March 25. Youth may participate in the service by carrying in palms and singing "Hosanna in the Highest" with the Bell and Senior Choirs.

Set up for Easter breakfast will be 6:00pm on Maundy Thursday, March 29.

April 1 – Easter Breakfast: we are asking Youth and Parents to arrive at 6:00am and serve between services that morning. We will also be selling coffee as a Youth Fundraiser that morning.

We are seeking pop, cases of bottled water, and other treats for our Youth Fridge!

**Thank you for
your support
and dedication
to our Youth at
St. Paul.**



March Anniversaries

Randy & Diane VerHoef	03-16-1991	27 years
Jeremy & Dawn Mills	03-22-2003	15 years
Gary & Patricia Book	03-31-2001	17 years
Kevin & Kristen Lang	03-31-2012	6 years

God's blessings to you!!

March Birthdays

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

1 Oliver Boge	19 Traci Goll
2 Devon Eckert	19 Madison Nissen
2 William Riggan	20 MacKenzie Feuring
4 Jenn Hauptmann	20 Brooke Hauptmann
5 Brooke Bakken	22 Donna Wolf
5 Rachel Bierle	23 Laverne Farris
5 Bailee Frayne	23 Linda Grote
5 Stephanie Gardner	24 Florence Russell
6 Jake Wolf	24 Wanda Wold
6 Luke Wolf	25 Emily Boge
8 Todd Wolf	25 Ruth Meyering
10 Gerald Thompson	26 Jade Hanson
11 Alek Goll	26 Jenna Hanson
15 James Schultz	26 Marie Waddingham
16 Pamela Dalbeck	29 Chelsea Thompson
17 Adam Monson	31 Logan Dalbeck
18 LaVina Bakken	31 Abigail Duregger
18 Shawn Huinker	31 Butch Kozisek
18 Louise Piper	31 Liz Waddingham
19 Donna Banta	

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.

LWML



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

Monday, March 12
6:00pm Joint LWML Day of Prayer Service
Hosts: Rebekah Circle

Wednesday, March 14
10:00am LWML Board Meeting

Thursday, March 15
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Rebekah Circle)
Workers: Ruth Zill
Cookies: Elaine Olson

LWML Highlights

The LWML Board met on Thursday, February 15, 2018 with 7 members present. Bev Cataldo led the devotion from Romans 5:1-11 on "Blood That Justifies".

The January Secretaries report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report for January was reviewed and approved. Elaine O. reported we received a check in the amount of \$103.67 from the Bill's Family Food tapes. Linda G. reported that Bill's Family Foods is very supportive of God's Pantry. A thank you note will be sent to them.

The LWML Day of Prayer/Joint Circle meeting will be on March 12. Rebekah Circle is the host for this.

The LWML NE Zone Spring Rally will be Thursday, April 19 here at St Paul.

A Reception for the Confirmands was discussed.

The LWML Board plans to honor Robertine Gatchel, an Honorary LWML member, on her 99th Birthday, February 28.

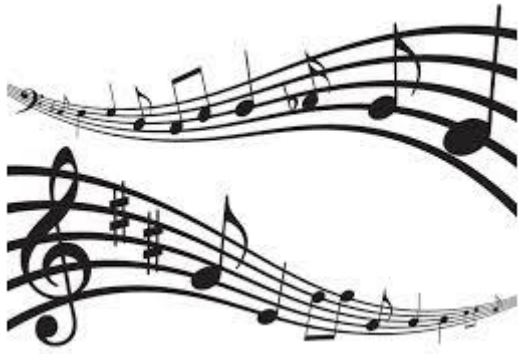
Recognizing the graduating Seniors was discussed.

Thursday, February 15, Louise P. and Bonnie C. volunteered to assist with Bingo at Concord Care. Susie K. & Janan G. furnished cookies.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 10:00am.

Janan Griggs, Secretary

St. Paul Music Ministry



The Music Department of St. Paul has had the unique opportunity of presenting a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. The tradition started in 1965 by Mrs. L.G. Leonard and Jim Helvick. This year will be the 54th presentation telling the events of Holy Week by using 2018 technology.

This year's Tenebrae Service will be held on **Friday, March 30 at 7:30pm**. We plan to use videos on our screens plus narration, lighting and the extinguishing of candles to lead us from the joyous crowds of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the Passion of Good Friday.

Bev Cataldo
Director of Music

Music Notes

BELL CHOIR:

Wednesday, March 07 @ 6:00pm practice
Wednesday, March 14 @ 6:00pm practice
Wednesday, March 21 @ 6:00pm practice
Wednesday, March 28 @ 6:00pm practice
Friday, March 30 @ 7:30pm Tenebrae Service

SENIOR CHOIR:

Wednesday, March 14 @ 7:40pm practice
Wednesday, March 21 @ 7:40pm practice
Wednesday, March 28 @ 7:00pm practice
Thursday, March 29 @ 7:00pm Maundy
Thursday service
Friday, March 30 @ 7:30pm Tenebrae Service

Iowa District West "The Messenger"

The Messenger-March 2018 edition is available online. Log on to the link below to download news and information from Iowa District West.

<http://idwlcms.org/gotodownloadfile.php?file=1162>

DISTRICT NEWS

* Planting Together *

Education, Youth, and Family Life—Rhonda Mohr
Business Manager News—Roger Curtis
LCEF—Carole White
Mission Opportunities—Rev. Mark Gerken
IOWAY—Ellie Menz
Mission Central—Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
Amigos en Cristo, Denison—Rev. Willie Grills
Hispanic Outreach in Siouxland—Rev. Henry Witte
The Lamplighter

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji
Lutheran Family Service

ALSO INCLUDED...

ISU Fraternity Scholarship

Parish Nurse Convocation

The Parish Paper

Peak Challenge 2018—Rev. James Travis

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Mark Kleckner, Bedford, MA, to Mt. Olive, Des Moines.

Rev. Duane Miesner, Kingsley, to Cylinder/Lone Rock.

CALL DECLINED

Rev. Matthew Krause, Adel, to St. Peter, Afton, MN.

CALL ACCEPTED

Rev. Michael Bodkins, Altoona, to Wiota.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER—CALL RECEIVED

Remkea Ockander, Omaha, NE, to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer.

Calendar of Events

March 15-16...Concordia-Seward College Visit

March 17...Parish Nurse Convocation, District Office

March 30...Good Friday, District Office Closed

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

From Iowa District President Rev. Dr. Steven Turner

Thank you for your partnership! Just as a congregation is dependent on the financial gifts of their members, so Iowa District West is dependent on the gifts we receive from our partner congregations. Last year you provided just over \$1.5 million to help us support Christ's mission. Those funds enabled us to support 5 missionary partners in IDW, support over 30 congregations with mission grants, provide workshops and resources in a variety of areas, support the work of the LCMS, and work with you as you carry out Christ's mission in your community. As a result, hundreds of individuals came to faith just in IDW, thousands were strengthened in their faith, and a new congregation was planted (The Gate, Ankeny)! Thank you again and may God richly bless our partnership in 2018. *Pres. Steve Turner and the staff of IDW*