

FEBRUARY 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 -

This, Friends, is a day the Lord has made!!!

Winter is slowly winding down and so far, it has not been all that bad. Stores and people are getting wound up for Valentine's Day, a day in which love is in the air! Personally, I am on my annual diet sparked by the bathroom scale, which once again groans under my immense weight begging me to do something about it!

Things seem to be going fairly well here at St. Paul. There is a great deal of optimism as we boldly go forward. The Preschool seems to be doing well. The church's finances are better than other times thanks to many loving gifts to pay off the loan and contribute on a regular basis. We say farewell to some faithful servants of leadership and welcome some newcomers with fresh ideas and a willingness to serve.

As far as the rest of the world goes ... it is as crazy as ever! Just this morning I read about a P.E teacher in L.A. who strips naked and chases children around the playground; illegal alien UBER driver charged with 4 rapes in California; Mexican woman killed, cut up and cooked on the stove top; the flu season continues to get worse; Super Bowl tickets are going to cost more than ever; a tsunami scare for the west coast after a 7.9 earthquake by Alaska ... and the list goes on and on and on. Sometimes we wonder when will it all end.

Well, the Bible tells us all comes to a screeching halt at the sound of a trumpet. And until that time God is still in control and he will never forsake or leave us!

So as we continue to march fearlessly into the future, may we continue to cultivate our relationship with God and love our neighbor as well.

So hang in there and hold on!

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek



From Paige's desk -

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we move into the second month of 2018, it seems as though we already start to feel lost in the year. We might have felt busy with the holidays and still need to recuperate from them. Looking to the next "holiday" would be Valentine's Day. This year is special since Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the SAME day! As we are all aware, Ash Wednesday marks the first Wednesday of the Lenten season. We know Lent lasts for 40 days. *(If you are doing the math, Easter lands on April Fools' Day! - No joke!)*

There were three different men named Valentine and all three were killed for Christ. This source states, "According to the New Advent Encyclopedia, my on-line source for all things Roman Catholic, there are at least three different St. Valentines in the martyrologies. One was a priest at Rome, another the bishop of Interamna (modern Terni, in case you haven't made summer vacation plans yet), and the third some guy in Africa that no one knows much about. As the story goes, Valentine got in trouble with Emperor Claudius II, allegedly over Claudius' prohibition of marriage for young men because he needed more soldiers. (It appears that emperors, like their modern day counterparts, can never get enough troop strength.) Valentine got tossed into prison, where, legend has it, he fell in love with the jailor's daughter and wrote her a little love note on the way to his execution." (The article "The Feast of St. Valentine, martyr", was written by the Rev. William Cwirla)

Valentine was also caught marrying couples when it was against the emperor's law at the time. Valentine (any of the 3) were brave men who were out to help others and share the Gospel with people.

As we begin Lent, we enter a season of reflection. Reflecting on this history lesson, we have many lessons to take away. Valentine also shows what it means to be committed, even unto death. Christ did the same thing for us. He loved us so much that He risked His life to come to earth and die for me and YOU! Yes, YOU reading this! As we learned a few weeks ago about Jonah and the Fish, we are all in need of a second chance, and are ALL given that second chance through Christ.

How can YOU be the hands and feet of Christ? How can YOU show compassion and mercy like St. Valentine on someone today, or maybe on the 14th?

On a personal note, wedding planning has been very fun for me. I have learned how much Derek is a traditionalist and I am not! We will be heading home to Indiana for a Couples Bridal shower February 16-19. Derek will also be starting his new position with the Bismarck Fire Department on February 5. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as Derek transitions to a new department and city, and as we travel to Indiana.

Happy Lenten Season!

In Christ,
Paige Fitzsimons, DCE

Statistics



The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from December 31 through January 24:
Sunday Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
December 31	Cancelled due to weather	
January 03		
January 07	134	103
January 14	142	117
January 21	123	
TOTAL	399	220

Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 133

Wednesday & Other Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
January 03		
January 10	21	9
January 17	31	9
January 24	23	
TOTAL	75	18
Ave. Wednesday Worship Attendance: 25		

February Servants

Committees

Altar Doug & Jaci Hayes
Banner Eileen Madsen
Flower Janan Griggs

Ushers

Dale Roberts Jim Thiele
 Pete Svare Dale Wood

Acolytes

February 04	Chloe Frank, Seneca Echelberger
February 11	Rylee Frayne, Trever Gardner
February 18	Kylie Hughes, Emma Goll
February 25	Jailyn Krein, Trevor Graham

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)

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



Military & Students

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

Courtesy Driver

Tim Anderson
 641-923-3939

Mission Team

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



February Meetings & Events

Thursday, February 01
6:00pm Trustees

Sunday, February 04
11:30am #SPVC Meeting

Monday, February 5
9:00am Hope Circle

Tuesday, February 06
1:30pm Prairie View Service

Wednesday, February 07
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
6:00pm Bell Choir practice
7:00pm Worship / Communion
7:00pm Senior Choir practice

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

Saturday, February 10
5:00-7:00pm TNT @ Hollatz Farm

Sunday, February 11
4:00pm Concord Care Service

Monday, February 12
7:00pm Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, February 13
Pastor's Conference @ St. Paul - Burt
9:00am Quilting
5:45pm Preschool Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 14
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
6:00pm Bell Choir practice
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
7:40pm Senior Choir practice

Tuesday, February 15
10:00am LWML Board Meeting
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope)

Monday, February 19
Deadline for March 2018 Newsletter & Calendar

Wednesday, February 21
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
6:00pm Bell Choir practice
7:00pm Lenten Worship
7:40pm Senior Choir practice

Friday-Saturday, January 23-24
Junior LYC Gathering
Chaos @ Camp Okoboji

Wednesday, February 28
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes
7:00pm Lenten Worship



Little Lambs Preschool



The months of December and January have been very busy in the preschool. December was a short month for us but we stayed really busy for the time that we had.

We held our Christmas program, which went really well and we had a great turn out by our preschool families and people from 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 they had a volunteer come in and read them a Christmas story and then when they were able to exchange Christmas presents. December was a very fun month for us as a preschool.

January has become a very busy month as well. It was a lot of fun welcoming the students back from Christmas break and seeing them so excited about coming back to preschool. In the month of January, we have been continuing to work on our letters and numbers and learning about our 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 grandfriends 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.

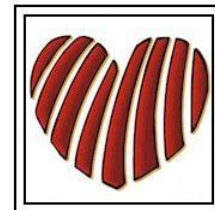
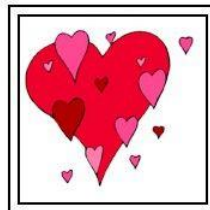
Finally, at the end of January we are having a beach day with the students. As a preschool we thought it would be fun to have a beach day and pretend that we are somewhere where there is warmer weather!

Coming up in February we will be learning our letters O, P, Q, and R. The preschoolers will be also working on the numbers 8 and 9. During February chapel time 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. The month of February is the National Children's Dental Health Month so to help celebrate and learn about dental health we will be going on 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. 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 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
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
Class resumes February 7

TNT

20's, 30's & 40's



In January the TNT group met at Paddler's Tap in Forest City. We had a short devotion, pizza from Godfather's and great conversation. We also enjoyed a few of the craft beers on tap!

Please join us on **Saturday, February 10, 5:00-7:00pm**, at the Jon & Elizabeth Hollatz Farm, 2715 Urban Avenue (just north of Garner). Liz will provide the main dish. Please bring something to share – an appetizer, side dish, dessert – (surprise us!) – and your beverage of choice.

8 Days of Hope (8DOH)



Plans are still underway for a group from St. Paul to participate in 8DOH, tentatively planning to travel and work March 17-24. A group of 5 members are interested in going. There are over 1000 homes to work on.

It's not too late to jump on board for this adventure! Jay Larkin or Paige Fitzsimons can answer any of your questions.

Youth News

In January our youth were busy with basketball, choir or band concerts, Cheer, snowmobiling, and so many other activities. We took a group to the Boone Ski Lodge for the afternoon.

We have been having a great time in youth group on Wednesdays learning about Christ, and what that means in our daily lives.

Upcoming events for youth include:

- Junior Youth Group is on Wednesdays @ 4:00pm.
- February 23-24 Junior high retreat at Camp Okoboji. Leaving Friday after school and return on Saturday sometime in the afternoon/early evening.
- February Parent Night is scheduled for February 28th
- The Lock-In @ Trinity Algona – “Whose U R” - will be held March 16-17th. LFS will be presenting our topic.
- Palm Sunday is March 25th
- Easter set-up and breakfast details will be coming soon!

We are requesting pop, cases of water, and other treats for our youth fridge!

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



February Anniversaries

Todd & Donna Wolf
 Gary & Dorothy Blakesley
 Gerald & Brenda Thiedeman
 Eldon & Jennifer Hauptmann
 Michael & Karen Duregger

God's blessings to you!!

February Birthdays

A very “Happy Birthday” to members of St. Paul who celebrate their birthday in January!

1 Daryl Eiffler	16 Cheyenne Barnett
2 Rachel Enright	16 Karen Mayland
2 McCoy Mills	17 Nicole Flugum
2 Lois Standley	17 Eason Upmeyer
4 Garlan Grote	18 Ray Cataldo
5 Haley Blakesley	18 Jared Graham
5 Ryan Darg	18 Makayla Hamilton
6 Brandon Feuring	19 Cameo Echelberger
6 Juel Hanson	19 Reece Nedved
6 Tucker Barickman	20 Sonja Brady
8 Zachery Eichmann	20 Mark Waddingham
8 Sharon Fank	21 Bryan Frayne
9 Krista Jolivette	22 Sara Formanek
9 Eileen Madsen	24 Benjamin Waddingham
12 Denise Haberkamp	25 Todd Echelberger
12 Paul Luppen	25 Nicholas Svare
12 Agnes Voss	25 Linda Webner
13 Cole Dakin	26 Cheryl Bakken
13 Bruce Jolivette	26 Tristan Smith
14 Katelyn Lincicum	28 Robertine Gatchel
15 Sherry Zurn	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 923-2261.

St. Paul Music Ministry



Pastor Kozisek, Paige Fitzsimons, and Bev Cataldo met on Monday, January 22, to discuss the music ministry for the Lenten-Easter season.

Pastor and Paige are seeking a pianist for the Wednesday night worship services. More information will be available later. Liz Waddingham will serve as organist for the 6 Wednesday night Lenten services to be held February 14 through March 21. Discussion was held for organists for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

The music department of St. Paul has had the unique opportunity in presenting a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday which started in 1965 by Mrs. L. G. Leonard and Jim Helvick. This year we will continue the tradition by using current 2018 technology. We plan to use videos on our screens plus narration, lighting and 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

BELL CHOIR:

Wednesday, January 31 @ 6:00pm practice
Wednesday, February 7 @ 6:00pm practice
Wednesday, February 14 @ 6:00pm practice
Sunday, February 18 @ 9:00am play for worship
Wednesday, February 21 @ 6:00pm practice
NO PRACTICE Wednesday, Feb. 28

SENIOR CHOIR:

Wednesday, January 31 @ 7:00pm practice
Sunday, February 04 @ 9:00am sing for worship
Wednesday, February 07 @ 7:00pm practice
Sunday, February 11 @ 9:00am sing for worship
Wednesday, February 14 @ 7:40pm practice
Wednesday, February 21 @ 7:40pm practice
NO PRACTICE Wednesday, February 28

PRAISE CHOIR:

Sunday, January 28 @ 8:40am practice
Sunday, January 28 @ 9:00am sing for worship
Sunday, February 25 @ 8:40am practice
Sunday, February 25 @ 9:00am lead music for worship



LWML



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

**Monday, February 5
9:00am Hope Circle**

Hostess: Lois Purcell
Devotion: Sheila Sperr
Topic: Deb Duregger

**Monday, February 12
9:00am Rebekah Circle**

Hostess: Bev Cataldo
Devotion: Sharon Hollatz
Topic: Pastor Kozisek

**Tuesday, February 13
9:00am Quilting**

**Thursday, February 15
10:00am LWML Board Meeting**

**Thursday, February 15
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope Circle)**

Workers: Bonnie Cataldo & Louise Piper
Cookies: Janan Griggs



LWML Highlights

The LWML Board met on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, with 8 members present. Bev Cataldo led the devotion from Romans 12:2 on "Transformed". The November Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report for November and December 2017 were read and approved. Elaine Olson and Linda Grote have agreed to audit the Treasurer's books for 2017.

A big Thank you to church secretary, Jody Roeber, for printing and stapling the 2018 St. Paul Lutheran booklet. All Ladies, please check your mailbox for your booklet. The group prepared the booklet, and mailed them to St. Paul members without mailboxes.

The Rebekah Circle will serve as Hostess for the Joint LWML Day of Prayer Service on Monday, March 12.

St. Paul LWML will host the LWML NE Zone Rally on Thursday, April 19, 2018. Sheila Willms will be the featured speaker on her Dream India Mission Trip.

The Angels & Aprons Soup & Pie luncheon on Thursday, January 18, was very successful. Thank you to all who worked and those who donated a delicious pie!

Thursday, January 18, Bev Cataldo and Ruth Meyering volunteered to assist with Bingo at Concord Care Center. Eileen Madsen also furnished cookies.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15 at 10 A.m.

Bev Cataldo, President



Iowa District West "The Messenger"

The Messenger-February 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=1154>

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—Rev. Steven Stoll

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji

Lutheran Family Service

ALSO INCLUDED...

ISU Fraternity Scholarship

Operation Barnabas

The Parish Paper
Peak Challenge 2018
RSTM Newsletter

CALLS RECEIVED

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

Rev. Nathan Rastl, Vincennes, IN, to Van Meter.

TRANSFERRED OUT

Rev. Robert Eggers, EM, Fort Dodge, to Missouri District, 12/27/2017.

Rev. Jerald Firby, EM, Logan, to Central Illinois District, 1/3/2018.

Rev. John Schmidt, EM, Lincoln, NE, to Nebraska District, 11/30, 2017.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER—CALL ACCEPTED

Shannon Porter, graduate of Concordia, Portland, OR, to DCE, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

Calendar of Events

February 3...Strengthening Your Marriage Workshop, Zion, Manning

February 10...Strengthening Your Marriage Workshop, Redeemer, Sioux City

February 14...Ash Wednesday

February 15...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge

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