

JANUARY 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 friends in Christ,

The year 2018 is upon us! What will it bring? What will it hold? God knows and His love for us will not change even though we change and our lives change.

In January we celebrate Epiphany. Let's look at Isaiah 60:6:

"A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD."

These words penned under the inspiration of God many centuries before Jesus was born and placed in that manger in Bethlehem. What do we know of these men who came on camels bearing gifts? In the Cathedral of Cologne one can see the shrine of the Three Kings. Visitors are told that their number was three; that their names were Casper, Balthazar, and Melchoir; that Caspar, was from Tarsus, Balthazar from Ethiopia, and Melchoir from Arabia. But, the truth be known, the Holy Bible tells us nothing as to their names, their homes, their number. All the Bible tells us is this: *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, magi from the east came to Jerusalem and*

asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

We are told, however, from the prophet Isaiah that they came on camels and brought gifts for a King. The names and their homes are not important to the account. What is important that Scripture was being fulfilled. That God's plan of Salvation that had been promised so long ago, all the way back to Adam and Eve was taking shape in the form of a tiny baby boy placed in the feeding dish of animals. What is important is that this humble king in humble surroundings gave up the glories of heaven and took on human flesh. To live a perfect life and take that perfect flesh and blood and allow it to be nailed to a cross. All this for you and for me, a most gracious gift from heaven through the Love of God. The names of the Wise Men from the East are not important to the account. What is important is that your name and my name by God's grace are written in the book of heaven. What a delight to know and believe this truth, this reality, this fact. And no matter how crazy our lives are and how uncertain our tomorrow is, we have a Savior, a promise, a place, a loving God!

May the Lord bless you and keep you and your family in this new year and always!

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek

From Paige's desk -

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all as we roll into January. It is always my favorite time of the year when the world seems to “slow down” and find itself reflecting back on the past. It seems as nostalgic sets in for most people. I find myself watching old movies, telling old family stories and thinking back to “the good old days”. Today our world seems to erupt more and more with bad news, fake news, and anything else the devil can get his hands on. We continue to be bombarded with the woes of the world. I give thanks for the Christmas season, because it always brings joy and happiness into the world with it.

This year I will be traveling to both North Dakota and Indiana to spend time with both Derek and my family. On Christmas Eve night, Lord willing, I plan to catch the train to Grand Forks to spend Christmas Day with Derek and his family. This will be the first time we get to celebrate Christmas together! From December 28 to January 2 I will be spending the rest of the days at home in Indiana with my family. Please pray for safety as I travel.

I finished my fourth Graduate level class this month. There is a small break before starting the spring semester in January. It has been such a blessing to work, do school, and coach. It has been fun to apply what I am learning right away to work. It has made a lasting impression on me and I am thankful for the support from St. Paul to make it possible for me to do this. With the help from the Iowa District West Ministry Excellence Fund I have also had the blessing of cutting my current student loan in half. The financial burden is starting to feel less. Again, I cannot say thank you enough for the help and support!

As we move forward, there are so many blessings and events to look forward to in the coming year! The ski trip will be January 28, the Lock-In at Trinity Algona on March 16-17, Easter Breakfast on April 1, and so much more! Please keep an eye on the Facebook Page, the Newsletter, and emails that I will be sending out.

In Christ Alone,
Paige Fitzsimons, DCE

Statistics



**The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from November 22 through December 25:
Sunday Worship Attendance**

	Worship	Communed
November 26	153	
December 03	143	119
December 10	114	102
December 17	151	
am-December 24	207	
pm-December 24	126	100
TOTAL	894	321
Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 149		

Wednesday & Other Worship Attendance

	Worship	Communed
November 22	45	
November 29	26	
December 06	57	43
December 13	44	34
December 20	20	
December 25	36	
TOTAL	228	77
Ave. Wednesday Worship Attendance: 38		

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

Mission Team

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

Dream India Mission Trip

Thanks to members of St. Paul for your contributions to the Dream India project. I appreciated your encouragement and prayers very much as we traveled so far from home. I look forward to sharing this experience with each of you in the future
Agape'~Sheila Willms

January Servants

Committees

Altar Mike & Eileen Madsen
Banner Eileen Madsen
Flower Janan Griggs

Ushers

Todd Brager Tom Schutter
Jeremy Mills Earl Webner

Acolytes

January 07	Jailyn Krein, Tristan Smith
January 14	Sam Wood, Rachel Bierle
January 21	Aleah Brown, Braden Boehnke
January 28	Ryan Darg, Reed Cataldo

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)

Courtesy Driver

Larry and Sue Bruxvoort
641-430-7089



December Meetings & Events

Tuesday, January 02
1:30pm Prairie View Service

Wednesday, January 03
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes

Thursday, January 04
6:00pm Trustees

Sunday, January 07
9:00am Installation of 2018 Church Officers

Monday, January 08
9:00am Hope Circle
7:00pm Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, January 09
Pastor's Conference @ Trinity Algona
9:00am Quilting
5:45pm Preschool Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 10
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes

Thursday, January 11
7:30am Concord Prayer Breakfast
5:30pm Deacons
6:30pm Church Council

Tuesday, January 16
9:30am LWML Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes

Thursday, January 18
11:00am-1:00pm Soup & Pie Luncheon
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope)

Saturday, January 20
TNT

Monday, January 22
Deadline for February Newsletter & Calendar

Wednesday, January 24
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes

Sunday, January 28
2:00-10:00pm Youth Ski Trip

Wednesday, January 31
4:00pm Junior Youth
5:15pm Christian Ed Meal
5:45pm Christian Ed Classes

**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

Opportunities to Serve

LWML is in the process of putting together the 2018 booklet. Please note there are opportunities for individuals to serve St. Paul:

◆ We are seeking a volunteer to chair the Flower committee with duties, beginning January 1, 2018, to include ordering and displaying palms for Palm Sunday, Easter lilies for Easter, Confirmation altar flowers, and poinsettias for Christmas,

◆ We are also seeking volunteers to serve on a monthly basis on the altar committee with duties to include preparing and cleaning up the communion ware when served.

Contact the church office or Bev Cataldo (641-923-2842) (bevcataldo@gmail.com) if you are willing to serve.

"Thank You"

from IDW Orphan Grain Train

To: All congregations, organizations and individuals in Iowa District West LCMS

From: Sharon Ann Irwin, Branch Manager, Orphan Grain Train

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support for the Iowa West Branch of Orphan Grain Train in the past year, whether it was monetary, materials or your volunteer labor, it has been greatly appreciated. As you know we operate strictly on donations and volunteer help. The Lord has truly blessed our work through your support! May the Lord continue to bless you and yours, also!"



January Anniversaries

Tom & Cathy Duregger	01/02/77	41 years
Al & Aggie Voss	01/08/83	35 years
Dale & Alice Robtrrts	01/12/1991	27 years

God's blessings to you!!

January Birthdays

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

1 Sandra Block	8 Zachary Svare
1 Pamela Dalbeck	9 Pryce Dougherty
1 Robert Darg Jr.	12 Gary Book
1 Carole Dodd	15 Linda Lillebo
1 Ivan Dodd	18 Mallory Horstman
1 Karen Duregger	21 Edwin Enright
1 Robertine Gatchel	22 Emma Hollatz
1 Jaci Hayes	23 Aaron Lamb
1 Earl Webner	24 Daren Barnett
1 Donna Wolf	26 Julie Barickman
5 Harlan Block	26 Eric Luppen
5 Jeffery Boehnke	26 Keith Sperr
6 Jody Horstman	

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.*

Youth News

Our youth are very active this time of year with full seasons of basketball, archery, choir/ band concerts, and many other activities. We will continue to meet for junior high on Wednesdays from 4-5pm. Starting back up on January 3rd. We would like to invite those who are in high school to join us at that time too.

High School Connections Retreat is January 13-14. Hosted by College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls IA. Cost of the event is \$10. If your youth is interested sign up date is January 8th. Please let Paige know so she can collaborate with you!

Our annual ski trip will be January 28th @ Boone Ski Resort. The cost is \$22/person to ski, snowbird, or tub. The youth can change through the night. We will leave church at 2PM and be back around 10PM. The time for skiing is from 4-8pm. The youth will need extra money for food. Parents and other adults/ families are welcome to come join!

The youth will have the opportunity to register for the National Youth Gathering in 2019, THIS FALL of 2018. Be looking for information to be coming out in the near future.

The Junior High youth have an opportunity to go on a RETREAT to camp Okoboji in February. The retreat is called CHOAS it is February 23rd-24th.



St. Paul Music Ministry



Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talent to enhance our worship services in the Advent and Christmas season. The Bell Choir, Senior Choir, Sunday School children, flute and vocal soloists were active in providing 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.

Allen Moe did maintenance and tuning of the organ on December 1. Terry Goepel tuned both pianos on December 7.

CHOIR SCHEDULES

St. Paul Senior Choir will sing January 7 & 14. Please meet January 7 @ 8:15am to practice before the service and check the Sunday bulletins for up-date on scheduled rehearsals to be announced.

The Praise Choir will lead the worship on Sunday, January 28, practicing prior to worship @ 8:40am.

The Bell Choir will not practice until notified in the Sunday bulletin and contacted by e-mail. e may play on the 3rd Sunday, January 21.

Bev Cataldo
Director of Music

TNT Group
20's, 30's & 40's



We are planning to meet January 20th for fellowship, dinner and a devotion! Hope to see you there! More details to come soon!

We have the opportunity to collaborate with St. Peter Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN, on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. We are looking for young adults ages 21-35 to go the week of April 21-28th. No passport is required and the cost trip will be about \$1,200/person. If you are interested, please contact DCE Paige for more information.

8 Days of Hope (8DOH)

Eight Days of Hope (8DOH) will be serving Houston, Texas - Hurricane Harvey survivors with back-to-back trips! 8DOH XIV and 8DOH XV will take place in Texas, March 10-17 and March 17-24! We expect 4,000 volunteers or more to be a part of the largest rebuilding outreach ever held in our country - all for JESUS!

Volunteer or donate at eightdaysofhope.com. See you in Texas!

[#8DOH#LovingAndServingThoseInNeed](https://twitter.com/8DOH)

8DOH will be in SE Houston March 10-March 24 serving the residents whose homes flooded because of Hurricane Harvey.

Hurricane Harvey struck Texas in August of 2017. It will go down as one of the worse disasters ever seen by mankind. Over 350,000 homes in the state were affected by over 50 inches of rain in a short period of time. Over 80% of the families that received damage did not have flood insurance because they did not live in a flood zone leaving them little resources with which to rebuild. This is where we come in! Eight Days of Hope is serving Houston through the 4B Disaster Response Network. Our goal is to use the gifts that God has given us to bless others and share the love of Jesus!

Thousands of families in the area are trying to figure out how they can rebuild their homes because of the mass damage. Those who are waiting for assistance in the rebuilding process are looking for help, for hope. 8DOH's goal is to bring a ray of hope to those who are in need and to help them rebuild their homes. We are excited to partner with the 4B Disaster Response Network and local leaders to bless as many families as possible.

8DOH is planning on working in over 700 homes during these dates. Since its inception, Eight Days of Hope has rebuilt over 1,915 homes all over the country - for free.

At this time we do not know for sure when we will be sending a team. Jay Larkin & Paige Fitzsimons are in the process of planning. Look for more details after the New Year!

If you have further questions please check out 8DOH on their website or Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EightDaysofHope> <http://www.eightdaysofhope.com/>



Check it out!!

LWML



Monday, January 08
9:00am Hope Circle
7:00pm Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, January 09
9:00am Quilting

Tuesday, January 16
9:30am LWML Board Meeting

Thursday, January 18
11:00am-1:00pm Soup & Pie Luncheon
1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope)

LWML Highlights

The November-December Ethnic Bake Sale was a success. Thank you to everyone who baked ethnic foods and to everyone who purchased the specialty items. *Bon Appétit!*

Thank you to everyone who made our annual LWML Brunch on December 9 a success. The GHV High School vocal group, IMPULSE, and the speaker, Julienne Friday from Waldorf University, were enjoyed by everyone!!! Thank you to the Hope Circle for preparing the food and the men and youth who served the meal. Thank you to the Rebekah Circle for providing the decorations and entertainment.

The 2018 LWML booklets are being printed and will be distributed in the church mailboxes when completed.

Hope Circle will meet Monday, January 8 @ 9:00am. Rebekah Circle will also meet January 8 @ 7:00pm. LWML Board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 16 @ 9:30am.

Concord Care Bingo, Thursday, January 18 @ 2 p.m. Rebekah Circle

Bev Cataldo, President

Iowa District West "The Messenger"

The Messenger-December 2017 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=128>

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

Amigos en Cristo, Denison—Rev. Willie Grills

Hispanic Outreach in Siouxland—Rev. Henry Witte

The Lamplighter—Rev. Kenny Hsu

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji

Lutheran Family Service

ALSO INCLUDED...

Concordia Plan Services Presentation

Mission News - Des Moines Hispanic Ministry

Operation Barnabas

Ordination Anniversaries 2018

The Parish Paper

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Jeffrey Kuddes, Cole Camp, MO, to Van Meter.

Rev. Karl Strenge, Redemption, Battle Creek, MI, to St. John, Clarinda.

CALL DECLINED

Rev. Don Peterson, Lake View, to Van Meter.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Derek Evans, Woodburn, IN & Antwerp, OH, to St. Paul, Aurelia.

Rev. Benjamin Perkins, Mountain Lake, MN, to Sergeant Bluff.

Rev. Robert Zellmer, Farnhamville, to Lawton.

Calendar of Events

January 1..New Year's Day, District Office Closed

January 20..Treasurers Workshop, Zion, Ogden (9am-12:30 pm)

January 20..Concordia Plan Services Presentation, Zion, Ogden (1-3pm)

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

* January 2018 *

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, Iowa 50438

Office – 641.923.2261 – stpauloffice@commnet.net - Fax: 641-923-2190

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek –DCE Paige M. Fitzsimons

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Courtesy Driver Larry and Sue Bruxvoort 641-430-7089	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1:30pm Prairie View Svc	4:00 Junior Youth 5:15pm CE meal 5:45pm CE Classes 7:00pm Worship	6:00pm Trustees 7:00pm Al-Anon		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:15am Senior Choir practice 9:00am Worship / Communion 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Bible Study (Kozisek)	9:00am Hope Circle 7:00pm Rebekah Circle	Pastor's Conference Trinity Algona 9:00am Quilting 5:45pm Preschool Team	4:00 Junior Youth 5:15pm CE meal 5:45pm CE Classes 7:00pm Worship / Communion 7:00pm Senior Choir	7:30am Concord Prayer Breakfast 5:30pm Deacons 6:30pm Church Council 7:00pm Al-Anon		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am Worship / Communion 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Bible Study (Kozisek)		9:30am LWML Board	4:00 Junior Youth 5:15pm CE meal 5:45pm CE Classes 7:00pm Worship / Communion 7:00pm Senior Choir	2018 Annual Angels & Aprons Soup & Pie Luncheon 11:00am-1:00pm 1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope Circle)		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Bible Study (Kozisek)	Deadline for February 2018 Newsletter & Calendar Announcements, Articles & Calendar Events!!		4:00 Junior Youth 5:15pm CE meal 5:45pm CE Classes 7:00pm Worship 7:00pm Senior Choir			
28	29	30	31	EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER SERVICE Can we help? Please contact: Lisa Schroeder ... 641-587-2386 Church Office ... 641-923-22611		
8:40am Praise Choir 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Adult Bible Study (Kozisek) 2:00-10:00pm Youth Ski Trip			4:00 Junior Youth 5:15pm CE meal 5:45pm CE Classes 7:00pm Worship 7:00pm Senior Choir			

January 18, 2018 - Annual Soup & Pie Luncheon - 11:00am – 1:00pm