



# DECEMBER EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND KINDER PLACE

DECEMBER 2016

## WE ARE GETTING CLOSE!

There are only a limited number of shopping days left before Christmas. I hope that all of you have your shopping lists, and wish lists, ready to go and given out to the appropriate people. I know that my children have been working feverishly on their lists to send to their grandparents, as well as their uncles and aunts.

I know that it must be getting close, as we were in Menards the other day and the decorations were all up, the trees and all of the other "Christmas Village" was ready to go. Of course, this was the case since pretty much after Halloween in many stores. Even though we haven't even made it through Thanksgiving yet, you can pretty much walk in to any store around and see all of the Christmas decorations for sale. If you drive through downtown Oconomowoc, the city workers have been putting up the Christmas lights on the trees along Wisconsin Avenue. It looks beautiful!

I have also been seeing advertisements, or rather hearing them on the radio, for Black Friday sales. The day after Thanksgiving is, as many of us know, one of the busiest shopping days of the year. There are some stores that literally make their entire year based on this one day. I have to say that I am guilty of this. I do make it out to shop on Black Friday. In our family, we used to get nearly all of our shopping done on that one day. It was a long day, and a lot of time spent amongst the crowds and masses at the stores. Not to mention, the classic Hershey's Kiss "Handbell" commercial has been on TV already, too!

All of this hustle and bustle to find ways to show others that we are thinking about them, paying attention to them, and showing them how much we love and care for them by giving them something. I have to think back to some of the gifts that I have been given over the years, and how many of them are still in use today. I have some outdoor equipment that was given to me over the years that I still use. I have some books and things in the office that I still read. I have a necklace that I wear from my dad. I have given things to others as well that they still have. My wife has some jewelry, a sewing machine that she really wanted, and some other items. The children have their video games and stuffed animals.

All of these things we are thankful for. All of the things that are on the Christmas gift lists we have uses for. We may have plans for the outdoor gear. It may make a hobby more enjoyable. The video games may help pass the time. Yet, all of these things will, in some way, break, become obsolete, or we grow out of them.

This is not the case with the greatest gift of all, and the gift that we are preparing for. That gift, of course, is our Savior. Soon we will celebrate the birth of our Lord. Until then we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for His coming. Soon, the children of St. Paul's Lutheran School will be singing and saying their parts for the annual Children's Christmas Service. What a gift to be able to hear about our Savior's birth from the children in our school, that you help make possible.

What a gift to know Jesus! Imagine not having that gift. Imagine Christmas as just a visit from Santa, or nothing more than the commercialism and hustle and bustle. Imagine not having the connection to the true meaning of the season.

What a gift we have in Jesus! What a gift we have to be able to share. This year, as time continues on, as you continue to keep Jesus at the center of your holiday preparations, remember all those that do not know Jesus. Remember our missionaries as they continue to share Christ with those that do not know Him. Say a prayer for them. Say a prayer for St. Paul's, and all those that serve here, and all those that worship here.

I thank God for all of you, each and every day. Not just on Thanksgiving. I also pray that you would continue to be blessed by our Lord as you are a blessing from Him. May Jesus be the center of your holiday celebrations, and may that gift to you be one that you keep passing on to the generations coming soon.

*~Principal Jon Pickelmann*

## CHRISTMAS CARING TREE GIFTS



It's here-the best giving time of the year! We are blessed to be able to help those children in need from our community along with the residents of Bethesda.

The Christmas Caring trees are in the narthex and in the school entryway with the ornaments which have the child's/Bethesda resident's name, their age, and choice of asked for gift or clothing items (recommended price range \$20/\$25). If you would like to make someone's Christmas a little more special, please take one or more "ornaments" from the tree.

On the back of the ornament are the instructions for this gift with due date (December 12<sup>th</sup>) for the gift to be returned to the church in time for pickup and delivery.

If for some reason you want to participate and are unable to get the gift and wrap it, please consider the idea of offering a gift card (use the SCRIP program!) or money to purchase a gift card. Please give this to the church office or in the offering plate (in an envelope marked Christmas Caring Tree).

For any questions please reach out to Lynne Lavota @ [262-527-4768](tel:262-527-4768).

*Thank you again for all your support and have a blessed holiday season.*



## UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>December 3</u>	<u>WORSHIP IS MOVED BACK TO 3:30 PM!</u>	
Saturday	December 3	Breakfast with Jesus	9:00 am
Wednesday	December 7	Advent Hymn	12:00 pm
		Midweek Advent Worship	12:15 pm
		Advent Hymn Sing	6:00 pm
		Midweek Advent Worship	6:15 pm
Saturday	December 10	Children's Christmas Service Celebration	5:30 pm
Sunday	December 11	Children's Christmas Service Celebration	10:30 am
		<b><i>THERE WILL NOT BE AN 8:00 AM SERVICE</i></b>	
Wednesday	December 14	Advent Hymn Sing	12:00 pm
		Midweek Advent Worship	12:15 pm
		Advent Hymn Sing	6:00 pm
		Midweek Advent Worship	6:15 pm
Saturday	December 18	Christmas Lessons & Carols (Adult Choir)	5:30 pm
Sunday	December 19	Christmas Lessons & Carols (Adult Choir)	8:00 am
		Contemporary Worship Service	10:30 am
Saturday	December 24	Family Worship Service	3:00 pm
		The Nativity of Our Lord	5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
		Christmas Midnight	10:30 pm
Sunday	December 25	Christmas Day Service	9:00 am
Saturday	December 31	New Year's Eve Worship	5:30 pm

# BREAKFAST WITH JESUS



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-1:00**  
**FOR ALL POTTY TRAINED KIDS - 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**FUN**  
**CRAFTS & GAMES**  
**DEVOTIONS**

**BREAKFAST**  
**GINGERBREAD HOUSES**  
**BIG SCREEN MOVIE**

**SIGN UP BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> IN**  
**NARTHEX OR BY SCHOOL OFFICE**

**HOSTED BY ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP**

**\*BREAKFAST & SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED, NOT LUNCH.**

**\*KIDS CAN BRING A COLD LUNCH AND A PILLOW AND  
BLANKET FOR MOVIE.**

# DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 5:00 pm Ladies Aid/LWML Christmas Party @ Rosati's 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	2	3 9:00 am Breakfast with Jesus <b>3:30 PM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b> 8:30 pm AA Meeting
4 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	5 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry	6 7:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	7 12:00 pm Advent Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Advent Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:00 pm Advent Hymn Sing 6:15 pm Advent Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir	8 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	9	10 7:30 am Journey Men 5:30 pm Christmas Worship Celebration 8:30 pm AA Meeting
11 <b>NO 8AM WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:30 am Christmas Worship Celebration 6:00 pm SNA Youth Group (5th-12th)	12 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	13 10:30 am Ever-Ready Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	14 12:00 pm Advent Hymn Sing 12:15 pm Advent Worship 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:00 pm Advent Hymn Sing 6:15 pm Advent Worship 7:20 pm Adult Choir	15 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	16	17 9:00 am Packing Christmas Food Bags 5:30 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
18 8:00 am Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship 9:15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 11:45 am Youth deliver Christmas Food Bags	19 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal	20 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	21 <b>NO MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE</b> 5:20 pm Parish Choir 7:20 pm Adult Choir	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	24 3:00 pm Christmas Family Worship 5:00 pm The Nativity of Our Lord 7:00 pm The Nativity of Our Lord 10:30 pm Christmas Midnight 8:30 pm AA Meeting
25 9:00 am Christmas Worship	26 <b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	28 <b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	30 <b>NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</b>	31 5:30 pm New Year's Eve Worship

# Marriage Retreat Reflections

The weekend of November 11-13, 2016, Michelle and I attended our congregation's Biblical Marriage Retreat at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. Eighteen other couples joined in this retreat, and I have to say that the Holy Spirit was definitely present!



Friday night as the couples arrived, they were greeted in the lobby by the Marriage Ministry Team with a welcome packet, a cross and a bottle of wine.

**“I needed this. This opened a line of communication that wasn't there before and led to some confession and a lot of forgiveness.”**

**—Retreat Participant**

From there, we joined for cocktails and conversation, you might say to break the ice and get to know those that we were going to be spending the rest of the weekend with. Some of us enjoyed some time by the bonfire outside, while others enjoyed conversing in the beautiful atmosphere that the Blue Harbor offered.

Saturday morning, after breakfast, we all met in one of their spacious banquet halls where our retreat began with a beautiful service and then dove right into the material.



Michelle and I have been married for a little over 12 years now. I had no idea that I would find out this weekend that our marriage was pre-arranged! No, there was no exchange of land or livestock. Neither family received any sort of dowry. Rather, as we have often been told, God knows all! He selected Michelle specifically for me and I for her! That we might grow to love one another in a way that no one else could love. To have a family and raise them

with the word of God! God chose us, to fulfill each other!!! Think about that for a second...what a wonderful gift he has given us, to know that in marriage we were chosen by HIM to serve each other!!!

In our marriages we often lose track of our spouses in the day-to-day. We get lost in our children's busy sports schedules. Work gets in the way, as do household chores, and just trying ensure that we live another day! We need to take a step back once in a while and remember that God must come first and our spouses must come SECOND. That's right, God first and then, even before the kids, work, and the rest of life's great challenges, our spouses need to come second!



*(continued →)*

If we don't take the time to communicate with each other, that is, truly talk and listen, our marriages can end up in trouble. Communication is key. Long after the honeymoon has passed, we need to remember why we love our spouse, what caused that initial spark, and verbally communicate that we love one another. In addition, if there is a conflict, we need to communicate that as well, and do

**"I really enjoyed my time this weekend. The retreat was well organized and focused. When we were sent to talk as couples we were given direct outlines to follow, which helped our discussion to be more focused and thoughtful."**

**—Retreat Participant**

so with love, to explain how we feel, and come up with a plan as a couple to resolve the conflict. If we hold our troubles in it can lead us down the wrong path.

Along the same lines, we learned that we need to be forgiving, truly forgiving. Once the words have been spoken, that we have been forgiven, the issue should not be kept in a "ledger," for if it is, we have not truly forgiven.

Saturday evening, we wrapped up our day's sessions with a wonderful dinner, where we had the assignment of sharing courtship stories and humorous (but not embarrassing) stories of our spouses. It was a great evening of fellowship.

Sunday morning our sessions came to a close with some wonderful presentations and prayer. I think that it is safe to say that the last presentation was so touching and moving that there was not a dry eye in the crowd. I am going to leave it at that. If you want to know more about it, you'll have to come to next year's retreat, *tentatively* scheduled for November 10-12, 2017, back at the Blue Harbor Resort!

**"So positive and enriching. This was not only Christ-centered and scripture-focused, but gave us the opportunity to draw on the experiences and strengths of all those attending. It also gave each couple a chance to spend some quality time together for growth, reaffirmation and fun!"**

**—Retreat Participant**

I truly feel that this retreat has strengthened not only our marriage, but our respect for one another and our belief in the power of prayer. Sharing experiences with others from various ranges in years of marriage can truly help shape how we view different situations as well as how we react to them.

And if we remember that we need to keep God at the center of our lives and marriages, there is truly nothing that cannot be overcome! *Matthew 19:26 "but with God all things are possible"!*

Yours in Christ,

Matt Dinnauer



## St. Paul's Ladies Aid

St. Paul's Ladies Aid would like to thank all who helped in any way at all in making our 2016 Christmas Bazaar such a success and wonderful day. God bless all of you!

The bake sale was a huge success and everything was gone—thanks to all who baked items for the bake sale. Again, this year, we made over 400 butter horns—thank you to all helpers. You are all angels!

St. Paul's is truly blessed to have so many wonderful people who share in our yearly event—thank you again—we can't express this enough.

We will not be having a meeting in January, but we will be hosting the fellowship Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, between services.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving as we do have much to be thankful for. A blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Have a wonderful holiday and thank you again for all help throughout the year. God's blessings!

## CHURCH CARPETING

The Ladies Aid, in recognition of our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, would like to announce that we have voted to replace the church's carpeting. Of the three bids we received, Vic's Carpeting of Oconomowoc won our support.

We plan on doing this, much like the organ...only when we have the full funding...hopefully, by late spring or early summer. If you are so moved, and would like to donate to this, please make a check out to Ladies Aid—Carpeting Fund.

God has truly blessed our church, and we'd like to help do our part in restoring that beauty, for all that the Lord has done for us.

Thank you for your support!

## LWML

### Lutheran Women's Missionary League Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML will join the Ladies Aid on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, for dinner and fellowship at Rosati's at 5:00 pm. This will replace our December meeting. Please remember your mites and Christmas stocking.

Make plans to attend the LWML 2017 WINTERGETAWAY at Wintergreen Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, January 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Rooted in Love-Serving with Gladness" based on Isaiah 65:14 "My servants will sing because of the gladness in their hearts." For more info go to [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org). There will be an ingathering of the following TRAVEL SIZED items: shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, body wash/bar soap & washcloths, gently used purses or bags, Kleenex. Please place in bin on table marked "Ingathering".

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS

The Lord's Cupboard is handing out Christmas food bags to families that need a little extra help because of an illness in the family, financial problems, or something similar. Please call the church office at 567-5001 or come to the Lord's Cupboard food pantry on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm to sign up. Sign up ends on December 9<sup>th</sup>. You can pick up the bags on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm in the school lobby.

We will need help packing the food bags on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, it only takes about one hour, please join us.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Jean Fisher**  
December 9<sup>th</sup>

**William Anderson**  
**Donald Schmitt**  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Richard Thurow**  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Mary Ann Ashworth**  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Alice Feldschneider**  
December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Carol Allen**  
December 16<sup>th</sup>

**Jan Muecke**  
December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Arlene Holzhueter**  
December 19<sup>th</sup>

**George Nagel**  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

**David Sullivan**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Gary Broege**  
December 27<sup>th</sup>

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

Paul Goetzke	\$1560.00
Edward Neitzel	\$50.00

### ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050  
262-567-5001

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#### WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Steven Scharnell 567.5001 x216

Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001

Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001

Principal - Jon Pickelmann 567.5001 x213

FAX 567.1207

Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

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#### RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship  
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM  
& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)

#### THE KINDER PLACE

Christian Pre-School & Day Care  
Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

## Kinder Place is looking for your help!

St. Paul's Kinder Place is celebrating 26 years in Oconomowoc! We are holding a silent auction from December 5-December 13, with the goal of purchasing new lockers for our center (funds needed: \$4,000). We would appreciate your help, with an auction item or donation to help reach our goal. If there is anything that you would like to contribute to the auction, please bring your donation to the Church/School office. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!



## *St. Paul's Kinder Place* **Silent Auction** *December 5th-13th*



**Help us reach our goal of \$4,000 to replace the student lockers in Kinder Place. This year's "class-donated" basket themes include Books, Art, Date Night, Family Night, and Baby Essentials PLUS items donated by our teachers and Retail Community. The auction will be open during center hours and before & after church services from December 5<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm in the halls of Kinder Place. We hope to see you! SPREAD THE WORD!**



### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

#### Baptism

Beckham Jason, son of Jason & Kim (Rhodee) Greig

#### Profession of Faith

Mark Justmann

#### Transfer from another LCMS church

Warren & Ann Weaver, Wesley & Ava—Peace Lutheran Church, Park Falls, WI

#### Death

Mark Lindemann

Baptized 1826

Confirmed 1078

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Kinder Place  
210 E. Pleasant St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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## WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE

This year, the Oconomowoc Christmas Parade is at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the difficulty this will pose in accessing our parking lot and church entrance for our Saturday evening worship service that day, **WE ARE MOVING OUR WORSHIP TIME BACK TO 3:30 PM.** Please make a note of it.

### ST. PAUL'S EVER-READY MINISTRY

Our November get-together was held at Pribnow's Maple Inn. Good food and fellowship was had by all who attended.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. The plan is to have a "Christmas Party" in some way (details have not been finalized). Please watch the bulletin for further updates.

### ATTENTION LADIES!

The registration is now open for the 2017 Woman's Retreat, "Sweet Life Café" which will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake WI. Early registration which includes a discount is due by December 15<sup>th</sup>; final registration is due by January 15<sup>th</sup>. More information and registration form can be found on the website [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org) or in the school office.