

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and ECC

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



210 East Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: www.splco.org

Worship Schedule: *Saturday 5:00 pm * Sunday 8:00 am Traditional *
* Sunday 10:30 am Contemporary *

St. Paul's Mission Statement: *"Reaching, Serving and Growing Disciples"*

December 30th & 31st, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus
Jill George, Interim Principal
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, Early Childhood Center (ECC) Director

Office Hours - 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Number 52

WELCOME to everyone, especially our guests.
Your presence is important to us.

St. Paul's is an evangelical Christian congregation, embracing historic Christian teaching on all doctrines, centered on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to bring the Gospel both to those who are searching for answers to the meaning of life and to those who desire a closer relationship with God. We here at St. Paul's have chosen to align ourselves with the teachings of the Lutheran Reformation, due to the clarity with which these help us to see the true meaning of God's Word. Specifically, St. Paul's is a ministry of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, one of America's truly biblical churches!

- **Members and guests:** please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate to indicate your presence today. For Holy Communion, please read our confession and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.
- Those sharing our beliefs, especially from parishes in fellowship with us, are welcome to receive.
- If you desire Holy Communion but hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, please speak with a Pastor or an Elder.
- Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

Please note: Half the inner circle of individual glasses in each tray contains water with **one drop** of communion wine for those hesitant to drink larger amounts of wine. Those glasses with wine are rose in color.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Come to worship. As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.

Pastor Emeritus: John Kelling

Theme: *Our Assumptions for the New Year*

Traditional Worship

Special Order

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

BIBLE STUDIES

Adult Bible Study

**567-5001 Sun. - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall
Salvation**

**567-8195 Tues. - 7:00 p.m. Muecke's Home
Women's Bible Study**

490-2879 Sat. (1st & 3rd) - 8:00 a.m. Whelan's

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by a member in praise to God for blessings received. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com. The **altar flowers** are sponsored by Jack & Sharon Stoner in praise to God for blessings received.



CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The office hours for the Christmas break are as follows:

- December 25-January 2: OFFICE CLOSED
- January 3: office re-opens with regular hours

If you have an emergency when the office is closed, you can call the main number at 262.567.5001, and you will be directed to extension 505 to receive an emergency contact number.

REACHING DISCIPLES

FAMILY PROMISE DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

It's time again for Family Promise's Annual Year-End Matching Fund Campaign! And this year we have been blessed with a matching fund total of \$20,000! **ALL DONATIONS UP TO \$20,000 received by January 8th will be matched!** Help us build better lives for families in our community. Your financial support is vital to us, and we can assure that every dollar goes toward our goal of transforming homeless families with children into self-supporting, contributing members of our local community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

The Lord's Cupboard wants to thank all the volunteers for their *time and talents* and to the members of our congregation who made donations (food and money), bought gifts and said prayers for our community families that are in need. ***On Monday, December 18th, we served 192+ meals, gave out 163 pantry food bags, packed 250 Christmas food bags including a ham and put 166 gifts under someone's tree!*** What a truly wonderful way to show others that God loves them! Each of our volunteers are a true blessing whether they packed or handed out the food bags (Warrior Nation among them!), made and served the food including the yummy desserts, delivered the food bags to the elderly (our youth group) and the gifts to Bethesda, decorated the food bags (Mrs. Gerlach's kindergarten class), answered questions (all our incredible office personnel), came to sing (Mrs. Benes 3rd grade class), organized the gifts, went shopping for food and toiletries, cleaned up and had a smile on their face! Thank you and God's richest blessings to you and your family in 2018!



Luke 2:39 *"And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord..."* The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins: but that is good, too! WE need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. But the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live – as Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living, as the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

St. Paul's Lutheran School ~ Celebrating 140 Years

Second graders share their favorite things about Christmas...

...when Jesus was born

...spending time with family

...it reminds me of Jesus and God

...Jesus and presents

...we get to celebrate Jesus' birth

...Jesus is with us

...family makes Christmas special and Jesus

...God loves you

Second graders enjoyed learning about the Christmas story and memorized twenty verses in the Gospel of Luke to prepare for our Christmas worship service. They created 'Jesus Trees' to show how the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the birth of our Savior. They also had a lot of fun with other projects like these gingerbread houses.



As we celebrate our Savior's birth, we wish everyone a blessed Christmas! May God's gifts of hope, peace, and love bring blessings to your family this Christmas season and throughout the new year!

Mission Statement: *Helping God's children grow to be energetic servant leaders for HIM through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.*

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
New Year's Eve: Our Assumptions for the New Year
December 31—January 7, 2018*

Our Assumptions for the New Year

Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the House of David — “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Is. 7:14). With this promise, He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone. It is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord’s own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the House of David in the person of Joseph (Matt. 1:20–24). “Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary” (Nicene Creed), God is with us (Immanuel) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary’s Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that “the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world,” to be “the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10–14).

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Psalm: Psalm 89 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Daily Psalms								
Morning	98	97	48	111	103	99	72	103
Evening	45, 96	99, 8	45, 29	107, 15	93, 97	96, 110	100, 67	117, 139

The Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition and Conclusion

<p><i>The Lord's Prayer (Seventh Petition)</i> But deliver us from evil</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.</p>	2 nd Grade +
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer (Conclusion)</i> For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."</p>	3 rd Grade +

New Year's Eve: *Our Assumptions for the New Year*

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	Jesus' Presentation in the Temple— Luke 2:22-40	Is. 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
Mon.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
Tue.	Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation—Luke 2:21-24	Is. 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Wed.	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child—Luke 2:25-40	Is. 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
Thur.	The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12	Is. 63:15-65:7	Luke 2:41-52
Fri.	The Flight into Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matthew 2:13-23	Is. 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS – Glenn Gartzke—Melanoma; Frieda Antoniak—breast cancer; Carrie Boldt; Larry Hansen; Timothy John Bratz—cancer; My Ubl—healing for multiple health issues; Duane Olson—kidney cancer; Carol Fellin—cancer; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Louise Lang; Mabel Fredrick; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Beth—Lymphoma; Sue Lentini (Dina Tanner's cousin)—cancer returned; Naomi Morris; Janice (Diane Bleke's sister); Tom—stage 3 bladder cancer; Liz (Barb Allwardt's sister)—colon cancer; the sister of a member with breast cancer; Dylan Coughlin—3 year-old with brain tumor; Kevin Kloss (John Tesch's nephew)—Leukemia; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Quinn—breast cancer; Julie; Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Dan (stage-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer

Other: Sicily (3 year-old)—Guillain-Barre syndrome; Riley Miskimen—blood clots; Shirley Katusich; Merita Dinnauer; Andrew (Rick Ware's cousin)—CLL chemo complications & PML Syndrome; Robert Akers (April Tiedtke's father)—palliative care; Vicki Kuhl—afib; Sue Jansen (Shirley Dibble's niece); Rebecca Mills; Gail Albright; Chelsea Bunker—severe brain injury; Marlene Wille (wife of Jim, former St. Paul's members)—stage 3 colon cancer; Dan George (Jamie's brother)—liver disease; Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Michael Hamton; Karen Christenson—dementia & stroke; Regina Mills; Dory Schultz; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister); Shawn—vascular problems; Kristal—lung surgery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn's nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Clem—high calcium heart; Bob—prostate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Barb (Dave Schlomer's mom)—severe headaches; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Pat—afib; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Clarence; Pam; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Justin Michener; PFC Nicholas Lang; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

Those serving God as missionaries: Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; Matt, friend of Heather Gartzke; for a family struggling with job loss; David; those struggling with addiction-Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB 733

Looking forward to The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6/7, 2018

Hymns: 397, 395 (370, 400, 401) 412

Three Reactions, Three Reasons (Pastor Steve Scharnell)

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. It also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1-2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8-10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to the Christ Child, He calls disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3-6).

Church Directory Update

Sign-up now for your family portraits! We are scheduling sessions now with Mortensen Photography to take your photo for the new church directory. You can sign-up online during the week, or on the weekends using the sign-up sheets located in the narthex. (Online sign-up will not be available on the weekends.)

- Please notify the church office (262-567-5001 or heather@splco.org) of any family, address, phone number, or email address changes by February 28, 2018.
- **If you will be out of town for an extended period of time or would like to have your session during the day, you can also have your photo taken at the Mortensen studio.**

Photographer Contact Info:

Rick Swearingen

Mortensen Photography & Design

139 W. Broadway

Waukesha, WI 53186

Rick@MortensenPhotography.com

Tel: 262-754-8889



If you have any questions, please email Amy Hackbarth at amy@splco.org or John Melvin johnlm00@hotmail.com



Life Together

Fellowship, in-depth discussion, and Bible study

Christian Witness in 21st Century America: Case Studies in the Free Exercise of Christianity

with Rev. Lance O'Donnell

Christian witness centers in the Gospel, the message of free and full forgiveness in Jesus Christ (justification), but the just person “lives by faith” according to the Word of God (sanctification).

Each week participants will discuss a different case study (real life example) in which ordinary American Christians bear witness to Christ in their respective vocations and face varying responses. Related Scriptures will be examined and other possible responses will be explored in the discussion.

Participants will receive the short case studies ahead of time and—in order to facilitate discussion—are expected to read them before class.

Participants will be asked to bring a snack or drink at some time during the course.

Winter Life Together Bible Study
Wednesdays, Jan 10 – Feb 7, 2018 6:15-7:15 pm
St. Paul's Lutheran School, Room 219 (Upper Room)

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.



For the most current information on St. Paul's happenings, please visit our website at splco.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS: January 1st–7th

ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY January 1 st	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
TUESDAY January 2 nd	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY January 3 rd	Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry	Hallway	5:30 pm
THURSDAY January 4 th	Boys' Warrior Classic Tournament Praise Team Practice	Gym Church	TBD 7:00 pm
SATURDAY January 6 th	Boys' Warrior Classic Tournament Women of Joy Bible Study Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Gym Whelan's Church Fellowship Hall	TBD 8:00 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY January 7 th	Traditional Worship Service Public School Confirmation 5 th & 6 th Grade Bible History <i>Time to Grow</i> (Sunday School) Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Service Boys' Warrior Classic Tournament Sunday Night Alive (9 th -12 th grades)	Church Room 219 Room 204 Meet in Gym Fellowship Hall Church Gym Room 138	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am TBD 6:00 pm

ATTENDANCE

December 24/25

Christmas Eve:

3:00 pm—354

5:00 pm—302

7:00 pm—128

10:30 pm—98

Christmas Day:

9:00 am—126

1008 Total; 115 visitors; 893 members

**ST. PAUL'S JANUARY EPISTLE IS
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT
SPLCO.ORG.**

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN
We rejoice to have families with small children participating in our worship services. There are baskets available with items that might be helpful for your children behind the back pews.

THIS SUNDAY	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Music Leaders	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	Look2Him
Special Music	Bill & Bobbie Scheuer	Bill & Bobbie Scheuer	
Acolytes	TBD	Megan Frosch & Eddie Farrell	Clayton Petersen & Luke Boldt
Altar Guild	Margie Hertneky	Wendy Tesch	Sarah Neff
Elders	Dave Meyer	Arno Kirchenwitz	Scott Kalien
Greeters	John & Margie Hertneky	Karen Meyer (church) Roger & Pat Gartzke (school)	Wayne & Diane Gartzke
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Dave Meyer	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

NEXT WEEKEND	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Readings	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Acolytes	Logan Polinske	Caden Moldenhauer	Hannah Tuff
Altar Guild	Margie Hertneky	Barb Hentz	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwiieg
Elders	George Menden	Dave Meyer	John Melvin
Greeters	John Melvin	Jim & Judy Braatz (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school)	John Melvin
Lectors	Russ Meyer	Glenn Gartzke	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Cheryl Oelsner
Radio	N/A	Jim Steinberg	N/A
Ushers	Gary Flanagan	Mike Papa	John Melvin

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Isaiah 30:8-17

Pew Bible pg. 751

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Psalm 90:1-12

Read responsively in Order of Service (pg. 8)

St. Luke 12:35-40

Pew Bible pg. 1108

[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."