



# JANUARY EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

JANUARY 2019

At the start of a new year many focus on new beginnings. Eating better, exercising more and saving more money are common New Year's goals. My current goal, as I sit writing this, is to survive the current holiday madness! I'm sure most can relate. We can only be in so many places at once, spend so much money on gifts and charities, bake so many cookies, go to so many festivities, etc., etc. In the midst of the madness I remind myself to stop and thank God for all of the amazing things he has provided that give me the opportunity to have the madness. I thank God for the family and friends he has given me to do so many things with and share this life He has given me. I thank God for everything he has provided us in life, even if it can feel overwhelming at times.

At the ECC, one of our goals has been focusing on improving our physical image. A facelift if you will. We are always looking at what we can improve to make our center the best it can possibly be and serve our families to the best of our ability. In December, we held our annual Silent Auction. Our goal was to raise money to fund our facelift. Our walls have seen much love over the years by the teachers and children and are in need of repair and a fresh coat of paint. The auction is live as I write this, so I do not have results to share, but we will hopefully be able to achieve our goal in the very near future. We have already made steps to updating the center recently. Past years' auctions, fundraisers and generous donors have helped us replace the children's hallway lockers, have a beautiful and vibrant mural be painted at the entrance of the ECC, introduce an online, all-inclusive child-care management and parent communication program, as well as adding a car track to our playground. God is good!

We are always striving to be better for ourselves and the children and families we serve. Being a Lutheran school, we not only get to teach the children their "ABC's and 1 2 3's", we have the honor and great responsibility to share the love and word of Jesus Christ. The teachers here at St. Paul's participate in continuing education opportunities throughout the year to better ourselves to serve in the purpose God called us to. We trust that God will put us in the right place and give us the right words or actions to reach the littlest of our children. Learning new teaching strategies and understanding is a goal every year for us. At the start of each year we make a plan pertaining to a subject area that we want to grow in, whether it be special education, learning through play, effective communication and so on.

At St. Paul's, when the children get an injury or their feelings are hurt, we are here to comfort and help them work through their feelings, modeling the love of Jesus. When they run into a conflict with a friend or teacher, we help model how to find a solution or compromise in a Godly manner. What I am proud to say, sets us apart from other centers, is that our number one goal, beyond knowing God, is to guide the children to be able to navigate the world and the people in it as modeled by Jesus. We want them to be able to spread the love of God through their own words and actions. We want the children to grow up knowing that it is okay to be different and to have different opinions. They do not have to let what other people think about them affect them negatively. We want them to know that they can do hard things, it just takes time, patience and practice.

It is okay to not succeed in everything. We strive to model kindness and generosity. So many times we focus on the academics, when what is most important may be lacking. All the smarts and skills in the world will not do them any good if they do not have the knowledge and love of Jesus or know that He is always there for them. They are never alone and always have someone to rely on and to give their burden to.

I hope that in the New Year, you make some or all of your goals happen, but remember that it is okay if it doesn't or if the year goes differently than you thought or hoped. God loves you and he is always with you to guide you and take on your burdens. It might not always feel that way, but know that it is true. Remember that He knows your future and has a plan crafted purposefully for you.

God's blessings,  
Christine Flores



# Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer \* Friendly Conversation \* Serious Theology

**Held at BrewFinity Brewery**

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D

Oconomowoc

**What can be better than having a drink with friends, eating delicious food, and talking about things that are truly important?**

**January 20, 2019  
5:00 - 7:00 pm**

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**Your New Year's Resolution Matters (Really, it does)**  
**Presenter: Rev. Doug Stowe, Hartford, WI**

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**Kitchen will be open to  
order food off the menu**



"But if anyone's has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18, ESV)

God has a heart for the poor. The Bible is filled with verses in which God tells us He loves and has compassion for the poor and tells us to take care of them. This is an area of great passion for many deaconesses, an area where they can be particularly helpful. Deaconesses can assist congregations with outreach and service to the poor in the community, whether that be through food and clothing pantries, diaper drives, assistance for the homeless or unemployed, or through a myriad of other ways.

This really is not something that is optional for us as Christians. We cannot have a true faith in God and claim to have a love for Him, yet hold an indifference or disdain for our neighbors in need. As one of my professors said in class this past summer, "Mercy is who we are as Christians, just as a fish cannot help but swim." If we are truly grateful for the love and mercy that God has shown us, it will spill out of us in love and care for those around us.

We here at St. Paul's are blessed to live in a relatively affluent area, which can make it difficult to remember that there are people in this community and within our own congregation who struggle to buy groceries or diapers, pay the rent, or keep the electricity on. Yet, these very people who are suffering give us an opportunity to serve Jesus Himself. How could we not want to do that? As He tells us in Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me."

On the flip side of this, Jesus then warns in Matthew 25:45b-46, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Those are strong words. Jesus is not teaching that our works can save us. He is teaching that if we do not help our neighbors it means we have a lack of faith, because these two things go hand in hand and cannot be separated. Likewise, James 2:15-17 says, "If your brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

God has put this area of ministry in particular on my heart for quite some time now, and it is my most earnest prayer and desire for us as a congregation to continue to seek ways to reach out to the poor in our community, and that through our love and care for our neighbors many more would come to know Jesus. May we love those around us as God has first loved us.

"Listen, my beloved brothers, has God not chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him?" -James 2:5

God's blessings as you begin this New Year.

Michelle Oddsen  
Deaconess Intern  
michelle@splco.org

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1st

**Joanne Abel**

January 3rd

**Donna Fortmann**

January 8th

**Jeanette Leonhardt**

**Dale Swenson**

January 12th

**James Abel**

**Barb Boldt**

**Kathy Mueller**

January 13th

**Charles Muecke**

January 16th

**Robert Reddelien**

January 19th

**Wayne Schoenherr**

January 20th

**Marguerite Schneider**

January 21st

**Barb Pieper**

January 22nd

**Duke Maynard**

January 26th

**Barb Brockway**

January 30th

**Kenneth Groenke**

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

Doris Moore	\$850.00
Louise Lang	\$20.00
Dorothy Peterson	\$20.00
LaVerne Krueger	\$20.00

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

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Steve Scharnell 567.5001 x216

Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001

Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001

Principal - Jill George 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)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

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

# STEWARDSHIP



Time ♣ Talent ♣ Treasure

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God’s son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

# ***ARE YOU AN ALUMNUS OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL?***

We would love to stay in touch to keep up with what you are doing and let you know what is happening here at your alma mater. Would you please share your contact information with us?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family members names and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive an electronic copy of our school newsletter?:  Yes  No

St. Paul's Lutheran School graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

In what industry do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your company participate in matching gifts?  Yes  No

Would you like to share your information with other alumni?  Yes  No

(list would not be for others to use as a mailing list)

Current church home: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite memories of St. Paul's? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>BOYS' WARRIOR CLASSIC</b> 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9: 15 am Time to Grow 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9--12)</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Pantry 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>6:30 pm Operations Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p>	<p>5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>GIRLS' WARRIOR CLASSIC</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>BOYS' WARRIOR CLASSIC</b> 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>GIRLS' WARRIOR CLASSIC</b> 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p><b>GIRLS' WARRIOR CLASSIC</b> 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 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9--12)</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>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 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9--12)</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.</p>	<p>6:30 pm Constitution &amp; Bylaws Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>

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

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## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### Baptisms

Cora Elizabeth, daughter of Michael & Amy (Velic) Lauber  
Claire Evelyn, daughter of David & Krista (Lindemann) Gerszewski

### Transfer to another LCMS congregation

John & Stephanie Kelling – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI

### Transfer from another LCMS congregation

Brian & Amy Sandlass, Jacob – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI  
Mark & Sue Baganz – Trinity Lutheran Church, Racine, WI

### Deaths

Doris Moore  
Dorothy Peterson  
LaVerne Krueger  
Louise Lang

**Baptized 1895 Confirmed 1110**