



JANUARY EPISTLE

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

JANUARY 2024

Growing our School

Jill George, Principal



It is no accident or coincidence that St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School and ECC is located where we are. God placed us here. We are stewards of this wonderful ministry to our community. Our mission is lived out by our faculty and staff as we continuously strive to deliver the highest quality Christian education for our students by Teaching the Truth of Christ, Growing as a Family, and Serving Mind, Body, and Soul.

Because that is our foundational truth, and because we want to reach as many souls as possible, our goal is to grow the enrollment of our school and engage more families with the message of salvation and the love of Christ. We are boldly implementing action steps to reach an enrollment of at least 150 students (a 25% increase) in our 4K through 8th grade by the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Our community needs to see Christ in All Things, and St. Paul's Lutheran School is answering that call to be a shining light for Jesus.

You will be seeing new promotions in the coming weeks and months designed to promote our school in the community. If you are inclined, we ask that you help support this initiative through prayer that God would bless our school as is His will and that you share the good news you have about your family's experience with your friends and neighbors. Want to be more actively involved in promoting our school? Let's go out for a cup of coffee and talk! Thanks be to God for the work He has done, is doing, and will do in the future at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, and ECC.



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

An Opportunity Regarding Friendship

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Man, is this an interesting time! This year's church and school theme, *Connected in Christ*, with the focus on friendship, has driven me into the Scriptures and to research on friendship. I was so taken by some of the discoveries, so fascinating and eager to dive deeper, that I submitted a proposed abstract for a conference paper. I was surprised, delighted—and a little terrified!—to have the proposal accepted. At the 39th Annual Symposium on Exegetical Theology in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, I will be presenting, "Rediscovering 'Philadelphia': The Friendship of Jesus in John 15 and 21, and Its Importance for 21st Century Mission and Pastoral Formation." Here's the abstract and thesis:

American culture is experiencing what some public intellectuals call a "friendship recession," and what the U.S. Surgeon General calls "a loneliness epidemic." This epidemic has dramatic consequences for body and soul. For the body, "loneliness and social isolation increase the risk for premature death by 26 and 29% respectively." Shockingly, "lacking social connection is as dangerous [for the body] as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day." For the soul, isolation from the friendship of Jesus is even more dramatic. It means a life lived in opposition to God and an eternity at enmity with him.

Fortunately, the loneliness epidemic is a health crisis for which the Church of Jesus Christ has the only true cure. As John Kleinig notes, "Christian friendship is the most profound form of friendship because it is eternal." This paper will briefly examine Jesus's definition of friendship in John 15, contrast it with Aristotle's definition from his *Nicomachean Ethics*, and explore the importance of Christian friendship through reflection on Jesus's restoration of Peter in John 21.

Thesis: The Church's robust cultivation of "the brotherly love of Jesus" is vital for twenty-first century congregational mission and pastoral formation.

I am particularly thankful to the faculty at St. Paul's for hearing the deep longing that I sensed in this topic and agreeing wholeheartedly to make it our theme. I am also very thankful for the responses of people on many levels to the importance of this subject. I am eager to share my continuing research with you and—so help us, God—share in the blessings that come from more deeply understanding—and practicing—the friendship of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell

Commemoration of St. Thomas, Apostle

21 December, A.D. 2023

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg. 6:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg.</p>	<p>6:30 pm Word on Wednesday (1st John)</p>	<p>Girls' Warrior Classic 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>Girls' Warrior Classic 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:45 am Youth Group Tubing at Sunburst 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>11:00 am Widow/Widowers Group 6:30 pm Word on Wednesday (1st John)</p>	<p>Boys' Warrior Classic 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>Boys' Warrior Classic</p>	<p>Boys' Warrior Classic 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:45 am Youth Group Tubing at Sunburst 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>6:30 pm Word on Wednesday (1st John)</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>Girls' Warrior Classic 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:30 pm MS Youth Group 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>6:30 pm Word on Wednesday (1st John)</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>Girls' Warrior Classic 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1st
Joanne Abel

January 3rd
Donna Fortmann

January 8th
Dale Swenson

January 10th
Pat Benes
Diane Bleke

January 11th
Michael Stock

January 12th
James Abel
Barb Boldt
Kathy Mueller

January 13th
Charles Muecke

January 16th
Robert Reddelien

January 17th
Tom Miller

January 19th
Wayne Schoenherr

January 21st
Michael Duffy

January 22nd
Duke Maynard

January 23rd
Barb Allwardt

January 26th
Barb Brockway

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Marilyn Peterson	\$100.00
Jennifer Laabs	\$580.00
Johanna Walter	\$135.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 567.5001 x213

Website: www.splco.org

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM

& www.wtkm.com

Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES



LWML will be sponsoring the New Member Coffee Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 21st, with a donation-only bake sale. January 21st is Life Sunday and donations will be given to A Place of Refuge, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. This home in Milwaukee supports mothers who have chosen to keep their babies.

As the long winter ahead has you looking for something to pass the time more quickly consider helping to make quilts (or just tops) for LWML. We need sewers who can sew a seam. No special skill required. A load of material is available and you work on your own time schedule. Please contact Pat Menden (262-719-6008) if you would like to help out.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, **February 6th**, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Reminder: NO meeting in January

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer to another LCMS Church

Todd & Colleen Leonhardt – Christ Lutheran Church, Brooksville, FL

Transferred from another LCMS Church

Mary Ellen DeLaune – Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI

Ryan & Emily McDermott, Rhys, Evangeline, Joshua, Kaj – Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Monona, WI

Death

Jennifer Laabs

Baptized 2015 Confirmed 1204



Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

Information about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: splyouth.group@splco.org
- Instagram: splyouthocon

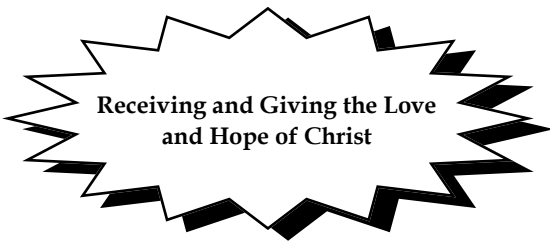
January Events

- | | |
|--|--|
| † January 4 th -6 th | Warrior Classic (Custom WC Shoppe OPEN) |
| † January 7 th | HS 7-8:30 pm |
| † January 11 th -13 th | Warrior Classic (Custom WC Shoppe OPEN) |
| † January 14 th | MS 5:30-7:00 pm and HS 7-8:30 pm |
| † January 21 st | Tubing at Sunburst MS and HS after the 10:30am worship service |
| † January 28 th | MS 5:30-7:00 pm and HS 7-8:30 pm |

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

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REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

January 21

Practicing Christian Friendship in the
Sexual Wild-West

Presenter: Jonah Burakowski

First time guests
get a free
beer or soda on us!

5:00-7:00 pm
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D

