

ST. PAUL MESSENGER



January 2018

News & Notes

Jan. 21: School children sing at 11 am service.

Jan. 27: PB&J mission, 11:30 am. In the school kitchen.

Feb. 2-3: Faith Family Reunion Retreat at SPL.

Feb. 17: Chili Cook off and Bingo event, 7-9 pm.

March 3: Mom-to-Mom sale

Monday night services have resumed at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.



Pastor's Message

"BE THE CHURCH"

What we want to be for Christ and our community is expressed every Sunday through our singing and teaching of God's word, and as active disciples throughout the week when we proclaim:

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus

We are first and always a family of sinners saved by Christ, called to **be more** and **do more** because of our new life in Jesus. That calls us to be disciples of the Savior. Who are they?

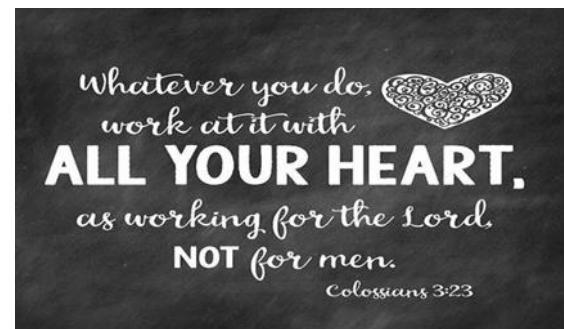
Disciples of Jesus are forgiven people who live and work for the Lord with all our heart. We have a compassionate love and resurrection hope that shows up in all we do. Whatever our vocation or situation, together we want to know God and share His amazing love and forgiveness in all parts of our life!

Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter remind us that we are special to God. Only Jesus can provide the comfort, strength and important answers that we need, and then we pass it along to others. We take that mission seriously since Jesus calls us the "light of the world." With that light we follow Jesus who took up His cross to save us from our sins. Every day, the world is waiting for us to BE THE CHURCH in ways that they will understand why we stand in Him alone.

Going into 2018 and beyond **challenge yourself and your family**, look for ways here at your church to grow in your Christian faith and find joy in new ways of serving.

Join us during Lent and Easter in
"Knowing Christ, and making Christ known!"

God loves us, and Jesus proves it,
Pastor Fairbairn



Family Life Director News

I pray everyone had a joyful Christmas and that the New Year brings you many blessings. I have many exciting things planned for 2018.

My number one goal is to make home visits, starting with Junior High students and their parents. I'm excited to exchange ideas with families. There are several retreats planned for the Jr. youth: Quake in Traverse City in March and Junior Youth Gathering in Frankenmuth in June.

Do you know someone or are you personally seeking ways to bring or reunite your family together in faith? On February 2-3, we will sponsor a FREE seminar featuring Paul Isakson, the founder of Family Faith and Reunion Ministry. Learn how we, as a church, can reach out to prodigals, parents, families and friends to help them find answers. This seminar will equip our families and friends with skills to grow our ministry. For more information visit the church web page. I hope to see you there.

I ask that you continue to pray for me and this ministry. I believe we should all be a Light for His Word, and that we work diligently to keep the light burning. It takes all of us as a Church Family to keep this Ministry glowing. Remember to stay in the Word daily, share it and hold it close to your heart.

SHINE JESUS SHINE!!!!
Jeanette Koch

Mission Fundraiser

Barry Helmick, Mia, Linda Johnson and Laraine Washer win the prize for the 'most awesome' holiday sweaters worn at the euchre party. We appreciate the holiday spirit from all who attended and supported the Guatemala mission trip.



Thank you for your generous donations to the MOST mission trip. The mission volunteers are grateful for your support. So far we have collected \$8,222 toward the \$12,000 goal. Our mission in Guatemala is to build/repair a wall around a school and offer health and hygiene classes to adults and children. The volunteers depart on April 2.



Children Give Praise

The Sunday school and day school students celebrated the birth of Jesus during the annual children's Advent service on December 13. The program, 'Baby Jesus We Love You' was organized by Kristen Goodman, Jeanette Koch and Allison McCollister. We are grateful for their inspiration as well as the assistance from all the teachers. In spite of the snow and wintery weather, the children came smiling to church, sang praises and spoke of their love for Jesus. It was a touching service filled with cuteness.



Notes from Deacon Jim

God Intervenes

As 2018 begins, are you or someone close to you seeking new direction or reunion of faith in Jesus Christ? Perhaps you have tried various ways to gently encourage that special person back into regular worship, and nothing seems to work. As Christians, we know that God calls on us to turn everything over to Him in prayer and perhaps that's just what you have been doing. However, as time marches on, that someone close to you, continues to stay apart from Christ. Maybe it's time to truly relinquish that someone to God and to pray for His divine intervention.

Does God regularly intervene in the lives of His people? Absolutely! From Genesis to Revelation, the whole Bible shows how God has not only intervened in the lives of His people, but also in the affairs of the whole world.

To support and encourage each other as we continue to look for God's intervention in the lives of those apart from Christ, I invite you to attend the upcoming retreat arranged by our Family Life Director in early February – "Faith Family Reunion Retreat." For details – see our website or weekly bulletins.

May God intervene in the lives of your loved ones,
Deacon Jim

Board of Evangelism

The essential function of the Board of Evangelism is to plan, promote and carry out programs that show God's love to all. The Easter Fair, Trunk and Treats and participation in Northville's 4th of July Parade are activities that promote our church in the community. We encourage and work with other boards and Women in Christ to support the core of volunteers who cook and serve at Family of God, the upcoming 2018 Mission Trip, and our new outreach to the residents of Allen Terrace. We are the board if you wish to volunteer to be a Sunday Greeter or work in the Welcome Center. We are always looking for new faces to greet and welcome our guests. The Board of Evangelism is blessed to begin 2018 with three new members, Nancy Berg, Patricia Melton, and Shelby Wright. We look forward to using their gifts to help us to grow God's kingdom

Prayer is powerful. Remember the suffering, sick and recovering in your daily prayer life.

School News

The school looks forward to the new year with many exciting activities. From January 21st - 26th we will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week. On Sunday, January 21 we will sing at the 11 am service with a school open house following the service. The students are collecting warm adult socks for the homeless, and we hope to "sock it to them" along with our thoughts and prayers. We will also play "Name the baby" with a baby picture of our staff during that week. We will end Lutheran Schools Week with a chapel service and lunch for the students and their guests. On Friday, February 9 at 7pm., Doug Scheer from Scheergenius will entertain us with magic and humor. Everyone is invited to come! On Friday, February 23 the school sponsors a Living Wax Museum! When a coin is dropped students will come to life as some historical figure. This event starts at 6:30pm. Plan now to attend! Also- watch for more details on our MOM-TO-MOM sale Saturday March 3rd . FYI - since January 3rd we have GAINED 5 students!

Mission Trip News

On April 2, St. Paul sends a mission team to Tasharte, Guatemala. Tasharte is a small village in a mountainous area a few miles from the Honduran border. The team's mission will be to repair a retaining wall at the village school, to provide health and hygiene education for the children, and to share the gospel of Jesus and his plan for salvation. The people we will serve are of Mayan descent.

This will be St. Paul's fourth international mission trip partnering with MOST Ministries. MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) is a Christian non-profit organization based in Ann Arbor that connects, trains, and sends short-term mission teams throughout the world in response to requests from missionaries and church bodies. Our hosts in Guatemala will be Pastor and Doris Celbin. Pastor Celbin is the pastor of the church in Tasharte. Our other host is Nuri de Milian, the Central American director for the Lead a Child program. The team leader for this mission is Barbara Hoffmeier, who has participated in 30 mission trips all over the world.

As the departure date approaches, the team members are working hard to get ready. Just as important as the "goers" are the "senders," members of our congregation who support the mission through such things as donations, fund raising, participation in the pre-mission bible study, and most importantly prayer. The pre-mission bible study begins the first Sunday in February, and everyone in the congregation is invited to take part.

Chili Cook-off and Bingo Party Saturday, Feb. 17

7-9 pm.

Parish Hall

\$5 donation (\$10 per family) to the mission trip.

Western wear: Dig out your boots and cowboy hat for a rip roaring good time.



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Church Officers:

President:
Douglas Berg

Vice President:
Leonard Elliott

Secretary:
Jan Greulich

Treasurer:
Michael Williamson

***St. Paul Lutheran
Vision statement***

***St. Paul Lutheran -
a place to go for
comfort, support,
answers, opportuni-
ties to serve, and to
strengthen a salva-
tion relationship
with Jesus.***

Board of Christian Education

—The board is pleased with the current Sunday school curriculum. It is a well written, easy to follow series of biblical lessons. Each child receives a colorful pamphlet with interesting word puzzles that coincide with the lesson. The program also provides students with a take home colorful card. The card includes suggestions for parents to explore the lesson further with their child.

—The summer Sunday school program in June, July and August, was not well attended. The board determined it will offer it again in 2018 with a new format. The purpose is to offer our children an opportunity to maintain connections with their friends throughout the summer. Summer Sunday school will be indoor and outdoor games and activities for the whole group.

— The board is active in supporting the activities associated with providing a successful vacation bible school. 2018 VBS is scheduled for June 18-22. Based on volunteer feedback, two significant changes have been made. The date for VBS is moved from August to June. In addition, the day school teachers have committed to play a role in staffing VBS. The program for this year is “Moose on the Loose”, an outdoor/camping theme.

Sunday School News

The students are coming to the end of their Old Testament lessons on “God works through Prophets and Kings” and will be starting their New Testament lessons in the next couple of weeks on “The Holy Spirit Leads the Apostles.” Parents are encouraged to read the “Sunday school corner” in the bulletin each week.

We are in need of 1-2 Sunday school teachers for grades 4-6. The position can be shared. Responsibilities include meeting the children at 9:45 am for the opening lesson and teaching a Bible lesson from 10-10:30 am on Sunday mornings. All lesson materials are provided. Please contact Jeanette Koch for more information or to volunteer to serve our children.

Meet the new SPL officers

As we welcome our new officers, we cannot go without thanking Dave Werman, Dave Grimmer and Carole Crete for their dedicated service. Please welcome our new officers as they prepare to serve our congregation and lead us in God’s service.

Doug Berg, President, and his wife, Nancy have been active members of St. Paul. Both serve on various boards. Doug is excited to lead our congregation in its mission of comfort, support and opportunity.

Jan Greulich, Secretary, is a “30-year” member of St. Paul Lutheran. She joined when her daughters were enrolled in the day school. During this time, she has had the opportunity to serve on many Boards and committees. Her adult children are now bringing their own families to worship at St. Paul, carrying on a tradition that goes back to the 1930’s when her grandfather was a pastor at St. Paul and her mother lived in the parsonage across the street. She is excited for the opportunity to continue to serve with the new leaders of the congregation and to strengthen God’s mission at St. Paul.

Lenny Elliott, Vice-President, moved to Northville from Worcester, MA in 2010. He and his wife Sarah, and children Jack, Haelyn, and Henry joined St. Paul’s in May 2016. Lenny is an electrical engineer and works for the U.S. Army supporting research in the areas of human performance and ground vehicle electronics. Lenny has been a member of the Christian Board of Education at St. Paul’s. He enjoys filling in as a substitute Sunday School teacher. He especially enjoys baking pies for St. Paul’s booth at the Heritage/Victorian Festival (and testing the pies of course!!). In his free time Lenny enjoys traveling with his family, playing soccer, and running.

