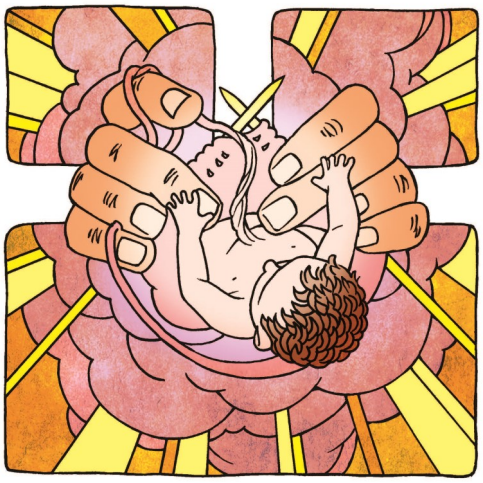
The Word

"Life From Heaven"



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Those who serve as we worship

Life from Heaven

"The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven; My maker, who to me Has soul and body given." (LSB 794:1) "My maker...has soul and body given." It's also what we learn from Psalm 139: "You knitted me together in my mother's womb." God is the God of life. He has soul and body given.

Did you know that at 18 days from conception, baby's tiny heart begins to beat, or that 28 days, an unborn baby has eyes, ears, and even a tongue! Did you know that at 8 ½ weeks, the baby's fingerprints are being engraved, or that at 9 weeks, we are able to see when the baby first begins to suck his thumb?[1]

All of these are testimonies to God's careful design. Our artist, Edward Riojas, depicts it uniquely in the image above, our theme image for the year. In it, a baby is being knit together with knitting needles, the umbilical cord like yarn. Such is God's care for life.

If God so lovingly, then, has formed us, we can be certain also of His continuing care throughout our lives. Luther says in his explanation to the 1st Article, that God not only has given me my "body and soul, eyes ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses," but also that He "still takes care of them." We can also be certain of God's care for our bodies and souls into eternity. In fact, because God cares for our bodies and souls so dearly, Jesus, the One by whom all things were made, took upon Himself human flesh to redeem us. As we remember in these Advent and Christmas seasons, Jesus was promised to God's people of old. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit within the womb of Mary, going through every stage of development just like us. Finally, He was born to live and to die, that we, body and soul might look forward to living with Him forever.

What is our response? In courage and conviction, we stand up for those within the womb who cannot speak for themselves. And in love and faith, we live our lives in thankfulness and praise for what our God has done. Luther concludes his explanation to the 1st article: "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." So also, the hymn writer invites us to sing: "The Lord my God be praised."

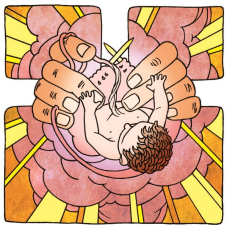
[1]https://carenetsomd.org/health-information/fetal-development-milestones/

the Word.

December 2022
January 2023

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Music Conservatory
239 Frank Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
712 322 4729

St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center
1500 North 16th Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
712 322 3294



"LIFE FROM HEAVEN"

For many years now St. Paul's has been using, as its annual ministry theme, the title of the most recent David's Harp resource produced. With great joy, David's Harp came out with its newest volume for piano in November called, **"Life From Heaven."** This page gives you a sneak peak into this new piano book which bears the theme of this newsletter. If you'd like to buy it for a loved one as a present for Christmas, talk to Pastor Frank, Pastor Sherrill or Ed and Cindy Frank.

The images for use in this new music book are all life affirming. The idea here is to provide images that tell a visual story to the children that will be learning the associated hymn. All of these images will help students and their teacher talk about Jesus' love for life and our calling to respect and honor life. See what you think!

Image #1: The Lord My God Be Praised
The first line of this hymn reads, "The Lord my God be praised, my life, my light from heaven." Here we are taken back to Psalm 139 which reads, *"For you formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made…"* The image associated with this hymn is the theme image for the book and is shown at the top of this page and will be on the front of our newsletter throughout the year.

Image #2: When All the World Was Cursed
This Advent hymn refers to the joyous activity of little baby John while still in his mother's womb. Remember reading Luke 1:41? Elizabeth said to Mary, *"Behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy!"*

Image #3: We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth
Our Christmas hymn was written by Martin Luther and really focuses on the "incarnation," that is, the reality that the Son of God became human flesh. We wanted the artist to draw this fact out by making sure to show everyone Jesus' little fingers and toes, you know, those "parts" carefully knitted together in the womb of Mary.

Image #4: Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten
This hymn for Epiphany speaks of Jesus as "Light" just like the Bible does, especially in the Gospel of John. One text we read during Epiphany is of Jesus healing the lepers. Look at the lepers fingers! That which God created "very good" has a problem. But Jesus came to restore and even recreate. Jesus' miracles are a visible sign of his divinity. Jesus really must love us!

Image #5: Upon the Cross Extended
Paul Gerhardt wrote this Lenten hymn which helps us think of all that Jesus went through for us. The image shows less of Jesus and more of someone saddened by his own sin. Have you ever done anything wrong? Of course, this hymn helps children learn that it is right to repent of our sins and run to Jesus, for Jesus came to forgive us and show us mercy.

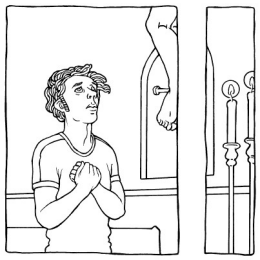
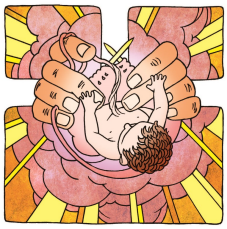


Image #6: I Know That My Redeemer Lives
What a familiar hymn we hope to teach the children! Did you know this is a very life affirming song? "He lives, He lives, He lives we sing over and over again." This wonderful image shows Mary thinking all was lost when Jesus died. But Jesus is actually there, present with her! Who would have thought! Jesus' resurrection changed Mary's life and it changes ours as well.

Image #7: Children of the Heavenly Father
Whether you are old or young, by baptism and faith in Jesus you are still a child of the heavenly Father. This picture tells way more than my words, don't you think?

Image #8: Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds
There is a great line in this hymn. It says that we should tell our children about the deeds of Jesus, *"that generations yet unborn may teach them to their heirs."*

Image #9: What God Ordains is Always Good
This hymn helps us all realize that God has rule over our lives and that when we believe in Him, we know that all things work together for good. You'll notice the image includes children with handicaps which remind us that what some people see in life as a burden or problem, God's people can see as an opportunity or blessing, so long as we follow Jesus as He leads.



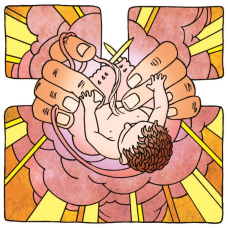
"The Word" on
St. Paul's Congregational Ministry
"Back to the Bible"

St. Paul's clearly defined its Christian Education goal this year under the heading of **BACK TO THE BIBLE**. With this theme, we encourage everyone in the congregation toward daily and weekly devotions, scheduled and structured reading and even intentional memory.

The chart below shows the sections of the bible being studied at Christ Academy and Sunday School by many of the classes. The center section is the memory schedule for our entire congregation. Please use this!!! Put it on your refrigerator and follow the guide each day or divide the readings up throughout the week. By doing this, our congregation will participate in the same rhythm of Bible readings and discovery together throughout the year.

Sunday School & Christ Academy Lessons and Scripture Memory

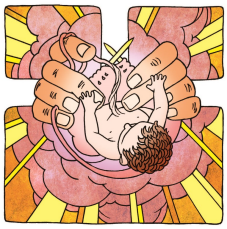
Week	Sunday School Lesson	Scripture Memory	Christ Academy Lesson
14 (Dec 4)	The Weakened Judge - Samson Judges 16:4-31	**Luke 2:1-12**	Homecoming Hopes – Return from Exile Ezra 1:1–2; 7:11–28; Nehemiah 2:1–8; 12:27–43
15 (Dec 11)	The Faith-Full Family – Ruth Ruth 1:1-2:13, 4:13-17	**Luke 2:1-14**	A Nativity Night – Jesus' Birth Luke 2:1–20
16 (Dec 18)	The Chosen King – Saul Becomes King 1 Samuel 8:4-9:2, 10:17-27, 11:12-15	**RECITE**	Wise Men Worship – Magi Matthew 2
17 (Dec 25)	**NO CLASS**	**NONE**	**NO CLASS**
18 (Jan 1)	The Fearless Shepherd – David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17:2-11, 33-51	**Ephesians 6:10**	Claimed and Tested – Jesus' Baptism and Temptation Luke 3:15–22; 4:1–13
19 (Jan 8)	The Faith-Full Friends – David and Jonathan 1 Samuel 18:1-9, 20:18-42	**Ephesians 6:10-11**	Fishers Follow – Jesus Calls Disciples Luke 5:1–11 The Wine Sign – A Wedding at Cana John 2:1–11
20 (Jan 15)	The King of Glory – David Worships God 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Psalm 24	**Ephesians 6:10-12**	Mountain Message – Jesus Preaches on the Mount Matthew 6:25–34 **QUIZ BOWL**
21 (Jan 22)	The Wise King – Solomon Prays for Wisdom 1 Kings 3:5-15, Proverbs 3:1-12	**Ephesians 6:10-13**	A Weather Wonder – Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4:35–41
22 (Jan 29)	The Unwise Wise King – Solomon Builds the Temple 1 Kings 6:11-38, 11:1-11	**Ephesians 6:10-14**	A Life Restored – Jairus's Daughter Mark 5:21–24, 35–43



Life From Heaven
BACK TO THE BIBLE

Our Christian Education emphasis this year is **BACK TO THE BIBLE!** On this page, let's do just that! The Adult Bible Class has recently finished studying the book of Isaiah. This was a phenomenal book to study, and one that has so many Gospel promises. The Servant Songs of Isaiah are some of the most amazing sections of the book, for they clearly describe the Messiah and His work. Did you know that Isaiah wrote his book over 700 years before Jesus' birth? Below you will see portions of the "songs" from Isaiah and then to the right, some of their parallel passages in the New Testament. Rejoice that the Messiah has been made known to us, even in advance of His coming! His LIFE FROM HEAVEN was given, so that we might have LIFE IN HEAVEN one day to come!
We gain so much comfort when we get **"Back to the Bible!"**

Old Testament Servant Song	**New Testament Fulfillment in Christ**
Servant Song 1: Isaiah 42:1-12 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations… a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench…	**Matthew 3:13-17** "...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 12:15-21** "...And many followed Him, and He healed them all...this was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah…" (Is 42:1-3)
Servant Song 2: Isaiah 49:1-6 Vs. 6 "I will make you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."	**Luke 1:77,79** "...to give knowledge of salvation to his people...to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death…" **John 8:12** "Again, Jesus spoke to them saying, 'I am the Light of the world…'"
Servant Song 3: Isaiah 50:4-9 Vs. 4 "The Lord has given me the tongue of those who are taught…" Vs. 6 "I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting."	**Matthew 5:2ff,** "And He opened His mouth and taught them saying…" **Mark 10:1**, "And again, as was His custom, He taught them." **Matthew 26:67-68**, "Then they spit in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who struck you?"
Servant Song 4: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 53:5 "He was pierced for our transgressions…" 53:5 "Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."	**Luke 23:33**, "And when they came to the place that is called, "The Skull," there they crucified Him…" **John 19:34**, "But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water." **Luke 23: 34**, "And Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."



"Life From Heaven"
Supporting Ministry in this Life-
Looking Forward to the Next Life

Dear Christian Friends,

I want to say one thing clearly, I want to do some teaching, and I want to repeat the one clear thing.

1. I want to say one thing clearly.
At the end of the year it is important for all Christian ministries to appeal to their supporters for continued giving. Our church is no different. It is only because of the tithes and offerings of our members that our ministry continues in Council Bluffs. Please consider giving throughout the month of December that is above and beyond your normal offerings.

2. I want to do some teaching.
Giving, such as your "tithe and offering," is way different then donating to the local University or non-profit charity. Our "tithes and offerings" represent a portion of the bounty that God has already bestowed upon us. We came into this world with nothing. Everything that you see around you, is from God. When we think of our house, home, wife, children, land, animals and all that we have (see Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed), we realize, it all came from God.

When we come to church, or consider our "church ministry," we realize we are part of God's plan for sharing His message of salvation to the ends of the world. It is very true, that St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs Iowa is part of God's design to be a living witness to Him, and to be part of the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. And more than that. Apart from the Christian Church, there is no institution or entity given to speak of Jesus in this life.

So, we give offerings and practice "tithing" at church because we have a biblical mandate, a calling from God to "make disciples of all nations." When we reflect on our personal giving, our offerings and tithes at church should take priority over everything. That is, they should be given or designated before we think of wherever else we'd like to give.

Not only are our tithes and offerings a part of our true worship, returning back to God what is already His, but they also are given that we might be blessed personally! For one of the reasons that the Christian Church exists locally, is so that Christians might be fed and nourished and comforted by the Word of God.

So, the tithes and offerings that you give at church provide us with a parking lot, doors, our pastors and church workers, programs, an Early Childhood Center, the ability to have a Music Conservatory, Christian Counselors in the building, lights, pews, Holy Communion, an organ and other instruments, janitors, paper for bulletins, Christmas decorations and on and on and on. As we consider our Christian Education emphasis, "Back to the Bible," consider that our tithes and offerings provide us with a system of Christian Education whereby we might learn things about the Holy Bible, about God, about Jesus and about eternal life that we wouldn't otherwise learn anywhere else. But even more than all of this, our tithes and offerings provide for a very strong expression of Christianity within our community. Have you ever considered the "footprint" that St. Paul's makes in Council Bluffs? Through the influence of our ministries and partnerships, St. Paul's has made a positive effect on our community for the sake of Christ now for over 141 years! God be praised!

I always feel like its important to remind ourselves what we are doing as a church, who we are and what our purpose is. When we give ourselves time to reflect, I am always rejuvenated and energized for the ministry at hand. God has given each of us opportunities to be a mouthpiece of the Gospel in this place. May we ever do what we can to glorify Him through our ministry and through our lives as individual Christians!

3. I want to repeat the one clear thing.
Please consider giving throughout the month of December that is above and beyond your normal offerings.

As we approach the annual observation of our Lord's nativity, rejoice at the message of the angels which has become the message of the Church throughout the ages: *"For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"*

Thanking and praising God with you this holy season,

Pastor Sherrill

An Update from our Early Childhood Center

This school year seems to be moving right along. In the last couple months we've been able to provide an opportunity for fellowship by hosting brunch with the Pancake Man.

Students and families were able to participate in a Fall Festival where they were able to go on a hay rack ride around the property. Special thanks to Martin Cannon for loaning us a tractor, Joe Villareal for letting us borrow hay and especially to Mr. Trede for being our driver! We also thank Charlie Johnson and Mary Ann Hanusa for helping acquire pumpkins. That day we also got to pet a few animals including a miniature donkey, calf and giant rabbit thanks to Olivia True and the Heine family. Students also got to decorate a homemade sugar cookie for snack, thanks to Mrs. Sue Trede! Everyone enjoyed their time.

In November we were able to stop and give thanks having our own Thanksgiving Dinner. Its easier to sit on the floor with little ones!!

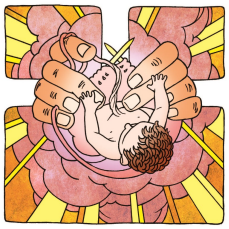
We are now in the midst of preparing for our Christmas program, which will take place on **December 7th at 11:00 a.m.** The entire congregation is invited to join us! This is one of our greatest gifts- to be able to share the good news that Jesus is coming! And indeed that he has already come to forgive and redeem the entire world.

We are grateful to God for the steadfast lead teachers he has blessed us with; however, we continue to be in need of another associate or two. In the last two months we have welcomed Mrs. Nicole Vohs, Miss Sabrina Moreno and Mrs. Amanda Johanning as associates to our team. When they begin working with us they rotate throughout the different classrooms to get to know the different developmental needs as well as the routines associated with each classroom.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to act as director of our Early Childhood Center. Each day brings its own triumphs and trials, but God continues to grant us all that we need for each day. Please continue praying for our Early Childhood Center. Give thanks for her teachers, and pray that they remain faithful to the work that God has called them to do. Pray for our students and families, that God continues to draw them ever closer to Him. Pray that our Center continues to be a beacon of light, sharing the truth of the Gospel in a world that is continually darkening around them.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Becca Heinicke
Director

Sabrina Moreno, a member of St. Paul's, helps one of our students pet the calf named "Ferdinand." We love having members work at our Center. If you are interested in learning more about employment at your church's Early Childhood Center call Becca at 712-322-3294 or email her at director.stpauls@gmail.com



"The Word" on
St. Paul's Music Conservatory

October—November Highlights

On October 9, Timothy Schreiber, former SPMC student, gave a recital in Omaha sponsored by the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Timothy is completing his studies at the University of Kansas while serving as Kantor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Basehor, Kansas (a congregation which is interested in starting a music conservatory of its own.) Timothy and Lillian (left) were married in Basehor on October 22.

One of the ways SPMC seeks to serve our community is through student performances. Several students provided a recital at Bethany Heights on October 20 (left) . Pictured on the right is the Johnson family, who provided music to an association of retired teachers on November 16.

Upcoming Events

Studio of Christa Shepherd
Friday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Ashley Mohling in Concert
Saturday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Studios of Kirsten Meyer, Tina Sherrill, & Pastor Frank
Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Music at the Madison Ave HyVee
Saturday, December 17
Students: 10:00 a.m.—Noon
Mike Rollins: Early Afternoon

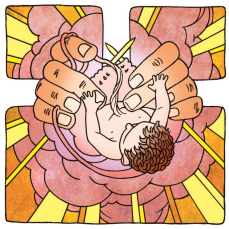
Studio of Dr. C
Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Mary-Kate Donnelly Recital (Student of Dr. C)
Saturday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m. (at Dr. C's)

What a blessing!!

One of the very wonderful things about St. Paul's Music Conservatory and the establishment of David's Harp is that St. Paul's congregation is right in the middle of a movement of music and evangelism sweeping the synod! Pictured to the left is artist, Edward Riojas, drawing images to be included in the newest David's Harp Piano book. These books will soon be made available to all SPMC piano students as a gift through Thrivent Action Teams. Creative approaches are truly making ministry a joy at St. Paul's!

Note: Pastor Sherrill has done a podcast with artist Riojas. Watch for it coming soon on Facebook!



"The Word" on Congregational Ministry News and Notes

Notes About Our Christmas and New Years Services: If you're paying attention, you'll notice that Christmas is on a Sunday this year and New Year's Day is also Sunday. Because of these dates, note the times for our Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's services. The Nine Lessons and Carols service has been moved to 4:00pm because it is on Saturday. Christmas Day, which is Sunday, will be treated as a typically Christmas Day, (only one service at 10:00am, no Sunday School.) Since New Year's Day is Sunday, we will NOT have a New Year's Eve service on Saturday.

Elders, Ushers and Greeters: Thanks to Martin Cannon, head elder for working with the elders and ushers on expanding our teams and working on church security. We still need more volunteers for these positions. Please contact Martin if you are willing to serve as an Elder, Usher or Greeter. 402-690-1484

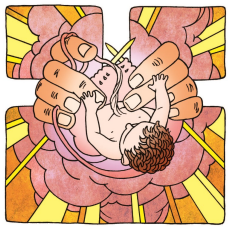
December 14th, 8th-12th Grade Parent Meeting after Church/Christ Academy: The 8th through 12th graders have the opportunity to go to HigherThings this year. This is an annual LCMS youth conference taking place in late July. Those who are interested should attend this meeting to learn more details about this opportunity. Meeting will take place in the Longue.

December 18th, Christmas Caroling: Please join us for Christmas Caroling and Chili at church on December 18th. We will meet at church at 3:45, divide into groups and carol throughout our community from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Then we will gather back at church for Chili, games and goodies. Please join us!

January 4th, Epiphany Service: We have received very positive comments on our first Advent Service held at 6:30pm. So, we are going to add an observation of Epiphany on January 4th, at 6:30 as well. The same routine will be followed. This service will be held the last 30 minutes of Christ Academy with special participation by the children.

End January, Annual Meeting: Get ready for St. Paul's Annual Meeting. This is the day when we set the course for ministry into the 2023 calendar year. Please help us make decisions and work together for the glory of God! This meeting will be set for a Sunday after second service in the second half of January. Stay tuned!

February 25th, Concordia Chamber Singers: The select 13 voice choir from Concordia University Seward will provide a very special performance at St. Paul's on February 25th. This event will include Elizabeth Grimpo as accompanist. St. Paul's very own children's choir has been invited to sing with this group and special opportunities will be available to have a David's Harp Piano book signing from Dr. Grimpo herself. Watch for more details to follow!



"The Word" on Congregational Ministry News and Notes

What's different between these two pictures from our Heritage Room?

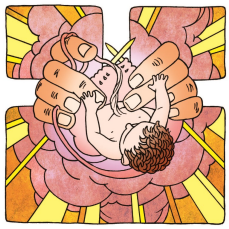
While you could answer this question in any number of ways, the thing I want to share relates to the floor! The picture on the left, taken of Pastor Lobeck and his Confirmation Class of 1948, reveals no carpet on the chancel floor. The picture of Pastor Burroughs' Confirmation Class of 1970, seems to be depicting the first time our sanctuary floors were dawned with carpet. Interesting bit of trivia, huh?

Recently a family of St. Paul's approached the chairman of our congregation offering to donate funds to refinish the rest of the sanctuary's hardwood floors! What a generous and kind offer! The Council visited with the donors through our chairman for many months. When the time seemed right, a Voter's meeting was called and the congregation, in voters, voted unanimously to humbly receive the offer and work toward refinishing the sanctuaries hardwood floors to the glory of God.

There is a phrase used widely at the seminary that I think is funny at a time like this. *"Don't argue over the color of the carpet,"* seminarians are taught! You are there to proclaim the Gospel, not get into more detailed conversations of adiaphora. (Things that are neither commanded or forbidden, right or wrong.) While the pastors are ultimately neutral on these kind of things, we are not neutral on other things that might actually relate to the decision the congregation would make on such an occasion. Because various folks have asked us what we think about this recently, we felt it right to share our line of thinking here.

1. You are free to exercise Christian liberty in choosing what to do with your floors. However, Christian liberty always includes respect for God's Word and one's neighbor. So Christian liberty is not as "freeing" as you may think. It may actually cause you to become a servant.
2. The sanctuary floors are part of "God's House" the place where He makes His presence known to us. The sanctuary is holy, sacred space over which the Elders of our congregation are specifically charged. They are to oversee the sanctuary that all activities, ornamentation and cleanliness is done and kept in good order to the glory of God.
3. While proper stewardship of God's gifts is always important, it is proper stewardship to expend greater amounts of time, energy and money on the sanctuary and Church in general, than what we might normally do even with things in and around our own home. This we learn directly from Scripture as seen in Solomon's building of the Temple and in the Israelites rebuilding of the Temple after the Babylonian Captivity. (See Haggai 1:1-6)
4. In order to do all things in good order, the church has a regular system in place for learning about significant matters that effect the church and discussing them. This includes monthly Council meetings and an annual voters' meeting or specially called voters' meetings. It is within the voters' meeting that everyone in the congregation is encouraged to discuss matters that are important to them such as this one.

We are very thankful to our members who care about our church ministry and God's Holy House. We are excited for Patrick Roberts, our Director of Property and Grounds to work with our Elders on proceeding with this blessing in a way that glorifies God and serves the unique needs of our congregational community. If you would like to visit about anything related to this project, or share your interests, you are more than welcome to contact Head Elder, Martin Cannon at 402-690-1484. The elders meet the second Tuesday of each month.



"The Word" on Congregational Ministry

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Advent Services
Wednesday Evenings
6:30 p.m. (New Time!!)

November 27th
December 7th
December 14th
December 21st

Christmas Eve
December 24th

"Nine Lessons and Carols"
4:00 p.m. (New Time!!)

Christmas Eve Worship
10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
December 25th
Worship - 10:00 a.m.
(One Service Only, No Sunday School)

New Year's Day
January 1, 2023
Normal Sunday Structure
(No New Year's Eve Service)

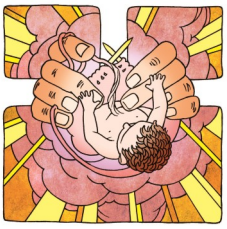
Church Security 101:
What does "security" mean at St. Paul's and why do we care?

Gone may be the days that the church doors are always left open. Most churches now not only have locks but have a special way of locking doors and windows so that things are kept safe and in order. When congregations begin thinking of security, they need to first evaluate their ministry and what they actually do.

When you think of what we do through St. Paul's ministries, you might be surprised. We do a lot! While we might typically think about security on Sunday morning, you might be surprised to realize that the activity which takes place on Sunday morning is only a fragment of the ministry that takes place throughout a given week. At St. Paul's students are taught through our Music Conservatory at least five days a week. Our Early Childhood Center is at a separate location operating five days a week. We house ministry activity throughout each week at our church including a Counseling Service with its own hours. At any given day people are coming and going from 6:00am potentially to 9pm or after. When it comes to making sure our friends, family and visitors are safe within our ministry setting, where do we begin?

The Elders are working on heading up conversations relating to security. While most people might think this relates to Sunday morning worship, while that is true, that is only a snippet of what needs to be discussed. One silly and simple thing needing attention is making sure doors are locked when we leave and that those who are last at church know how to lock them or proper procedures to exit.

At our annual meeting in January you will hear more about church security. We would love to have an entire congregation aware of this conversation and what we all can do to help one another feel comfortable in our church home.



The Word on our Church Family

December Birthdays

December 1	Jim Petersen
December 2	Kathleen Kruse
	Logan Roberts
December 3	Tayler Tague
December 4	Linda Brand
	Andrew Reents
December 7	Elizabeth Bowerman
	Jacob Schreiber
December 8	Bob French
December 9	Amanda Lane
	Jamie Schnoor
December 11	Jan Goodin
December 12	Jo Raymond
December 13	Joni Doiron
December 14	Holly Miller
December 15	Megan Maurice
December 16	Greg Montgomery
December 20	Emma Cundiff
	Sandra Frank
December 22	Kylie Lane
December 24	Kelsey Dragon
	Carter Shockey
December 25	**Our Lord, Jesus Christ**
December 26	Benjamin Waggoner
December 27	Jonathan Sherrill
December 28	Jessica Overgard
December 29	Jacob Dix
	Ted Kehm
December 30	Diane Rounds

January Birthdays

January 2	Karen Hardick
	Penny Rollins
January 3	Brody Adams
	Theodore Fingerhut
January 5	Olivia Merksick
January 6	Zoey Markham
	Kyle McKee
January 7	Martha Spetman
January 8	Melissa DeLong
	Marcia Timm
January 9	Kyle Johnson
January 10	Amelia Guill
	Owen Shockey
January 12	Bradley Adams
	Bryanna Adams
	Pastor Sherrill
	Jennifer Trail
January 13	Jackson Bogacz
	Kori Nelson
	Lucie Roth
January 14	Emry Trail
January 16	Eden Ferris
	Tess Cheney
	Stella Raymond
January 17	Dick Leu
January 18	Cindy Goodin
	Bill Kruse
	Susan Tews
January 21	Brandon Griffen
	Tim Mathisen
	Vicki McCallan
January 24	Cara Ireland
	Pastor Tews
January 25	Nathan Storey
January 27	Amy Kuper
	Michael Montgomery
January 28	Ashley Moreno
	Jolene Stiles
January 30	Shaylie Gardner
	Candace O'Toole
	Jonathan Ross
January 31	Madeline Cooley
	Anna Sherrill
	Kathy Seipold

December Anniversaries

December 1
Robert & Karen Burns

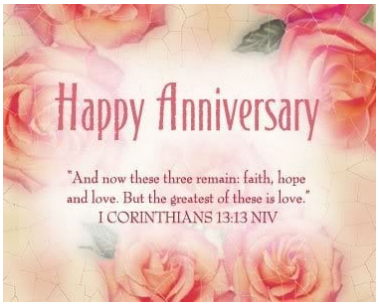
December 11
Jacob & Amy Eyberg

December 17
Dan & Linda Hanusa

December 18
Dan & Jann Strutzenberg

December 27
Denis & Theresa Gough

December 28
Josh & Emily Fingerhut



January Anniversaries

January 1
Terry & Karin Smothers

January 4
Scott & Debbie Schreiber

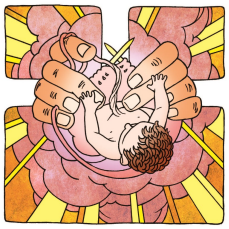
January 14
Dave & Mary Johannes

January 17
Ted & Gloria Kehm

January 29
George & Merna Kellogg

January 31
Patrick & Laura Roberts

If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special day, please call the church office at 712-322-4729. Cost: $48.00



The Last Word
"Life from Heaven"

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. This past year has gone so fast, and the Christmas season will probably go just as fast. Then we start a new year. That also means that Epiphany is coming! I've always thought that Epiphany has kind of been looked over. But, Epiphany is really very, very important for us.

The Wise Men asked Herod, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" We have to remember that the Wise Men weren't Jewish. So, why were they looking for Him? They had seen His star and came to worship Him. How did they know that it was His "star"? Why did they want to come and worship Him? Somehow, God must have let them know that a Savior was being born! Somehow, God must have let them know that they too, needed a Savior! They followed a "Light from Heaven" to receive "Life from Heaven."

These Wise Men are so important, they help prove that Jesus didn't just come to save the Jews, He came to save all of us. He came to intercede for us. He came to die on the cross for our sins so that we might have "Life from Heaven."

Read that account again and realize how very important these twelve verses from Matthew are.
[1]Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, [2]saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." [3]When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; [4]and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5]They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: [6]"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" [7]Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. [8]And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." [9]After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10]When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11]And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12]And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
In His Service and Yours,
Rosemary

*We must **remain** as strong and straight as the **cross** on the top of the steeple.*
Keeping our eyes ever fixed on Christ, who died on the cross for our salvation.

Church
239 Frank St.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
712-322-4729

Pastor ~ Nathan Sherrill
Cell: 712-310-4248
nathansherrill1978@gmail.com

Associate Pastor ~ Timothy Frank
Cell: 712-269-3683
pastorfrank239@gmail.com

Director of Music ~ Emeritus
Dr. J. Gordon Christensen
drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com
Home: 352-0298

Secretary ~ Rosemary Paul
rosemarypaul57@gmail.com

Fax: 712-322-8832
Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center
St. Paul's Music Conservatory
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Two Locations
One Word

www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org

Early Childhood Center
1500 N. 16th St.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
712-322-3294

Director ~ Becca Heinicke
becca.heinicke@splecc.org

Secretary ~ Heidi Bernhards
heidi.bernhards@splecc.org

Fax: 712-328-3338
Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. ~ 2:30 p.m.

December 2022

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ 239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 ~ 712-322-4729 ~ Facebook

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	**2**	**3**
				9:00am Chapel - SPLECC	1:45pm Music at Risen Son 6:30pm Christa Shepherd's Studio Recital	2:00pm Ashley Mohling Recital
4 2nd Sunday in Advent	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**	6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Gloria Dei Choir	6:00am Men's Bible Class 11:30am Staff Meeting 2:30pm Midlands Music 6:00pm SPLECC Board 7:00pm Elders	11:00am Christmas Program – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** **6:30pm Advent Worship**	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 6:00pm SPLECC Board **7:00pm Council**	1:45pm Music at Risen Son 6:30pm Music Conservatory Recital	10:00am Music Conservatory Recital
11 3rd Sunday in Advent	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**	6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Pastor's Circuit Meeting 2:00pm Music at Midlands	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** **6:30pm Advent Worship**	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC 11:30am Women's Bible Study	11:30am Women's Bible Class 1:45pm Music at Risen Son	
18 4th Sunday in Advent	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24 Christmas Eve**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C** **3:45pm Christmas Caroling & Chili**	6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC 11:30am Staff Meeting	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **6:30pm Advent Worship**	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC	**SPLECC Closed** 1:45pm Music at Risen Son	**4:00pm "Nine Lessons and Carols"** **10:30pm Christmas Eve Worship - C**
25 Christmas Day	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31 New Year's Eve**
10:00am Worship - C	**Church/SPLECC Closed**		**No Christ Academy**		1:45pm Music at Risen Son	No New Year's Eve Worship

The Word on those who serve as we worship:

DECEMBER 2022

December 4, 2022

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Mark Heinicke**	**Doug Ferris**
Ushers:	Derek Stephenson, Wade Stephenson, Bob Finke, Martin Seipold	Tim Hansen, Dave Hansen, Dan Wych, Brody Wych
Acolytes:	Sarah Ruth Johnson	Carter Shockey
Communion Set Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns
Communion Clean Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Heidi Penney/Patti Guill
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:	Gloria Dei Choir	Ferris Family Kantorei

December 7, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Elder: Doug Ferris **Ushers:** Wade Stephenson, Max Raymond **Acolyte:** Layla Duncan

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December 11, 2022

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Kyle Johnson**	**Martin Cannon**
Ushers:	Dillon Linneman, Derek Stephenson, Don McKee, Dan Wurdeman	Bob Finch, Andy & Sam Raymond
Acolytes:	Evelyn Bogacz	Brooke Nelson
Communion Set Up:	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff
Communion Clean Up:	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff	Diane Machmuller
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:	Cantate Domino Choir	Julie Moreno

December 14, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Elder: Mark Heinicke **Ushers:** Bob Finke, Owen Shockey **Acolyte:** Brookelynn Adams

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December 18, 2022

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m.
Elder:	**Mark Heinicke**	**Doug Ferris**
Ushers:	Matt Escritt, Bob Finke, Derek Stephenson, Don McKee	Tim Hansen, Dave Hansen, Dan Wych, Brody Wych
Acolyte:	Nicole Smith	Ben Waggoner
Communion Set Up:	Kathy Seipold/Joanne Klein	Kathy Seipold/Joanne Klein
Communion Clean Up:	Kathy Seipold/Theresa Bowerman	Heidi Penney/Patti Guill
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:	Ivy Farrell	Gloria Dei Choir

December 21, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Elder: Kyle Johnson **Ushers:** Bob Finke, Brody Wych **Acolyte:** Will True

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December 24, 2022
"Nine Lessons and Carols" 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Wade Stephenson, Derek Stephenson, Jeremiah Sherrill, Owen Shockey **Acolyte:** Bradley Adams
Choir: Festival Choir

Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 p.m.

Elder: Martin Cannon **Ushers:** Bob Finke, Martin Seipold, Wade Stephenson, Matt Escritt **Communion Set Up/Clean Up:** Kathy Seipold
Acolyte: Naomi Sherrill **Kantorei:** Sherrill Family Kantorei

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December 25, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Communion

Elder:	**Kyle Johnson**
Ushers:	Andy Raymond, Max Raymond, Sam Raymond, Bob Finch
Acolyte:	Timothy Johnson
Communion Set Up:	Shirley Walker/Diane Rounds
Communion Clean Up:	Diane Machmuller
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei	

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January 2023

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ 239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 ~ 712-322-4729 ~ Facebook

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8:00am Worship - C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**		6:00am Men's Bible Class 11:30am Staff Meeting	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** **6:30pm Epiphany Worship** 7:15pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC	1:45pm Music at Risen Son	
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**	6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Elders	9:00am Pastor's Circuit Meeting 2:00pm Midlands Music	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** 7:15pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC **7:00pm Council**	1:45pm Music at Risen Son	
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**	6:00pm Handbells	11:30am Staff Meeting	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** 7:15pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC 11:30am Women's Bible Study	1:45pm Music at Risen Son Newsletter Articles Due	**2:00 p.m. Dr. C Studio Recital**
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship – C** **12:00pm Voter's Meeting**	6:00pm Handbells	11:30am Staff Meeting	9:00am Chapel – SPLECC 5:00pm Cantate Domino **5:00pm Christ Academy** 7:15pm Gloria Dei Choir	9:00am Chapel - SPLECC	1:45pm Music at Risen Son	3:00 p.m. Mary-Kate Donnelly Piano Recital @ Dr. C's
29	**30**	**31**				
8:00am Worship – C **9:30am SS/ABC** **10:45am Worship - C**	6:00pm Handbells	11:30am Staff Meeting				

The Word on those who serve as we worship:

January 2023

January 1, 2023

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Mark Heinicke**	**Doug Ferris**
Ushers:	Wade Stephenson, Derek Stephenson, Bob Finke, Don McKee	Andy Raymond, Bob Finch, Sam Raymond, Max Raymond
Acolytes:	Gabe Burns	Ella Escritt
Communion Set Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns
Communion Clean Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Heidi Penney/ Patti Guill
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:		
Flowers:	Kathy Meldrum	

January 8, 2023

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Kyle Johnson**	**Martin Cannon**
Ushers:	Dillon Linneman, Don McKee, Matt Escritt, Bob Finke	Tim Hansen, Dave Hansen, Own Shockey, Martin Cannon
Acolytes:	Savannah Mohling	Ayden Duncan
Communion Set Up:	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff
Communion Clean Up:	Jan Steenbock/Dawn Cundiff	Diane Machmuller
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:		
Flowers:	Kathy Meldrum	

January 15, 2023

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Mark Heinicke**	**Doug Ferris**
Ushers:	Matt Escritt, Bob Finke, Derek Stephenson, Don McKee,	Dan Wych, Brody Wych, Bob Finch, Jeremiah Sherrill
Acolyte:	Bradley Adams	Sophie Roth
Communion Set Up:	Kathy Seipold/Joanne Klein	Kathy Seipold/Joanne Klein
Communion Clean Up:	Theresa Bowerman/Kathy Seipoold	Heidi Penney/Patti Guill
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:		
Flowers:	Kathy Meldrum	

January 22, 2023

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Kyle Johnson**	**Martin Cannon**
Ushers:	Wade Stephenson, Derek Stephenson, Martin Seipold, Dillon Linneman	Bob Finch, Andy & Sam Raymond, Owen Shockey
Acolyte:	Miles Wurdeman	Joel Sherrill
Communion Set Up:	Shirley Walker/Diane Rounds	Shirley Walker/Diane Rounds
Communion Clean Up:	Shirley Walker/Diane Rounds	Diane Machmuller
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:		
Flowers:	Kathy Meldrum	

January 29, 2023

	8:00 a.m. ~ Communion	10:45 a.m. ~ Communion
Elder:	**Mark Heinicke**	**Doug Ferris**
Ushers:	Wade Stephenson, Bob Finke, Matt Escritt, Dan Wurdeman	Martin Cannon, Bob Finch, Dan Wych, Brody Wych
Acolyte:	Chase Roberts	Bryce Nelson
Communion Set Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns
Communion Clean Up:	Amy Termuende/Karen Burns	Heidi Penney/Patti Guill
Choir/Kantor/Kantorei:		
Flowers:	Kathy Meldrum	