

THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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JANUARY 2023

Dear Friends in Christ:

Lord willing and you are reading this, it is now or soon will be 2023. The earth has successfully by the grace of God, navigated through space around the Sun once again. We are all a little older and a little wiser. That being said I would like to focus this month on the topic of wisdom, specifically what Psalm 111 verse 10 has to say about it "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!"

For believers formed by God, now that they know who the Lord is, through His word by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to understand what it means to fear the Lord. We worship the one and only God who created the whole universe by speaking it into existence and one day He will destroy all of it when it is the last day. Yet, remember it is not fear that keeps us as believers, it is the knowledge that God loves us and sent Jesus for us. This is why Jesus lays it out very clearly in Matthew 10 "28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." We know He can do it and will do it to those who do not believe, but as a believer we know, because He has told us that there is no fear in love, 1 John 4 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."

It is not easy being a child of God though as we are constantly struggling with the world, the Devil, and our own sinful flesh, which is why David said, "all who practice it have a good understanding." Our wisdom of God is to be exercised daily through the word that He gave. We are to meditate and memorize, not just once a week, which is good, but every day. This is how we as believers have a good understanding of who our Lord is and that He has done everything for us to make us His own.

Because of this practice that the Lord calls us to do I would like to offer two challenges for the new year. Challenge number one, if you have not worshipped, in church, in the last year or longer, plan to attend for four consecutive Sundays in the new year and see if it does not become a habit.

Challenge number two is for those who have not found themselves in Bible Study on Sunday mornings in a while, there are three Bible Studies on Sunday morning at St. Paul's and one at Grace. All are the same time 9:30-10:15. Full disclosure though, my class at Grace does not usually start until 9:35-9:40 and goes until 10:20.

Worship and study are great habits to foster and nurture in our lives as believers as we continue to grow in our faith with fellow believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. May He bless throughout this New Year.

Pastor Whybrew



JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Brendon & Renea* Bowers
- 3 Tim Lenz
- 4- Anna Schlechte; Lisa Shelton
- 6- Richard & Cathy Stremming(61);
Tim Beals
- 7-Tim & Delreen Lenz (28)
James* Hortenstine; Imogene Lading;
Whitney Furr
- 8-George Glasscock
- 9- Ron & Carolyn Boldt (57)
- 10-Deb & George Glasscock (42);
Linda & Theron* Newell (37);
Lucas Daniels; Rosemary Schlechte;
Ryan Sporleder
- 11-Chris Ashmore
- 12-Mac & Lois Ogle (68)
- 13-Matthew*& Ellen McCoy (5)
- 14-Shelby Beltz; Michael Orr
- 15-Gerald* Susan Hanfland (48);
Derryl Pikesh; Dusty Rincker;
Gary Schultz; Tyler* Vonderheide
- 16-Debbie Glasscock
- 17-Tori Daniels; Lori Mathis;
Kathy Pieper; Mark Richards
- 18-Dwane Hartman; Dean Rentfro
- 19-Tim Bence; Doreen Whybrew
- 20-Amy Stremming
- 21-Noah Prosser; Sheree Doehring;
Jacob* York
- 22-Chris Bowers; Lane Hoene;
Colleen Storm
- 23-Muriel Merriman
- 24-Jennifer Buening; Charlie* Logan
- 25-Gerald* Hanfland
- 27-Melba Kircher; Jennifer Logan;
- 28-Jim & Phyllis Weiss (40);
Kathie Harley; Roger Kessler
- 29-Jim & Sharon Rincker (52)
- 30-Maurina Batson; Jeremy Pieper



- Tue. Jan 10 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.
- Sun. Jan. 15 Choir Sings-TBA
- Tue. Jan. 17 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.
- Tue. Jan. 24 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.
- Sun. Jan. 29 Choir Sings- TBA

**Now is a great time to try something new!
If you like to sing, the Choir needs you! Just
come to any rehearsal and we will get you
started!

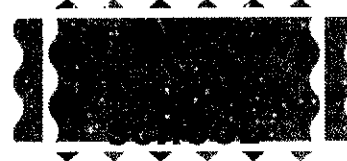


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Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by
8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.
Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by
the **15th** of the month.

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Weekday School will resume January 4th 6:30-7:30 P.M.

Pause for Peace

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments
with God, reflecting on His love and care for you
throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His
message.



You can start using your 2023 Offering envelopes
January 1, 2023.

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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Cemetery Association
will be held on January 19, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. in the church
social hall. All members of the congregation are invited to
attend.

NEW OFFICERS

2022 OFFICERS

President-	Gerry Schlechte
Vice. Pres.-	Jim Weiss
Secretary-	Lisa Rincker
Treasurer-	Bob Schlechte
Stewardship-	Kay Dust
Head Usher-	Dalton Storm
Elder-	Mike Rincker
Trustee-	Tim Lenz
Assist. Education-	Troy Uphoff
S.S. Supt.	Karen Kull
Dir. Of Tech.	Mike Pfeiffer

**Installation of Officers will be
January 1 during the 8:30 AM Service**

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January Meeting The January LYF meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4th at Trinity, 7:30 P.M. Following the meeting, members will be preparing for the soup luncheon.

LYF Soup Luncheon The joint LYF of Grace, St. Paul's and Trinity will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youth will be serving homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, potato chips and desserts from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M. Dine-in and To-go available! Proceeds from your freewill donations will go towards local youth group activities and trips. We appreciate your support and hope to see you after church on the 8th!

Higher Things Conference An informational meeting will be held for LYF members and parents about the Higher Things conferences being held this summer. If you are interested in attending and learning more, please join us at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 8th at Trinity.



Thank You Thank you to the carolers that came to my home Sunday. They sang praises to God. This put an official start to the Christmas season for me. Thank you one and all. Frances Lee York

Thank You Thank you to the team who helped decorate the church for Christmas on December 3. Mark & Melissa Luce, Gary & Karen Kull, Diane Jack, Lori Pieper, Pastor Whybrew, Jim Weiss, and Arlene McCormick. Your time and talents are much appreciated.

Thank You We would like to thank all of our friends and family for the many prayers, cards and well wishes we have received over the past 6 weeks. We would appreciate continued prayers as I continue my treatment in Effingham the coming months. Thank you and God's blessings, Kendall and Justin Fulk

Thank You I would like to extend a sincere thanks to all my St. Paul's church family for their wonderful prayers, get well cards, food and phone calls since my October hip replacement surgery. I am so thankful for the blessing of having no pain and being able to walk well again. Thanks to Pastor Whybrew for his visit and concern and may all of you have a blessed and healthy 2023! Kay Dust

Thank You The LYF would like to thank the church members that joined us in Christmas Caroling! It was a great afternoon visiting our friends and family

Thank you Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Samaritan's shoe boxes. We took 113 boxes to Mattoon to a collection church. They will be boxed and sent to a distribution center and then delivered into the hands of boys and girls through local churches around the world. These churches share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the children by using a discipleship program called The Greatest Journey. This 12 lesson program teaches millions of children how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others. Continue to pray for the boxes that they will help change lives.

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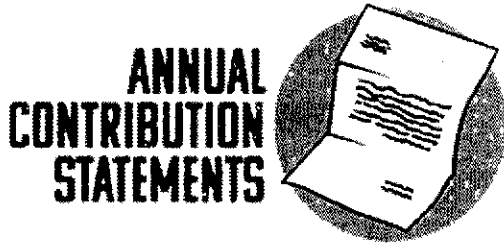
Your 2022 Thanksgiving Offering in the amount of \$1,340.00 went to support the following charities:

Lutheran Care Center (20%)	\$268.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries (15%)	\$201.00
LWML Mites (15%)	\$201.00
KFUO Radio (10%)	\$134.00
Bethesda (10%)	\$134.00
LCMS World Relief (10%)	\$134.00
Food for the Poor (10%)	\$134.00
Dakota Ranch (10%)	\$134.00



Birthday Celebration

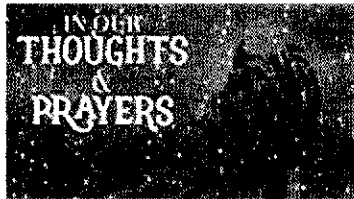
Rosemary Schlechte is going to be 90 years young on January 10, 2023. The congregation is invited to celebrate this landmark birthday with her on January 8th at an open house in the church socia hall from 1:00-2:30 p.m. In lieu of gifts, cards may be sent to 904 West Evergreen, Apt. #8, Effingham, IL 62401



2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All members who use offering envelopes will receive a 2022 contribution statement shortly after the first of the year. Any questions about the statement can be directed to the church office.

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Please keep the family of Larry Lenz in your thoughts and prayers. Larry passed away Friday, December 9, 2022. The funeral was held on Saturday, December 14, 2022 at St. Paul's Lutheran church with the Rev. Kene Whybrew officiating and Rev. Gary Fortkamp as the Liturgist.



Adopted Seminary Student 2022-23 St. Paul's has received information from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana about the student we are sponsoring through the Student Adoption Program. Our student is Joshua Gerken. He is a first-year student at the seminary and is married to Rachel. His hometown is New Haven, IN. His birthday was December 6. Please show support to Joshua with prayers, monetary gifts to the Seminary Student fund, and cards and notes of support. Joshua's address is: 6600 North Clinton St., Box 224, Fort Wayne, IN 46825



Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg – December 2022 Minutes

The Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg met in the church social hall on Thursday, December 1st, 2022, 10:00 am for a brief meeting, followed by their annual Christmas party. Pastor Whybrew had our devotion based on scripture from Titus Chapter 2, verse 11, followed by prayer. President Linda Doehring thanked the Christmas Committee – Cinda Held, Doreen Whybrew, Charlene Telgmann, and Kay Dust for hosting our party today!

Linda called the meeting to order, and roll call was answered by 20 members. Muriel reported that she sent approximately 25 cards to St. Paul's Church family and friends this month. We thank her for this dedicated service! Kay read the minutes of the November meeting. Charlene read the treasurer's report, and it was approved.

Correspondence, including thank you notes, were received and shared by our President.

In old business, President Linda reminded the members of the upcoming need for cookie donations and workers to help at the Shelby County State Bank in Strasburg. Their open house is on Dec. 21-23rd. A sign-up sheet was distributed. There was a motion made and unanimous vote taken to send donations to five local families to help with expenses during their recent medical stays and/or disasters that had taken place in their families.

In new business, Linda also distributed a sign-up sheet for flower committee members and monthly hostesses for 2023.

Upcoming events: The 40th Biennial National LWML Convention is to be held June 22-25, 2023. If any members would like to go, they can still sign up for the bus transportation (deadline was that day for the bus).

Linda thanked Doris Supan for providing flowers for November at St. Paul's. Kenna Wirth will provide flowers in December at St. Paul's, and the Christmas Committee at Grace provides flowers for December. January hostess for Ladies Aid will be Yvonne Pfeiffer, and Karen Kull will assist her.

Reminder: The January meeting will be held at Grace Social Hall on January 5, 2023. All ladies are invited to come! Birthday greetings and God's blessings were sung to Chris Storm and Cindy Roley, followed by the Doxology, the Lord's Prayer, and the table prayer.

This was followed by a bountiful potluck lunch, games with prizes, and the silent auction hosted by our Christmas Committee in our beautifully decorated Social Hall with an "Oh Christmas Tree" theme. Forty people enjoyed the fun and lively afternoon!

Kay Dust, Secretary

Verse for the day: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

CRADLE ROLL MINISTRY

The Cradle Roll Ministry is for children birth to 3 and their parents. Being a parent of young children can be a challenge. When frustration piles on frustration at home, time is short, the older children are bickering, the baby is crying and you are stressed beyond words, you need help. You may feel as if God, despite His promise to always be by your side, has left you forsaken. Help in the form of a person may not be there, but know that God is.

There is one simple thing you do. LET GO and let God help you. You can let go, and allow God to be in control. This is a simple thing, but not easy to do. Parenting young children 24/7 is an on-going, life commitment. Seemingly hopeless difficulties exhaust your resources, drain your emotions and often leave you feeling as if God really has forsaken you. But He has not moved away from you, you may have moved away from Him. So, what can you do? Move close to God. Talk to God. Tell Him exactly what the problem(s) is/are. Then trust Him to help you deal with it. Then, LET GO, and let God have your concerns.

To illustrate this concept, here is a poem by an unknown source entitled A TRANQUILIZER FOR FRAZZLED NERVES:

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone
I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.
At last, I snatched them back and cried, "How can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "what could I do? You never did let go."

If or when you are in this situation, what can you do? How can you let go and let God? Here is a way to do just that. Talk to God. Express your thanks to Him for all His blessings and the problems you are having. Yes, thank Him for your problems. He wants you to grow spiritually from them. Tell Him you trust Him to get you through this problem. Ask Him to show you what to do or say. Tell Him you trust Him to take care of you, stand beside you, get you through this moment. Verbally, say out loud, "I trust you, God". Thank Him for all He is going to do for and through you. Take a deep breath, turn around and do the thing that has priority at that moment.

Join us for LYF's



Soup Luncheon



JANUARY 8, 2023

•11 AM-1 PM•

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
STEWARDSON, IL**

MENU:

Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup,
Hot Dogs, Potato Chips,
Desserts and Beverages

Free Will Donations Accepted

Proceeds will benefit the Grace/St. Paul/Trinity LYF
in preparation for their various trips and activities.