



# The Epistle

## January

# 2023

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-4

Friends and members of St. Paul's,

Just over a month ago I had my four-year anniversary in this congregation. I have been very blessed to serve in this congregation, and Lisa and I are thankful to be part of this community. The four years have gone quickly, which might be the result of living in my mid-fifties, a stage in life when the pace of time tends to pick up. As with all of life there has been a mixture of joys and challenges, of blessings and difficulties. Thanks be to God; Jesus is in the middle of it all. As we prepare for 2023, allow me to share with you the blessings and challenges we face as a congregation, at least as I see it.

### Blessings:

1. The Word of God, which brings us Christ - God continues to bless us with ample opportunities to hear of Christ and confess his name in the weekly services and educational opportunities.
2. Financial Stability - The Lord has allowed St. Paul's members to be good stewards of God's financial gifts. Can we improve? Of course we can. Yet, over all this congregation is on good financial footing.
3. Youth and Educational Opportunities - The DCE intern and the two seminary field workers have helped enhance these ministries in our church.
4. An ever-growing outreach mentality - In our local and foreign mission support, the work of the outreach committee, and the various community activities, we are moving forward in outreach.
5. Committed Leaders - While our leadership numbers might be low, we have experienced lay leaders whom God uses to enhance this congregation's ministry.

### Challenges:

1. Worship Attendance - We are a reflection of the American culture which is becoming less and less committed to regular/weekly church attendance. Why is this an issue? It is difficult being the family of God when we do not see each other, and when we do not regularly participate together in the Word and Sacraments.
2. Bible Absorption - We can improve in studying God's Word both individually and collectively.
3. Youth and Young Adult Work - While we are growing in this area, we will continually be challenged to serve those in these demographic.
4. Lay Leadership development - While we are blessed with experienced lay leaders, it is imperative for us to develop new leaders in the years to come.
5. A continued outward Focus—It is easy both individually and collectively to become navel gazers. Pray that the Lord will help us get better at caring for others and speaking to them about Christ.

### Inside this issue:

- Something from Sam Newsletter Deadline 2
- New Member Highlight Caroling Merrily...
- LWML/Ladies League 3
- OOPS!
- Comforts of Love Quilters 4
- Food Pantry
- Women's Ministry
- Financial Stewardship Report
- Youth News 5
- SS Children's Program
- New Adult Bible Studies
- PreSchool News
- This...and that... 6
- Ask the Pastor
- Lutherans for Life - Celebrating Life 7
- Holiday Worship Schedule
- Official Acts
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 8
- Event Calendar 9
- Worship with us! 10

Pastor Stephen Krenz  
618-363-0121  
DCE Intern Sam Wegner  
920-530-8638

### To God be the Glory, Pastor Krenz

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement:**  
*Our mission is to Proclaim Christ,  
Teach Christ's Word and Reflect Christ's Love to all!*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 227 Goodhaven Street,  
Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600 [stpauls-lcms.org](http://stpauls-lcms.org)  
[facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail](https://facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail)**



## Something from Sam

***A few weeks after Christmas, on January 6th, the church celebrates Epiphany. This traditional holiday is when we remember the wise men who traveled long and far to come see baby Jesus, and to worship him. The image of these three kings from a distant country bowing down before little Jesus must have been a strange one to Mary and Joseph. But this vivid reminder points to just who this baby is: Jesus is the Savior of the World and the King of Kings.***

***During his earthly life, and even right now, this identity of Jesus is not always obvious. Lots of people in our world go through their lives without thinking too much about Jesus. Even as Christians, we are continually reminding ourselves of who Jesus is and what this good news means for us. Because of this little baby and all that would happen when he grew up, forgiveness and eternal life are ours! What an amazing gift God gives to us in his Son.***

***And soon, a day is coming when, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10-11).***

***What a beautiful day that will be!***



## **New Member Spotlight... Alex Blum**

I am from Columbia, I've lived here my whole life.

I had a couple of friends who are in the youth group show me this church and I really enjoyed coming here after a while.

My favorite bible verse is Joshua 1:9 because it motivates me to keep pushing forward.

When I'm not at church, I work on schoolwork, go to the gym, and communicate with my friends any chance I can get.

**Alex joined St. Paul's via  
Adult Confirmation on December 18th.**



**Newsletter Deadline** is the third Monday of most months. Please send articles, photos, etc. to [secretary@stpauls-lcms.org](mailto:secretary@stpauls-lcms.org)  
Thank you for your help!

**January 16th**

**Thank you to our  
Newsletter Folding**



**Volunteers  
that help  
each  
month!**



**Christmas Caroling at Judy Kellenberger's home  
W/ Kenly Ackerman, Campbell Ottwell,  
Kevin & Lillian Koenigstein, Sam Wegner  
& (not pictured) Pastor Krenz**



## LWML/LADIES LEAGUE

## JANUARY 2023



Our December Christmas Party/ Luncheon took place in a beautifully decorated Christmas setting. Pastor Krenz led the gathering of members and guests with an opening prayer and the common table prayer. We enjoyed a catered lunch from Boccardi's followed by delicious desserts provided by Stefanie N. and Sandy R. After lunch, Pastor Krenz told a story of one of his childhood memories and he read three inspirational Christmas stories:

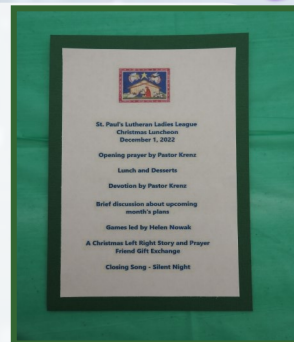
- 1) "Christ Barges in on Christmas,"
- 2) "We See Him Best When On Our Knees," and
- 3) The Great Miracle of Christmas in Faith."

We continued our get-together with games, songs, a gift exchange to reveal our new 2023 prayer friend, and we received an LWML Advent Prayer Chain to assemble at home.

At our January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Wanda will lead a devotion with the Gospel Focus of "Unceasing Prayer" and we all will make a Prayer Flip Notebook. Alice J. and Susan H. will provide desserts and drinks.

We wish all of you a Happy, Blessed, and Joyous New Year! Join us in 2023, as we continue to follow the LWML mission statement listed below!

Call Wanda at 618-281-4691 for more information.



**LWML Mission Statement**  
**As Lutheran Women in Mission,**  
**we joyfully proclaim Christ,**  
**support missions, and equip women**  
**to honor God by serving others.**



## An OOPS New Year's Resolution?

Are you in the habit of making New Year's Resolutions? If so, do you try to keep them? Whatever your habit, your Board of Christian Outreach asks you to prayerfully consider making a Personal Outreach Resolution for 2023. Don't have any ideas? That's why we keep giving you an OOPS (Outreach Opportunity Suggestion) in almost every newsletter? Remember these we gave you last year?

**LISTEN** in worship for the Holy Spirit outreach calls and answer them. **PRAY** for a new outreach opportunity and take it when it comes. **SEND** an Easter Card or two to someone who has lost a loved one since last Easter. Be a **FLIER** and take part in our next flier distribution. Try to **BUILD** a new or better friendship with someone who is not yet a Christian or is struggling in their Christian faith right now. We promise to add some more OOPSes to those this year and pray you'll resolve to try out at least some of them.

Just another "ah-ha" OOPS  
(Outreach Opportunity Praying Suggestion)  
from your Board of Christian Outreach.



## Comforts of Love Quilters—Tuesdays

Quilters will resume sewing in January. Thank you for

all your support! Remember us w/ **Queen Sized sheets, Large table clothes and embroidery thread!**

## Food Pantry News...

Our Food Pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:30-3:00pm Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

January Dates: 1/4 1/18



## Donations Toward *the lift project*

The lift has come in, and will be installed the first week of January. Thank you for your continued giving. Please make checks out to the congregation and mark "lift donation" in the memo.

**Update— Goal: \$15,000**  
**Given to date: \$ 2310**

The **WOMEN's Ministry** generally meets on the **third Monday of each month**. Please join us at **6:30 in the Fellowship Hall**.

**January 16th**

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



## From the Sunday School Corner:

I have to admit: I am not a huge fan of New Year's Resolutions. We make them. We keep them for a few days, or maybe a week or two at best. But then we fail. And then we give up. And then we think to ourselves, "I might as well have never had this goal in the first place."

As we come to the beginning of 2023, I want to encourage you not to think about going to Sunday School or Bible Class as a new year's resolution. Instead look at it as a new opportunity. Lamentations 3:22-23 says,

***"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."***

We are blessed at St. Paul's. Each and every day there are opportunities for people of all ages to learn about God's steadfast love and mercy, whether it be through Sunday School, Bible Classes, Confirmation, and the like!

And perhaps the best news of all is that God's love doesn't ever stop. Even if you falter—even if you don't necessarily take the opportunity now—our God remains faithful to His promises. He daily and richly provides you with all you spiritually need through His Word. And we will continue to have these opportunities here for you to learn.

Come and see God's grace and mercy. - Pastor Ray Holman



## Bible Studies

*Dig Deeper with Friends*



### It's Some of the PSALMS in 2023

We're going to be studying some of the Psalms in our first Friday of the month **Not Just for Couples Bible Study Group**. Our first class will be on **Friday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall**. Cost of the CPH study guide is \$10 each. Before class preparation is strongly encouraged. Adults of any age are welcome. Please contact **Pastor Sievers**

**(314-882-2097 or [pastorsievers@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorsievers@yahoo.com))** by January 20 so he can order you a study guide.

## Youth Ministry Update

### Youth Ice Skating, Snow Tubing & More Winter Break Ice Skating

Before school begins again, the middle and high school youth will be going ice skating at Forest Park for some fun! We'll meet in the church parking lot on **Tues, Jan 3rd at 1:00 pm** to head out and wrap up at church with hot chocolate and a devotion, complete at **4:00 pm**. Please let Sam know if you can make it at [crf\\_wegnersm@cuchicago.edu](mailto:crf_wegnersm@cuchicago.edu) or (920) 530-8638.

### Snow Tubing at Polar Plunge

This January, the middle and high school youth are doing their annual tubing trip to Polar Plunge near Eureka, MO on **Sat, Jan 21st**. We'll spend two hours tubing and grab lunch on the way back. Meet us at church at **8:45am**, and we'll return around **1:30pm**. It's sure to be a lot of fun! If your student can make it, please let Sam know and return a **\$10 deposit to church by Sun, Jan 15th** so we can buy tickets in advance.

### Youth Night

There will be a youth night for students in middle and high school on **Sun, Jan 29th from 6:00-7:30 pm**. The evening includes games, snacks, a devotion, and time to hang out with friends. Students are encouraged to come along and bring a friend if they'd like!

### Upcoming Adult Education

#### Sundays - The Book of John:

Please join us on Sunday mornings starting January 8th from 9:15am-10:15am in the fellowship hall for a new verse by verse look at the fourth gospel. Start the New Year on a good path by joining us for this study.

#### Thursdays - Parent's Club Bible Study

Join us on Thursday evenings for a six week workshop series on making faith a part of everyday life for busy families. It will be held at 5:30 - 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, from January 12th - February 16th. The series will connect parents and focus on children's faith development, and how parents can help support their kid's faith as they grow. Bring your kids along - there will be activities for them and childcare available!

#### Women's Wednesday Bible Study

We will start up again on Wednesday, January 4th at 10 am, and will meet in one of the Sunday School Rooms with Nancy Radentz.



## January 2023 Preschool News Happy New Year!

Our class Christmas party was December 20. The children have been practicing songs for our music program and have made gifts for their families, as well as Christmas cards for residents of our local nursing homes.

They have also been enjoying exploring our many Christmas themed centers throughout the month which include; Christmas cookie bakery, gift wrapping station, Christmas tree decorating, and Christmas card creations in our post office, and of course, our Nativity center with Baby Jesus!

### Upcoming Events

Preschool resumes-January 4, 2023

National Lutheran Schools Week begins

January 22, 2023

*In honor of Lutheran Schools Week, we will have our own celebrations which will include:*

Our **Annual Grandparents Day Breakfast;**

**Pajama Day & Pancake Breakfast;**

a **Popcorn & Movie Day;**

and, our week will conclude with a

**Class Pizza Party.**

**Shelly Augustin,**  
**Director/Teacher**

### Our Jesus Lessons for January:

- Simeon and Anna
- The Boy Jesus at the Temple
- Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples
- Jesus Blesses the Children

**~We Thank You~**



### Special Thanks to the following:

- ✦ Thrivent members for the donation of their Choice Dollars to the Preschool.
- ✦ Preschool families who have volunteered to help with our Christmas Party.
- ✦ Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Board of Education for their continued support of our preschool.
- ✦ Steve Ottwell for volunteering to pay a surprise visit to the children during our Christmas celebration donning the red suit!

The **2023 Flower Chart** is posted and available for Sign-ups for Altar Flower Donations.

To donate flowers for the sanctuary...

-Sign your name on the Chart by stairs to the basement. Call Memory Lane (618-281-4538) to order flowers.

-Tell Pam what you would like and the Sunday requested, and she will give you the price. Pay Memory Lane directly. Pam will deliver flowers to church for the Sunday you chose. You may take flowers home after Sunday services, or leave for Monday service and then pick up.

New **Portals of Prayer for 2023** are available in the Narthex.

**2023 Offering Envelopes** are available to be picked up from the Narthex. Please do not use until the New Year.

**Thank you** to all who helped our

Sanctuary be beautiful for the holidays! Don't forget to **take home your poinsettias** after the service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



Portals of Prayer



## Frequently asked Questions

(The answer to the below question was taken from the LCMS Web site)



**QUESTION:** What is The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's position regarding the age of the earth?

**ANSWER:** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod does not have an official position on the precise "age of the earth," since the Bible itself does not tell us how old the earth is. Nor is it the Synod's position that everything in the Bible is to be understood "literally." There is much in the Bible that clearly purports not to be understood literally — but this must be determined by the Bible itself, not by science or human reason. There is nothing in the Bible itself to suggest that the creation account is not meant to be taken literally. The Synod has affirmed the belief, therefore, based on Scripture's account of creation in the book of Genesis and other clear passages of Scripture, that "God by the almighty power of His Word created all things in six days by a series of creative acts," that "Adam and Eve were real, historical human beings, the first two people in the world," and that "we must confess what St. Paul says in Rom. 5:12" about the origin of sin through Adam as described in Genesis 3. At the same time, the Synod firmly believes there can be no actual contradiction between genuine scientific truth and the Bible. When it comes to the issue of the age of the earth, several possibilities exist for "harmonizing" Biblical teachings with scientific studies (e.g., God created the world in an already "mature" state so scientific "data" leads one to the conclusion that it is older than it actually is, etc.).

**If you have a question that you would like addressed by Pastor Krenz in future newsletter articles, please send it to [Pastork@splcolumbia.com](mailto:Pastork@splcolumbia.com).**

## Official Acts of the Church

**Funeral - Walter Eugene Byerley, Sr. Nov 25, 2022**

**Confirmation - Alex Blum December 18, 2022**



Lutherans  
For Life

## Celebrating Life

**"What does Jesus have to say about Life Issues?"**

**When:** Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm

**Where:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbia, IL

**Special Speaker:**

**Rev. Michael W. Salemink**

**Executive Director of Lutherans for Life**

All are welcome to join us for this special worship service celebrating God's gift of life at every stage in a world that does not do the same. Brief presentations by members of the local pro-life community will be given following the service, and Christian pro-life resources will be made available along with light refreshments.

*This event is sponsored by Seven Circuit 6 Congregations in the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri-Synod.*



### Holiday Service Schedule

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve  
Saturday @ 3\* pm AND 6:30 pm**

**\*\*Corrected Time from Newsletter  
"He Came for You" Isaiah 9:2-7**



**December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Sunday @ 9 am  
"It's time to sing" Luke 2:14**

**There will be no evening service on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The Church Office will be closed December 26-January 2nd.**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve Saturday @5 pm  
"Reflecting on the Church Year"**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day Sunday @ 9 am  
"It's all in the name" Luke 2:21**

**There will be no evening service on January 2nd.**

**Invite your friends & family!**



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jared Dinkelmann	2 Steven Blosser Evan Guebert Henry Herbeck	3 Haley Grider Marvin Luedeman Nicholas Ray Richard (SR) and Mary Schmidt ♥	4 Jeanine Consolino Jason Rahn	5 Jan Elbrecht	6	7 Scott & Kimberly Gross ♥
8 Lillian Berger	9 Katherine Lacefield	10 Jessica Kriz Ronald Tomlinson Dave & Julie Greeting ♥	11 Ralph Mathews Bethany Niehaus	12 Corla Greer Christine Link Mark Nolte Jon Willson	13	14 Lindsay Newton
15 Zane Ebersohl Tripp Ford	16 James Colyer Mel and Agnes Stuckmeyer ♥	17 Sean Frederick Nolan Mathews	18 Samantha Nelson	19 Timothy Mathews	20 Carla Brelji Stephanie Burke Tony Mancarella Jessica McCann Trudy Penno	21 Evy Colyer Daniel Heise Brenda Henckler Blaine Reichert
22 Cindy Murray	23 Ryan Chandler John Hertz Skylar Toolen	24 Michael Beatty Noah Gross	25 Lynn McAuliffe Jack Wayland	26 Pam Haberl Carol Womack Gail Zavadiil Jacob & Lori Camp ♥	27 Don Gruber	28
29 Jason Kirk Helen Nowak Allie Sackman John & Jean Kirk ♥	30 Owen Dietz	31 Gabrielle Nowak Dean & Barb Lungwitz ♥		♥ Anniversary		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 New Year's Day 2023</b> Divine Service 9 am (Sanctuary)	<b>2</b> No Count Team Church office closed No Service	<b>3</b> Men's Bible Study 7:15 am Narthex 1 pm Youth Ice Skating 5:30 pm Youth Board Mtg	<b>4</b> Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Food Pantry Open 1:30 - 3 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Ladies League 11:30 am	<b>6</b> Bible Study at Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Installation of Officers at all services</b> Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Fellowship Hall Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary)	<b>9</b> Financial Count (Team 3) 6:30 pm Divine Service	<b>10</b> Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex) Circuit Mtg @ Holy Cross in Wartburg 5:30 pm Board of Communication	<b>11</b> Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Reflections Memory Care Bible Stories 1 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> STL area DCI Mtg 10 am 5:30 pm Parents Club Bible Study 6:15 pm Daisy Scouts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Youth TEC Retreat thru Mon, 1/16
<b>15</b> Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Fellowship Hall Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary)	<b>16</b> Financial Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm Women's Ministry 6:30 pm Newsletters Articles Due	<b>17</b> Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex) 5:30 pm Board of Education Board of Trustees 7 pm Church Council	<b>18</b> Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Food Pantry Open 1:30 - 3 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> 9 am Newsletter Folders Pre-School Chapel 11:15 5:30 pm Parents Club Bible Study	<b>20</b> Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	<b>21</b> Youth Snow Tubing
<b>22 Youth Sunday</b> Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Joint Life Circuit Life Service 3 pm	<b>23</b> Financial Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm	<b>24</b> Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex) 6:30 pm Voters Meeting	<b>25</b> Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> Garden Place Bible Study 3 pm 5:30 pm Parents Club Bible Study 6:15 pm Daisy Scouts	<b>27</b> The Grande Worship @ 2pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Fellowship Hall Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Youth Night 6 pm	<b>30</b> Financial Count (Team 3) Divine Service 6:30 pm	<b>31</b> Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex)	****Dates, times, & locations subject to change. Additional activities may be added at a later date. For the most up-to-date calendar listing, go to: <a href="http://stpauls-lcms.org">stpauls-lcms.org</a> then click on the "calendar" tab. ***			





**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**227 N. Goodhaven Drive  
Columbia, IL 62236**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Nonprofit Organization**

**Bulk Mailing**

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**Columbia, Illinois**

**Permit No. 15**

**Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am**

**Mondays—6:30 pm**



**Worship with Us...**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
227 Goodhaven Street,  
Columbia, IL 62236**

**618.281.4600 [stpauls-lcms.org](http://stpauls-lcms.org)  
[facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail](https://facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail)**



**The Epistle**

**January.2023**