



The Epistle February 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The story is told of an airline company in the northern part of the country who in the winter offered short out and back flights to customers who simply wanted to get above the clouds. Why? A dreary wintery day can negatively impact one's mood and if that dreary day becomes a dreary week or month, things can get even more rough. The church is presently celebrating the season of Epiphany, a season which celebrates the light of Christ being manifested in a very dark world. It is a season which starts out with the Wisemen being drawn to the Christ child through the light shining over Bethlehem. It is a season when we are reminded of Jesus words "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), and how the "Light shines in darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." (John 1:12) As Christ's very own, we always have more light than darkness. Why? We have Christ. With him as our light, forgiveness, hope, peace, and life will warm and guide us all the way home. Happy Epiphany!

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Krenz**

Family Bowling Night

The Annual Family Bowling night will be held on Sun, Feb 5th from 5:45 - 8:00 pm at West Park Bowl. While advance registration is closed, additional lanes may be available that night.

Cost for bowlers is \$10/adult and \$5/student, which includes pizza, beverages, and shoes. Feel free to come along to join in the fun!



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

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
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail



**New Lift Blessing,
Sunday January 15, 2023**



Something from Sam

New years often come with lots of new plans. But as February rolls around, we often find ourselves faced with changing plans. Our new year's resolutions or brand new plans may not have worked quite like we expected, and it's time to adjust. In this life, our plans often change and move around. But, we have an eternal Father who doesn't change his plans.



God's plan since the very beginning of time was for us to spend eternity with Him, enjoying life in His presence. There may have been some early bumps in the road, when Adam and Eve ate the fruit and had to leave paradise, but God quickly adjusted and found a new way to bring about His original plan. He sent his Son Jesus to redeem us from our sinful condition, and so that we could once again enjoy eternal life with Him. One day, we will fully experience God's eternal plan for us when we are with Him in heaven. Until then, we cling to his gifts and his promises that are right here for us now, even in the middle of our messy, changing lives.

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

February 20th

Thank you to our Newsletter Folding
Volunteers that help each month!



The Elevator/Lift is in!

We are still looking for donations from the congregation to offset a small portion of the cost.

Help us "raise" up the support for the project. Please make checks out to the congregation and mark "lift donation" in the memo.

Update- Goal: \$15,000
Given to date: \$ 4400





It seemed like a Winter Wonderland as we entered the Fellowship Hall for our January

meeting. Before the common table prayer, Nancy Radentz led us with a devotion entitled *"Living in Praise: Prayerful Praise"* devotion. Lunch (desserts by our hostesses, Alice & Susan) was followed by our business meeting. Committee reports were given and special attention was given to our Card Ministry Project and our Mailbox Members. Following the meeting, Wanda led a devotion called *"From Him All My Labor"* with a Gospel Focus of "Unceasing Prayer" and we made a Prayer Flip Notebook.

At our February 2nd meeting, the Kaskaskia Trail Chorus will provide entertainment for us at 12:15 p.m. following our "bring your own" lunch at 11:30 a.m. Rose Anne B. and Sandy R. are our hostesses. If you would like to join us to hear the Chorus, you are welcome to attend.

LWML News

SID 2023 Spring Retreat entitled "On Eagle's Wings" will be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2023 at Our Savior in Carbondale, IL.**

Registration forms are available and should **be received by 2/20/23 – Cost is \$20.00.**

LWML Convention

"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" will be held at Milwaukee, WI from 6/22 to 6/25/2023.

Early registration (online) has begun (1/9 – 3/14).

Please Note

Mailbox members are invited to these LWML events as well. If you need more information, contact me. You are always welcome to join us at meetings, events, and with service projects. For more information, contact Wanda at 618-281-4691.



LWML Mission Statement

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



OOPS – Pick Your Outreach Targets

One of the **main goals** of your Board of Christian Outreach continues to be to encourage you to be **more intentional in reaching out to others with the love of Jesus.**

Another way to say that would be--Pick your outreach targets.

♥ Who, that you know, that you care about, that you fear, has little or no faith in Jesus Christ? Make a list of their names and pray for them.

♥ Next, who on that list do you know well enough to say such important things as "I'm worried about you" and "Jesus loves you and so do I?" Too shy or afraid to say those caring words to his or her face? Why not send them a Valentine card in the mail, follow it up with a "Did you get my Valentine?" call or text, and see what happens.

That's our February Valentine's Day Outreach **OP**portunity **S**uggestion.

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



HE DIRECTS THE *Snow to fall* ON THE EARTH AND
TELLS THE RAIN TO POUR DOWN. THEN EVERYONE STOPS WORKING SO THEY CAN
WATCH HIS POWER.
- JOB 37:6-7 NLT



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The **WOMEN's Ministry** will be starting up the **Sunday Potlucks** again.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, beginning February 26th

we will gather after the 10:30 service for a fellowship meal.

Watch for more information and sign up sheets in the Narthex.

The Women's Ministry generally meets on the **third Monday of each month. (2/20)**

Please join us at **6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

February 26th

Church-Wide Fellowship Potluck



2022 Contribution Statements

will be mailed by February 1st. Please contact Lisa Schmidt with any questions. (281-8413).



Baby Bottles for Life Network's Annual Fundraising Event are available to pick up in the narthex. These may be returned at your convenience.

Comforts of Love Quilters—Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am to 10:30 am.

Please join us!

We have "sew" much fun!

Remember us w/ **Extra fabric, Queen Sized sheets, Large table clothes and embroidery thread!** Thank you for all your support!





What's Happening in Sunday School?

Sunday, February 5:

A King Forever—David

Sunday, February 12:

A King's Table—Mephibosheth

Sunday: February 19:

A Divided Kingdom—Jeroboam & Rehoboam

Sunday, February 26:

Comfort in Captivity—Jeremiah



Youth Ministry Update



Youth Super Bowl Party

There will be a Super Bowl party for middle and high school youth on **Sun, Feb 12th from 5:30 - 8:30pm in the Youth Room**. Pizza and snacks will be provided, along with games and a devotion throughout the evening. Please contact Sam at 920-530-8638 or crf_wegnersm@cuchicago.edu if you have any questions or if your students would like to attend!

Youth Night

All middle and high school students are invited to join us for a youth night at church on **Sun, Feb 26th**. The night includes time to hang out, play games, and a Bible study. Please contact Sam at 920-530-8638 or crf_wegnersm@cuchicago.edu if you have any questions.

Adult Education

Sundays - The Book of John:

Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10:15am in the fellowship hall for a verse by verse look at the fourth gospel. This study started in January and will continue thru February 18th, and then we will take a break from this book during Lent.

Women's Wednesday Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesdays, at 10 am, in one of the Sunday School Rooms with Nancy Radentz, as we journey thru the book of Romans.

Men's Tuesday Bible Study

Meet with us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome.

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) by January 20 so he can order you a study guide.

Save the date

Annual Youth Group Rummage Sale
Saturday, March 18, 8-noon

Please save your items to benefit the youth group's trip to the Higher Things Conference in Carbondale this July. Gratefully accepting any and all

Donations...

EXCEPT:

No computers,
TVs or clothing
please.

More details to
come...





February 2023 Preschool News

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open!

If you know someone looking for a loving, quality, Christ-centered preschool, please have them call our Director for more information. 618-281-4190

*"And now these three remain:
faith, hope & love.*

*But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV*

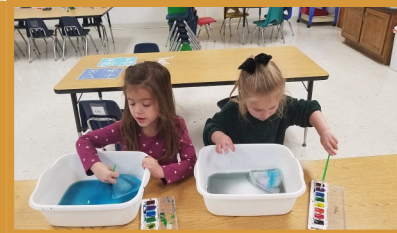
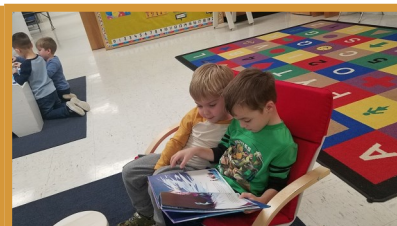


Our Jesus Lessons for February:

- Ten Men with Leprosy
- Jesus Feeds 5,000
- Mary and Martha
- Zacchaeus



The children have been keeping busy inside during the cold weather learning about arctic animals, enjoying our hot cocoa stand and ice skating rink, as well as experimenting with ice, colors, and other winter activities. **Shelly Augustin, Director/Teacher**



FOOD News... The word is getting out about our Food Pantry! We are seeing new families and serving more people each month.

Current Pantry Needs:

Jelly, Mustard, Toilet Paper, Tea Bags, Brownie Mixes, and Cake Mixes.

Thank you for your help!

Food Pantry Hours:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
1:30-3pm

2nd Wednesdays
4-6 pm

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

February Dates:

2/1 2/8 2/15

Spaghetti for a Cause

**Join Boy Scout Troop 320
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Saturday, February 11th 4-7 pm
Immaculate Conception Church
411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL**

\$10/person, Kids (5 & under) eat free
Carry Outs available; Dinner includes:
Spaghetti, Salad, Breadstick, & Dessert

Proceeds will go to purchasing food for the troop to provide meals to the homeless shelter. This troop organizes the community canned goods drive each year in Columbia.





Frequently asked Questions

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

Why do we practice Close Communion?

This is one of the most common questions I have received through the years. To some it seems unfriendly to invite friends or relatives of other church backgrounds to worship and then not offer them the Lord's Supper. After all, isn't this meal a gift for all?

It has been a long-standing practice of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that individuals have some understanding of the Lord's Supper, who Jesus is, and what it means to "examine oneself" before communion is offered. Often this understanding takes place at confirmation or some sort of instruction before receiving the Lord's Supper. Why do we do this?

The New Testament makes it very clear that we are encountering the actual body and blood of the Lord which bestows forgiveness and strength for living. According to 1 Corinthians 11:29 to take the Lord's Supper without "discerning the body and blood of Christ", is at best problematic.

In addition, we are called to "examine ourselves" before taking the meal (1 Corinthians 11:28). Prior instruction helps one learn what "examining oneself" means. This meal is also a meal where the Christian community joyfully confesses the same things on Christ, sin, baptism, grace, the law; and in short, the Biblical teachings as summed up in the small catechism.

While we rejoice in the common beliefs we have with all Christians, there are some teachings within various denominations that are at odds with Scripture. Some might be surprised to know that most churches in Christendom practice some form of close communion. These churches include our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox churches, and even some Protestants congregations. Some Presbyterians call it "Fencing the table."

I confess that we/I have at times been unloving in this practice, and even given the impression that our fellow believers are somehow less in the kingdom of God. Repentance is the only response to that attitude and approach. However, when practiced carefully and correctly, close communion allows us to care for our fellow believers.

One final point, The worship service is filled with the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit uses to create and sustain faith. Whether coming to the table or not, that proclaimed, read, and sung Word is used by God to bless all those who have opportunity to hear it.

If you have a question that you would like addressed by Pastor Krenz in future newsletter articles, please send it to Pastork@splcolumbia.com.



2023 Service Schedule Lenten Series

Overall Theme:

**"You Meant it for Evil,
But God Meant it for Good"**

-A sermon series based Luke's Passion account

Join us on Wednesdays at 4pm or 6:30pm as we ponder how God brings goodness in the midst of evil by looking at the passion journey of Jesus as it is addressed in the book of Luke.

Date, Title, Luke Reading, Proclaimer:
February 22nd Ash Wednesday

Luke 22:1-23 Pastor Krenz

*"Jesus is Ready to Deal with Evil
through a Greater Passover"*

March 1st Lent 1

Luke 22:14, 24-38, Pastor Holman

"He was Numbered Among the Transgressors"

March 8th Lent 2

Pastor Sievers, Luke 22:39-62 *"The Real Battle"*

March 15th Lent 3

Luke 22:63-23:1 Pastor Krenz

*"When You See Such Blind Ignorance,
What Do You Think?"*

March 22nd Lent 4

Luke 23:1:25 Michael Ewert

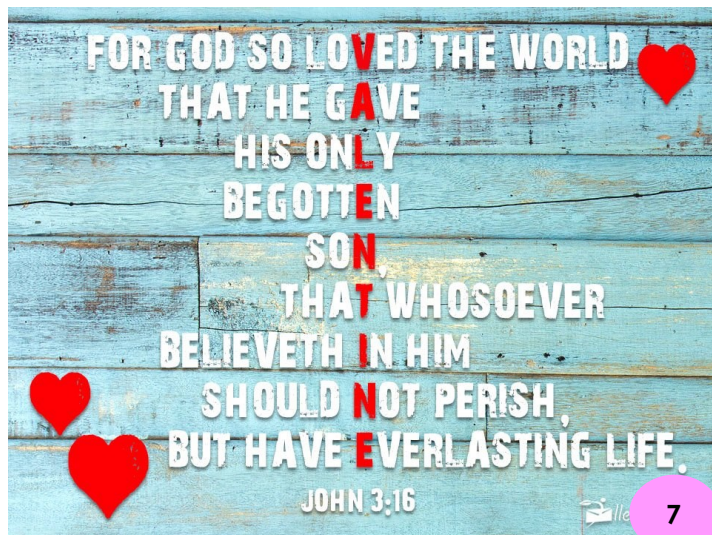
"Faith in a Complicated World"

March 29th Lent 5

Luke 23:26-43 Pastor Holman

"That Day, and Today"

Invite your friends & family!





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <div>8</div> <div>February</div> | | | | | | |
| 5 Karen Mueller Rick & Susan Stemler ♥ | 6 Ryan Schwartz Steve & Gale Toolen, Sr ♥ | 7 Leah Douglas Karen Sweet Sam Woodcock | 8 Brantley Toolen | 9 Christopher Hancock Steve Lake Quinn Ramsey Scott Reichert | 10 Joshua Bossong Barbara Kinkle Debbie Jordan Larry Pierson Patrick Tygett | 11 Taylor Holten Chloe Hrabusicky Nathan Voges |
| 12 | 13 Scott Peery Patty Pulcher Misty Wilson | 14 William Dietz Dave Greeting Cameron Jackson Dantelle Schwartz | 15 Ray Champion | 16 Catherine Mathews Bill & Cyndee Luther, Jr. ♥ | 17 Scott Heck Larry Kremmel Lisa Schmidt Dorothy Tomlinson | 18 Stacey Filipiak |
| 19 Eileen Brovan Norma Feldman Nathan Schmoll Daniel Zavadii | 20 Kelci Hofstetter | 21 Alex Idoux | 22 Percy Mueller Penny Rauh Nelson & Joan Mathews ♥ | 23 Pam Haberl Carol Womack Gail Zavadii Jacob & Lori Camp ♥ | 24 Mark & Ellen Heise ♥ | 25 Christopher Clyde Almee Ebersohl Randy Moeckel |
| 26 Matthew Collet Scott & Heather Heck ♥ | 27 Jan Glaenzer | 28 (29) Carol Ericson | <div>BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES</div> <div>♥ Anniversary</div> | | | |



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| HELLO FEBRUARY 5 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) | 6 Count (Team 1) 6:30 pm Divine Service 5:30 pm Board of Outreach | 7 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am 9 am Quilters Noon Columbia Clergy 5:30 pm Youth Board Mtg 7 pm Board of Ed | 1 Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Food Pantry 1:30 - 3 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm | 2 Ladies League 11:30 am | 3 Bible Study @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm | 4 |
| | 13 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm | 14 Men's Bible Study 7:15 9 am Quilters Circuit Mtg in Wartburg 5:30 pm Youth, Cemetery, Stewardship, Trustees 7 pm Elders <i>HAPPY Valentine's Day</i> | 8 Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Reflections Memory Care Bible Stories 1 pm Food Pantry 4-6 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm | 9 10 am STL area DCE Mtg 6:15 pm Daisy Scouts | 10 K. Sievers Psalms 6:30 pm | 11 Spaghetti Fundraiser Scouts #320 ICC 4-7 pm |
| | 20 Count (Team 3) Newsletter Articles Due Divine Service 6:30 pm Women's Ministry 6:30 pm | 21 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am 9 am Quilters | 15 Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Food Pantry 1:30 - 3 pm Junior Confirmation 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm | 16 9 am Newsletter Folders Pre-School Chapel 11:15 | 17 Worship @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm | 18 |
| | 27 Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm | 28 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex) 9 am Quilters | 22 Women's Bible Study w/ N. Radentz 10 am Ash Wed Service 4 pm Junior Confirmation 5:30- 6:15 pm Soup Supper 5 pm—6:15 pm Handbells 5 pm Ash Wed Service 6:30 pm | 23 9 am Folders Garden Place Bible Study 3 pm 6:15 pm Daisy Scouts | 24 The Grande Worship @ 2pm | 25 |
| | 26 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) Potluck Fellowship after 10:30 service Youth Night 6 pm | | | | | ***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: stpauls-lcms.org 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

**When they said
"Let's go to the house of GOD"
my heart leaped for joy**

Psalms 122:1

Worship with Us...



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

**618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill**



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