



The Epistle

January 2024

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. -Romans 15:4

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. -John 20:31

Dear Friends and Members of St. Paul's

As we look past Christmas to the new year let me encourage you to engage in regular daily devotions and prayer. I still remember my father going downstairs and reading his devotional and my grandmother's Portals of Prayer, Bible, and hymnal on the kitchen table. Their daily encounter with the Word of God was a great example for me of Christian devotion.

I have noticed that many in the generations above me have a rich devotional life, while the succeeding generations (including my own) have largely not incorporated into their lives this godly habit. It is time to turn around this trend. With a new year just around the corner let us recommit ourselves to daily prayer, Bible, and devotional reading.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Krenz**



2024 Sanctuary Altar Flower Calendar

has been posted in foyer near the elevator. You are invited to choose a date on the calendar, In honor or remembrance of a special occasion, to share flowers in the sanctuary. Thank you for helping us celebrate and remember.



Here are a few suggested daily devotionals:

Portals of Prayer-You can pick these up free at church or you can call 1-800-325-3040 and order a yearly subscription to your home.

Today's Light Daily Bible Reading

This Facebook page provides devotions six days a week following a reading schedule that covers the entire Bible over two years. The devotions are written by the Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood, the director of the LCMS Witness & Outreach ministry.

Reflections for Youth and Families from Higher Things

- You can sign up online for these daily reflections.

Strength for the Day (magazine) helps readers deal with the issues and emotions of daily life—stress, illness, fatigue, loss, and anxiety. Each issue includes Scripture, hymns, prayers, articles, and meditations, all centered on a common theme. Call 1-800-325-3040 and order this resource. Go to the Lutheran Hour Ministry and the International LWML Websites and sign up to get daily devotions sent to your email address.

January Sermons

- Overall Theme:

God's Mission to all.....

January 7th and 8th

...involves being brought to the light
Isaiah 60:1-6

January 14th and 15th

...demands a response
1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

January 21st and 22nd

.....includes those you would not expect
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

January 28th and 29th

...involves overpowering all things evil"
Mark 1:21-28

Inside this issue:

Member Spotlight 2
Eve's Restoration Home
Bright Night Parade

LWML/Ladies League 3
Comforts of Love Quilters
Women's Ministry

OOPS! 4
Financial Stewardship
Food Pantry

Children's Sunday School 5
Youth News
Adult Bible Studies

Pre-School Update 6
Playground Helpers

Pastoral Ponderings 7
Mary & Joseph Breakfast

Birthdays & Anniversaries 8

Event Calendar 9

Worship with us! 10

Pastor Stephen Krenz
618-363-0121

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 227 Goodhaven Street,
Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement:
Proclaim Christ,
Teach Christ's Word and Reflect Christ's Love to All!

*Member Spotlight***John and Jean Kirk...**

We have lived in Columbia since 1969. We were both raised in Chester. I am a Life Long Lutheran and John is a Catholic and a member of Immaculate Conception in Columbia.

John is retired from At&T. I am a retired RN (a graduate of Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing). I have done hospital nursing and Long Term Care. Retiring from Oak Hill in 2011.

We have two sons, Eric and Jason. Eric and his wife, Suzanne, live in Pennsylvania. Jason lives in Columbia.

I have served on numerous boards thru the years, Board of Ed, Trustees, Historic Church and School, Choir and Stephen Ministry. I am currently involved with Ladies League and Wednesday morning Bible Study.

John and I have enjoyed extensive travel in the US and abroad. Also: golfing, camping, fishing, playing cards and adventures with family and dear friends. Changes in our health has made us more home bodies. We now enjoy Classic Movies, History, Trivia, NFL Football and College Football, basketball and especially March Madness!!

Very happy to see St. Paul's becoming more involved in the community.

Favorite Hymn...

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness."

Eve's Restoration Home Update:

Thank you to all who came to the Sunday morning Bible study on November 19th to hear about this ministry.

I appreciate all the support that the congregation has poured out to this vision already, and I thank St. Paul's for their continued support. We are currently forming the board of directors and our plan is to start meeting with the new board in March of 2024. From there, our goal is to file for our non-profit status in Illinois by the end of the summer. Please continue to keep this ministry, and the mothers and children we plan to serve in your prayers as this process continues.

If you would like **more information about Eve's Restoration Home**, there are brochures in the Narthex. If you want to be added to our email list, or have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Amanda Douglas- evesrestorationhome@gmail.com or call or text 314-221-6700.



January 15th =Newsletter Deadline Usually the 3rd Monday of most months.



LWML/LADIES LEAGUE

The Fellowship Hall had the feel of "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Pastor Krenz opened the meeting with an explanation of the carols, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Joy to the World" and with singing and prayers. We continued with a potluck lunch of roast beef along with dishes brought by our members.

Thanks to our hostesses (Sandy and Stefanie) for drinks and table décor and to all who brought food. Thanks, also, to Alice Jestus for the lovely window decorations. We continued with "A Christian Reading on the Twelve Days of Christmas" (Sandy, Stefanie, Pastor, Wanda).

After a very brief meeting, we played some fun games led by Marilyn S. (Pictionary, Trivia & more) and a Christmas Left/ Right story for our Prayer Friend gift exchange.

We closed the day with the singing of "Silent Night." Our tummies and our hearts were full by the end of this uplifting Advent/ Christmas get-together!

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on January 4, 2024 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Tony Troup will be our guest speaker. Barb R. and Nancy R. will be our hostesses.

LWML News

- 1) Zone Meeting and Ingathering at Lebanon, IL on 3/2/24;
- 2) SID retreat at Camp Wartburg on 4/20/24;
- 3) SID Convention on 9/13 & 9/14. Details will be added as they are received.

You are welcome to join us at our meetings, events, service projects, or just to visit anytime.

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.*



Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

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

Please join us! We have "sew" much fun! **Thank you for all your support!**

Wednesdays with Nancy, 10 am
studying the Gospel of Luke

WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Generally meets on the
third Monday of each month.
Please join us in January, (1/15)
at **6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**





OOPS – BE INTENTIONAL

It continues to be the goal of your Board of Christian Outreach to **plan and support events and activities that encourage our pastor, leaders, and members to regularly and intentionally engage in spiritual conversations with each other and others.** That's why there will again be an **OOPS** (Outreach **OP**portunity **S**uggestion) article in each monthly 2024 newsletter. That's why we will encourage you again and again and again to be **INTENTIONAL** and to keep sending those Easter Cards, wearing those new St. Paul T-shirts, hanging those pretty door hangers, and inviting all those children and grandchildren in our family and friendship circles to hunt those Easter eggs and learn about Jesus at our VBS, Pre-School, and Mary and Joseph Breakfast. What will the Holy Spirit do with our individual and collective outreach efforts? That's up to Him. Our goal and challenge to each of you is simply—**BE INTENTIONAL**. Sounds like a good 2024 New Year's Resolution to us!

Outreach **OP**portunity Suggestion

January is National Clean Up Your Computer Month and National Hot Tea Month! Here are some more fun things to celebrate in January:

- **January 1:** Z Day (On this day, those whose last name begins with "Z" get to go first instead of last.)
- **January 3:** National Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day
- **January 6:** National Bean Day
- **January 8:** Elvis Presley's Birthday
- **January 10:** National Houseplant Appreciation Day
- **January 14:** National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- **January 20:** National Penguin Day
- **January 22:** National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
- **January 29:** National Puzzle Day

FOOD
pantry



Current Pantry Needs:

Canned Meat, Canned Fruit & Veggies...

January Dates: 1/3 1/10 1/17
1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 1:30-3pm
2nd Wednesday - 4-6 pm

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days





CHILDREN'S Sunday School

This month in
Sunday School...

the children are learning about how God satisfies all our physical and spiritual needs. From the book of Exodus, God quenches the Israelites' thirst with water from a rock. And from the books of Luke, John, and Psalms, He reminds us that He is our Good Shepherd – providing us the words to pray, people to support us, and ultimately Salvation through Him!

Adult Education

Tuesday Men's Bible Study

Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex.

All men welcome. We are studying the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings for the following Sunday.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays with Nancy, 10 am

studying the Gospel of Luke. Ladies will resume meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.

Fridays, once a month

It's MATTHEW'S GOSPEL in 2024

We're going to be studying the Gospel of Matthew in our second 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.

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am

The Book of Hebrews: Join us on Sunday mornings as we continue through this book which shows us both the superiority of Jesus, and his invitation to faithfulness.

Next Adult Information Class:

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the congregation and/or learning more about what Lutherans teach, join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, January 7th at 4:30 pm.

HOME BIBLE STUDIES Home Bible Studies

We are in the process of organizing and starting a six week home Bible Study in January or February of next year. Our first class is tentatively the book of Colossians. If you are interested in hosting such a Bible study or even participating in such a Bible class, please sign up in the church entryway or contact Pastor Krenz 618-363-0121. Watch the bulletin, pastor's weekly emails, and future newsletters for more information.

2023 Youth Event Calendar

January 7th Youth Group will put away Christmas decorations after late service.

January 12th—Middle School Lock In

January 21st—High School Youth Event with several local LCMS churches, the Freeburg LCMS church will be hosting the event.

See the full calendar at
<https://stpauls-lcms.org/youth.html>



**Congregational wide bowling,
Sunday, January 28
at West Park Bowl in Columbia.**

Sign-up in the Narthex.

\$10 / adult, \$5 / student.

Includes pizza, pitcher of soda or beer and shoe rental. Menu items available separately. Arrive at 5:45 for bowling 6 - 8:00pm. Students invite friends!





January 2024 Preschool News

Happy 2024!

May the New Year bring you plenty of joy, good health & happiness!

Upcoming Events: Preschool resumes on January 4, 2024.

National Lutheran Schools Week is: January 21-27, 2024.

The preschool will observe Lutheran Schools Week by hosting our annual Grandparents day breakfast; as well as celebrate with a pajama day & pancake breakfast; popcorn & movie day, plus, a class pizza party! It's sure to be a fun week!

We would like to give a special thanks to the following:

- ♥ Thrivent members for the donations of their Choice Dollars to the Preschool.
- ♥ Preschool families who have volunteered to help with our Christmas Celebration and Gingerbread House Decorating.
- ♥ Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Board of Education for their continued support of our preschool.
- ♥ And, to Steve Ottwell, for volunteering to visit the children once again dressed as the jolly man in the red suit! We are blessed by all!

Shelly Augustin, Director/Teacher



January Jesus Lessons

Jesus Grows as a child

Boy Jesus at the Temple

Jesus is Baptized

Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples

Jesus Blesses the Children

And a voice from heaven said,

"This is my Son,
whom I love;

with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17 NIV



Playground Helpers



Thank You!



Pastoral Ponderings- Why Give?

Some years back I was listening to KFYO-850 radio and the guest said something about giving which I found quite insightful. "Even if all the congregations in Christendom had their financial and volunteer needs met, the giving of time, talent, and treasure should still be part of the Christians life. The Christian's calling is not merely to give in response to a need, but rather to give because of a relationship with his heavenly Father."

Put another way, God doesn't need our gifts, but we need to give. Might it be that we are reluctant givers because we think we are giving away something that is ours to give? Christian giving is not needs based, rather it is relationship based. In this relationship Christ Jesus gives us more than He demands from us. Even if it were possible to give 100% of all we had, it would be a mere drop in the ocean compared to what we have received from our gracious God.

With that in mind, God takes our tiny drops and then promises to use them to make grace abound in the Kingdom work He is doing here and throughout the world. What a privilege to be part of that great endeavor!!



W/ Mary & Joseph

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2024

JANUARY

January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Jared Dinkelmann	2 Steven Blosser Evan Guebert Henry Herbeck	3 Nicholas Day Hadley Grider Marvin Luedeman Richard & Mary Schmidt ♡	4 Jason Rahn Jeanine Consolino Micah Essert	5	6
7	8	9 Katherine Lacefield	10 Jessica Kritz Dave & Julie Greeting ♡ Ronald Tomlinson	11 Bethany Niehaus Ralph Mathews	12 Corla Greer Christine Link Mark Nolte	13
14 Lindsay Newton	15 Zane Ebersohl Tripp Ford	16 James Colyer Mel & Agnes Stuckmeyer ♡	17 Nolan Mathews	18 Samantha Nelson	19 Timothy Mathews	20 Carla Brelji Stephanie Burke Antonio Mancarella Jessica McCann Trudy Penno
21 Evy Colyer Brenda Hanckler Dan Heise Blaine Reichert	22 Cindy Murray	23 Ryan Chandler John Hertz Skylar Toolen	24 Michael Beatty Noah Gross	25 Lynn McAuliffe Jack Wayland	26 Jacob & Lori Camp ♡ Pam Haberl Carol Womack Gail Zavadiil	27 Donald Gruber Linda Paulet Alan Raney
28	29 Helen Nowak Jason Kirk John & Jean Kirk ♡ Allie Sackman	30 Owen Dietz	31 Dean & Barbara Lungwitz Gabrielle Nowak			



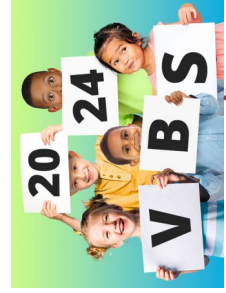
January 2024

2024

NEW YEAR

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 4 pm Brownie Scouts Mtg	1 Count (Volunteers) 8 Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm	2 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters	3 Food Pantry 1:30-3 pm 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	4 Ladies League 11:30 am	5 Bible Study @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	6 Circuit Elder Workshop at St. Paul's Church 9-12 pm
14 Installation of Officers 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	15 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm Women's Ministry 6:30 pm Newsletter Articles Due	16 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Trustees 6 pm Elders	17 10 am Women's Bible St. Food Pantry 1:30-3 pm 6:30 pm Jr Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	18 9 am Newsletter Folders	19 Worship @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	20 Middle School Youth Lock-in
21 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service PM Youth Event @ Christ our Savior in Freeburg	22 Count (Team 3) Divine Service 6:30 pm	23 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am Noon Columbia Clergy at St. Paul UCC 6:30 Church Council	24 7:30 am Rotary Business 10 am Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Jr Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	25 7:30 am Rotary Business	26 10 am Worship at The Grande	27 10 am Women's Bible St.
28 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) <u>9:15-10 am</u> -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	29 Count (Team 1) 9 am Divine Service	30 6:30 pm Voters Mtg	31 10 am Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Jr Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir			



save the date

June 10-14



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 15

THE EPISTLE

JANUARY, 2024

Sundays

@ 8 & 10:30 am

Mondays - 6:30 pm

Worship with Us...



Dec 24th Christmas Eve, 3 pm & 6:30 pm

Dec 25th Christmas Day, Monday 9 am

Dec 31st Sunday, 8 am & 10:30 am

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

618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
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