



St. Paul's EPISTLE

December 2017 edition

Happy New Church Year!

By Pastor Martin Baur

While the rest of the world is waiting for the first of January to celebrate the beginning of another New Year, we are already entering another New Church Year. Instead of going through the year naming familiar months such as January, February, and March, you will find events and activities such as Advent, Epiphany and Lent. What is the thought behind two kinds of calendars?

You will notice that the first Sunday of December this year is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent marks the beginning of the New Church Year. Why the need for two beginnings; isn't one enough? Understand the purpose. The Church Calendar was set up to make sure that every year the church would focus on the most important truths of the Bible.

The Church Year begins with a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, which is called Advent. It focuses on the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It then continues with Epiphany as Gentiles worship Jesus, and then Lent readies us to see the brutality that Jesus endured to earn our salvation. There is also Jesus' resurrection as Easter is celebrated. We see his Ascension as he goes to heaven and promises to return. Then God gives the Holy Spirit to the church on the Day of Pentecost. All this emphasizes the life of Christ and the cost of our salvation.

As one approaches the second half of the year, the Sundays after Pentecost go from the life of Christ to the Christian's life. It focuses on our response to everything Jesus did to save us. It stresses growth in our Christian faith and ends with the goal of our faith, which is the salvation of our souls. Those last days of the Church Year turn our eyes to Jesus' return and our readiness for the great and final day.

From start to finish, the year centers on Jesus. Isn't this true, that no matter if it is the New Year or the New Church Year, the focus of our year should be Jesus. So celebrate this New Church Year, and have a happy New Year!



God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 9:00am

www.stpaulswr.org

Advent Blues



Midweek Advent
Services
Wednesdays
Dec. 6, 13, & 20
3:30 & 6:30 p.m.

The blue we use in our paraments and other decorations for Advent represents hope and expectation. Deep blue is the color of the sky in the cold, dark hours before sunrise. And so, the blue of Advent reminds us of our hopeful anticipation of the dawn of Christ, when he will turn all darkness into light.

Our midweek Advent services will take their cue from the Advent color blue. Although Christ's birth was foretold in scripture, it seemed to come "out of the blue" for most people. His family was of "royal blue blood," tracing its lineage back to King David. And Jesus' birth was preceded by that of a "true blue baby," John the Baptist, who would faithfully prepare God's people for the work of the Messiah.

Join us on Wednesdays during Advent at either 3:30 or 6:30 p.m. It is an extra chance for you to focus on the real reason for the holiday season, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Join us for Supper

As usual, we will have an Advent meal between the services, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Please bring some of your Christmas cookies and treats to share.

We ask everyone to pitch in with serving and clean up. To ensure we have enough people each week, please help on your scheduled day:

If your last name begins with the letters A-H, please help on Dec. 6.

If your last name starts with I-N, please help on Dec. 13.

And, if your last name begins with O-Z, please help on Dec. 20.

Share Some Christmas Joy

Christmas is a time of joy, but it can be a lonely season when you are separate from your church family or loved ones. You can help brighten someone's Christmas by delivering a fruit basket to a shut-in or recent widow(er). The fruit baskets will be assembled and ready for pick up and delivery on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

We need a few new people to help with this ministry as some of our usual volunteers have become fruit basket recipients themselves. This is something the entire family can help with as the older people love to see young children and the joy they exude especially at Christmas. If you can help, please contact Hilde Henkel at henkelfm@wctc.net or 715-435-3547.

Imagine a Christmas with No Presents

If your family is poor or living in a shelter, this may be a reality. You can change that by participating in our Gift Tree project. We have information from local agencies on individuals who could use Christmas gifts. Pick a tag, purchase a gift, and return the gift and tag by the deadline. Last year we helped over sixty people. Look for the display in the Welcome Center for more information.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 10
at 12:30 p.m.

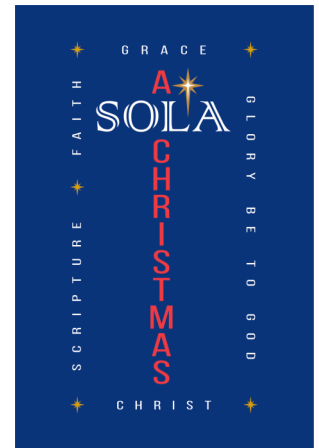
meet at church

We will visit assisted living and nursing care facilities. Everyone welcome including families with small children.

A Sola Christmas

This year our schoolchildren will help us celebrate A “Sola” Christmas. Our school Christmas service will focus on the five solas of the Reformation (Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and To God Alone Be the Glory). The readings and songs will highlight the connections between these foundational Reformation concepts and the specifics of the Christmas account. The school Christmas service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend on Saturday, you are welcome to come to the dress rehearsal on Friday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 a.m. Having a live audience at this rehearsal helps the children overcome some of their “opening night jitters.”



Enjoy Advent by Candlelight

In just a couple of short weeks, it will be advent. Yes, for most of us that is also “Christmas Shopping Time,” but here at St. Paul’s we have a nice tradition for our women and their friends. On Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m. (that’s a Sunday evening), we will gather in the Welcome Center and celebrate the Real Reason for the Season.

We will have twelve tables moved into the room, decorated in holiday style, and we will sit down to an evening of dessert, fellowship, music, and most importantly, an Advent message. After all, if Christ had not come to live among us, there would be no reason to celebrate!

This event does require that you reserve a place, as our seating is limited to twelve tables of eight. There is no charge, but we do take a freewill offering that is divided between St. Paul’s children’s ministries (the grade school, childcare and Sunday School) and WELS Christian Aid & Relief, which supports areas where there have been natural disasters.

This would be an excellent time to invite a friend or relative who is not a member of our congregation to come with you. We love to have visitors celebrate with us, and would be happy to meet your friends.

Remember, reserve your spot SOON! How? Just put your name on the seating chart posted in the Welcome Center. If you are willing to decorate and host a table, it would be greatly appreciated also. Contact Marcie Oestreich at 715-435-4884. Tables will be added as hostesses volunteer.



Some ladies enjoying Advent by Candlelight: Gayle Bartelt, Sue Lipke, Judy Evenson, Edna Haferman, & Kristie Schroeder.

Classroom Highlights

3K & 4K - by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

One thing that we love to do in our class is to have a party. We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation in great style! But first, how do you teach Martin Luther to 3 and 4 year olds? Good question! We learned that there was a man named Martin Luther who lived a long, long time ago who saw the church wasn't teaching God's word correctly. He wanted to fix it so he nailed his 95 theses (statements) on the church's door. His main message was that we are saved through Christ alone! We even "nailed the 95 Theses" to our classroom door and proclaimed that we are saved through Christ alone! Our second party this month was due to good behavior! Five consecutive days of excellent behavior and we earned ourselves a donut party.



The 3K & 4K class in costume.

Mrs. Mueller took a trip for a week to Houston, TX to help with hurricane relief efforts with WELS Christian Aid and Relief (more on that next month). We've also been busy learning how to create patterns and the letters A-H. We have also been doing fancy artwork for our Thanksgiving Feast, which is coming up on Wednesday, November 22nd at 5:30pm.

Kindergarten News - by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

A frequently used word in November is, "Thankful". We have our students think about the blessings God has showered upon us and ponder how our lives have changed because of those blessings. This year the kindergartners are wise beyond their years. Very few toy-like items made it into their thankful lists. Many people hit the top of the list, even siblings!



I too have been noticing all the people who have impacted my life here at St. Paul's. So many people donate their time and treasures to make this place effective. Included in this list are the people who keep this building running. I recently saw someone checking our emergency lights! Another team was installing fresh light fixtures. Someone else cleans the bathrooms and halls (my hero). We have people who keep our technology up to date and those who take care of the paperwork. I was recently blessed with parents and a substitute who were more than understanding, and willing to be flexible so I could spend time with my son. My piece of the puzzle is so small. Thank you to everyone who has a part in this ministry. We have been blessed by you!

Karli Rickaby visited from NLHS and helped in the Kindergarten classroom.

Classroom Highlights

1st-2nd Grade News – by Mrs. Karen Obsuszt

It is November and we are only a weeks away from Thanksgiving. We just finished parent-teacher conferences. I am so thankful to have such a wonderful group of parents to work with. It truly is a blessing to come to work every day and have 18 wonderful students that really are a great group of kids. Thank you for all the hard work that goes on at home.

At school we are continually working hard on our reading and have been working on what nouns and adjectives are. The second graders are learning what complete subjects and complete predicates are. We are really enjoying Social Studies. Our favorite topic so far has been the Marketplace. This has been working out perfect with our class store. We are really excited to have some of our parents come in and share with the class what their occupations are.

In Christ Light, we have learned that God calls us to do all kinds of things, but our biggest job is to tell others about his saving grace. We are thankful for all of our blessings and hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving giving God all of the glory for the blessings we have.

3rd-4th Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

It has been an exciting month. We just finished studying the moon in science class. We have now started looking at how the moon affects the earth and water through tides. Third grade math is just finishing up our work on addition math facts, which means subtraction is right around the corner. Fourth grade math is just finishing up our work on multiplication facts. Now, we need to increase our speed of remembering them through timed tests. With the end of multiplication, that means division looms right around the corner! The heat is being turned up in English class as well. We are just finishing our first writing assignments and three point paragraphs. Prepositions and prepositional phrases have now crowded our sentence writing.

In general, this is a fun time of the year as we look at all the different blessings we have received from our God and our Savior. One of those blessings is a special gift from a former student, Joe Haegerl, who now serves in the army at Fort Bragg, NC. He is thankful for his time at St. Paul's School, and he directed his gift to our Student Assistance Fund, so children, whose families would not otherwise be able to afford tuition, could receive the same quality, Christ-centered education that he did. We are thankful for Joe's gift and for his service to our country. We are also thankful for all of the congregation members at St. Paul's for supporting our classroom through your prayers and offerings. May all of you have a most blessed Thanksgiving.

Picture Retake Day
Thursday, Nov. 30

Groups shots & candids will also be taken.



Alexa Nowak tries to get her family together for a picture after her sister Paisely's baptism.

Classroom Highlights

5th-6th Grade News – by Mr. John Quint

The 5th and 6th grade's big project in November was the management of the Soles for Jesus shoe drive that just ended. We pitched in and regularly emptied the collection boxes, rubber banded the pairs together, and counted the pairs as they were bagged up in garbage bags. As of this writing, we have processed over 175 pairs of shoes during this drive! Our congregational total for 2016 and 2017 is over 700 pairs of shoes!!! By the way, CASH IS STILL NEEDED TO DEFRAY SHIPPING COSTS. (It costs about \$2 a pair to ship them to Africa. Please feel free to drop off a donation to the church office or to Mr. Quint directly. PS: Last year, members of the congregation continued to donate shoes after the drive ended. You may do that again this year, just drop them off in the church office or put them outside of room 108.

7th-8th Grade News – by Mr. Randy Pahl

Over the past several years, we have discussed the interesting weather that November has brought to our fair state. Three years ago, we were discussing the bone-chilling arctic air that held us in its grip and called it Novem-BURR! However, with the mild fall conditions we experienced the past two years, we're considering renaming the month NO-vem-BURR. Well, I guess we're back to climate change, and I think it's safe to say the winter chill is here to stay!

Speaking of which, as we change seasons in the sports arena, preparations are underway for the upcoming basketball season. Practices have already begun and soon we will be participating in actual games with our four area Lutheran grade schools.

In the world of academia, we will soon conclude our study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis. The genealogy from Adam to Noah was especially interesting, and it caused us to look at our own family trees (we'll "leaf" it at that). In algebra and math we have been changing "x's" and "y's" into real numbers, while U.S. history has us marching toward a showdown with Great Britain (now we just play NFL games "across the pond"). And, finally, in science class the study of genetics and evolution have done nothing more than bolster our belief in the one true God!

Lastly, with Thanksgiving just around the corner, may the good Lord continue to bless you and your families as we remember the countless blessings, which He has poured out upon each and every one of us. May we be especially reminded of the blessing of His Son, our Savior, whose birth we look forward to with eager anticipation!

USE SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Gift cards for major retailers are available.
Use in store or online.
Earn money toward school tuition.
Learn more at stpaulswr.org/scrip





JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Friday, Dec. 15
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Journey to Bethlehem is a unique way to experience the miracle of our Savior's birth first hand. Hear the prophecies, talk with the shepherds, make your way through busy Bethlehem, and ponder the birth of Jesus. This special living interactive nativity will surely help you to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

at Northland Lutheran High School
2107 Tower Road - Kronenwetter, WI
Reserve your spot online at nlhs.org.

Counting Our Blessings

- Baptisms of Levi Warchala, Nora Carreen Radtke, Paisley Elizabeth Nowak and Matthew Thomas Tatsu Ristow
- The marriage of Rebecca Hafermann & Alistair Whitley
- A New Church Year
- Opportunities to show God's love to the lonely and the poor.



With the Lord
Dan Lewellyn
Benson J. Bottensek
Marilyn B. Smolarek

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through November 12, 2017

Current

- In memory of Benson Bottensek given by Judy Lubeck, Randy & Pat DeBoer, Donna Stensberg, Inge Johnson, Stephanie Bathke, and Ruth Tagatz
- In memory of Marilyn Smolarek given by Donna Stensberg, Inge Johnson, and Stephanie Bathke

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Marilyn Smolarek given by Barb Manz, Randy & Pat DeBoer, Marvin & Dorothy Raasch, Bill & Elaine Wittrock, Joan Hafermann, Carol Newsom, Sue Bobrowski, Nona Henke, Vernon & Betty Meyer, Mike & Judy Anderson
- In memory of Ben Bottensek given by Barb Manz, Marvin & Dorothy Raasch, Bill & Elaine Wittrock, Carol Newsom, and Mike & Judy Anderson

School

- In thanksgiving for her 95th birthday given by Dorothy Beyer

Mortgage

- In memory of Ben Bottensek given by Nona Henke

Pastor Teacher Assistance Fund

- In memory of Lois Hayes, the mother of Brenda Altman & Linda Heineck, given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Cheri Weiss' grandson, Anthony AJ Zdroik given by Tom & Barb Reitz
- In memory of Marilyn Smolarek & Ben Bottensek given by Tom & Barb Reitz

St. Paul's School Tuition Assistance Fund

- In memory of Cheri Weiss' grandson, Anthony AJ Zdroik given by Edna Haferman, and Larry & Veronica Klish
- In memory of Ben Bottensek, Jim Gallentin & Marilyn Smolarek given by Edna Haferman

Energy

- In thanksgiving for her 95th birthday given by Dorothy Beyer



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December 2017 edition

Upcoming Events

Advent by Candlelight
Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Advent Services
Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 3:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling
Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Fruit Basket Delivery
Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

School Christmas Service
Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424