

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

2023 JANUARY/FEBRUARY

*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1: 5*

Family of believers at St. Paul Lutheran—

This is a familiar passage from John's prologue to his gospel. It also was read during service on Christmas Day. Just off the bat it can have more than one meaning: we just passed the shortest day of the year before Christmas, and now the days are getting longer again with more sunlight. The darkness of winter and cold cannot be completely dominant forever; warmth and light will return. That theme of us being in the most hours of darkness and least amount of daylight was itself the theme for the Christmas Eve sermon.

More importantly though, John writes about how Jesus IS the light of the world (which Jesus Himself says later on in the gospel) and He has come into our world and has not been overcome. As mentioned in the Christmas Eve sermon, the word 'darkness' in John's gospel, is one way of describing unbelievers and sin. Jesus was surrounded by sinners and people who wanted to do away with Him at every turn, yet none of them could thwart His great plan.

Now during January we will start the season of Epiphany, seeing exactly *how* Jesus is that light of the world. In the church I grew up in, the parament colors (the stole the pastor wears and the banners on the altar and pulpit) were orange. This helped separate Epiphany from the season after Pentecost and also emphasized the light aspect of Jesus' ministry, being the one to guide us and illuminate us in our own darkness.

The high feast of Christmas may be over, so now what? That is just what the Epiphany season is about, seeing what a difference it made in the world once Jesus came in it, both in biblical times and today as well. See you in church as Jesus' light illuminates us!

Blessed to serve—



Pastor Kevin Peterson

VOTERS' MEETING

Please join us for our regularly scheduled Voters' Meeting on Monday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in Parish Hall.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2023 offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. PLEASE CHECK THE BOX on the front of the envelope as to which fund you would like your donation to go. The HOME FUND means 100% of your offering will stay at St. Paul to pay for our operating expenses and to meet our budget needs. The UNIFIED BOX means 12% of your offering will be sent to our designated missions; the remaining 88% stays at St. Paul. ALL ENVELOPES UNMARKED WILL GO TO THE UNIFIED FUND.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers chart is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up to present altar flowers for special occasions or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15.00 per bouquet. We always have two bouquets, so if you are the only one signed up, we ask that you would be financially responsible for both. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and put in an envelope marked "Altar Flowers."

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School take place during worship on the second and fourth Sundays. All children age 3 through fifth grade are welcome.

ST. PAUL QUILTERS

The quilters would like to thank Jeff Boberg and our friends at St. Paul Canfield for two vans full of quilting fabric and supplies that they have shared with us. Many thanks to Jeff for loading, transporting, and unloading these treasures that will help us continue the quilt ministry that both of our churches have supported through the years.

The quilters meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 10:15 a.m. in the church library. New quilters are always welcome. No experience is necessary. To request a prayer quilt, please contact the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- We are looking for volunteers to join the tellers. The tellers typically meet twice a month to count the church offerings. Please contact the church office for details.
- Please consider becoming an usher. Anyone over the age of 13, male or female, are eligible to sign up. Usher duties include handing out bulletins, greeting worshipers, bell ringing, offering collection, and assistance with releasing rows for communion. Please contact the church office.
- If you are able to help set-up and clean-up communion on a couple weekends a month, two or three times a year, please consider joining the Altar Guild. We work in teams of two so you would have a partner to share the duties with. We can also use some members for cleaning, which involves dusting the pews and altar and filling up pew racks with cards and pencils. These teams also meet twice a month a couple times a year. We really would appreciate any and all help. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.

HELPING ONE OF OUR OWN

A family from St. Paul is looking for a home to rent, if you can help or have questions, please call the church office.

THEOLOGY IN FILM

Do you enjoy watching movies and would like to gain a deeper experience out of them than mere passive entertainment? Join us on Monday, January 23 and Monday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m. to watch a movie together in Parish Hall, followed by discussion questions. There will be a variety of film choices offered each month to cater to different preferences—family friendly, drama, musical, sci fi, classic, documentary, etc.

EASY WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

- LWML is collecting the cancelled stamps on envelopes (please bring the whole envelope and we will do the trimming) and the whole envelopes from charities with the stamps already attached for your return. We also collect the USA nonprofit bulk stamps and picture post cards (bring the whole post card). Place your envelopes in the box in the breezeway. We appreciate it if you just bring the whole envelope or post card as there are guidelines for processing the stamps. Thank you for your support of this project that supports missions.
- Please consider saving the tabs from food and beverage cans. These tabs are collected to help Ronald McDonald House Charities. Ronald McDonald Houses provide stability, housing and resources for families with seriously ill children that are patients at nearby hospitals. Please bring donations to the church office or on a cabinet in the narthex. Thank you!
- Do you still get a newspaper? Would you like to help out a neighboring congregation? The paper rollers of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst are in need of newspapers. This group has been rolling papers for over 70 years. The money they earn from selling the rolls to local florists and manufacturing plants help the school and church. Although the demand is still there for their rolls of paper, their supply has diminished as people no longer get printed newspapers. If you still get the paper and would like to help them out, please bring your papers to St. Paul and put them in the box in the breezeway. They will be picked up weekly and taken to Immanuel.

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for the Wednesday afternoon Bible class from 1:00-2:30 p.m. We will be going through the themes and highlights of the four Gospels.

Pastor Kevin will be leading a class on Sunday mornings after worship and fellowship, at 10:45. This class will focus on conflict reconciliation and how to be reconciled with others in a God-pleasing way. Each step in the process will coordinate with one of the six parts of Luther's small catechism. This will be useful both for those who want to learn how to reconcile as well as those who are interested in joining St. Paul as new members with catechism instruction or want a review on what we as Lutherans believe and teach.

MUSIC

If you have been thinking about getting involved in Celebration Bells or our choir, after the first of the year would be a great time to start. Rehearsals will begin for both choirs on Thursday, January 5, 2022. Bells meet at 6:30 p.m. and choir at 7:30 p.m. There will be new music for the spring season, with Lent and Easter special anthems as well. Come and join us, using your time and talents to serve the Lord. No experience is necessary. Come, learn, and enjoy. For questions, please the church office.



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion	2	3	4	5 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	6	7 5:30 p.m. Worship	
8 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	9 6:30 p.m. Board of Elders	10	11 10:15 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	12 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	13	14 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion	
15 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m. Church Council	17	18 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	19 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	20	21 5:30 p.m. Worship	
22 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	23 6:00 p.m. Movie Night	24	PASTOR KEVIN OUT OF OFFICE FOR CONFERENCE				28 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion
			25 10:15 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	26 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	27		
29 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	30	31	1	2	3	4	



FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	3	4 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion
5 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	6 7:00 p.m. Regular Voters' Meeting	7	8 10:15 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	9 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	10	11 5:30 p.m. Worship
12 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	13 6:30 p.m. Board of Elders	14	15 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	16 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	17	18 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion
19 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	20 7:00 p.m. Church Council	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:15 a.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Worship	23 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells 7:30 p.m. Kantorei	24	25 5:30 p.m. Worship
26 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	27 6:00 p.m. Movie Night	28	1	2	3	4