

The Messenger

St. Paul's family welcomes those wanting peace, comfort, and friendship by connecting them with God's Word.

February 2019

Pastor's Page

Church Staff

Pastor Roger
Knepprath
995-8002

Pastor
Marques Nelson
(414) 217-0599

Staff Minister
Nathan Voss
507-317-9856

Church Office
345-7049 (Main)

Alternate Office
345-4939

Fax Line
345-5756

Campus
420-0105

JLMLC
345-7707

Risen Savior
388-6624

State of the Congregation Address January 2019

“We, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, want to thank you and your congregation for your service. It may not always seem like something big is going on in the everyday tasks of ministry, but we want you to know what’s going on in your training of these men is not only big. It’s truly cosmic. Satan falls like lightening.” So wrote Pastor Paul O. Wendland, Seminary President, when we announced our decision to stop hosting Vicars. He and his faculty are grateful for our impact on future pastors in our synod. In connection with the state of our congregation his words prompted two thoughts. St. Paul’s continues to carry on ‘everyday tasks of ministry’ and that’s a wonderful thing. St. Paul’s has gone through a great deal of change and that can be a rough thing.

Last January we had Pastor Wong, Mr. Probst, and a Vicar working among us. This January they have all moved on to other fields. On the first of September Pastor Marques Nelson began his ministry among us as our Campus/Family Pastor. He arrives with his wife, Corissa, and his three children: Rivers, Oliver, and Adleigh. Campus/Family is a new combination for St. Paul’s. A family pastor pays especial attention to husbands and wives and children having a healthy relationship with the Lord that, in turn, impacts positively their relationships with each other. On the first of October Mr. Nathan Voss kicked off his ministry among us as our Member Ministry Staff Minister. He arrives with his wife, Katherine, and his four children: Madalynn, Brayden, Brynn, and Jonah. His is also a new position for St. Paul’s. Mr. Voss will be helping us all work together as a team, recognizing and appreciating our own spiritual gifts and those of others. Finally, on the first of January, St. Paul’s acquired her first Facility Supervisor in Mr. Chris Selvey, a longtime member of our congregation. He and his wife, Jen, and sons—Franklin, Ari, Reed, Canaan, and Abraham—are active participants of our church. All of this staffing is the completion of a major portion of our 2020 Vision. I cannot commend enough the leadership of St. Paul’s to be forward looking and ready for this transition to occur. Our Called Staff is considerably younger and considerably more tech and media savvy. St. Paul’s is already communicating with more people more often than it was before.

I feel as though we have done an effective job of keeping our Mission Statement in front of our people. We’ve been working at it for two and a half years with our Verses of the Month. Is there some way of measuring how many of our members would be able to announce, “St. Paul’s family welcomes those wanting peace, comfort, and friendship by connecting them with God’s Word?” Having our Mission Statement in our heads is one thing, having it in our hearts is yet another. How many of us are enjoying new or renewed peace, new or renewed comfort, and new or renewed friendships? How many of us have recognized we have peace, comfort, and friendship to spare?

What does a healthy congregation look like? Are there measurables that can tell us? Pastor Nelson placed the following on my desk lately that we will want to keep in mind as we move forward. A healthy church (1) makes sure the mission of the church remains the main thing, (2) makes Bible study an ongoing priority, (3) provides quality preaching, (4) employs the priesthood of all believers, (5) provides variety in worship, (6) uses technology wisely, and (7) ensures the pastors are spiritually healthy. Judge for yourselves how many of these are happening or being pursued at St. Paul’s. Consider what role you can play in making sure these happen or continue at your congregation.

Special points of interest:

- Anniversaries & Birthdays
- Staff Minister
- Sunday School
- Member Changes
- Monthly Recipe from Mary Ruth
- Jesus Loves Me

Moments with the Member Ministry Staff Minister-

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

Have you ever wondered what God was thinking when he made mankind? If we look at creation, we see all different kinds of animals with claws, large teeth, warm coats of fur and amazing speed and agility. So, what was he thinking when he made us? I don’t know about you, but I don’t have large teeth or a nice fur coat. We normally do not have those features. What makes us so different from them? God did something more amazing than large teeth and fur for us. He gave us His image. He put His Spirit in us and joined Adam to Eve. Then He did something unimaginable. He made us all different. Different from the rest of creation and different from each other. Your gifts are different than mine and mine are different than my wife’s. Here we see why we all have different gifts. It wasn’t to frustrate His people, but to build them up! God in His wisdom made each one of us different so that we can complement each other and the body of Christ. Some of us have the gift of Evangelism and can talk to strangers. While someone else has the gift of serving. Did you know that Giving is also a Spiritual Gift mentioned here? We see many people giving in the early church. Did you also know there are many ways you can give? Yes you know of the Text giving, envelopes and Simply Giving. But I am also talking about giving of your time and talents. What gifts do you have that you can use to show your love for our Savior Jesus? Have you given lately? I cannot wait to see **every** member using their many amazing gifts to honor our Lord.

Yours In Christ,

Nate Voss

Pastor Knepprath Is Deliberating a Call

Pastor Knepprath is being asked by the Holy Spirit to compare the ministry of our congregation, St. Paul’s in North Mankato, MN, with the ministry happening at St. Luke in Jackson, MI. Either the Holy Spirit will help him reaply himself to the ministry here or move him to begin work in a field new to him.

The following is material sent by the Michigan District President to help someone with a Call focus appropriately. The following will help you understand what Pastor and Tracy are working through over the next few weeks to come to a decision.

While deliberating the Divine Call:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless your deliberations, giving you the wisdom, you need
2. Seek the counsel of neighboring pastors, circuit pastor, teachers, the district president or others as the circumstances suggest
3. Discuss the call and seek the counsel and advice of voters, members and any fellow staff members
4. As you converse with representatives of the calling body, remember that it has been our practice as a synod not to physically visit a site before accepting a Divine Call. This can help avoid even a hint of improper motives once a decision is reached
5. Discussions with representatives of the calling body may at times include your spouse. Be careful in those discussions not to include your spouse in items which are confidential in nature
6. If possible, determine and announce the projected date for reaching a decision.

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center

The mission of St. Paul's Learning Center is to provide opportunities for young children (ages 6 weeks through school age) and their families to learn more of Jesus' love and His plan of salvation, and to guide the child's educational and social development through exploration and discovery in this Christian setting.

February will be a time to hear the lessons of Jesus Calms the Storm, Jairus' Daughter, a parable and Jesus Feeds 5000. Jesus not only met needs and cared for people in every way but he came to take away our sins. We are so thankful to him for taking our sins away!

We will also learn about seeds, energy and water in Science Time. In Literature we will learn about groundhogs, valentines and quilts, rabbits and Dr. Seuss. Our artist will be Claude Monet and author will be Eric Carle. In Music we will continue learning about pitch and start learning about rhythm.

Managing disappointment, anger and waiting will be the social skills we work on this month and in the gym we will use fluffballs.

MN Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPS) is a very important part of our planning to get children ready for kindergarten eventually or next year. Recently the ECIPS has been updated to identify eight domains and here at JLMLC we plan to provide an environment where these domain goals are met. We are working to be re-rated in Parent Aware also.

Call 507 508 2041 or email lingjlm@hickorytech to get more information on enrollments or working here!

May God bless you this month!!

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center

Full Day Child Care 6 am- 6 pm
Toddler, Preschool, and School Aged Programs

345-7707

304 Monroe Ave.
North Mankato



MEMBER CHANGES

INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS (2)

Anoki Joseph Sargent, 1/12/19

Deacon Jax Sargent, 1/12/19

TRANSFERS OUT (2)

Mark & Cathy Probst to Abiding Savior, Weslaco, TX

RELEASES (1)

Jada Becker per request

DEATHS (1)

Dorothy Becker, 12/27/18

Memorials

For Dorothy Becker:
 Funds were designated towards Risen Savior
 and MN Valley Lutheran .
 Family and Friends
 Barb Erie
 Bruce and Arlawayne Boerner
 Tamra and Eugene Braam
 Joan Hurry
 Marty and MaryLou Rost
 Mark and Bonnie Shult
 Irene Stoll
 Claudia Vosbeck
 Dean and Karen Willrett

For Bill Schimmel:
 Family and Friends
 Helga and Billy Becker
 Bruce and Arlawayne Boerner
 Barb Erie
 Larry and LaVonne Frederick
 Loel and Betty Hermel
 Joan Hurry
 Harold and Gloria Linde
 Richard and Georgia Oglesby
 Paul and Donna Prahl
 Connie Reimers
 Nickie and Diane Roman
 Mark and Bonnie Shult
 Irene Stoll
 Claudia Vosbeck
 Dean and Karen Willrett
 Lawrel and Kathy Woods

Sunday School Newsletter - February 2019

Showing love is easy when things are going well in a relationship. You might buy flowers to show someone you are thinking of them or maybe do something nice and unexpected by cleaning your room. Showing love when things get difficult is another story. We are not always so quick to forgive, especially when someone says or does something mean and hurtful. We may feel like we cannot forgive someone and even wish on them the worst. Showing love and kindness to those who hurt us is hard, yet God does that very thing for us every day when we sin. He shows us his unconditional love even though we do nothing to deserve it.

Jesus points out to us that we are no better than unbelievers if we only show love to each other when things are going well, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them." (Lk 6:32) Instead, we should follow the example God set for us by sending his Son, Jesus, to suffer for our sins. "This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 Jn 4:10) We do not deserve God's forgiveness. Instead it is given to us freely out of love.

God forgives our sins through Jesus' sacrifice and in turn we show our thanks by displaying that same love and forgiveness to those around us. Our students will see that this coming month in our lessons and we look forward to sharing the Gospel message with them.

February 2019 Schedule

- 2/3 The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- 2/10 The Servant Who Did Not Forgive (Matthew 18:21-35)
- 2/17 Jesus and the Ten Sick Men (Luke 17:11-19)
- 2/24 Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Please feel free to email Tim Horvat with any questions or interest in volunteering: horvattj@gmail.com



New 2 You Workers Needed

Each month there is a need to fill 4 spots on the schedule for the 3rd Saturday of the month. This month would be **February 16th**. If you can work either the morning – 9:15-12:30 or afternoon – 12:15 – 3:00, please sign up on the schedule posted next to the office or call the office at 345-7049.

Thrivent

Did you know that as a Thrivent member you are entitled to use \$500 a year *per member* towards an event of your choice? This is free money that they give you to help with ministry events. We are looking to plan this year's events and if you happen to be a Thrivent member and would like to donate your Thrivent Seed Money to the ministries here at St. Paul's, please let the church secretaries know.

JLMLC Custodial Position Opening

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is seeking applications for a part-time JLMLC custodian. This position is for 15 hours per week. Applications will be accepted through Mon. Jan. 28th. Stop in the church office for an application and position description. Contact Nate Voss - staffminister@stpaulsnorthmankato.com or 507-317-9856 with questions.

Let's Cook with Ruth Circle



Recently the Mary Ruth Circle received a treasure from the past, "Let's Cook with the Ruth Circle" cookbook, and we would like to share it with the congregation. The cookbook was compiled by the Ruth Circle in 1957. We will be printing some recipes from the cookbook in the monthly Messenger. You can also see the cookbook in the St. Paul's church library.

Chocolate Bit Bars

1 cup dates 1 tsp. soda 1 cup hot water
1 tsp. vanilla 1 tsp. salt

Let above stand while mixing rest.

1 cup sugar 1 ¾ cup flour 1 cup shortening 2 eggs
1 Tbsp. cocoa

Mix good and add to 1st mixture

One box chocolate chips, ½ in batter and ½ on top. Also, ½ cup nuts on top.
Bake at 350° for 40 mins. 10" x 10" pan.

Mrs. Al Hildebrandt

Chicken Loaf

1 – 4 lb. chicken cooked tender and diced 2 cups bread crumbs
1 cup cooked rice 1 ½ tsp. salt ½ cup chopped pimento
3 cups milk or half milk and broth 4 eggs well beaten (add eggs last and fold in)

Bake 350° for 1 hour.

Mrs. Alice Knudsen



February

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Duane and Bonnie Heuer
- 2 - Benny and Renee Schroeder
- 3 - Jenny and Shane Jandro
- 4 - Steve and Joyce Oachs
- 7 - Chris and Jen Selvey
- 14 - Steve and Buhr
- 19 - Bob and Carolyn Bernard
- 20 - Al and Cindy Thom
- 21 - Mike and Karen Anderson
- 26 - Galen and Darlene Archerd



February

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Jaiden Landsom | 12 - Alyssa Dieken | 21 - Verona Oachs |
| 2 - Lincoln Bolte | Matilda Heins | 22 - Aaron Fahey |
| 4 - Pat Ruether | 13 - Erin Quast | Cassie Willrett |
| Brenda Spangenberg | Katy Robbins | 24 - Zak Hensel |
| Carolyn Bernard | 14 - Merle Weinkauff | 25 - Ardis Ganske |
| Katherine Hopp | Dean Willrett | Joshua Olstad |
| 5 - Eli Persons | Larry Frederick | Ashley Pope |
| 6 - Cassie Allen | Luke Lehne | Sunshine Langworthy |
| 7 - Cindy Thom | 17 - Lloyd Starkson | Amelia Crabtree |
| Mark Sikel | Cole Thompson | 26 - Russ Behn |
| Danica Kerr | 18 - Galen Archerd | Jon Moeller |
| Dominic Poulson | Ari Selvey | 27 - Sid Spangenberg |
| 8 - Robert Bernard | 19 - Karl Fager | Steve Willaert |
| Jo Peterson | Austin Youngerberg | Dutch Harnitz |
| 9 - Jennifer Fahey | 20 - Jean Persons | 28 - Stan Stelter |
| Hannah Thom | Cris Archerd | Matsyn Tyree |
| 10 - Brittany Thompson | John Thomas | |
| 11 - Mia Taylor | 21 - Verona Oachs | |

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
304 Monroe Avenue
North Mankato, MN 56003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
304 Monroe Avenue
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

Church Office: 345-7049 (Main) 345-4939 (Alternate)
FAX: 345-5756, Campus: 420-0105
Web Page Address: www.stpaulsnorthmankato.com
Rev. Roger Kneprath, Lead Pastor: 995-8002
Pastor Marques Nelson, Campus/Family Pastor: (414) 217-0599
Nathan Voss, Staff Minister: 507-317-9856

SATURDAY SERVICE: 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
COMMUNION SERVICES: First and Second Sunday of the month and preceding Saturday
Sunday Educational Opportunities:
Adult Bible Class (All Adults) 9:25 – 10:15 A.M.
Dial-A-Devotion: 507-345-7049, press 5
Weekday Educational Opportunities:
Coffee with Pastor: Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. at Happy Chef on Hwy 169
"Jesus Loves Me" Learning Center
Monday – Friday: 6:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.