

GOD'S ENCOURAGING WORD ... WHEN I AM FEARFUL ABOUT THE FUTURE

2018 is here. For some, it's scary how quickly 2017 disappeared. For others, they can't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2018 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you've ever worried or fretted about the future, our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good

cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah and he says to you: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment in heaven, and

yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now. Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in a sweepstakes. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's telling you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to

worry or fret about what 2018 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

As we journey into 2018, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!



MISSION FESTIVAL – FEBRUARY 11 & 12 & "POT-LUCK DINNER"

A WELS missionary will be preaching in our services that weekend. Following the 10:30 am service, we will have an "old fashioned" pot-luck dinner served in the school. Please

bring a dish, salad or dessert to be served. In order to assist in planning, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of church indicating what you want to bring to the meal.



KOINE AT ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

ABOUT KOINE

It's nothing new in Christian music for traditional songs to be re-shaped by the influences of culture and time. But perhaps it's the way Koiné is combining century-old hymns with a modern accompaniment that is causing people everywhere to take notice of what some in Milwaukee have known for years. Imagine a 1200 year old text and a 600 year old melody, married with a Les Paul, Steinway piano, drums and electric bass. With their arrangements, Koiné strives to find a unique balance between the familiarity of the classic hymn melodies and the raw instrumentation of the new arrangements.

Originally formed in 2003 as a worship band, Koiné quickly began to gain a grassroots following as requests for appearances and sales of their first album,

Koiné (Self-Titled) started to roll in.

Since that time, local events turned into regional tours, and now Koiné travels the North America sharing their unique music ministry. Koiné has truly found a niche for themselves. Much of their music already has a welcome home in traditional worship, but with a modern sound that anyone can identify with.

INTERESTING FACTS

For the past 10 years, Koiné has been a full-time band. It's members have no other jobs with music sales and touring becoming their only source of income.

In 2010, Koiné performed over 200 times across the United States, leading worship, performing concerts, and offering "Special Services." These

Special Services combine Scriptural narration, music, and multimedia to present Biblical stories in a whole new musical format. The popularity of these presentations has grown over the past 7 years to include 5 different Christmas presentations, a Lenten, a Tenebrae, an Easter presentation and Visit Illuminated.

Koiné was recognized by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry as Christian/Gospel Artist of the year in 2013 & 2016.

In 2015, Koiné traveled to Plzen, Czech Republic to

assist with music for their Vacation Bible School.

In 2016, Koiné traveled to Israel to provide music for a tour of The Holy Land. Highlights of the trip included playing music for a worship service floating across The Sea of Galilee, an acoustic musical service at the garden tomb, and a concert overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Tel Aviv.

COMING TO ST. PAUL'S

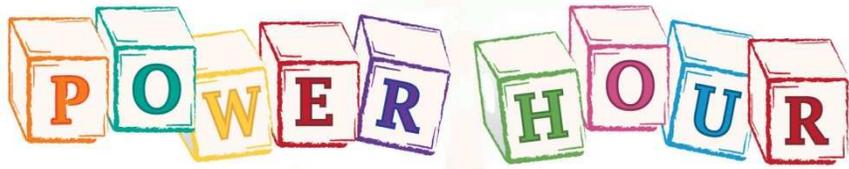
Koiné will be leading our worship on Sunday, February 18th. Please mark your calendars.



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 28, 2018

St. Paul's Lutheran School has been an educational tradition in Franklin for 150 years, and we are showing off our school on Sunday, January 28th from 11:30am until 2:00pm. Come see why our families love being a part of our school, grab a snack,

meet teachers, see classrooms, and learn about the great education available to students from 3K up through 8th Grade. If that doesn't work for your schedule, call and set up a time to visit. We look forward to seeing you!



PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR

Join us at Preschool Power Hour two Thursdays a month. It is open to all children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. They meet in the church narthex from 10:45 – 11:45 am on the following dates: January 11th & 25th, February 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, April 12th & 26th, and May 10th & 24th.

It begins with a devotion and/or Bible story with songs, both Christ-centered and general, music and movement activities (including use of rhythm instruments), followed by gym activities.

Anyone may come and it is free. Come and grow spiritually and make new friends.



3K AND 4K ENROLLMENT 2018-2019

Our 3K and Junior Kindergarten (4K) programs are now accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year. In order to enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1,

2018. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan and Mrs. Nancy Willms at (414) 421-1833. Enrollment opportunities will be opened to the community after February 1, 2018.



CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

This year, the leadership of St. Paul's made the decision to move the Christmas Eve Children's service off of Christmas Eve to the Sunday before Christmas Eve. The primary reason for doing this was to provide more room for visitors to join us for Christmas Eve Worship. It seems like that may have happened.

The table on the next page shows the attendance numbers for the Christmas services in 2017 compared with the services of 2016.

The Board of Elders will continue to evaluate our worship services in the future. However, since this was a change from a very long standing tradition at St. Paul's, we wanted to share these numbers with the congregation. The change in attendance was an increase of 118 people from the previous year.

We have also had the opportunity to baptize 98 children over the past years of 2012-2017.

Service	2016	2017
Christmas Children (Dec. 24 th vs Dec.17 th)	644	585
Christmas Eve – 6:30pm		181
Christmas Eve – 10pm	177	179
Christmas Day – 10 am	148	142
Total	969	1087





2017 LIVING NATIVITY

We thank all who came, who helped and participated in our Living Nativity this year. Over the two nights we had

about 400 people attend. What a joy it was to share the message of Jesus' birth with so many people.



SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2018 JULY 9 – 13, 2018



THRIVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a Thrivent member? If you answered yes, did you know you have grant money and Choice dollars that can be used at St. Paul's? We can show you how you can help St. Paul's by using grant money and directing your Choice dollars. If you're not a member and would like to still be able to help, you can

still get grant money by signing up to be an associate member. On January 7th and 8th between services, Stacy, our congregational advocate for Thrivent will have a table set up for questions. Also, Stacy and Thrivent will be holding some informational meetings for you to come and hear how to

use grants, help you sign up to be an associate member and help on directing Choice dollars. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM in the Bible Study room. Dinner will be

provided. Feel free to come to one of the informational meetings to see how you can help. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Boldt at (262) 470-7253.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

ST. PAUL'S GALA SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

5:00 PM

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION TO COME



THANK YOU

Pastor Adams, Pastor Hoff, the faculty and the staff of St. Paul's thank everyone for the gifts and cards that have been received from everyone this Christmas season. It is

truly a blessing to be brothers and sisters in Christ working together to carry the message of the Christ child out into the world.

WELS NEWS

NEW MOVIE FOCUSES ON OUTREACH

Filming starts in January for the final movie in a series of four outreach movies that are a collaboration between WELS Commission on Evangelism, Northwestern Publishing House, WELS Multi-Language Publications, and Boettcher+Trinklein Television, Inc.

Rev. Mike Hintz, director of WELS Evangelism, says that while the first three movies—*Road to Emmaus*, *Come Follow Me*, and *My Son, My Savior*—focused on the life and ministry of Jesus, the final movie will follow the apostle Paul and his work in Philippi. “Our goal for this movie is to show in a dramatic way how the gospel is spread into the world following the command of Jesus and to show how it impacted people’s lives,” says Hintz.

The title, *To the Ends of the Earth*, is taken directly from Jesus’ command to his

disciples at his Ascension: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The goal is to complete the movie by the end of summer 2018 in time for congregations to use the film and accompanying materials in the fall for a special mission emphasis Sunday. Hintz says the movie would not be possible except for funding help from Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation; WELS Foundation’s Shared Blessings donor advised fund; Multi-Language Publications; and gifts from groups, congregations, and individuals. “In the end, the movie is to help us see that this continues to be a wonderful privilege for us to continue this work of sharing the Word so that many more can come to faith,” say Hintz. The other outreach movies—*Road to Emmaus*, *Come Follow Me*, and *My Son, My Savior*—have had more than a million viewers through TV,

DVDs, and online media and have been translated into a dozen different languages. All three movies are still available from Northwestern Publishing House, nph.net.

LUTHER MOVIE TO STREAM ON NETFLIX

Return to Grace: Luther’s Life and Legacy, the Martin Luther film produced by Boettcher + Trinklein Television, Inc., for the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, will continue to share the history and truths of the Reformation to an even broader audience.

The PBS version of the film (*Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*) will begin streaming on Netflix on Jan. 1, 2018. “The Lord has richly blessed this film

project,” says Mr. Lee Hitter, director of WELS Communication Services. “The Luther film has been seen by hundreds of thousands of people, with more than 1,000 screenings at local theaters, a national audience in a PBS showing that doubled its normal viewership, Marcus Corporation agreeing to how the film to a general audience in every theater they own in eight states, and now a two-year run on Netflix.” The filmmakers have worked with Netflix to localize the production by adding subtitles and foreign language dubbing to ensure maximum viewership. Netflix has more than 110 million subscribers in 190 countries. DVDs of *A Return to Grace* are also still available for purchase at nph.net.





2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the hallway of church by the mailboxes. Occasionally, we may miss a person's name in assigning the envelopes for the year in our church management software. If you have not received a set of envelopes and wish a set, please contact the church/school office.

We are also having people who are now giving

electronically on a regular basis and do not need a set of envelopes. If this is the case, please let the office know as well. There have been some who still wish to have the set of envelopes for giving during the special services during the year.

You can contact the office by email: office@stpaulsfranklin.org or by phone: (414) 421-1178.



E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We would like to develop an email list through which we could send newsletters, announcements, special service, etc. If you would like

to be included on such a list, please send your email address to the office at: office@stpaulsfranklin.org.



UPCOMING WORSHIP THEMES THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany is Christendom's second oldest festival; it has been celebrated continuously by the Church for nearly 1900 years. The festival was originally a general celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ which included the commemoration of his birth, the visit of the Magi (Wise Men), all of Jesus' childhood events up to and including his baptism. Today, the Eastern Orthodox church celebrates Epiphany as the festival of Christ's birth, and the Western Church stresses the visit of

the Magi. The season of *Epiphany* (the Greek word for "appearance") celebrates God's revealing or manifesting of Jesus' identity as true God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. Epiphany not only commemorates the fact that Jesus appeared to save us, but that God revealed the identity of Jesus to the world. The season of Epiphany will conclude on February 11th & 12th, with the festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

January 7 & 8 – Festival of Epiphany

We see Jesus revealed as Savior of the world.

January 15 & 15 – Epiphany 2

Speak, your servant is listening.

January 21 & 22 – Epiphany 3

Be fishers of men

January 28 & 29 – Epiphany 4

Jesus speaks with authority.

February 4 & 5 – Epiphany 5

Jesus came to fix the broken.

February 11 & 12 – Transfiguration/Mission Festival

Let Jesus shine to the world.