



St. Paul's Newsletter

November & December 2014

6881 S. 51st Street ~ Franklin, Wisconsin ~ 53132

"Jesus is.... Prince of Peace"



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called...Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

Are you ready for the frenzy? By now, we all know that it's coming. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and that means turkeys to carve, tables to set, guestrooms to prepare—the list seems endless.

And when it's all said and done, what is waiting for us but...Christmas! And that means presents to buy, trees to trim, cookies to decorate—that list is even longer than Thanksgiving's! It kind of makes us long for when it's all over, doesn't it? For a time when we can finally sit back, relax, and say, "Peace, at last!"

Peace. That is a concept the Bible talks about too. Only when the Bible talks about peace, it is referring to something far greater than a little bit of rest and relaxation after a frantic

holiday season. It is referring to peace with God.

So do you have it? Do you have peace with God? Or perhaps a better question is this: Is it even possible for unholy, imperfect, sinful people like we are to have peace with a holy, perfect, and sinless God? After all, God himself demands in his word that, if we are to have peace with him, we must be holy and perfect just like he is. So is peace with God even possible?

It sure is. And not because we are somehow going to become holy and perfect on our own. It is because we have one who has been holy and perfect in our place. His name is Jesus, the one the prophet Isaiah so aptly calls the "Prince of Peace." Through his perfect life and innocent death, Jesus removed all of our sins and gave us his perfection. In doing so, the Prince of Peace has given us exactly what our holy and perfect God demands of us. Through faith, we now have peace with God as our personal possession forever.

Perhaps you are looking forward to the peace you will experience after the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is all over. As you do, never forget about the peace that the Prince of Peace brought you. Jesus brought you peace with God. And that peace will last forever.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Mission Festival Mission Festival Craft & Bake Sale Thanksgiving Worship | 2 |
| Midweek Advent Worship & Dinner - December 10. Sermon Series for Sundays in Advent | 3 |
| Advent by Candlelight Living Nativity - December 20 & 21 Website Update | 4 |
| Mary Martha Cookie Sale Christmas Services New Year's Eve No Dec. 29th Worship Church Decorating | 5 |
| Membership Changes June - October | 6 |
| Sunday Bible Class Sunday School Funeral Lunch Cmt. Preschool Power Hour | 7 |
| Principal's Report Scrip Information | 8 |
| WELS news | 9 |
| WELS news Facility Use Reminder WLHS Announcement | 10 |



You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

~ Psalm 118:28-29

Mission Festival - November 16 & 17, 2014

One way we express our gratitude to God is by reflecting his love to people in need. As brothers and sisters in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), we carry out this ministry of compassion through WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Together we provide disaster relief, assist people dealing with extreme medical and financial challenges, and support humanitarian aid projects that help our missionaries build bridges to proclaim the Gospel.

The gifts of love that are given to provide critical assistance to people in need help to create wonderful opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. Christian Aid & Relief grants total \$558,729 for 2014.

Pastor Richard Warnecke will be our guest speaker that weekend. Pastor Warnecke serves on the Committee of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. For the bible class on Sunday, he will be joined by Mr. Mark Vance, who is the Director of

Operations for WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Mark Vance, along with his wife, Dawn, are members of St. Paul's. Pastor Warnecke and Mark Vance will talk about the work that we get to do together in the WELS to help provide relief for others. The bible class on that day will be held in the church.



Mission Festival Craft and Bake Sale - November 16 & 17, 2014

The Mary and Martha Society will be holding a Craft and Bake Sale in conjunction with Mission Festival, November 16 & 17. All member of St. Paul's are invited to donate craft items and baked goods to this sale.

If you are donating something: Please bring your craft or baked goods to the narthex of the church on Saturday morning, November

15th before 12:00 noon or bring them before first service on Sunday. If you bring craft items, please pre-price them. We can price the food items for you.

All donations are much appreciated and the proceeds from this sale will benefit a mission within our synod.



Thanksgiving Worship - November 26 & 27, 2014



"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Our Thanksgiving worship services are on Wednesday, November 26th at 6:30pm and Thursday, November 27th at 10:00am. The theme of this year's service is: "Don't Forget the Lord Your God." It is based on Deuteronomy 8 - "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God... But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you

the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."

Please come and join us as we give thanks to God for His many blessings.

Midweek Advent Worship Service & Dinner - December 10, 2014

We will be having one Midweek Worship service on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm.

Before the service from 5:30pm - 6:15pm, a meal of sub sandwiches will be served and provided by the Board of Elders. (A few additional items are needed for that meal, please watch the sign up sheet on the counter in the back of church to contribute.)

This year the entire Christian Day school, along with the Junior and

Senior Choir, and Junior Handbells will be singing and playing.

We will be focusing our Advent Service around the four Advent Candles:

1. The Prophecy Candle;
2. The Bethlehem Candle;
3. The Shepherd Candle;
4. The Angel Candle.

Please come and join us for this special Advent Service as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.



Sunday Sermon Series for Advent

New Sermon Series for Advent 2014: “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”



Advent 1: November 30/December 1 – He Comes to Those Who Were Waiting for Him (Mark 1:1-8)

We begin a new series that concentrates our attention on the coming of Christ to meet the needs of individuals. Waiting and anticipating something is both exciting and scary at the same time. We look forward

to some happy event. We also dread things that make us uncomfortable. John the Baptist, along with the Jewish people, was looking forward to the day when the Messiah would come. However, when he did come, many didn't like the message of repentance that he would bring. John the Baptist's role was to prepare people's hearts for the One that were waiting for so long.

Advent 2: December 7 & 8 – He Comes to Those in Darkness (John 3:1-21)

It was a dark night when Nicodemus so carefully approached Jesus. But the darkness wasn't only in the streets of Jerusalem. It was also in the hearts of the Jewish people. Isaiah spoke about this darkness when he wrote: "See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." (Isaiah 60:2) Things were going to

change for Nicodemus and for many others. For Jesus comes to those who are in darkness with life-giving light for the soul.

Advent 3: December 14 & 15 – He Comes to Those Caught in Sin (Luke 19:1-10)

You can tell a lot about a person by the company he keeps. That's what the Jewish leaders thought when they commented about Jesus: "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." (Luke 19:7) Yet, that is the exact reason why Jesus came into this world. He came to be among sinners, in order to keep the law perfectly for us and for this world. That was also the message that Jesus wanted to bring to Zacchaeus. If Jesus wanted to avoid any contact with sinners, he would have had to remain in heaven. Zacchaeus was a "chief tax collector." He was at the top of his game. Yet, he had nothing without the treasure of Jesus. Jesus

went to his house that evening to tell us all that he comes to those who are caught in sin.

Advent 4: December 21 & 22 – He Comes to Those who Believe (Matthew 1:18-25)

Christmas is about God's gift to the

world, and His gift of his very own Son. This is a gift that lasts, as new and real as when Jesus was born. All other gifts, like the ones that people give and receive, have only temporary value. But God's gift to the world has eternal worth. As we begin to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' birth, we remind ourselves

that Jesus is God's Son sent to be our Savior. Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds would be brought to believe in Jesus as their Savior. May we also remember that He comes to those who believe. Through faith in Jesus, we have eternal life in heaven.

“Advent by Candlelight” - December 7th - 3:00pm - 4:30pm.



This year's “Advent by Candlelight” will be held on December 7 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm in St. Paul's gymnasium. The theme for this year is: “A Christ Filled Christmas.”

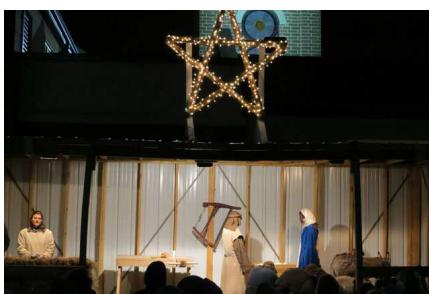
“Advent by Candlelight” is a special time for women of all ages (7th grade and up) to gather for spiritual reflection on the significance of the Advent season. There will be a meaningful message, beautiful music, delicious desserts and wonderful fellowship. It is not only for St. Paul's women but a great way to reach out to all your friends, relatives and neighbors while preparing for the holiday season.

Reservations are required. You may

sign-up to “host” a table or simply attend. Hostess duties include reserving a table, inviting guests (up to 7 additional per table), decorating your table (provide dishes, candles and decorations) and serving a dessert.

Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex at church or contact Theresa Mess at 425-0798 (home) or 702-0573 (cell). Sign-up deadline for both Hostesses and Attendees is Tuesday, November 25th.

Living Nativity - December 20 & 21, 2014 - 6:00 - 8:00pm



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Franklin will be having its Living

Nativity on Saturday, December 20th and Sunday, December 21st from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This is a live presentation of the Christmas Story by actors and live animals. Performances will be at 6:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:00pm and 7:30pm each night. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please bring your friends or neighbors.



St. Paul's Website Updated - www.stpaulsfranklin.org

If you have not checked out our website for a while, please check it out. It was redesigned this Summer/Fall. You will now find video

from each worship service, the current calendar, sermon series themes and much more information. Check it out!

Mary Martha Cookie Sale - December 7th & 8th, 2014



A signup sheet is located in the narthex for anyone in the congregation who is interested in making Christmas cookies for the annual Mary & Martha cookie sale. Please consider baking a batch of cookies (100 cookies if possible) for this sale.

Please have your cookies labeled

"Mary & Martha cookie sale" and dropped off at church by 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 6. The sale will take place after each service on Sunday and Monday, December 7th and 8th. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary and Martha Society and their support of missions.

2014 Christmas Services



Christmas Children's Services:

December 23 - 6:30pm
December 24 - 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 24 - 10:00pm

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 - 10:00am



New Year's Eve Worship



New Year's Worship

December 31 - 6:30pm

December 29th Worship



Please note that there will be No worship service on **Monday, December 29th.**

Church Decorating - December 7th, 2014

As has become the tradition in recent years, the Confirmation Classes at St. Paul's and their families are asked to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

The church decorating will take place on Sunday, December 7th at 11:30am following the 10:30am service. Take down of the decorations will be on Sunday, January 11th at 11:30am.



Board of Elders - Membership Changes - June - October 2014

Transfers IN to St. Paul's:

Mr. Joseph Binter

**Transfer from St. Jacobi.
(WELS)

Sara South (Daughter: Ariana)

**Transfer from Zion, South Milwaukee (WELS)

Jacquelyn Rakowski

**Transfer from St. Paul's, Muskego (WELS)

Terry & Linda Ganyo

**Transfer from Calvary Lutheran Church, Thiensville, Wisconsin (WELS)

Amanda Stumpf

**Transfer from Fairview Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI (WELS)

Susan Bauer

**Transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Mukwonago, WI (WELS)

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Strackbein (Amy) , Eli

**Transfer from St. John's, Wauwatosa (WELS)

Mrs. Leah Adams

**Transfer from St. Marcus, Milwaukee (WELS)

Transfer FROM St. Paul's:

Katie Nitz (Adams)

**Transfer to Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Berlin, WI (WELS)

Pastor Peter & Julie Sternberg

**Transfer to St. John's, Red Wing, MN (WELS)

Affirmation of Faith IN to St. Paul's:

Larry and Rebecca Kragh

**From Pentecost Lutheran Church, Racine, WI (LCMS)

Baptisms:

Bennet Richard Dahm

Parents: Kevin & Melissa Dahm
Born: January 3, 2014;
Baptized: June 15, 2014

Brooklyn Marie House

Parents: Tom & Samantha House
Born: August 27, 2013;
Baptized: June 16, 2014

Kinsey Hoffman

Parents: Matthew & Margot Hoffman
Born: June 5, 2014
Baptized: June 5, 2014
Affirmation: Oct. 5, 2014

Torin James Freund

Parents: Aaron & Rebecca Freund
Born: May 8, 2014;
Baptized: June 1, 2014

William Timothy Johnson

Parents: Todd & Melissa Johnson
Born: June 16, 2014;
Baptism: July 20, 2014

Henry Michael Ebeling

Parents: Joshua & Allison Ebeling
Born: June 28, 2014;
Baptism: July 20, 2014

Christina Lois Koeller

Parents: Jonathan & Deborah Koeller
Born: June 5, 2014;
Baptism: July 20, 2014

Kyle David Regenauer

Born: September 4, 1987;
Baptism: July 27, 2014

Madilynne Marie Grabowski

Parents: Christopher Grabowski & Brittany Tessmer
Born: May 7, 2014;
Baptism: August 16, 2014

Caleb Paul Viljevac

Parents: Paul & Stephanie Viljevac
Born: May 3, 2014;
Baptized: August 17, 2014

Declan Peter Murphy

Parents: Scott Murphy-Price & Jenna Murphy
Born: July 10, 2014;
Baptism: September 7, 2014

Blake William Gehrig

Parents: Skie & Kimberly Gehrig
Born: July 21, 2014;
Baptized: Oct. 12, 2014

Weddings:

Jeremy Seamandel & Karly Edwards

Marriage: June 14, 2015

Katie Adams & Caleb Nitz

Wedding: July 19, 2014

Ricky Stella & Dawn York

September 6, 2014

Rob Steier & Kim Comp

September 13, 2014

Joshua Adams & Leah Schlecht

September 27, 2014

Funerals:

Lillian Generotzke

Death: May 25, 2014
Funeral: May 31, 2014

John Ottenberg

Dieath: August 14, 2014;
Funeral: August 21, 2014

Mr. Daniel Henschel

Death: October 9, 2014;
Funeral: October 14, 2014

Sunday Bible Class Schedule

Sunday Morning Bible Class - 9:15am

King David is one of the most well-known figures in the Old Testament. David and Goliath and David and Bathsheba are stories many know from their youth. This Bible Study will cover the life of King David with a focus on the people the Lord brought into David's life. Each of these people played a role in how God shaped David's spiritual life so he could serve as Israel's King, a prophet who wrote many psalms, and a priest who led the people in their worship life.

The Lessons are as follows:

- Lesson 1: Samuel** - David's Mentor
- Lesson 2: Goliath** - The person who made David famous
- Lesson 3: Soul** - God's Tool of Affliction
- Lesson 4: Jonathan** - David's truest friend in Christ

Lesson 5: Abigail - The friend who saved David from himself.

Lesson 6: Uriah - The friend David Murdered

Lesson 7: Nathan - David's pastor

Lesson 8: Absalom - God's tool for chastening

Lesson 9: Friends for hard times

Lesson 10: Joab - The most complex person in David's life (Part 1)

Lesson 11: Joab - The most complex person in David's life (Part 2)

Please come and join us!



Sunday School

Sunday School - 9:15am

Please come and join us for Sunday School. It is available for students age 3 - Grade 6. They meet in one of the classrooms in the school. The class is filled with fun lessons, singing and crafts.

This year it is being led by Cheryl Konell. She would love having your children come and join them. If you have any questions, or if you wish to help in any manner, please contact her at: Cheryl.konell@tcrms.co



Funeral Luncheon Committee

We are looking for volunteers to help serve, bake, and/or prepare other food to be served at funeral luncheons. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the back of church. You may indicate if you would be willing to serve, bake or

do both. Any questions, please contact Jane Koplein.



Preschool Power Hour 2014-15

Upcoming Preschool Power Hour Dates

Nov. 7 & 21

Dec. 5 & 19

Jan. 16

Feb. 6 & 20

Mar. 6 & 20

Apr. 17

May 1 & 15

Time: 10:45-11:45am
In the back of Church.
It is a fun Christian Program for young children ages 0-4 years old.

PRESCHOOL
POWER HOUR

Principal's Report

Happy Thanksgiving! What are you thankful for? A common question at this time of year as people reflect on their blessings. Some are more obvious than others and yet as we look around we can see that in all things we are blessed through God.

Here at St. Paul's Lutheran School we have much to be thankful for; first and foremost that we are blessed to be able to teach and study God's Word in each and every class and moment at school. We are also very blessed to have you as a congregation that desires and supports our Christian School in prayer and financial support, for without everyone working together with a common goal and mission our school would not be here. That's right you make a difference in little children's lives as they learn about their Savior! And we are thankful for our families that come together at St. Paul's, as not all our student

families are members of our congregation. And the list of blessings goes on and on.

The commercials are already being played and we are just over a month away from Christmas! We too are looking forward to Christmas both as Christians that celebrate the birth of our Savior and as a school preparing to tell the message of Jesus' birth at the Children's Christmas Service.

As our school year continues on we continue to look at our blessings and invite you to come and visit, volunteer, and pray for our students, families, staff, and congregation in the ministry we have here at St. Paul's Lutheran School. On behalf of our students and staff, we thank God for you and we Thank You for being a blessing to us. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Principal Nathan Schulmeister



St. Paul's School "Scrip Program"

What is Scrip?

The easiest way to describe "Scrip" cards is to say that they are gift cards. A person purchases a Scrip Card for the face value of that card.

For example: A Kwik Trip gas card is purchased for \$100. The value of that card is \$100.

Then the business will give a rebate back to the school for that card.

For example: If a \$100 Kwik Trip card is purchased, Kwik Trip will donate back to the school 9% of the value of the card. In other words from that \$100 card, \$9 is donated back to St. Paul's.

The percentage that is donated back to St. Paul's is different for each retailer. The rebate amount for each retailer is listed on the Order Form.

If you would like to order Scrip cards, an order form is included in this newsletter. (There are additional order forms in the hallway of the school.) The order form, along with the appropriate payment, can be sent or dropped off in the office. When your cards come, you will be notified.

There is a limited supply of the most popular cards available for purchase in the office. If you would like to see if a certain retailer's card is available, please contact the

school & church office at 414-421-1930.

The funds that are raised through this program benefit the students at St. Paul's School.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at either 421-1930 or by email at: office@stpaulsfranklin.org.



TOGETHER



Synodical Council Gathers for Fall Meeting

The Synodical Council (SC) will hold its fall meeting on Friday and Saturday of this week (Nov. 7-8). The major item of business is the initial discussion of the Ministry Financial Plan (budget) for 2015-2017 that will be recommended to the synod convention next July.

Work on the plan began last summer as areas of ministry each developed their plans. The SC had directed the areas of ministry to plan for a "no increase" budget initially. The president's office, along with the President's Advisory Council, then adopted an overall plan last month. That plan will be presented to the SC for consideration at this meeting. The plan still will be able to be adjusted in the coming months (depending on funding available from Congregation Mission Offerings and other sources). A final recommendation will be adopted by the SC in February.

There is more good news about Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Mission offerings from congregations are continuing at a strong and encouraging pace. October offerings were very strong with an increase of 8.4% over 2013 and \$321,000 more than projected for

the month of October. Year-to-date CMO is up 3.1% over 2013 and \$451,000 over projections. Once again, the Lord has moved his people to respond to his grace with generous thank offerings. We thank him, and we thank God's people for their faithfulness in supporting our work as a synod.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder



Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum Meets

Leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and WELS met Oct. 20-21 at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis. The biennial meeting provides the sister synods an opportunity to discuss theological topics, share information, and encourage each other through worship.

"The gathering of leaders and representatives of the WELS and ELS is a time to enjoy the blessed fellowship we share. Not only is it encouraging and uplifting to focus on God's Word together, it is always a boost to learn more about what each synod is doing and to discover means of cooperation and mutual assistance," says Rev. Michael K. Smith,

professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, Minn. Twelve leaders from each synod attended the forum, where they updated one another on mutual issues in the synods and then participated in small group discussions. Three theological essays were presented and discussed during the plenary session.

"The ELS/WELS Forum is a treasure. We are able to see how genuine Lutheran brothers are handling similar situations, and we gain a profound appreciation for the diverse fruits of the Spirit as he gives them to the church," says Rev. Paul Prange, administrator for ministerial education and global cross-cultural outreach.

The forum began in 1967 after the Synodical Conference, a fellowship organization between WELS, ELS, and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) dissolved due to doctrinal differences with the LCMS.

"The exchange of information about our respective synods' programs is so important to our ongoing fellowship. And the opportunity for personal, as well as professional, interaction is always encouraging," says Rev. Steven Petersen, ELS Board for World Outreach administrator.

Fellowship between these two church bodies means that they work together on joint mission and ministry programs. It also means that pastors of either synod may preach in congregations of the other and that calls into the ministry and membership transfers between the synods can take place. Because the two synods are in fellowship with

TOGETHER

each other, members from each synod may worship and commune in congregations of either synod. The next Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum will take place Oct. 17-18, 2016, at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.



Start the Year with Interactive Faith

January is two months away and what better way to start a new year than with a new Interactive Faith online Bible study series.

Beginning Wed., Jan. 7, 2015, Rev.

David Scharf, Immanuel, Greenville, Wis., will lead a six-week study called "Breaking the Cycle with Grace (a study of the book of Judges)."

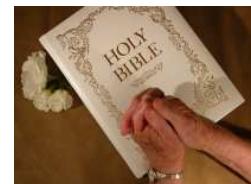
Scharf says of the topic, "It has been said that nearly every doctrine of the Bible can be found in the biblical narratives contained in the book of Judges. That fact alone merits a deeper look! And yet, how often have we read, let alone studied this action-packed book of God's grace? In our lives, we go through cycles of ups and downs—we think God is pleased one moment and that he is not the next. Come and break the cycle of uncertainty with grace as we study a book full of God's love and patience!"

The study will be streamed live online twice every Wednesday night between Jan. 7 and Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

and 8 p.m. (central).

Thousands of WELS members have participated in the Interactive Faith Bible studies, which are held twice a year and led by a WELS pastor or professor. Many congregations gather as a group for the study; other WELS members connect as couples or individuals. The studies are designed to have 10 to 15 minutes of lecture by the instructor, followed by 5 to 10 minutes for congregations to discuss a question or two or do further study. Participants can interact with the instructor via the chat box.

To learn more or join the study, go to www.wels.net/interactivefaith.



Facility Use Reminder

Just a friendly reminder to anyone who wishes to use any of St. Paul's Facilities. The use needs to be scheduled **prior** to the activity or event. There are often many different activities happening in any week at St. Paul's. We also want to make sure that activities don't conflict with either church services or

school practices and activities. The Church Council reaffirmed this procedure last month at its meeting.

If it is sports related, it is best to contact Mr. Schulmeister, who is also our Athletic Director. If it is using other facilities at church, you may contact Pastor Adams.

Thanks for your assistance.



Wisconsin Lutheran High School Announcement

WLHS Spaghetti Dinner—Everyone is invited to Wisconsin Lutheran High School for a catered spaghetti dinner in the cafeteria on Saturday, November 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. to support the fine arts. The meal includes all-you-can-

eat spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread; \$8 for adults, \$6 for children and free for children 3 and under. While you eat, enjoy musical selections from WLHS music groups Wisco Kids and Inspiration.