



St. Paul News

January 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod*

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
is to promote the
worship of the Triune God
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,
by teaching the Gospel of
Jesus Christ and administering
the Sacraments, in order to
equip people for Christian
life and service.

Pastor's Message

How are those New Year's resolutions going? If you are like most people, you are making resolutions to be better person, to do more good things, to be healthier, or to go to church more often. But have you given up already?

If you have, you are not alone. Every so often, different polling companies releases the latest study results comparing different religious groups to the rest of the population. What they find, time and time again, is that self-declared "Christians" are either just like the general population when it comes to sins and problems such as divorces, sex outside marriage, drunken driving, etc., or they are worse.

Sadly, most people say that they are Christian, but they don't go to church. They often even have all sorts of excuses for something they substitute for the Church.

This is in line with what these polling companies consistently find. When you ask other questions to determine how people practice their declared faith — such as how often do you attend church and how often do you read the Bible — you find a high correlation of godly behavior in living their lives with reading the Bible and church attendance.

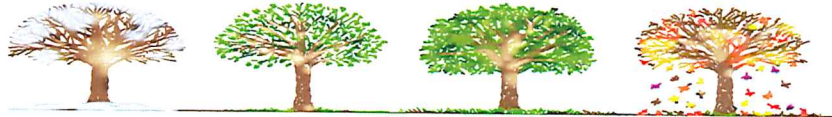
In other words, those that go to church and read the Bible also produce good works, setting them apart from the rest of society. And rightfully so, because the Bible says that God clearly expects us to produce good works: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

However, a Christian isn't immediately ready to do good works. God's solution to this is a transformation worked by the Holy Spirit largely through special ministers in the church, such as pastors, to equip Christians for doing their own work. This is one of the reasons we must belong to a body of believers and go to church. "And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, [for doing good works], for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

So, if you are having trouble with your New Year's resolutions, or if you are just desiring to be a better person, don't forget to let the church be apart of your change and your growth. God has provided His church, not just for New Year's resolutions, but for all-year-round godly living, because godly behaviors are the result of God's grace in our lives.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns



As We Start the New Year

Council Meeting

Members of the Board of Elders and Church Council are reminded of their meetings on Monday evening, January 9th at 6 pm and 7 pm respectively. An item on the agenda will be to make nominations for the Church Council election which will be held at the March's Quarterly Voter's Assembly.

LWML News

The monthly "Noisy Offerings" are a success! Thanks to all of you who find pocket change again and again to fill our cans! December's offering was \$35.40. Thank you all for your help and support! This mite money goes to Missions.

Our upcoming quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, January 15th at 2 pm in the parish hall. Nancy Guertin and Kathy Enninga will serve. We are still in need of a secretary for our organization. Please consider helping out if you are able to fill this position. All ladies of the congregations are encouraged to attend. If you need a ride just give Judy or Sue a call.

The next fund raiser will be supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Annual Reports

We do not have the completed Income and Expense Report for December as the 2023 books have not yet been closed. Anyone having any financial reports or other information to be included in this report is asked to have it at the church office by January 12th.

Directories

An up-dated church directory will be available soon. Included in this directory are also the "Ministry Groups" (SAC) for each family, SAC serving guidelines, and the LWML Booklet. If you added a cell phone or changed an e-mail address please let the office know.

Lutheran Witness

Subscription cost for 2024 is \$27.65 and the magazine will be mailed directly to your home. Please call the church office if you would like to order or renew your current subscription. Orders must be received by January 30th.

Shoeboxes

We delivered 79 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year! Whether you packed your own or helped at our packing party, donated items or provided financial support, thank you for participating! We are excited for the impact these gifts may have on the children who receive them. Thank you to Thrivent Action Teams for support of our packing party!

Photo Directory

Remember to submit your own picture or family picture by emailing it to church (stpaulgf@embarqmail.com) or bring one into the church office. You also have the option to come in and Jayne Baumann, Mary Hammer or Sue Erickson will be happy to take the picture for you. Deadline to submit is February 1st.



Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements for the year 2023 will soon be placed in your bulletin boxes. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. In compliance with an IRS regulation, a separate sheet (cream colored) has been included for those who contributed \$250 or more on one single day. This is to be given to your tax preparer along with your contribution statement. REMEMBER to begin using your new blue offering envelopes in 2024.

The 125th

Thanks to everyone who baked goodies for our bake sale and also to those who purchased the yummy treats! We had proceeds of \$554.00 that will go towards the anniversary celebration which is on September 22, 2024. The next organizing meeting will be Thursday, January 18th at 1 pm in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend to share their suggestions and ideas how to celebrate this event.

Portals of Prayer for January - March are available in the narthex.

New rotation of the groups
starting in 2024.

Group 1

Serving for January

Berends, Anthony
 Berends, Chris
 Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia
 Christensen, Brad and Maria
 Christensen, Rachel
 Doose, Chad
 Doose, Greg and Susan
 Doose, Mike and Kristi
 Erickson, Wes and Sue
 Gabbert, Dennis
 Gatchell, Dorian and Melanie
 Guertin, Dave and Nancy
 Hammer, Nancy
 Hammer, Tracy
 Hempel, Tim and Jody
 Hildahl, Eric and Teresa
 Johnson, Matthew
 Klassen, Jim
 Klassen, Kristin
 Luepke, Travis and Jenn
 Markgraf, Kevin
 Phinney, Katie
 Putnam, Charlie
 Rode, Judy
 Ryer, Lisa
 Ryer, Shannon
 Schulte, Richard and Kelly
 Saab, Tyler and Tara
 Steffen, Don
 Stengel, Gene and Pam
 Stengel, Rob
 Syring, Melodee

Group 2

Serving for February

Anderson, Bryan and Renae
 Berends, Randy and Tamra
 Beyer, Brian, and Laura
 Cobb, Kris and Holly
 Enninga, Dan and Kathy
 Enninga, Dustin and Krystle
 Guertin, Sarah
 Hammer, Brett
 Hammer, Mary
 Hempel, Terry and Rosemary
 Hinz, Paul and Diane
 Jeseritz, Randy
 Johnson, Ted and Kathy
 Kirschbaum, Janet
 Korthuis, John and Kathy
 Lindstrom, Nick and Hailey
 Luepke, Otto and Theresa
 Miller, Eugene
 Myers, Troy and Jenna
 Nokleby, Dorothy
 Podratz, Ken and Carol
 Redepenning, Tony and Amy
 Rigge, Jim and Cindy
 Rigge, Michael
 Sherman, Leslie and Renee
 Sietsema, Barb
 Stengel, Allen and Pat
 Streich, Chris
 Streich, LouAnn
 Varns, Pastor and Lindsay
 Wegner, James and Eileen
 Zempel, Meredith
 Zempel, Nicole
 Zimmer, Kevin and Laura

January Birthdays

Jan 1 Kiley Meyer
 Kindal Meyer
 Jan 4 Brianna Christians
 Thomas Reese
 Jan 5 Carol Gabbert
 Staci Markgraf
 Jan 6 Zachery Dawson
 Jan 7 Andrea Anderson
 Jan 8 Mike Brunner
 Jan. 10 Noah Lusti
 Jan. 12 McKenna Smith
 Jan. 14 Marlene Moe
 Jan. 17 Nicole Zempel
 Jan. 18 Sammy Weckwerth
 Jan. 21 Jenna Hempel
 Jan. 22 Maximilian Enter
 Jan. 26 Theresa Luepke
 Jan. 27 Michael Rigge
 Brandon Schmidt
 Madison Schmidt
 Jan. 28 Travis Berends
 Ryder Holwerda
 Jan. 29 Karter Canatsey
 Cindy Rigge
 Jan. 30 Jodi Trotter
 Jan. 31 Shantel Syring

Thanks to those who donated a Poinsettia for our Christmas Services.



Mike and Anne Brown in memory of loved ones
 Merlin and Sylvia Buchholz in memory of loved ones
 Larry and Nancy Cuklanz in memory of loved ones
 Wes and Sue Erickson in memory of loved ones
 Avis Freitag in memory of Erwin and Ann Hinz
 Dorothy Ims in memory of Paul Ims
 Dorothy Nokleby in memory of loved ones
 Dennis and LuAnn Smith in memory of our children Jaclyn and
 Cody and grandson Jesse
 Pastor and Phyllis Schultz in memory of our parents
 Jim and Denise Varns in memory of Jonathan's Grandparents
 Jim and Eileen Wegner in memory of loved ones

Read Through the Bible in a Year

Jan 1	Genesis 1-2	Psalms 1	Luke 5:27-39
Jan 2	Genesis 3-5	Psalms 2	Luke 6:1-26
Jan 3	Genesis 6-7	Psalms 3	Luke 6:27-49
Jan 4	Genesis 8-10	Psalms 4	Luke 7:1-17
Jan 5	Genesis 11	Psalms 5	Luke 7:18-50
Jan 6	Genesis 12	Psalms 6	Luke 8:1-25
Jan 7	Genesis 13-14	Psalms 7	Luke 8:26-56
Jan 8	Genesis 15	Psalms 8	Luke 9:1-27
Jan 9	Genesis 16	Psalms 9	Luke 9:28-62
Jan 10	Genesis 17	Psalms 10	Luke 10:1-20
Jan 11	Genesis 18	Psalms 11	Luke 10:21-42
Jan 12	Genesis 19	Psalms 12	Luke 11:1-28
Jan 13	Genesis 20	Psalms 13	Luke 11:29-54
Jan 14	Genesis 21	Psalms 14	Luke 12:1-31
Jan 15	Genesis 22	Psalms 15	Luke 12:32-59
Jan 16	Genesis 23	Psalms 16	Luke 13:1-17
Jan 17	Genesis 24	Psalms 17	Luke 13:18-35
Jan 18	Genesis 25	Psalms 18	Luke 14:1-24
Jan 19	Genesis 26	Psalms 19	Luke 14:25-35
Jan 20	Genesis 27:1-45	Psalms 20	Luke 15
Jan 21	Genesis 27:46-28:22	Psalms 21	Luke 16
Jan 22	Genesis 29:1-30	Psalms 22	Luke 17
Jan 23	Genesis 29:31-30:43	Psalms 23	Luke 18:1-17
Jan 24	Genesis 31	Psalms 24	Luke 18:18-43
Jan 25	Genesis 32-33	Psalms 25	Luke 19:1-27
Jan 26	Genesis 34	Psalms 26	Luke 19:28-48
Jan 27	Genesis 35-36	Psalms 27	Luke 20:1-26
Jan 28	Genesis 37	Psalms 28	Luke 20:27-47 29 30 31
Jan 29	Genesis 38	Psalms 29	Luke 21
Jan 30	Genesis 39	Psalms 30	Luke 22:1-38
Jan 31	Genesis 40	Psalms 31	Luke 22:39-71

Snow Policy

If Sunday Worship Service is cancelled, all other events for the day are also cancelled. If YME School classes are cancelled due to the weather, all church events for that day are also cancelled. The closing can be heard on KMGM-FM (105.5), KKRC-FM (93.9), KDMA-AM (1460) and also will be posted on Facebook. In regards to worship services during the winter season, please remember to **use your best judgment** in terms of going out in wintry weather. If it is unsafe for you to be out (even in your own driveway), don't go out. Although Pastor is glad to visit you in the hospital, he would rather visit you in your home! So, be safe; missing church due to weather is not an offense to God; remember how much he cares for you too.



...for a chuckle...

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
A. Ruthless

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?
A. German Shepherds

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?
A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Financials as of 12-26-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$162,484.62
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$176,413.00</u>
Difference	(\$13,928.38)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$174,402.29
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$176,413.00</u>
Difference	\$2,010.71

Vital Statistics

December Attendance and Finances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Dec 3	44	\$3,461.00
Wed, Dec 6	20	\$120.00
Sun, Dec 10	51	\$5,659.50
Wed, Dec 13	21	\$195.00
Sun, Dec 17	44	\$2,475.00
Wed, Dec 20	20	\$195.00
Sun, Dec 24	41	\$1,252.00
Sun, Dec 24	71	\$2,692.00
Sun, Dec 31	N/A	

(2024 Offering needed per Sunday will be \$3,484.71)