

From the Pastor's Desk

Epiphany on January 6th is one of my favorite festivals in the church year. The festival is when we celebrate the magi coming to see the Christ child. The word Epiphany means the manifestation or revealing of the Christ Child. This year it falls on a Sunday – a total bonus in my book since we don't have to figure out whether to celebrate it before or after the date. I began a "tradition" here at St. Paul my first Epiphany here back in 2016. I invited everyone to choose a "Star" word as part of worship. The words are printed on a card and placed face down in the offering plates. You aren't supposed to "peek" but rather let the spirit guide your choosing. The idea is to allow God to speak to you – to reveal Christ to you – through the "Star" word you receive throughout the coming year. Even the Congregational Council will choose a "Star" word at their January council meeting. It is inspiring and fascinating to hear the stories people share about their "Star" word and how it reveals Christ to them each year. My "Star" word for 2018, was Education. I interpreted that in how I was educated through my trip to the Holy Land in January and how I taught others through Confirmation classes, Bible Study this summer, the Youth Gathering in Houston, and the women's retreat. I can't wait to see what my "Star" word for 2019 will be and how Christ will be revealed through it. Join us on January 6th at 8:00 or 10:30 to hear the story of the Christ child being revealed to the magi and receive your Star word.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



Handbell Choir

Bell players are needed. No experience is necessary! Join us on Wednesday @ 6 pm. All are welcome.



A Note from the Treasurer

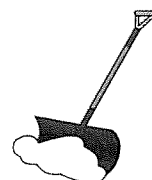
Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid January 3rd, January 17th and January 31st. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

Church Council

Jim Weston, Council President
 Linda Barker, President Elect
 Cathy Stuewer, Council Secretary
 Diane Merkau, Treasurer
 Paige Koglin, Financial Secretary
 Donna Sanderson, Asst. Financial Secretary
 Ruth Reim, Financial Representative
 Laurie Morris, Evangelism Rep
 Amy Lutz, Parish Education Rep & Chair
 Chris Matts, Properties Rep & Chair
 Kay Schnur, Stewardship Rep
 Sue Wilson, Worship Reps
 Alex Stuewer, Youth Representative
 Heather Rousey, Youth Team Chair

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

We are still **collecting** and returning **pop cans and bottles** to raise money to **support our high school youth**. Please place any cans or bottles in the designated box in the entryway of the church, and the youth will return them regularly. Thank you for supporting youth ministry!



Please share your gift of shoveling by signing up with a partner for a week this winter. There are lots of activities here at church and groups using our building during the week so our sidewalks need to be shoveled and salted each time it snows! There is a snow blower available for a heavier snowfall. Please sign up in the narthex.



"There will be **NO HEART WORKS** on **January 1st, 2019**. We will meet again in February on our usual first Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 am. ALL are welcome to knit/loom/crochet with us. See you in February."

Holiday Cookie Walk



Thank you to everyone who baked, worked or purchased cookies at the Cookie Walk. It was a HUGE success! We were sold out of cookies

in 1 hour 15 minutes. (That's a record). Our profit was \$1462. The money from this event will allow WELCA to do many inreach and outreach projects.

Women of the ELCA

All the women of St. Paul are invited to attend the WELCA annual meeting on Saturday, January 26. The meeting begins at noon with a potluck and time to socialize. Following lunch, there will be a time for devotions and business. Each year, we have the opportunity to create a calendar of upcoming events—social, service, fundraising, etc. What new ideas can you bring? Furthermore, those present will experience the joy of giving as we distribute, through in-reach and out-reach, all the money that has been raised in the last year.

Training Workshop for Social Hour

The Stewardship Committee is grateful for all the people who signed up to share their time and talents in various ways in 2019. In an effort to be sure everyone is comfortable and consistent, there will be a workshop offered on **Sunday, January 13** between services at 9:15 for all those who signed up for Social Hour. If you are interested in serving, but didn't sign up yet, please join us – ALL are welcome!

1) Kroger Community Rewards Program. St. Paul will receive rewards from your purchases at Kroger. To use the rewards program you can register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. All **current participants** in the Kroger Community Rewards Program **do not** need to re-enroll this year in order to earn funds for St. Paul. The rewards program runs from May 2018 to May 2019. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 32 households earned \$109.06 in rewards for St. Paul.

2) Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the January Ray is Sunday, December 16, 2018. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a disk (IBM Format) or in writing.

3) Please make sure that if you need to borrow something from the church that you check the rental book and make sure no one else has reserved that item. If it is available, it needs to be signed out with the church office. The rental book is on top of the filing cabinet in the church office.

WHEN DROPPING ITEMS OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE: PLEASE leave a note indicating for whom the items are intended. Thank you!



*Church Secretary Hours:
Monday – Friday 9am to 1 pm
Office Closed January 1st*



Holy Land Trip- May 6-15, 2019

There are still a few spots open for our trip. You don't have to be a member of St. Paul to join us – it is open to the community, friends and family. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Bonnie.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS December 10, 2018

It was definitely a full room at our December meeting with the 2018 Council members being joined by those that are new for 2019.

There was much good news to share -- all of our financial obligations are being met; we have collected enough money to pay for one well in Haiti and are working towards a second one: the first Advent dinner and worship service was well attended; the Splash classes will begin meeting in January; and we will welcome five new members to our congregation on December 23.

Thank you again to those Council members who have completed their terms and welcome and thank you for agreeing to serve to those that are just beginning. Jim Weston will be the new Council President in 2019 and I know he will work well with everyone to help St. Paul Lutheran continue to grow and serve our community.

SHANK, MICHAEL & MELODY

3/1/19

Thank you, thank you...

To the people of God at St. Paul, I was overwhelmed by your generosity with the "Love" gift that I received on Christmas Eve. Dale and I are blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation. We look forward to many more years of doing ministry together.
Pastor Bonnie

Altar Flowers – there are only two weeks left to sponsor flowers for 2019: February 3 and August 11. Flowers are \$20 for each Sunday that you sponsor. Payment can be included in your regular offering envelope. On the line marked "other" write "flowers" or you can use a plain envelope indicating that payment is for flowers. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

New members received December 23-

Please update your directory with our new members:

John and Jan Hitzeroth
1899 Drawbridge Ct.
Marysville, MI 48040
(810) 824-4812 home
(810) 357-1030 cell
jhitzeroth@comcast.net


Fred and Sheila Bach
3078 Nokomis Trail
Clyde, MI 48049
(586) 206-9888 Fred cell
(810) 300-2404 Shelia cell
baroqueagain@aol.com

Matt Hilt
3401 Pine Grove Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 488-6771
cooldude@yahoo.com

Reading resolutions

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word — and thus be with him — so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to "unwrap" it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: "Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate ... your life."



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefor**e** buried with him
through bapt**i**sm into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised**u**d from the dead
through the gl**o**ry of the Fath**e**r,
we too may live a _____.

Roman**s** 6:4, NIV

□	□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: f i e l e w n j new life

Puzzle!

The 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANTHER, GD,
LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since ___o___ ___o___
___o___ ___ us, we ___ ___o___
o___ ___ ___o___ o___
o___ ___ ___o___ ___.

1 ___o___ ___ 4:11, NIV

Answer: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11, NIV