

# ST. PAUL'S Chronicles

December 2017 | Vol. 10

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Visit us on Facebook!



## Mission Statement

*"Sharing the one thing  
we all need."*

## Receive St. Paul's Chronicles by Email

If you're interested in receiving the e-newsletter, please send your email address to:  
sterlingnorris46@gmail.com

Copies are always available to pick up on the back credenza.

**For information about, or to submit articles for upcoming newsletters, please contact:**

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## The *LIGHT* of Christmas for Your **DARK** Days!

One of my favorite parts of Christmas is the *LIGHTS*. It seems that Christmas lights up the world. The first lights to go up are in the stores. The next lights to go up are the city lights. Then the neighborhood lights start going up.

December 21 is the winter solstice which is the longest **NIGHT** of the year and the shortest time of daylight in the year. It's interesting when we're in the darkest part of the year, Christmas pierces the darkness with light.

*LIGHTS* were important in the first Christmas. The angels did the dazzling light show in the sky and the shepherds went to Bethlehem as a result and saw the baby Jesus. The Wise Men saw another bright light in the sky – a star – and they followed it to where the Savior was born.

*LIGHT* is a major theme in the Bible. The Bible says in I John 1:5 *"God is LIGHT; in Him there is no darkness at all."* The very first command that God gave in creation was: *"Let there be LIGHT!"* (Gen. 1:3) Jesus said: *"I am the LIGHT of the world!"* (Jn. 8:12) This is the very reason for Christmas.

Jesus said in John 12:46: *"I have come into the world as a LIGHT, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness."* He's not talking about physical darkness here. He's talking about personal darkness.

Everyone has dark days: Times when you don't want to get out of bed, when you're afraid to face the world, when you don't feel like it's worth the effort, when you want to throw in the towel, when you don't want to see anybody. We all go through dark days.

The fact is: Life is disappointing sometimes. Things don't always work out as planned. Presents you get at Christmas, you see under the tree, and you think you know what they are – some of you are in for some big disappointments. As a little boy you look and think: "I can tell that's a basketball!" You open it up and it's a globe!

I imagine Mary experienced disappointment in the very first Christmas. She's been told: "You are to bear the Messiah, the Son of God." And she gives birth and His first bed is a feeding trough. I think that would be disappointing.

We go through days of disappointment.

Because of Christmas you don't have to stay in the **DARK**. Jesus came for people, like you and me, people who, because of our brokenness and sin, are in need of being brought out **DARKNESS** into *LIGHT*; delivered from disappointment to delight; from being alone to being loved and forgiven.

Jesus did that for you. And He wants to do that for all! Live in His *LIGHT*!

Yours, in the *LIGHT* of Christ,  
Pastor Kloha

# Advent

The season of Advent begins  
Sunday, December 3

**Mid-Week Advent services are  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

## December 6

"Growing in the True Faith of the  
Reveal God"

Luke 1:38, 45, 51-53

## December 13

"Repent – This is Good News!"

Matthew 3:1-12

## December 20

"With Mary We Say YES!"

Luke 1:26-56

Highlights of our Advent Sunday  
morning worship will be:

## December 17

Choir Cantata – "Breath of  
Heaven" during Worship service

## December 24

Sunday School Christmas  
Program "From Heaven Above,"  
*(based on Luther's Christmas Hymn)*  
during Morning worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
at 7:00 pm

## December 25

Christmas Day Worship | 10:00 am  
*Gather to worship and celebrate our  
Savior's birth in Word and Sacrament*



## FIRSTFRUITS Giving !

*"Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God." – Exodus 23:19*

"Firstfruits giving" means that we give to God first rather than as leftovers after our own needs and **wants** are met. When we give our firstfruits, no matter the amount of the gift, we acknowledge that God is first in our lives and that He is the Giver of all that we have. Firstfruits giving expresses the special relationship that we have with Jesus Christ.

Firstfruits giving had its origin in the Old Testament. The passage from Exodus above shows that the Israelites were required to give the first part. This is also emphasized later in Scripture: *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops..."* (Prov. 3:9) Because the culture in the Old Testament was agricultural, the people brought crops and animals for their firstfruits offering. Acknowledging God as the OWNER of the harvest, Old Testament believers willingly returned to Him their firstfruits.

God gave us His first and best when He gave His one and only Son. Jesus took human form and was born of the Virgin Mary for our salvation. As His people, we receive with humility and respond with generosity. We give our firstfruits because God has given us LIFE and all of life's resources. Love for the Lord makes our firstfruits giving possible. When we give off the top as a priority, we are responding in faith to God's own goodness to us.

Giving ALSO incorporates our TALENTS and our TIME. We are thankful for those who use these to serve in our congregation.

Let us remember our Lord's command to prioritize our MONEY, TALENTS and our TIME so that we regularly worship Him with our whole lives. To that end, we can look forward in joy to worshipping the Christ-Child this Christmas season and always.

one message: **Christ!**  
His love is here for you!

# SEMINARY STUDENT UPDATE

*Dear Members of Saint Paul Lutheran,*

With the first quarter at the seminary completed and a short break before the next, I have found some time to write and tell you a little about my wife and me and how things are going for us in Fort Wayne.

I am from a farm near Lakefield, MN. My dad and uncle farm corn and soybeans together. Between them, my brother, sister, and me, we have about 35 head of beef cattle. I grew up being very involved in 4-H and FFA and my brother, sister, and I raise, show, and sell show cattle. When I came out of high school, I wanted to pursue the ministry in some way or another. It was during my freshman year at North Dakota State University, where I got my bachelor's degree in agronomy, that I decided to be a pastor.

My wife, Madison, and I met at college through church and Bible study. She is two years younger than me and did not graduate from NDSU, but instead got her "Mrs. Degree" as she likes to call it. We were married on June 10 of this year in Willow Creek Township near Bottineau, ND where Madison is from. She is also grew up on a cattle farm of about 300 head of cattle. She also was involved in FFA and volunteer programs, like Habitat for Humanity. We lived on a farm near my parents during the summer and moved out to Indiana this fall for the start of my seminary education. We have settled into a one bedroom apartment that has become quite crowded with my school books and things that we have accumulated. We are expecting our first child on March 25, so it will become even cozier when we have to make room for our baby girl!

Madison just started a new job for the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, which she will work at until she is no longer able to work. So far she enjoys it even though it is very tiring. During the break I am trying to get a head start on classes for next quarter and completing some hobby projects. We will be meeting my parents half-way at my relatives' place in Wisconsin for Thanksgiving. Madison and I are really looking forward to being with family and showing them the ultrasounds and Madison's bump. Madison makes delicious pies and pastries and my field work church is very generous to send us home with leftovers after their Wednesday night meals, so I probably have a little bump as well.

During my first quarter I learned a lot, passed all of my classes, and enjoyed every one of them. My biggest challenge was getting into the discipline of reading the endless required texts and making wise use of my time. I found it very enjoyable to study theology under such knowledgeable professors. CTSFW has a fantastic seminary program and an environment that is conducive to learning unlike anywhere else I have been. We form a sense of brotherhood and comradery when we struggle, learn, and grow together, using the countless good resources on campus. These friendships, I'm sure, will not only last for the rest of our lives, but also help to form other vital pastoral components outside of the classroom.

Life at the seminary revolves around chapel, which is the most edifying and uplifting part of every day. Our most important formation is done by receiving absolution for our sins, our guilt removed in Holy Communion, and the preaching of Christ's work on the cross and what it means today. Our focus is to be always on Jesus Christ. With so many distractions and anxieties it is sometimes hard to keep that focus, but God is faithful to provide for our needs and equip us for work in His harvest.

I am exceedingly grateful for your prayers and support! I could not continue my pastoral formation without it. I pray God's richest blessing to you and all of those that are with us in thought and prayer. We pray that our gracious Lord help, save, comfort, and defend you.

Sincerely, Tanner Post (6826 Ramblewood Drive, Apt. 3, Fort Wayne, IN 46835)



Top photo: The lake on campus, taken from in front of the chapel

Bottom photo: At my field work church, Zion Lutheran in Corunna, IN

## St. Paul's Card Shop

The Card Shop is located outside the adult classroom on the second floor of the education building. New cards sympathy baptism and wedding cards are available. Please support the Youth Group in our congregation by purchasing a 50 cent card.

## Parking Notice:

Please do not block or impede access to the garage or entrance to the apartment in the rear of the church out of courtesy to the tenant. Thank you.

## 2018 Contribution Envelopes

The church contribution envelopes are in for 2018. If you would like to receive a box and you did not use envelopes in 2017, let Carol Bruce or Sharon McDonald know.

# A Newsletter for Lutherans about Human Trafficking

## An Introduction and A Modest Beginning

Hello! This newsletter is prepared by some of your fellow Lutherans from Columbus regarding the issue of Human Trafficking and Exploitation. It is not endorsed by any denominational entity. Rather it is the effort of a few to make our fellow Lutherans more aware of the human trafficking issue and how Lutherans can respond and are responding to this issue.

We have a 3 prong approach at this time: AWARENESS • ADVOCACY • ACTION

We hope to help foster an abolitionist spirit among Lutheran pastors and lay people.  
Jean Moffit, Sarah Esala, and Rev. John Hohe

## DID YOU KNOW? Our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has spoken in convention on Human Trafficking!

In 2010 the LCMS gathered in national convention adopted Resolution 6-07A. It was titled, "To Support Efforts to End Human Trafficking/Slavery." It brought to light the need for Lutherans to show mercy to vulnerable migrants and refugees, develop educational materials on human trafficking and **create awareness** among pastors and laity about this issue.

Note: We offer this newsletter as an effort to encourage that resolution's implementation among us.

**MOST Ministries, an RSO of the LCMS, sends human trafficking education teams to Central American to educate pastors, community leaders, law enforcement, and other leaders there.** [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org)



In light of the myth buster shown to the left, it is worth noting that human trafficking is taking place in rural, suburban and in urban areas.

## What Can I Do?

We suggest churches and individuals to consider "doing ONE thing." Here are just a sample of ideas.

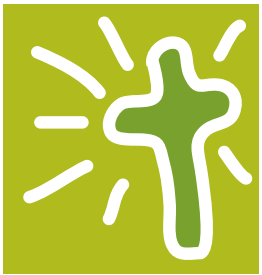
- Encourage your church to observe one Sunday a year as "Anti-Slavery Sunday" Resources can be found at International Justice Mission (IJM.org)

- Invite a special speaker to speak to groups in your church (use us as a resource)
- Show a movie on this topic at your church (see us for recommendations)
- Seek out volunteer opportunities such as those offered by "She Has a Name"
- Encourage your church to buy Fair Trade Coffee
- Have a Fair Trade Chocolate Sale to bring awareness on how cocoa workers are exploited.
- Have a party and raise funds or gather donations of clothing for women seeking to make a new start.
- Serve LWR Farmers Market Coffee in your congregation (for more information follow this LWR related link: <https://lwr.org/getinvolved/lwr-farmers-market-coffee>)

**WISH TO KNOW MORE?** Subscribe to our newsletter. Email [pastor@bslcoh.org](mailto:pastor@bslcoh.org)

**WISH TO GET INVOLVED?** Drop us a note and we will get a conversation started about all the possibilities. [pastor@bslcoh.org](mailto:pastor@bslcoh.org)

**ALREADY INVOLVED?** Tell us what you are doing? And with whom?



# Christ's Kids

LEARNING CENTER



## What's Missing?

### Christ's Kids Preschool has been busy, *busy*, *busy* this fall!

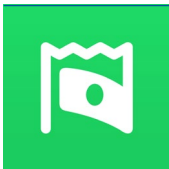
The few weeks have been very busy at Christ's Kids! We continued our Community Helpers theme with a visit from Libby's dad who works for Animal Control and he brought with him an adorable puppy and kitten. On Friday, October 27, we had our Fall Festival and enjoyed a nice crowd of children and families. Maria and Shawnee did an exceptional job with the decorations. The next Sunday, our children gave a special treat for our congregation as they sang three songs at the beginning of the Reformation service. To recognize Veteran's Day, two veterans were invited to share with the children about military experiences. Our own Bill Pankow represented the Navy and Trace's dad talked about the Marines. Our children enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal on November 17. The preschool was closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday. Our entry in the Festival of Trees and Trains won second place in the School Tree division! Congrats to the staff and kids!

December will be busy as well. Our Christmas program will be on Thursday, December 14, at 11:00 am, and the congregation is invited to hear our children share the Christmas message. This short program is always a bright spot in the season. Please join us!

When shopping for gifts became too difficult, an elderly man decided to just send checks to relatives. In his Christmas cards, mailed early, he wrote: "Buy your own presents!"

After the holiday, he noticed he'd received few cards in return. Puzzled, he went into his study, intending to write to a few relatives and ask what had happened. As he cleared his cluttered desk, the horrified man found the answer. Under a stack of papers were the checks he'd forgotten to enclose with his cards!

The lesson? Don't be in such a hurry to give gifts that you inadvertently leave out what's most important. Without the message of Jesus and His birth, the earthly trappings of Christmas are empty indeed.



### Shoparoo: Help us earn money for Christ's Kids classroom materials!

Download the Shoparoo app on your smartphone, link to our school code yoz29463, and simply take photos of your receipts. It's that easy!

### Radio Ministry

**"When You Need a Friend"**  
Every Sunday morning, Pastor Kloha shares God's Word with our Community. Tune in on WTCR 103.3 FM at 9:45 am.



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

St. Paul's  
**Altar  
Guild**



Altar Guild will be decorating with poinsettias again this year for the Christmas season and needs your help! By donating only \$15 in memory or honor of a loved one, you can help beautify the church for the holiday season. All names will be printed in the Christmas Eve service bulletin.

*Thank you* – The Altar Guild

## Forms are due by December 17, 2017

*Please fill out the form below. Designate funds to Altar Guild and place in the offering plate, or give to Nellis Haller or Cindi Klumb.*

PLEASE PRINT

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias for \$15.<sup>00</sup> each **Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
insert number

### IN HONOR/MEMORY OF

*Print names below; If needed, list additional names on back.*

- In Honor  In Memory Name \_\_\_\_\_
- In Honor  In Memory Name \_\_\_\_\_
- In Honor  In Memory Name \_\_\_\_\_
- In Honor  In Memory Name \_\_\_\_\_
- In Honor  In Memory Name \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have questions regarding Christmas Poinsettias, or would like more information about how to become a member of Altar Guild, please contact Nellis Haller.*

## Second-Hand Rose Contributions

The church now has an account at Second Hand Rose. All members can take their used furniture and household goods to the 3205 13th Street address, give them a \$2 processing fee and the church will get the proceeds from the sale. St. Paul's number is 29303. If you forget to take the number, be sure to tell them St. Paul's in Ashland. The member number will work at the clothing store at 2284 Carter and children's store at 925 Winchester, too!

## LWML Projects



We are collecting socks and underwear for The Dressing Room. (New items only, of any size, for all ages) If you would like to donate, a box for your donations is located under the first pew starting from the back. These items will be distributed at The Dressing Room before Christmas.

We will be meeting for Christmas Lunch on December 9, at 11 am at Blazer's Restaurant (formerly The Chimney Corner) on Carter Avenue. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.

## Sign Up For 2017 Advent Devotions

Advent will be here before you know it! Join us in a wonderful season of blessings hearing from our volunteers and staff who have lovingly written devotions for each day of this season.

If you would like to receive Social Lamp Ministry's Advent devotional sent to your email inbox each morning, visit our facebook page to follow us and sign up for emails! We will also be posting these devotions there on our LAMP facebook page. Be sure to check out the posts and share them to your wall to encourage others. [www.facebook.com/lampministry.org](http://www.facebook.com/lampministry.org)

Blessings!





## An Angel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Mary was an ordinary girl living in a little town called Nazareth. She loved God and was engaged to marry a carpenter named Joseph. Then one day out of nowhere an angel appeared to her. The angel's name was Gabriel and he had been sent to tell Mary God had chosen her for something very special. She was going to have a baby who would be King over all God's people. That baby would be God's own Son. She should name him Jesus. Mary told the angel, "I am God's servant. Let this happen as you say." Then the angel went away. And that is how the most wonderful story of all began!



## Where in the Church?

Do you know where this image was taken in our church? Think hard and do some sleuthing, and find out if you were correct in next month's newsletter!

**Last months' answer:**  
crayon bags kept in the back of the sanctuary



## DIY Votive Jars

### Ingredients

- Tissue paper (any color)
- smooth glass jar
- Mod Podge
- foam brush (or paint brush)



### Directions

Cut or tear your tissue paper into small squares – roughly 2". Paint your jar with mod podge, add a black silhouette shape if you wish! Apply some tissue paper in an even layer (make sure to go over the silhouette if using), overlap the edges a bit, then paint more mod podge over the paper. Let dry and add a votive - the Sunday School made votives similar to these for the shut-ins for Christmas and used battery powered tea-lights. Lots of fun and make great gifts!



# DECEMBER 2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

If you would like to include information for upcoming calendars, please notify Megan Ramey-Keelin.

Sunday School 9:30 am  
Adult Bible Study 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:45 am

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

26

27

28

29

30

1

2

3

Confirmation  
after Worship service

4

Preschool Devotions  
11:45 am

5

6

Advent I Worship  
7:00 pm  
Christmas Choir Practice  
after worship

7

Council Meeting  
7:00 pm  
Very important decisions  
will be discussed including  
budget cuts. Please attend!

8

9

LWML Meeting  
@ Blazer's Restaurant  
11:00 am  
All ladies invited to attend

10

Confirmation  
after morning Worship  
Grayson Worship  
3:00 pm

11

Preschool Devotions  
11:45 am

12

So. VI Circuit  
10:00 am

13

Advent II Worship  
7:00 pm  
Christmas Choir Practice  
after worship

14

Preschool Meeting  
6:00 pm  
Quarterly Voters Meeting  
7:00 pm

15

16

17

Choir Cantata Performance  
during Worship Service  
Confirmation  
after morning Worship

18

Preschool Devotions  
11:45 am

19

20

Advent III Worship  
7:00 pm

21

22

23

Children's Christmas  
Program Practice  
10:00 am - Noon

24

Sunday School Christmas  
Program during A.M. Worship  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service 7:00 pm

25

Christmas Day  
Communion Service  
10:00 am

26

27

28

29

30

31