

The Messenger

December 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church and PreSchool
1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095 – Office: 259-0257
Email: pastor@stpaulwoodriver.com
Dr. George J. Gude, Vacancy Pastor



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Dear

Partners

In Ministry

"But when the

Fullness of the

time came, God sent

forth His Son, born of

a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

The Lord Jesus Christ was born at God's appointed time. At Christmas time we reflect and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and meditate on its meaning to us and the world today.

Christ's birth is more than just another event in the history of the world. It is one very important event in Christ's life lived for our salvation. It is significant because God became man for us in order to redeem us so we can be His sons and daughters.

We wish for you a blessed and joyous Christmas. May the celebration of Christ's birth fill your hearts and lives with His peace.

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Pastor's Page

Sometimes we like to use our imaginations and play a game called “what if”. What if the South had won the civil war? What would life in the divided United States be like today? What if the Interstate Road System had never been built? Would most commerce still move by rail? Since any time we tried to drive long distances we would still have to drive through every little town along the way, would people be doing a lot less traveling? It is kind of fun to try to imagine how things would be different in those situations. But, let's try another “what if”. What if there were no birth of Jesus to celebrate?

There would no doubt still be end of the year celebrations with the giving of gifts, and the gathering of friends, for this phenomena is common in a multitude of cultures at different times and different places. And actually, if there were no Christmas, no birth of Jesus, life on a day to day basis would hardly be any different.

It is actually quite easy to describe what it would be like if there had been no Christmas, no birth of Jesus. Scripture says, “It is appointed to man once to die and after that comes judgment.” At that judgment each individual will be required to give an account for their every thought, word, and deed, and because of the massive burden of sin that has been accumulated, every single individual would receive the condemnation they earned.

Some would go through life trying to ignore that terrifying reality. Some would go through life trying to do the best they could in the hope that somehow they might qualify. But it would all be to no avail, since God's law by which all will be judged demands perfection. The presence of one sin makes an individual unqualified and brings condemnation.

But Christmas has happened, Jesus has come, and the difference it makes is profound. Jesus came as the fulfillment of the promise God made at the fall of Adam and Eve. God promised that somehow he was going to fix the mess they had made. The Old Testament describes how God acted in history to make that plan a reality, until finally the plan culminated in the birth of Jesus. We know of course that the plan involved more than a birth. Jesus was God become flesh for the specific purpose of taking the sin of the world upon himself, which is what he did as he died on the cross. There, by the blood of his sacrifice, the debt of the sin of the entire world was paid.

Those who through faith confess Jesus as their Savior have all their sins forgiven. This means that when they come and give an account of their lives before God's bar of justice, there are no sins to condemn them. The reason there are no sins to condemn them is not because they never sinned, but because Jesus in his death removed them, and they will live with Jesus in heaven forever. The fact that Christmas happened means that we live daily without fear of an impending judgment and condemnation. We no longer fear death because we know that death is transformed to life.

Sadly, however, there are multitudes of people all around us living as if the “what if there were no Christmas” is true. They are carrying the full burden of their sins, and they will be judged and condemned. We have the message that will change their future. It is our privilege to

share that message with them so that as the Holy Spirit works faith in them, they too will know and live in the joy that Jesus the savior was born, and they too are saved.

The following are prayer suggestions to assist you in your personal prayer and devotional life.

BRETHREN PRAY FOR US

- Dec.3 For wise leaders elected to serve our nation
That all members would worship during the Holiday season
For Elders Bob Farrell, Jon Giordano, and Don Halbe.
For our PreSchool teachers and the children under their charge
- Dec.10 For our District President Rev. Timothy Scharr and Synodical President Rev. Matthew Harrison.
For our Sunday School and Teachers as they prepare to share the Christmas story
- Dec.17 For those who travel during the Christmas holiday
For our Youth, as they carol and share greeting with our shut-ins
For Elders Ralph Hall, Sonny Hinson, and David Hopp.
- Dec. 24 For our Church, that we would share the glorious message of God's Salvation
For members who have not worshiped at St. Paul in the last church year
For our congregation and Pastor George Gude.
- Jan. 1 That the joy of God's Son may live in us throughout the New Year
That the Baptism of Jesus might remind us of our Baptism
That Epiphany may draw us to see our Savior in our lives today
For Elders Steve Koch, Bob List, Roger Mouser, and Bruce Seehausen
That, like the Wise Men, we may offer our gifts to Jesus



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Afternoon Service with Holy Communion - Thurs., Dec. 21st at 1:30 pm
(refreshments will be served)



Christmas Sunday School Service, Wednesday, December 20th at 7pm (this will be held on our last Advent Service this year)

5:30 to 6:30 pm - Supper served by our Youth; and 6:45 to 7 pm - Hymn Sing

Family Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion, Sun., Dec. 24th at 5pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion Sun., Dec. 24th at 11 pm

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be celebrated Monday, December 25th at 9:30 am

New Year's Eve Worship Service, Saturday, December 31st at 6pm



Epiphany Service

Sunday, January 7th at 8a and 10:30a - Join us for our lighting of the Christmas tree which will take place during the Sunday School hour at 9:15a.

Me, A Baby Boomer?

By Bob List

Last month I shared an article that focused on aspects of being “Senior Sensitive” and leading up to why there is reason to have an Older Adult Ministry here at St Paul. I also mentioned that it has taken me quite a long time to get over my dislike of the Baby Boomer title that has existed most of my life, and to the idea that I am a “Senior Citizen” or any other “older” related designations. However, that was several years ago and since then I have become aware of the large amount of resources on the subject, convincing me (and hopefully you) that it isn’t necessary to apologize for getting older. There are several topics I could write about (and will in future newsletters) but I feel that it would be good to say a few more words about why ministry with older adults is appropriate and important. Back when I began planning our first new ministry I received an article from one of my new newsletter sources that I think speaks to the concept defining the purpose of our planning as we begin to look at what may be beneficial to our “older” members here at St. Paul. What follows is part of that article.

Why should the church be concerned with older adult ministries? Wouldn’t it be wiser to spend our time and energy on children’s, youth or young adult ministries? After all, we often hear it said that the young people are the future of the church.

Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., author of *Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century*, reminds us that not only are people over 65 the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, but they (we) are also essential servants in our congregations, in leadership, participation, giving and service. Older adults serve in many congregational leadership roles; they (we) are usually very active in congregational events; they (we) tend to give the higher percentage of income to support the church’s mission; and they (we) have more time to serve the church and community.

Perhaps, then, we should say that the future of the church is in the hands of our older adults. Well, of course, we want to say it is actually in the hands of the Holy Spirit, but older adults play a significant role in shaping the church’s ministry through their leadership and service. “Older adults have much to give to the church, not least of which is the sharing of their wisdom, faith, and experience. If we want to revitalize the church today, older adults must be included in our vision.” (Gentzler, 13)

In other words, ministry with older adults is important not only for the benefit of older adults themselves, but also for the very mission and renewal of the wider church. (ALOA Newsletter, Winter, 2014)

Of course, that article is already almost three years old, but the points made are still as relevant as when originally written.

By the time you get this Messenger, a survey should have been received by all members age 55 and older, allowing an opportunity to express interest in this ministry to older adults, and to share some thoughts of what might be of interest going forward. If any younger members would like to

see the survey, or even share some thoughts by completing it, feel free to let me know and I will be happy to get you a copy.

One other point to mention is that my invitation for anyone interested in working with me to develop this new ministry has so far resulted in three willing and enthusiastic volunteers. They include Don Halbe, Mary Heeren and Anita Seehausen, who are forming the nucleus of our planning group with me, but more interested members are always welcome. Our first formal meeting is planned for right after Christmas, and by then we will have hopefully received a meaningful number of survey responses. But if anyone would like to discuss this effort, or indicate a willingness to be involved (even if “younger”), please let me know, either at church, by phone (314-488-8997) or by email (Robert.List@att.net).

Please pray for God to richly guide this new ministry, including those planning and those who will be blessed by it.



Fill the Dump Truck is back! St. Paul Lutheran Church invites you to help meet the emergency needs of people in our community through Operation Blessings Inc., our local non-profit agency of volunteers serving 30,000 people with no or low income. Bring non-perishable food, clothing, household items, and new or like-new toy donations to church on December 3rd before services or at the Christmas Party and help us “fill up the dump truck.” Please consider bringing the following items especially needed this time of year: canned foods, “meat helper” such as Hamburger Helper or Tuna Helper, boxed cereals, and blankets. Monetary donations are also needed to purchase milk and perishable food items. You may drop off any monetary donations to the church office. We are accepting donations at St. Paul until December 10. Thanks so much!

Myra and Bob Farell

God has richly blessed us! St. Paul has been able to work together and accomplish many wonderful things as we worship and share Christ at St. Paul, in our community and to the ends of the earth. This year we were able to replace the stairs to the auditorium in addition to other projects that were not part of the budget and outside of the 100th anniversary celebration. Generous gifts have been given to cover 50% of the stair expenses. Our outstanding balance is \$13,250. We are also planning to renovate the parsonage bathroom and update other areas in advance of installing a new Pastor and family. We will be placing specially marked

envelopes in the bulletins and pews for your gifts toward the stairs as well as other projects/needs. Please consider contributing as you consider your year-end giving.

We pray that our congregation will continue to respond to God's call for faithful stewardship.



Membership Happenings

Baptism

Adrianna Soo Jung Jose, Daughter of Robert Jose & Robbine Wha Sun Kim 10/29/17
Jacob Michael Allen & Jared Robert Allen, son of Chris & Jennifer Allen 11/26/17

Adult Confirmation

Deborah Thompson 10/22/17; Bradley Herzberg 10/29/17

Affirmation

Chris Bort 10/23/17; Matthew Skinner 11/20/17

Death

Thomas Crowder +Entered Life Eternal 11/6/17+

Transfer Out

Gary & Elaine Witt and great-grandson, Christopher Helmkamp 10/27/17
Ray & Peggy Stillwell 11/14/17

Monica Hobbs, 5106 Jerome Dr., Godfrey 62035

Charles Hoffstetter, Fountains at Godfrey, 1000 Airport Rd., Godfrey 62035

Lorraine Wieseman, Foxes Grove, 3985 E. Edwardsville Rd. Apt. 336; Wood River, IL 62095

Matthew Skinner, 600 Park, South Roxana 62084

Chris Bort, 176 Lindenwood, East Alton 62024 618-792-6475

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsals will be held during the Sunday School hour beginning November 26th. This year, we will have this service on Wednesday, December 20th at 7pm. We hope you will be able to come to Sunday School and help us prepare for this service. Since this will be held during our last Advent service, supper will still be offered from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.





Hanging of the Greens - We will be putting up the Christmas tree after the Advent service on Wednesday, December 6th. We can use a lot of help in doing this. Then on Saturday, Dec. 9th we will be decorating the church and breezeway beginning at 9am. Come and enjoy the fellowship while we make our church beautiful for the Christmas season!

Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon, Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 1:00pm. The luncheon will be at the Golden Corral in Alton. All St. Paul members are welcome to join us. Cost is \$10. Please bring a \$5 gift for exchanging during the games. Please RSVP to Sharon Arnold at 259-8102.

December Celebrations

Happy Baptismal Birthday To

- 1 Brad Gwaltney
Harold Emde
Bob List
Jeanne Meyer
Melissa Peterson
- 2 Michael Brady
Jill Vallow
Sue Nobbe
- 3 Debbie Barnes
Amanda Palen
Madison Crockett
Sylvia Crockett
- 4 Laverne Dorsey
- 5 Skyler Short
- 7 Peggy Searles
- 8 Shirley Barach
Alexandria Ruiz
Carly Arnold
Cole Strasen
- 10 Emily Burgess
Ruth Stewart
- 11 Judy Struharik
Jack Coffman
- 12 Patty Hellrung
- 13 Carolyn Bomkamp
Jerry Bort
Dan Marshall
Maggie Haas
- 14 Katherine Manson
- 15 David Grace
Michael Sutton
- 16 Julie Strasen
- 18 Ashley Provaznik

- Raegan Cunningham
- 19 Shirley McCune
Hunter Hobbs
- 20 Altia Wilson
- 21 Tyrus Short
- 22 Jayson Osborne
Jason Hamlett
Tom Winsel
Janell Schleeper
Diana McMahan
Aaron Null
Jackson Null
- 23 Joseph Sands
Kelsey Gauen
- 24 Sebastian Ledesma
Lisa Griebe
- 25 Ben Rayburn
- 26 Bill Norman, Jr.
Alana Yount
Lorraine Wieseman
- 27 Melvin Arnold
Sara Abbacchi
Dylan Short
Carol Zakrzewski
Nathan Martz
- 28 Krista Stallard
Ella Foiles
- 29 Jada Tite
- 31 Douglas McCune
Kyle Kirkpatrick

Happy Birthday To:

- 1 Nathan Martz
Jillian Bunt
- 2 Emma Bickell

3 Paula Martz
Carla Shifflet

4 Darlene Claussen
Pam Norman
Nathan Davis
Jayson Osborne
Braden Henson
Crystal Goble

5 JoAnn Prusa
Isaac Wojcikieweicz
Sophia Bold

6 Richie. Hahnenkamp
Kevin Bense
Donna Baker
Kenny Davis

7 Ken Hubbard
Bill Sewell
Christopher Tite
Steve Enke

9 Doraine Bender
Drew Bollinger

10 Andrew Mosby

11 Holly Berrey

12 Patty Hellrung
Michael Skinner
Glenda Berrey
Alyssa Skinner
Colin Stone
Katelyn Vallow

13 Maria Gould
Tina King
Alex Ruiz

14 Claire Tite

15 Sharon Arnold
Jim Choat
Emily Ogle
Mary Schultz

16 Dustin Craig
Cindy Melton
Jackson Skinner

17 Krista Stallard
Holly Kieu

19 Andrew Richards

20 Jamie Brown
Grace Hopp

21 Geoff Klaas

22 Ben Marshall
Isaiah Silveus

Dee McDonald

25 Doug DePew
Susan Griffith

26 Keith Loemker
Lorraine Wieseman

27 Donna Peterson
Brittany Key

29 Ginger Gornall
Colton Hamlett
Isaiah Schultz

30 Roger Kirby
Nicole Zakrzewski

31 Kevin Brumitt
Emily Rayburn

Happy Anniversary To:

8 Kraig & Stephanie Hinson

11 Tom & Margaret Drake

12 Michael & Laura Morrison

14 Bob & Debra Davis

17 Michael & Bonnie Williams

18 Barry & Sheri Ash

