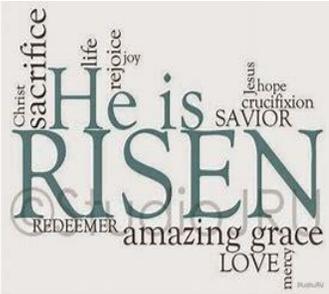


The Messenger

April 2018

St. Paul Lutheran Church and PreSchool
1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095
Dr. George J. Gude, Vacancy Pastor

Pastors Page



The disciples of Jesus are gathered together behind locked doors, totally confused, afraid, and disillusioned. The events of the last two or three days made no sense. How could it be possible that Jesus is dead. He seemed to have complete power over death. With their own eyes they had seen Jesus call Lazarus, who had been dead for four days, to come out of the tomb, and out he came. They had heard him forgive sins and promise eternal life to those who followed him. They had seen his power over natural forces so that he could walk on water and cause storms to stop. How could this have happened?

To be sure he had told them he was going to be crucified, but that made no sense to them. They could see no connection between a crucifixion and his being the Messiah, which they firmly believed he was. Yet, now it had happened. With his awesome power he could certainly have prevented it. Why did he let himself be crucified? And now they heard these unbelievable reports from some of the women whom had been traveling with them that the tomb was empty, and they had seen him. What was going on anyway?

Then suddenly there was Jesus, standing in the midst of them. We almost expect him to say, “You bunch of knuckleheads, I told you this was going to happen and I tried to explain it to you.” But instead Jesus says, “Peace to you. Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see.” Now everything was changed. They were no longer afraid and disillusioned. Luke tells us that Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, to understand that his crucifixion was essential to his being the Savior. Now they knew that in him they have forgiveness and in him they have eternal life.

We also know what comes next. The good news of this message of salvation needed to be proclaimed. Jesus commissioned them as his witnesses and empowered them for their mission. Shortly after Pentecost we see them defying those same Jewish authorities they were hiding from by proclaiming Jesus in the temple itself. We see them rejoicing even when they are in prison for preaching Jesus. How do we account for that difference? Simple Jesus is alive.

That same message of the good news of salvation still needs to be proclaimed, because the world is still filled with people dead in their sins, who need to be connected by faith to that Savior who died and rose again. Since those original guys who followed Jesus around are long gone, we, today’s believers, are the messengers Jesus has entrusted with his message.

There is no shortage of people who need our message. Those without faith are all around us. They are our family, friends, and associates at work. In many ways those unbelievers around us are more difficult to reach because they have heard the message (or think they know it) and are really quite content the way they are. Yet worrying about the results is not our job. That is the job of the Holy Spirit. We simply share our faith, our hope for what follows death. Jesus is risen. He has broken the power of death because he has broken the power of sin. Death no longer brings eternal judgment and condemnation. We are the possessors of eternal life. Jesus is the proof.

Call Meeting Report

At the call meeting on March 11, 2018 the voters extended a call to Pastor David Schultz to become the next pastor at St. Paul's. Pastor Schultz has visited and met with the leadership and staff of St. Paul. We keep Pastor Schultz in our prayers as he continues to seek God's guidance as he deliberates the opportunities and challenges for service both here at St. Paul as well as those at St. Peters, Fort Wayne, where he currently serves. The prime consideration for a pastor as he considers a call, is to seek God's guidance in determining where he believes God would have him serve in his kingdom.

If Pastor Schultz accepts the call to Wood River, the next steps are to determine a date for him and his family to move to Wood River, and also to establish a date for his Installation as Pastor of St. Paul.

If Pastor Schultz declines the call to Wood River, the next step would be to again call a special voters meeting. At the past meeting the voters determined that the congregation would proceed with the six names presented by the call committee at the previous call meeting, and to issue a call to one of the pastors from that list.



Thank you to all of those who helped with all of the special services during Lent and Holy Week. Your service is truly a blessing for St. Paul.

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

BRETHREN PRAY FOR US

- Apr. 1 That our lives would reflect the Good News "Christ is Risen, Alleluia!"
A Call Has Been Extended To Rev. David Schultz at the Special Voters' Assembly held Sun., March 11th Please keep St. Paul, Wood River, St. Peter's, Ft. Wayne (where Pastor Schultz currently serves), and Pastor Schultz in your prayers
- Apr. 8 For our worship assembly that we may grow spiritually through Word and Sacraments
For our Board of Stewardship.
For our Armed Forces, and the blessing they are to our Nation
- Apr. 15 For families of our Church - that God would bless them with love and faithfulness
For the Pastors of our District
- Apr. 22 For the our confirmands at St. Paul, Beau Brandt, Giavanna Cruz, Jacob Hopp, Julian Marshall, Emily Ogle Daphne Peterson, Dane Slayden, and Autumn Wilson
For those who suffer the loss of loved ones that they may find comfort in the message of the cross and empty tomb
- Apr. 29 For our Board of Elders
For Neil Neunaber, Executive Director of our Congregation



Membership Changes

Nick Barrett, 1801 Seminary St., Alton 62002 618-225-9315

Kathy Smith, 13890 S. Marina Dr., Apt. 402, Aurora, CO 80014

Amy Bodenstab, 6547 Quercus Grove Rd., Glen Carbon, 62034

Dan Bodenstab, Carriage House, 6960 St. Rt. 162, Room 318, Maryville 62062

Baptisms

Sylar Xander Sidwell, son of Brett & Breanna Sidwell 3/4/18

Kinleigh Mae Niemeier, daughter of Dan & Emilee Niemeier 3/18/18

Adult Confirmation

Nick Barrett 3/11/18

Funeral

Connie Barach +Entered Life Eternal 3/9/18+; Funeral 3/16/18

Wedding

Kaitlyn Kamp to John Sarandis 4/24/18



At the end of this preschool year, Miss Peggy (Searles) will be retiring. We are in the process of taking applications for a part-time teacher to begin this fall. If you would be interested in this position, you may send your resume to: St. Paul Lutheran PreSchool, c/o Tammy Plummer, 1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095

Confirmation Sunday, May 6th - We Will Welcome into communicant membership, 8 young people, who through the Rite of Confirmation will publicly profess their faith and promise a life of faithfulness to God. We pray the Lord's blessings upon them as they make their vows, and throughout their life as they seek to carry them out.



Save the Dates

Salad Luncheon



Ladies Aid Salad Luncheon
Thursday, May 10th
11a to 2p

St. Paul PreSchool Spring Program
Monday, May 14th
7:00 in the Auditorium





St. Paul Preschool Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open to the public. Three-year old tuition: \$55 mo.; Four-year olds tuition: \$70 mo. There is a \$25 registration fee that is to be paid at the time of registration. To enter the 3-year old or 4-year old program, the child has to be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2018. Registration forms will be available in the orange preschool classroom.

Remember, the classes are on a first come, first serve basis and quickly fill up.

Our Awesome Preschool is in need of large or medium size clean laundry detergent bottles.

They must have a spout and handle.

Join the Metro-East Lutheran High School community in a 40th Anniversary worship service on Sun., April 8 at 2:30p at Lutheran High's Auxiliary Gym. Come celebrate God's blessings on Lutheran High as we pause in worship, music, and song to give honor and glory to God. There will be a guest alumni preacher and former musicians leading us in worship.

Do You Order from Amazon? Amazon is tripling the donation rate on your first smile.amazon.com purchase - through March 31! Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0915846 and Amazon donates to St. Paul

Pastor Steve Jacobsen from Our Redeemer, Carrollton, will assist Pastor Gude by taking care of hospital calls, emergency calls, and visitation of the home bound. If you need to contact Pastor Jacobsen, his cell phone number is (217) 204-6576.

An Older Adult Lesson from Nature

I received this short article as an email from a friend (as many of us do) that seems to provide a lesson for those of us who are maturing or anticipating that day. I have said it before that we don't need to apologize for getting older, but rather we will hopefully learn to embrace the age we are. Take a look at the picture called "A wolf pack on the move", and see if it doesn't have a message for all of us.



The first three in line are the old or sick; they give the direction and pace to the entire pack. If it was the other way around, they would be left behind, losing contact with the pack. In case of an ambush they would be sacrificed. Next comes 5 strong ones, the front line. In the center are the rest of the pack members; then the 5 strongest following. The very last one is alone, the Alpha. He controls everything from the rear. In that position he can see everything, decide the direction. He sees all of the pack.

The pack moves according to the elders' pace and help each other, watch each other.

It is amazing how God works through nature, as He created it. We may have known that wolves are different, but maybe we didn't realize how much we could learn from them

We probably didn't know that wolves put the elders of the pack FIRST. A lot of people on this planet should take note . . . they are to be seen up front, setting the pace and direction while enjoying the protection of the rest . . . and not invisible at the back of the line.

If you have any questions or comments about Older Adult Ministry feel free to let me know – Bob List, Robert.List@att.net, or 314-488-8997.



We extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who provided Easter lilies for our congregational celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. The Easter lilies are presented by:

Mel & Sharon Arnold in thankfulness for their Family & Friends.

Mike, Jennifer, Joshua & Jessica Baggett to the Glory of God..

Elaine Bense in memory of her husband, Larry.

The Boots Family in thankfulness for our children, Avery & Cameron and in memory of our grandparents that have passed and Pastor Schultz,

Jerry Bort & Family in loving memory of my wife, our mother, grandmother, and friend, Joyce.

Jo Ellen and Anthony Brady in memory of parents/grandparents, George &

Eleanor Prante and husband/father, Tom Brady.

Darlene Claussen in memory of her husband, Bud and daughter, Tina Marie.

Mike & Marsha Daech in memory of their daughters, Lana and Lisa Daech; Marsha's parents, Myrna & Clifford Adams.

Darran Dale & Family in memory of his grandmother, Shirley Norris.

Harold Emde in memory of his wife, Ellen and his parents, Maria & Ewald Emde.

Leslie Fincher in memory of her parents, Everett & Muriel Sparks, Stan Fincher, and Pastor Martin Schultz.

Kenny & Irene Flowers to the Glory of God and in thankfulness for their family,

Maria Gould in memory of grandparents, Anton & Anna Zanker, and Dorotea & Manuel Bonilla.

Brad, Kim Jenna Gwaltney in memory of Joshua Tungett.

Dorothy Hachman in memory of her husband, Glenn.

Ralph & Arlene Hall to the Glory of God and in memory of Pastor Martin Schultz.

The Handbell Choir in memory of Dorothy Laatsch.

Hansen & Gauen Families in memory of their loves ones who have gone before them.

Mary Heeren in memory of Oliver & Vernelle Halbe.

Sonny & Sue Hinson to the Glory of God and in thankfulness for their family.

Herta Johnson in memory of her husband, Darrell, granddaughters, Tara & Trisha Cooper and her friend, Rosie Culp.

Sandy Lee in memory of her husband, Ron.

Jerry Metts in memory of his wife, Pauline and parents, Ray & Lois Metts.

Roger & Lona Mouser to the Glory of God.

Neil & Nita Neunaber in thankfulness for their sons who have been looking after them these past months, especially Doug who has taken total care of his dad and for Don coming every few weeks. Also for Pastor Jacobsen who faithfully visits and holds a mini service along with the Lord's Supper for us..

Millie Peck to the Glory of God.

David Richards & Family in memory of wife/mother/grandmother, Judy.

Laura Sammons in thankfulness for her family and God's grace; in loving memory of Mary Sammons, Sophia Schulz, Cecil & Pauline Jones.

Kevin, Liz, Jared & Aaron Saul Family in memory of Esther Hoffstetter

Ruth & Family to the Glory of God

Mary Schultz to the Glory of God in memory of her husband, Pastor Donald Schultz who lives with his Lord; to the Glory of God inn memory of her son, Pastor Martin Schultz who also lives with his Lord.

The Shifflett & Martz Families in memory of Howard & Lydia Shifflett, Carl G. Martz, Susan Martz and all other loves ones gone before.

Cheryl Simmons in thankfulness for her dear mother, Elaine Reinke and in memory of her dad, Edwin.

Greg & Sara Sladek in memory of family members, their parents and grandparents..

Donna Straub in loving memory of her husband, Leonard.

Paul & Judy Struharik in thankfulness for God's blessings.

Altia Wilson in memory of Pastor Martin Schultz; parents, Harold & Ruth Wilson; brother, James Wilson; husband, Glenn Taylor; and friend, Nina Bowen

Ken & Kris Worthy for God's blessings.

Nancy Yarnell in memory of her husband, Brock, family, and her nephew, Jeff Yarnell.



Dear Brothers & Sister at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for your contributions to the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. Every need I have covered lets me focus more on my classes, which will make me a better Pastor for Christs church. I feel so blessed to have people like you supporting us here, so thank you again!!

In His Peace, Ben Oelschlaeger

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1327 Vaughn Rd., Wood River, IL 62095-1890

A Lutheran High School Association Member

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Rev. Dr. George Gude, Vacancy Pastor • (618) 377-6246

Tammy Plummer, PreSchool Director, PreSchool: 259-0055

Church Office: 259-0257 • Fax: 259-0055

Church's Email: pastor@stpaulwoodriver.com

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www.stpaulwoodriver.com