

The Messenger

November 2017

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

From the Pastor

As we turn the calendar to November, we realize that another year is about over, and as a year ends we naturally tend to reflect on all that has all happened. As we do that, most of us will identify many good things: the birth of a child or a grandchild, a wedding, a graduation, a new job, a successful knee replacement. At the same time, we will identify many not so good things: a beloved pastor being suddenly taken to life eternal, a divorce or major family tragedy, a diagnosis of acute kidney failure, a lost job.

November is also the month of Thanksgiving Day, which marks the start of the holiday season. On Thanksgiving Day, our nation is supposed to reflect and give thanks. It is significant that our Thanksgiving is inevitably coupled to our reflections of what has happened in the past year. If our reflections of the past year seem to be predominantly not so good things, then maybe Thanksgiving becomes difficult, perhaps only being thankful it wasn't worse.

This illustrates the key issue regarding Thanksgiving. What is the basis for which we give thanks? Is it no more than how happy we are with how life has gone for us this past year? If that is the basis, then for some, there won't be much thanks in Thanksgiving, and it will be a depressing time. However, for those of us who confess Jesus as our Savior, the basis on which we give thanks is totally different.

While we know that the God who created all things also cares for them and sustains them, which includes all of fallen mankind, that is not the basis. Rather the basis for which we give thanks begins with our relationship with God and why our relationship with Him is important. The reason our relationship with God is important is because of this thing we call death, a reality that touches everyone, and the ultimate question of what comes next.

The answer what comes next, of course will vary, depending on who we ask. Some simply say death is the end; there is nothing next. Others might say death is part of an upward spiral. Each individual goes through a series of incarnations until eventually they ascend the heights of heaven. The Scriptures leave no doubt what comes next. What follows death is that every individual is called to give an account before God of all that has ever been said, thought, or done. To have failed to measure

up to God's standards is to be unfit to be in God's presence and to be condemned to everlasting punishment.

But that is not the whole story. The Scriptures also make clear that God has provided a means of escape from this punishment that is earned by sin. This gives us a totally different future. The means of escape was that God's Son, the second person of the Trinity, became one of us in order that we might have these sins forgiven. We have become fit for God's presence, and taken to live with him forever.

For this reason, we are able to give thanks always in this life, no matter what else is happening. We can give thanks because our relationship with God is secure. Even though it may be that our lives are dominated by the not so good things, the promise of God is that none of these things has the power to separate us from his love. We have Jesus as our Savior, and through Jesus, we will live forever in the presence of God.

Membership Happenings

David & Wendy Skinner, 100 Pender, Bethalto 62010 David: 618-798-1470; Wendy: 618-823-2188

Christopher & Gabrielle Barnes, 606 W. Kennedy, DeSoto, IL 62924 Christopher: 618-980-4193

Ian & Zachary Key, 2516 Locust Ave., Alton 62002 Ian: 618-855-4961



Weddings

David Skinner to Wendy Leach 9/23/17
Christopher Barnes to Gabrielle Smock 10/7/17

Adult Baptism

Bradley Herzberg 10/8/17

Funeral

Don Opel +Entered Life Eternal 10/10/17+; Funeral 10/13/17



Wednesday Morning Devotions

Are you available Wednesday mornings? Would you enjoy a Scriptural devotion and fellowship?? Please, join us (all ages) each Wednesday morning at 8 am for hymn singing, scripture, and devotion, followed by fellowship, coffee and rolls. This group meets each Wednesday at 8 a.m. in the auditorium.

Can Older Adult Ministry Work at St. Paul?

By Bob List

Last month I shared some thoughts about my belief in the place of an Older Adult Ministry here at St. Paul. I mentioned about the invitation by my former pastor to begin working on such a ministry. At that time I started to think about my need to admit I am a "Baby Boomer". It's a title I have disliked most of my life, but I have been getting over that. I have also tempered my reluctance of the idea that I am a "Senior Citizen", and any other "older" related designation. Since my first experience with beginning to work on developing an "Older Adult Ministry", and as I have continued to research the surprisingly large amount of resources, I am learning that it isn't necessary to apologize for getting older. If you remember, last month I mentioned that if you are younger than 50 that is a temporary condition that heals with time.

My point with this article is not to promote getting older – I will do more of that in future articles. What I do want to promote this month is the coming Older Adult Survey that should reach everyone who is at least 55 years old. (If anyone younger would like to share thoughts, I would welcome your responses too.) My plan is to mail the surveys within the next two or three weeks, after which it will be my challenge to compile the information received. Watch for the survey and please take the time to give your thoughts and ideas.

One other reference to last month's article involved a request for anyone interested in working with me on a focus group (rather than thinking of it as a committee) to consider how an Older Adult Ministry might look here at St. Paul. This doesn't need to be a life-long commitment, but how this ministry touches our members needs to reflect more than just my interests and ideas. I am hoping and praying that there are a few to several members in the congregation who would like to be part of laying the foundation for what hopefully will be a meaningful and beneficial ministry to the older adult population of St. Paul.

If you have any questions or would be willing to work with me, please feel free to talk to me at church, call me at 314-488-8997, or email me at Robert.List@att.net.

There are a number of directions this ministry could take, and the process of getting there could be exciting and touch the hearts and lives of an unknown number of our fellow members. I pray that God will guide us as He wills.

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

BRETHREN PRAY FOR US

Nov. 5 For our Church, and the blessings God gave the Church in the Reformation
 For the President of our Church District and the Bd of Directors
 For our nation that economic conditions improve for all

Nov. 12 For members who have not worshiped at St. Paul in the last church year

For wise leaders elected to serve our nation
For Leslie Fincher, Financial Secretary of our Congregation

Nov. 19 For the blessings God gives to us through our Nation
For our Synod's President, Dr. Matthew Harrison and leaders of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
For our sister congregation Emmaus, Dorsey and Pastor David Kern
For our sister congregation Hope, Jerseyville and Pastor Brett Simek

Nov. 26 For Elders Kevin Brumitt, Terry Bollinger, Matt Chmielewski.
For our Nation and God's continued blessings
That Advent would be a time spent preparing for our coming King

State of the Call Process

Thanks to all those in the congregation who submitted names of pastors for consideration to become the new pastor at St. Paul. We have received the names of 17 eligible individuals. These names have now been submitted to our Southern Illinois District Office, along with our completed self study document. In addition, President Scharr will add names of individuals whom he feels would fit the needs of the congregation. These names, the ones submitted by the congregation and the ones suggested by the district president, will be the call list. The district president will provide the required information so that our call committee can consider all of this information and eventually bring recommendations to a special voters' assembly, which will meet in early 2018.

We should have the information we need from the District Office by the end of November. At that point the call committee, which consists of the elders, the chairman and vice chairman of the congregation, the circuit visitor, and the vacancy pastor, will determine the process by which it will establish, from the call list, and recommend a slate of individuals who seem to best fit the needs of the congregation. The actual call of the new pastor will take place at a special meeting of the voters' assembly.

Pastor Gude

Our Next Pastor

The following is the list of rostered ordained ministers who were nominated to become the next pastor at St. Paul:

Rev. Jeff Alexander, pastor in Indiana
Rev. Matthew Baye, pastor in Wisconsin
Rev. Jonathan Christensen, pastor in Wisconsin

Rev. Curtis Deterding, pastor in Florida
Rev. Kale Hanson, pastor in Bethalto, Illinois
Rev. Brett Hinrichs, pastor in Decatur, Illinois
Rev. Stephen Krenz, pastor in Hoffman, Illinois
Rev. Geoffrey McGuire, pastor in Texas
Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, II, First Vice President LCMS, Waterloo, Illinois
Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, III, pastor in Iowa
Rev. Mark Nebel, pastor in RedBud, Illinois
Rev. John Schank, pastor in Edwardsville, Illinois
Rev. David Schultz, pastor in Indiana
Rev. John Schultz, pastor in Wisconsin
Rev. William Voelker, pastor in Missouri
Rev. Russell Weise, emeritus pastor in Texas
Rev. Tom Wenig, pastor in Indiana
Rev. Matt Wood, pastor in Maplewood, Missouri

Auction



38th Annual Night of Knights Auction will be held November 3rd at the Doubletree Hotel, 1000 Eastport Plaza Dr., Collinsville. Doors open at 5pm; Silent Auction from 5:30 to 8; Dinner 6:30-7:30; Oral Auction follows Dinner. Tickets - \$55 per person. Advance reservations required. Call MELHS at 656-0043.

Adopt-a-Bag

St. Paul is once again sponsoring the Adopt-a-Bag program. The purpose of this program is to stock the shelves of the pantry at the Seminary to help students and their families prepare for the holidays.

You may pick up a bag on the table in the breezeway beginning Sunday, Nov. 5. There are four bags: Baking Bag, Breakfast Bag, Lunch Bag, and Dinner Bag. Under these five headings are suggested items to be put into the bag. Please return the bags to church with your donated food items by the Sunday after Thanksgiving. *Thank you to Thrivent for supporting this activity.*



Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday,
November 22nd at 7:00





This year marks the 23rd season of the Festival at Peace Lutheran Church! We would like to invite everyone to join us in the celebration of Christ's birth. Tickets are required to attend the pageant, and they go quickly. Four choirs, period instrumentalists, and an elegantly costumed cast of over 150 present a 1300's

medieval Christmas pageant. Dates are Thurs., Nov. 30 at 7:30; Fri., Dec. 1 at 7:30; Sat., Dec. 2 at 7:30; and Sun., Dec. 3 at 2:30 and 6. Doors open one hour before each pageant, with pre-service music beginning 30 minutes before each service. A reception follows with homemade Christmas cookies, wassail, punch, and coffee. FREE tickets (limit six per person) are available at 8 on Wed., Nov. 1 on a first come, first served basis by calling the church office at 314-892-5610 or going in person to Peace Lutheran Church at 737 Barracksview Rd., St. Louis. Additional information is on their website at www.peachboarshead.org.

November Celebrations!

Happy Baptismal Birthday

- 1 Kinsley Mouser
Ralph Hall
Angie Hand
Thomas Schroader
Chris Hankins
Keith Loemker
Donna Straub
- 2 Ralph Mosby, Jr.
Jenna Friel
Katie Hall
Alice Klaas
Ken Nobbe
Julie Ewell
- 3 Olivia Mouser
- 4 Bonnie Williams
- 5 Kraig Hinson
- 6 Brad Foiles
Jacob Peterson
- 8 Kayla Kirkpatrick
Esther Eberhart
- 10 Janet Druessel
- 11 Julie Enke
Halee Baker

- Cohl Barnes
Deena Owsley
Sydney Owsley
- 12 Isaac Flener
- 13 Beckham Mouser
Marsha Daech
Darla Hetzel
- 14 Kelly May
- 15 Becky Montgomery
- 16 Keith Bland
Alyssa Skinner
Lila Brandt
- 17 Elizabeth Henson
Paula Martz
Carla Shifflett
- 18 Samantha Isaacs
Leni Scherer
- 19 Derek Ogle
Mackenzie Owens
- 20 Kayla Logan
- 22 Macy Short
Charlee Steward
- 23 Peggy Striegel
Ciera Wofford
Doug DePew

- 24 Amy Johnson
Alyson Hankins
- 26 Eric Bollinger
Joe Marshall
Ben Johnson
- 27 Mallory Simmons
Melanie Wilson
- 28 Vicki Barach
Anthony Brady
- 29 Chris Montgomery
- 30 Jeff Henderson
Tammy Plummer
Mary Aper
Caden Ely
Kim Gwaltney
Lucas Abbacchi

Happy Birthday

- 1 Jeff Henderson
Joel Sutton
Gary Strohmeier
Rebecca Bunt
Bob List
- 2 Herta Johnson

Fran Husmann
Peggy Searles
Elaine Witt
Samantha Isaacs
3 Maggie Haas
Darla Hetzel
4 Janell Schleeper
Ellie Bickell
5 Logan Cunningham
6 Evelyn Marshall
Scott Osborne
7 Sara Abbacchi
Kyle Kirkpatrick
Ruth Stewart
8 Donna Hubbard
9 Debbie Barnes
Kristy Worthy
10 Michael Sutton
John Ward
Aiden Frerichs
Sheren Shifflett
12 Carla Trammel
13 Carolyn Bomkamp
Brenda Kleeman
Lucas Abbacchi

14 Sue Nobbe
Ed Hubbard
John Sarandis
Barry Westerhold
Melissa Dixon
16 Melvin Arnold
Laverne Dorsey
Lucas King
Chase Meyer
17 Wendy Colona
Lauren Mullikin
Dylan Short
19 Megan Tite
Derek Skinner
20 Modell Yates
Kelsey Gauen
Avery Boots
Kathy Disher
21 Becky Sparr
Kim Gwaltney
Allea Hanold
22 John Hubbard
23 Shirley McCune
Darline Carney
Lisa Griebe
24 Sharon Ward

25 Matt Jenkins
26 Mark Peterson
Harold Emde
Floyd Christian
27 Hugo Ortvals
28 Douglas McCune
30 Jerry Bort
Leslie Fincher

Happy Anniversary to:

1 Keith & Darlene
McDonald
7 Roger & Lona Mouser
11 Darrell & Lisa Tucker
14 Ralph & Arlene Hall
John & Tracy Owens
16 Doug & Cyndy DePew
Matt & Jamie Steward
19 John & Rhonda Gagliardo



St. Paul's Braille Crew

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is celebrating 75 years in ministry to people who are blind or visually impaired. Throughout these years, our congregation and our volunteers have joined with LBW to reach out with the saving Word of God in Braille, Audio and Specialized Large Print. St. Paul's first crew started in November, 2010.

Here are some of the steps in preparing the Braille Bibles. After the pages are numbered and binding holes are punched, the pages are inserted into the plates. The plates are marked to indicate where the top of the paper should line up for top margins, and the punched holes are lined up evenly outside the edge of the plate. The paper is punched with Braille letters on both sides for reading. It takes two workers to perform this task.

Preparation continues on putting the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible into Braille, using the new UEB Braille code. With production of LBW's Specialized Large Print ESV Bible underway, preparation on a second version, intended for correctional institutions, continues.

Our crew members in October were: Jo Brady, Jane Aper, David Richards, Dotti Hachman, Mary Lou Oelzen, Vi Pinkerton, Sue Nobbe, Pat List, and Tim and Sherry Hawk.

Again the group produced six copies each of Psalms Vol. I and Vol. II.

If you would be interested in spending two hours helping a worthwhile mission effort, please call the **Poenitskes** at - **618-254-3653**. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, 9:00 am at Zion, Bethalto.

Next month we will share more about our equipment.



Christmas Presents for Lutheran Child & Family Services

Christmas Card Instructions:

1. **Sign your name** beside the appropriate child & gift (toy or clothing).
2. Wrap the Gift and Secure this card to the outside of the gift (if one or more packages are involved, please secure the whole set securely or place them wrapped in a Christmas bag with the card attached).
3. **Return the gifts to church by Sunday, Dec. 3rd as they have to be delivered by Friday, Dec. 8th.**
4. **When returning your gift, please mark off your name on the list**, so that we may know this child is taken care of.

Your generosity to these children in the past years has been overwhelming. Again, thank you!!

Thank You!