

SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

It won't be long and our high school seniors will be walking down the aisle at school to "Pomp and Circumstances". St. Paul's offers a \$750.00 scholarship. Please contact the church office (Nalani) and an application will be forwarded to you.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF UPDATE

The quilt, school, and personal care kits made and donated here at St. Paul's are delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St Paul, MN. Our donated kits end up as part of the shipments to:

	QUILTS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS
Burkina Faso	14,750	4,480	9,100
Dominican Republic		15,360	
Djibouti		15,360	
Guatemala	7,200		21,700
Haiti	8,640		2,800
Niger	11,160	5,760	
Peru	15,840		7,000
Sierra Leone	10,800		numbers
and expand to other kits.			



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Wilton, WI
 Third Sunday after Epiphany
 January 21, 2024
**Inviting People to
 Journey with Christ's Family
 in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 the fountain of living water,
 the rock who gave us birth,
 our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
 we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
 Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
 for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
 and by your Word you created the world,
 calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
 Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into free-
 dom.**

**At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
 Holy Spirit.**

**By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
 making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
 and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
 Shower us with your Spirit,
 and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
 Amen.**

presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Luke Kane Kroeger, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen. **WELCOME**

Pastor Karen: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.—

Matthew 5:16

Pastor Dawn: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

*Hymn “I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry” ELW #732

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's Beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God..**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Arlis Ballwahn

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious

he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and every-one, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God a ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

Second Reading

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,³⁰ and

those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

The holy gospel according to Mark 1:14-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Reverend Karen Sparling

***Hymn**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW#810

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (God of grace, **receive our prayer.**)

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BAPTISM

Luke Kane Kroeger, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Luke with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your

people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Luke may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Luke grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Pastor Dawn: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Luke in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

Pastor Dawn: People of God, do you promise to support Luke and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

People: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

***Offertory Hymn**

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

**We give thee but thine own, what-e're the gift may be;
All that we have I thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord from thee.**

**May we thy boun-ties thus, as stewards true re-ceive,
And glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

**Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p. 190

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW p. 190

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Pastor Dawn: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. As we pour the water for this baptism, we will listen to what Jesus said about baptism, because it is his Word and promise that gives this water its power to save. [One of the parents pours the water.]

Lori Arndt: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Joel Arndt: Jesus said, "I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

Pastor Karen: Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

THE PROMISES OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Sponsors: We present Luke Kane Kroeger to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Pastor Dawn: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Luke baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

Pastor Dawn: As you bring Luke to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful