

Christ's Calling Card



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
401 Mill Street Wilton, WI 54670

January February 2022
Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Message from Pastor Cathy Morris

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12-14, NRSV)*

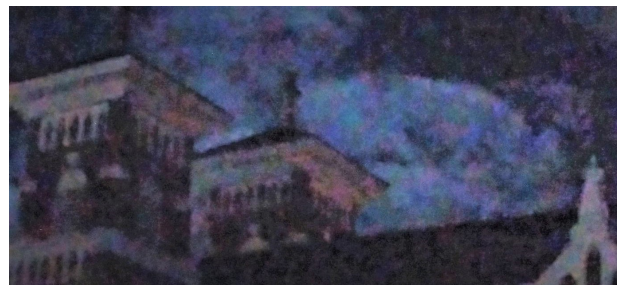


Recently, I was driving from Norwalk to Wilton on Hwy 71. As I turned the corner by the Wilton village sign, I looked up to see sunlight illuminating the top of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I could clearly see the crosses on the two towers sparkling brightly for all to see!

When I arrived at the parsonage, I took a photo. (See photo #1.) It made me think of Jesus' birth, life, death, and glorious resurrection (symbolized by the crosses). From my vantage point behind the parsonage, I could clearly see all three crosses on the top of the church—the two on the towers and the one on the peak. And by looking at the backdrop beyond the crosses, I could also see the beautiful sky with its wisps of clouds. The clouds seemed to welcome and extend the beauty of the scene, as if to say, "Jesus Christ and his message of love and grace are not only for this church, and those who enter its doors, but for the entire world!"



Seeing the crosses, sky, and clouds reminded me as well, of a contrasting photo that I had taken last spring. (See photo #2.) I had arrived back at the parsonage one evening. As I looked up, the sky was dark, and some might say, foreboding. Yet, in the darkness of the night, even with limited visibility, I could still see the crosses on the two towers. They were not hidden, even during this darkest of nights. Con't



Pastor Cathy Con't

"From darkness to light--The Advent season was a time of waiting with expectation. Each week we lit another candle to demonstrate God's light coming into the world! It was a time of reflecting on the hope, peace, joy and love that Christ's coming brings! For God is present with us--in the darkest night, in the brightest day, at all times--God is with us, we are never alone!

As we look ahead to 2022, we know that COVID will continue to be with us, at least for the foreseeable future. We know that there will be other challenges, too. And yet, we look forward to times filled with joy and celebration! We look forward to happy times! For Jesus said, "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

God does not promise us that our lives will be without challenges, but God does promise us that God will be with us. As we begin the new year, let us share God's message of love and grace, so that others will know that Jesus is the light of the world! Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy





The Annual Meeting will be held after church on January 30.

Last year's Annual Meeting Minutes can be found on the church website: www.stpaulswilton.com

With the Council Minutes

Among the standard items of business is election of Council members. Lori Brueggen is completing her first term, Joel Arndt is also completing his first term. They are both eligible for a second. Steve Brandau is completing his second term and is therefore not eligible for reelection.

The Nominating Committee this year is Larry Ballwahn, Tim Deichler and Bud Osteboe . They will present a slate of candidates but nomination from the floor are also welcome.

ORGAN UPDATE

The renovation of our current organ has been abandoned. Unfortunately, while returning the pipes to the chamber and tuning the organ, we were faced with an issue that made it clear the renovation was no longer feasible. We have purchased an organ from a church in Mineral Point and will begin removing our current organ after Christmas. The cost of the Mineral Point organ was \$3,000.00 and that has been taken care of. We will have a more detailed report at the annual meeting on January 30, 2022.

Nalani

WORSHIP NOTES FOR January/February

The following are the Scripture readings we will be sharing in worship during the months of January and February, 2022.

Second Sunday of Christmas January 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

Baptism of Our Lord January 9

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Second Sunday after Epiphany January 16

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Third Sunday after Epiphany January 23

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 30

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 6

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 13

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany February 20

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration of Our Lord February 27

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY

ALTAR:

Barb Bever and Karen Arzt

READERS:

2nd Bria Gruen

9th Barb Bever

16th Barb Ornes

23rd Arlis Ballwahn

30th Ava Gruen



COMMUNION SERVERS:

Lori and Joel Arndt

THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY

ALTAR:

Lila Speicher and Bev Graunke

READERS:

6th Miranda Arndt

13th Karen Arzt

20th Bud Osteboe

27th Lori Arndt

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Justin and Kirstin Arndt

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Calendars, Church

information & cemetery reports:

Nalani Bever

Congregation pictures:

Contributed -

Facebook

****The Website & Facebook
pages were developed & are
administered by April Arndt**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



January

- Sun. 2nd Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Wed 5th Confirmation, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- Sun. 9th Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship, Confirmation, 10:15 am
- Sun 16th Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Church Council, 11:30 am
- Thurs. 20th W-ELCA General Mtg., 10:00 am
- Sun 23rd Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Thurs. 27th Quilting, 9:00 am
- Sun. 30th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Annual Meeting

February

- Sat. 5th Blood Drive, 7:00 am – 11:30 am
- Sun. 6th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Sun. 13th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Sun. 14th Valentine's Day
- Sun. 20th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Sun. 27th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January

- 4th Rachel Conner, Lois Reineke
- 5th Jennifer Gruen
- 6th Spencer Arndt
- 8th Addison Arndt, Lori Arndt, Braxton Holthaus
- 14th Vanessa Anderson
- 15th Sarah Culpitt
- 17th Kari Radke
- 18th Gina Rae
- 19th Ann Bever, Kevin Buchholz
- 21st Kelly Buchholz
- 22nd Kurt Radke, Mia Anderson
- 23rd Anna Radke
- 24th Thadyn Conner
- 27th Barb & John Ornes
- 29th Ayawyn Conner

February

- 5th Stacy Pagel
- 12th Anita Steinke, Wayne Schindler
- 14th Scott Niedfeldt
- 21st Lana Ross, Daphne Arndt
- 22nd Tyler Brandau
- 24th Karen Arzt, Jerry Von Haden
- 27th George and Carolyn Dougherty

From the Council President



Church Council

Justin Arndt
President

John Ornes
President Elect

Arlis Ballwahn
Secretary

Lori Brueggen
Treasurer

Steve Brandau

Joel Arndt

April Arndt

Angie Gruen

Jerry Von Haden

As I look at my family's "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree, I am reminded that most of us are like Charlie Brown. Our everyday life has become too "commercialized", and we spend most of our time wrapped up in the cares of the world – work, school, shopping, sporting events, etc. The true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus and God's promise to us, is often shoved to the side.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16)

The celebration of the birth of Jesus is not limited to Christmas day or the Christmas season. It should be celebrated every day with your family. St. Paul's celebrates it every Sunday amongst a loving church community, and we welcome you to join us each week.

As we continue to deal with this on-going pandemic, we pray for your continued healthy and safety. As things worsen again, I continue to encourage vaccinations, boosters and masking for all who are able.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Confirmation – January 9th

St. Paul's will be confirming Bria Gruen on January 9th. We invite everyone to come celebrate this important moment with Bria and her family.

FINANCES

We have projected our expenses through December 31 in an attempt to get a handle on our financial position. Doesn't look good. Even with the transfer of \$7,528.80 representing the profit raised from the two chicken dinner fundraisers, the deficit will be around \$7,000.00 for fiscal 2021. We did not project revenues beyond what we have actually received. Please do what you can to help reduce the deficit (which, mind you, is actually \$14,528.80). Nalani

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The newsletter is always on the church website in color for reading, printing (just a page if you want) or reference.

W-ELCA - Church Information



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

A general meeting was held on November 18, in which decisions were made as to the distribution of funds. Gifts were given to Pastor Cathy, Thadyn Conner and to ELCA Good Gifts in the name of Nalani and Greg Bever and the Sunday School. W-ELCA will provide funds for poinsettias not covered by donations.

The 2022 Booklet will be assembled in January. Please notify the church office if you have a change in telephone number. This is especially important if you drop your land line and have only a cell phone number.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ecumenical breakfast will be held on February 5 at St. Paul's.

ELCA General Meeting will be held on January 20, 2022, at 10:00 am in the church basement. Meeting times are adjusted according to member participation. Currently, active members of W-ELCA are Carolyn Dougherty, Bev Graunke, Louise Buchholz, Arlis Ballwahn, Lois O'Rourke, Nalani Bever and Anita Steinke.

Quilting will also be resumed in January. * Watch the bulletin for dates. **We invite all women of the church to join in these activities. We need participation from everyone.**

Arlis Ballwahn, Secretary



*Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS

Have you considered electronic offerings? St. Paul's vendor for this service is VANCO Payment Solutions (endorsed by ELCA). We currently have a small number of members using this service. The expression "out of sight, out of mind" can apply to church offerings. Attend the service; the offering is usually dropped in the plate. Unable to attend the service; the offering is often not made or made-up.



For most members, electronic payments to public utilities or other businesses are common. With electronic offerings, you may choose the amount as well as the timing, i.e. weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly, etc. You may also determine your funding source, checking, savings, credit card. You may establish electronic offerings either directly with VANCO or through the church office. Nalani will provide you with additional information, if you so desire.

Inviting people to journey with Christ's family in spreading God's love and mercy.

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St. Paul's Lutheran
Church



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"
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