

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church ELCA

401 Mill Street
Wilton, Wisconsin 54670



January February 2020
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Christ's Calling Card

Pastor Cathleen Morris



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that we will soon begin the year 2020. In some ways, it doesn't seem that long ago that we were preparing for the new millennium. Where have these 20 years gone? What changes have happened in our lives, our communities, our country, our world?

What changes have happened in the life of St. Paul's Church during these 20 years?

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthian church wrote in 1 Cor. 13 of faith, hope and love: *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13: 4-7, 13).*

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Every Member Conversation

St Paul's Congregation was established by our ancestors in 1875 because they wanted to collectively worship God. The present church building has served that purpose since 1926. Think of the devotion to God it took to build a church of its quality at that time. Many changes have taken place in society since then. St. Paul's still meets many of the same needs, however. It is a place to center ourselves on Sunday morning with many of our fellow worshipers. It is a place where family members are baptized, confirmed, married and buried. It is a holy place: *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* -over

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



Church Council

Justin Arndt, President
Larry Ballwahn
Steve Brandau
Marcus Buchholz
Rachel Conner
Tim Deichler
Angie Gruen
Bud Osteboe
Vacancy

Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 5
Special Congregational
Meeting - After Church
Sunday, January 26
Annual Meeting
After Church Service

**Every Member
Conversation
Committee EMCC**

Membership:

Justin Arndt,
608-435-6642

Larry Ballwahn,
608-435-6401

Steve Brandau,
608-797-7888

Louise Buchholz,
608-435-6435

Thadyn Conner,
Rachel Conner,
608-343-3565

Pastor Morris, "caption
call" 608-435-0097

Bud Osteboe, Chair.
608-435-6158

Mission Statement:

The purpose of Every Member Conversation Committee is to listen to you, both as an individual and collectively as a Congregation, to discover what needs be done to make St. Paul's a Church where a majority of the congregation attends on a regular basis.

Please Note:

For those unable to attend the January 5 meeting, individual conferences will be scheduled soon.
If anyone in attendance wishes an individual conference, that too will be arranged.

Every Member Conversation Con't

Society's changes have made church attendance less important for many and yet the needs are still there. For St. Paul's to continue to meet those needs, it must have the participation of the most of its parishioners.

What needs to be done to make St. Paul's a Church where a majority of the congregation attends on a regular basis? That is the key question for the Every Member Conversation. We need to hear from everyone. In addition to the Every Member Conversation, a 1 page survey questionnaire is requested from each member or family of the Church. It will be handed out at the end of the meeting or at the individual conference. A copy of the questionnaire is on the final page of this newsletter.



Attend the January 5 Special Congregational meeting if you can. If you are unable to attend, there are two options. You may contact a committee member and arrange a meeting at your home or in the Church basement. Or a committee member will contact you and arrange the meeting. LB

FYI: Unless a member is homebound (Pastor will provide Communion) or has some other special status, it is desirable that members maintain at least the status of a voting member.

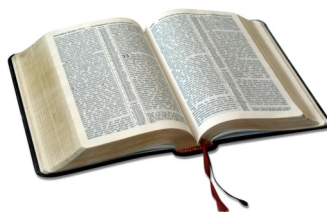
MEMBERSHIP from the Constitution

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed in this congregation and made a contribution of record to this congregation during the current or preceding calendar year.

C8.04. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and Sacraments;
- live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Cathy, Con't



Faith guided our predecessors, and faith guides us now. It was faith in God and the work of the Holy Spirit that brought the saints of St. Paul's to establish the church here. It was faith in God and the work of the Holy Spirit, that encouraged them and us to become members. It was/is faith and the work of the Holy Spirit, that encouraged them and encourages us to serve on the church council and committees, as Sunday school and confirmation teachers, in circles and special groups, as choir members and musicians, on the altar guild and in service project groups, and in many and various other ways. In 2020, let us make a New Year's commitment to strengthen our faith, by praying, attending worship regularly, reading the Bible, and participating in the life of the church. On January 1, we will begin a faith-based daily devotional that will allow us to walk through the Epistles in one year. The Bible study is entitled, "Grace and Peace to You." It was written by Dr. Norma Cook Everist, an emeriti faculty member from Wartburg Theological Seminary. Copies for the first two months are available in the Narthex of the church, or they can be sent to you by contacting the church office. While the daily reading will be on your own, those who are able will meet periodically to discuss and reflect on a specific reading or readings.

Hope guided our predecessors and hope guides us now, as we begin 2020, reflect on the past, and look toward the future. On January 5, the assembly will meet after worship for a Listening Session. This will be an opportunity for members to talk about the future of St. Paul's Church. This event, and the completion of a survey by individuals or families, will provide the council with feedback. Those who are unable to attend may meet with a member of the Social Ministry Committee to share their feedback.

Love guided our predecessors, and love guides us now. We are a church in transition, seeking to do God's will and asking God for guidance. The conversations on January 5 and the survey feedback will help the council as they make decisions; decisions guided by all of our prayers; decisions based on faith, hope and love for God and for one another. Please join us in prayer and provide your feedback, as we look to the future of St. Paul's Church in 2020 and beyond.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, ** 608-865-1074, or Justin Arndt 414.587.6642

**in addition to sending a text to Pastor at 608-865-1074, you may now reach her at 608-435-0097. The telephone being used on the 435-0097 line has the caption feature. Please realize it takes time between when you speak, the caption appearing for Pastor, and then Pastor being able to continue the conversation.

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311). Additional Contact Information: Pastor Cathleen: Cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu Justin Arndt: arndt.now@gmail.com Church: wiltonchurch@gmail.com Nalani Bever: nalanib@gmail.com Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/> FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 – Noon.

WORSHIP NOTES FOR January/February

The following are the Scripture readings that we will be sharing in worship during the months of January and February 2020

Jan. 5 – Second Sunday of Christmas

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

Jan. 12 - Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 19 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Jan. 26 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Feb. 2 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Feb. 9 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Feb. 16 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 23 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY

Greeters: Leonard & Dixie Arndt

Ushers: Leonard Arndt, Jerry Von Haden Greg Bever, Steve Brandau, Sr.

Altar: Greg and Nalani Bever

Readers: 5th Greg Bever ; 12th Bud Osteboe; 19th Larry Ballwahn; 26th Barb Ornes

Communion Server: Arlis Ballwahn

THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Greeters: Karen Arzt and Ed Ross

Ushers: Lori & Joel Arndt,
John & Barb Ornes

Altar: Lori Brueggen, Barb Ornes

Readers: 2nd Arlis Ballwahn, 9th Barb Bever; 16th Carolyn Dougherty; 23rd Kirstin Arndt

Communion Server: Leonard Arndt

Newsletter editors: Arlis & Larry Ballwahn

email: alballwahn@gmail.com

Calendars & Church information: Nalani Bever

Congregation pictures: April Arndt

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January

W 1st “Happy New Year”; the Rose Bowl

S 5th NO Sunday School

Worship, 10:15 am

Special Congregational Meeting

Immediately Following Worship

S 12th Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Church Council, 11:30 am

Th 16th W-ELCA General Meeting, 10:00 am

S 19th Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship/Children Sing

Noisy Offering, 10:15 am

Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship

Th 23rd Quilting, 9:00 am

S 26th Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Annual Meeting Following Worship

February

S 2nd Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Super Bowl

Sa 8th Blood Drive, 7:00 am – 11:30 am

S 9th Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Church Council, 11:30 am (tentative)

F 14th Valentine’s Day

S 16th Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship/Children Sing

Noisy Offering 10:15 am

Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship

S 23rd 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

14th Vanessa Anderson

15th Sarah Erdman

17th Kari Radke

19th Ann Bever, Kevin Buchholz

21st Kelly Buchholz

22nd Kurt Radke

23rd Anna Radke

24th Thadyn Conner

27th Barb & John Ornes

29th Ayawyn Conner



February

5th Stacy Brandau

11th Dawn Birkholz

12th Anita Steinke, Wayne Schindler

14th Scott Niedfeldt

21st Lana Ross

22nd Tyler Brandau

24th Karen Arzt, Jerry Von Haden

27th George and Carolyn Dougherty

- See chapter 5 of the constitution for the powers of the congregation.

C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

...

C5.04. This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION

The Annual Meeting follows the church service on January 26.

All of the usual business will be handled then, but there are several things that you need to be aware of in advance.

- **Election of officers to the Church Council**

Rachel Connor and Marcus Buchholz are completing their second two-year term; Steve Brandau is completing a first term. There is a vacancy for President Elect due to Justin Arndt moving to the presidency.

Except for President Elect (one 4 year term), officers may serve only two consecutive terms.

The nominating committee will present a list of nominees but nominations from the floor are welcome.

- The Churchwide Assembly has submitted 2019 Amendments to the Model Constitution. These Amendments have been made to St. Paul's Constitution. The Amended Constitution has been uploaded on the Church Website. The changes are in red. For the most part the changes are simply for clarification purposes. Usually the changes consist of changing "the church" to "this Church" and "synodical" to "synod." The ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations (2019) has provisions that are required for all ELCA congregation constitutions. These required provisions (which have an asterisk * are intended to clarify the relationship between a congregation and the ELCA to which it is affiliated.

The revised constitution complies with the model.

- The Annual Meeting will be asked to give the Church Council the authority to approve or disapprove the Amended Constitution for the Congregation.
- The Amended Constitution may be reviewed on the website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

Under "About Us"



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - Summary

January 27, 2019

Complete Minutes are on the Church Website

Annual Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2018 and the Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

The 2019 Church Budget was presented, reviewed and approved as presented.

Election of officers were as follows:

President Elect – Justin Arndt

Secretary – Larry Ballwahn

Council Positions – Harlow Osteboe and Angie Gruen - 1st terms

-Tim Deichler 2nd term.

Committee Appointments – Lois Reineke, Ginger Arndt, and Kirstin Arndt are the nominating committee for 2019.

Greg Bever - cemetery board

John and Barb Ornes -Synod Assembly

Leonard and Dixie - alternates.

Barb Ornes, Julie Acker, and Lois Reineke – Auditing committee.

Old Business

Parsonage Project and Christmas Eve Service are pending input from Pastor Morris.

Stairway and church renovation awaiting additional information.

New Business

A call has been extended to Cathleen Morris and we are awaiting a response.

A resolution was passed thanking all those going out of office for their service.

Church Council

President Dan Buchholz submitted his written resignation effective October 13 due primarily to his schedule. President Elect Justin Arndt assumed the responsibility.



Council Minutes are posted on the web site after meetings. They may be clarified as they are reviewed and approved at the following meeting. Under “About Us” on the web-site you will also find copies of the Worship Bulletins and past and present Newsletters. Look there also for the newly revised constitution and related links.



W-ELCA NEWSLETTER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

A general meeting was held on November 15, in which decisions were made as to the distribution of funds. Gifts were given to Pastor Cathy and Barb Bever. Nalani requested previously that gifts given to them be used instead to purchase from ELCA Good Gifts. Motion was made to spend \$250 for all who work with the Sunday School with Good Gifts to be selected by the Sunday School.

Poinsettias were purchased for the Advent and Christmas season with donations for memorials accepted.

The 2020 booklet will be completed soon. Any additions or changes to the Prayer Chain should contact Carolyn Dougherty (435-6265) or Arlis Ballwahn (435-6406) by January 12, 2020. Please notify them or 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 breakfast will be held in January at Faith Congregational Church. Date will be announced.

We are asked to provide 500 cookies for UW-La Crosse Lutheran Campus Ministry in February. Watch the Sunday bulletin for additional information.

ELCA General Meeting will be held on January 23 at 10:00 am in the church basement.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Every Member Conversation
Help Us Improve: Individual Questionnaire_____ Family_____

Name: Facsimile of the Survey Questionnaire Phone: _____

Email: _____

Using a 5-point scale, where 5 means "does well" and 1 means "does not do", complete the following.

ST. Paul's

-holds appropriate Sunday Services _____

Comment: _____

-provides a sound spiritual education for young people _____

Comment: _____

-seeks involvement of congregation members of all ages _____

Comment: _____

-makes everyone feel welcome _____

Comment: _____

-has an adequate focus on spiritual/religious growth _____

Comment: _____

Would you like the Pastor to contact you? **YES, NO**

What do you particularly like about St. Paul's?

What needs to be done to make St. Paul's a church you attend on a regular basis?

What would you be willing to do to meet your "ownership" responsibility for the long-term health of St. Paul's? Circle all that apply.

Church Council – Be on a Committee – Organize an Event – Spring/Fall Clean up – Altar Committee—God's Work Our Hands – Teach Sunday School/Work with Youth – Serve at Funerals – Usher - Attend Church Regularly



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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"

PO Box 129
401 Mill Street
Wilton, WI 54670
608-435-6647
wiltonchurch@gmail.com



Name

Address

Wilton, Wisconsin