



A Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

# The Messenger

*"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,  
and the message is heard through the word of Christ."  
(Romans 10:17)*

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

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### God loves me dearly *by Pastor Sims*

Are there times when you feel as if nobody cares about you? Nobody loves you? Maybe in a moment of sadness or in the midst of a bad day, you have even said those very words.

Our feelings are real, but they are not always reality. Our feelings can turn us upside down and twist us into knots. They can lead us to think and even say things that are total nonsense. Our feelings can lead us to sinful accusations when it comes to the way others may feel about us.

We exaggerate the lack of love we feel – NOBODY CARES about me. Face it – these words are not true at all. In fact, they are sinful accusations. There is always someone or lots of people who do care about you and who love you. Think of your fellow believers. By the very fact that they are members of the same body, they care about you and love you; if for no other reason than that you are a blood-bought child of God.

But even if they don't show it, there is one who will always care about and love you with an everlasting love. *God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)* God cares for you and loves you.

But how do you know that God loves you? Well, the Bible tells you so in many different places.

Think of Christmas and the Bethlehem manger. He loved you so much that he sent his own Son for you. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

Think about the purpose of Christ's coming to this world. *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10-11)* Jesus plainly said that he *came not to be served but to serve and*

*give his life as a ransom for many.*

Our thoughts go from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross, on which Jesus was crucified. There, God punished his Son for your sins so that you can have everlasting life. *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)* God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, to die for us.

How can you feel or say that nobody cares about you or loves you, when you look in Scripture to see and read about the love God has for you through Jesus? The most important person in the world – our Creator and Savior cares for us so much that he left the perfection and glory of heaven to be born in a world of sin and in a barn. He loves us as wide as he could spread his arms on a cross and as tightly as he could wrap them around us.

May the Christmas message of Christ's coming to this earth remind us of God's love! The title of a Christmas hymn sums it up well, "God Loves Me Dearly."

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|---|---|
| <p>1 <i>God loves me dearly,<br/>Grants me salvation;<br/>God loves me dearly,<br/>Loves even me. (Refrain)</i></p>       | <p>4 <i>Jesus, my Savior,<br/>Himself did offer;<br/>Jesus, my Savior,<br/>Paid all I owed. (Refrain)</i></p>             |
| <p>2 <i>I was in bondage,<br/>sin, death, and darkness;<br/>God's love was working<br/>to make me free. (Refrain)</i></p> | <p><i>Refrain:<br/>Therefore I'll say again:<br/>God loves me dearly,<br/>God loves me dearly,<br/>Loves even me.</i></p> |
| <p>3 <i>He sent forth Jesus,<br/>my dear Redeemer;<br/>He sent forth Jesus<br/>and set me free. (Refrain)</i></p>         |   |

# Evangelism

The Evangelism Team is looking forward with you to the many opportunities we have at this time of year to share our faith and rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

At the time of this writing we are eagerly awaiting our annual Friendship Sunday with Thanksgiving Dinner. A number of people will be involved helping with cooking the turkeys and fixings the day before. Invitations have gone out, preparations are in progress, and it will be a joyous occasion filled with hearing God's Word, having the school children sing, and of course fabulous food and fellowship.

There will be lots of times in December to share our Christmas joy. On December 16 at 10:00am we'll distribute door hanger invitations to our Christmas services in our neighborhood. There will be two opportunities to go caroling. First, to our shut-in members on December 10 after the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. We'll return to church after caroling for hot cocoa and a potluck dinner with Mrs. Glende's famous sloppy joes. The second opportunity will be on December 23 at 4pm. We always have an enjoyable time talking to people as we walk along and sing and hand out invitations to our Christmas services. Wear warm clothes, bring your warm heart and join us.

Christmas box preparation will also be on December 16 at 9:30am with those who have requested a box coming to pick it up that afternoon at 3pm. It will be a fantastic opportunity for a little food, fellowship, and an opportunity to hear God's Word. Please join us at this event and meet a new friend. In addition to food for the body, this will a wonderful time to give the best gift – food for their soul, the good news about Jesus their Savior.

Everyone had lots of fun at the Fellowship and Game Night in October. But maybe you missed it? We decided that we needed to give more advance notices and announcements about our fellowship events so that more people can attend. So ... put Sunday, January 21 on your calendar for the Annual Chili Cook-off. Chefs prepare your recipes!

We'd love to see you at our next meeting on December 11 at 6pm.

*Evangelism Team  
Pat Ratz*

## Christmas Services

Sunday school Pageant  
Sunday, December 10 – 3:00 PM

Day school Christmas Service  
Tuesday, December 19 – 7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve**  
**Sunday, December 24 – 9:00 AM**  
**Family Bible Class – 10:15 AM**

Candlelight Service  
Sunday, December 24 – 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Sing-a-long  
Monday, December 25 – 9:15 AM

Christmas Day Worship  
Monday, December 25 – 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve  
**Sunday, December 31 – 9:00 AM**  
**Family Bible Class – 10:15 AM**

Sunday, December 31 – 7:00 PM  
with Holy Communion

## Joint Advent Service WELS Congregations of Columbus

**Wednesday, December 13, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

**Shepherd of Peace, Powell**  
**520 Village Park Drive**

*A joint adult choir will sing during the service.*

*Light food and refreshments will be served following the service.*

Come and worship, enjoy the different choirs and musicians, meet new members of the body of believers. Make plans to join your brothers and sisters from other congregations to prepare the coming of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

## Election of Church Officers

The Election of Church Officers will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The ballots and ballot box will be located in the narthex. The Constitution will be available for anyone who may still need to sign it.

**Eligible voting members** are men, 18 years and older, who have signed the Church Constitution.

## Slate of Candidates for Elections

*The following names are those who have agreed to place their names on the ballot for election to church offices.*

**Elders:** Joe Baumann (I), John Frye (I), Phil Glende, Mark Greiner (I), Kevin Strous, Barry Weber (4 positions open)

**Board of Education:** John Frye (I), David Morgan, Dana Rettig (3 positions open)

**Trustees:** Jim Heinlein (I), Ron McDonald (I), Dana Rettig (5 positions open)

**Deacons:** Matt Ratz (I), Anil Seeli, Jacob Strous (I), Pierce Thissen (4 positions open)

**Treasurer:** All nominees declined nomination

**Evangelism:** (no open positions)

**Co-Treasurers:** (no appointed positions open)

**Recording Secretary:** (no open positions)

**Financial Secretary:** (no open positions)

## Church Council Meeting

### Recap of November 27, 2017

- Pastor still needs to set up a meeting with the deacons.
- We have several names of those who are or may be interested in membership or baptism for their child.
- Three school parents have finished the required first 8 Bible Basics classes, while one more needs to make up 1 class.
- Three of our youth, plus two adults, raked leaves for members Carol Martin and Barry Weber on Saturday, 11/25.
- Blessings noted: 403 in attendance for the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation service, and meal help on the part of our young people.

- Recent Sunday bulletins have included a plea for getting our children - both those in our CDS and those in other schools - more involved in Sunday school and the Christmas pageant.
- Some members have commented that they like the new narthex layout.
- School enrollment remains at 72.
- Principal Charles Galecki handed out copies of four health inspection reports on which he wanted us to note the inspector's observations seem to be growing slightly with each visit.
- He also disbursed a beautifully done 2017-18 Statistical Analysis of our school with helpful and colorful charts and graphs.
- The Board of Education is looking at ways to better meet the needs of our students and their families.
- Temporary Trustee Chairman Mark Greiner is focusing on water leaks in various places on campus. Suggestions include more roof vents (to reduce condensation under roofing); additional ice guards at corners; some leaks in new addition area, cause unknown - remove roofing to trace?
- The Outreach Team reports 30 or so people attended the 10/27 Fellowship game night; neighborhood distribution of Christmas service invitations is scheduled for Saturday, 12/16; Christmas boxes will be assembled that same morning, with distribution at the church set for that afternoon; Christmas caroling is set for Saturday, 12/23; our next Chili Cook-off is scheduled for 1/21/18.
- Chairman Bill Ratz distributed a Building Projects report which indicates that the tuck pointing project ate up almost all the total contributions so far made to all the intended projects. To continue with the various projects, do we need to take out an additional loan through LACE?
- The call extended to Amelia Nemmers, currently teaching in Doral Florida, to be our 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher beginning the next school year was returned. Therefore another call meeting was to be held Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the late service.
- Chairman Bill Ratz is qualified to sign to have our non-profit status renewed with the state.

- Our age-old problem with getting more members involved in holding church office, or even simply coming to be fed at Sunday school and adult Bible class, was again broached. Suggestions are welcome. If left unresolved, eventually our church will die.

## Annual Reports

Board and committee chair people,

It is that time again to submit a summary of your work over the past year. Please prepare a few paragraphs or charts where necessary to inform your brothers and sisters of what you did in 2017.

Please submit it to Pastor Sims, so that he can compile and share the report in early January. A more detailed request will be sent to our chair people soon.



## Basketball & Cheerleading

Both activities have begun. Basketball is for boys and girls in grades 5-8 and Cheerleading is for girls in grades 3-8. The first basketball games are on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> with Sonshine Academy. The games will be played at Johnson Park Middle School, 1130 S. Waverly Street, Columbus 43227. Come out at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM to cheer our teams on!

## Washington, DC Trip

We are looking for fund raising ideas for the optional Washington, DC trip that is planned over the Spring break for students in grades 5-8. If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way, please speak to Mr. Galecki.

## Christmas Service

The school Christmas service, *Christmas Jubilee*, will be held on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. We invite all of you to set the evening aside and come to hear the children tell the message of the birth of the Savior!

## Latchkey Program

After discussions with the Board of Education we have lowered the price that we charge for the latchkey sessions. We are doing this to help out families who need to make use of this service in order to be able to send their children to St. Paul's.

## Academic Day

Students in grades 5-8 participated in the Annual WELS Schools Academic Day that was held in Cincinnati on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Four schools participated – Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati; Beautiful Savior, Grove City; Trinity, Jenera; and St. Paul's. We placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Math with 45 points. In the Spelling Bee we had students who placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We also had students who participated in various forensics competitions. It was a very good day for our students and their families having fellowship with families from the other WELS schools in Ohio.



Dec 19	School Christmas Service - 7 PM
Dec 20	School Christmas Parties School dismisses at 2 PM
Jan 3	No School Teacher Professional Day
Jan 4	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School after Christmas Break
Jan 15-16	No School-Pastor/Teacher Conference at St. Paul's
Jan 19	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period
Jan 26	Students receive report cards

## ORGANIZATIONS



The Altar Guild continues to care for the altar paraments, candles and flowers. The guild members along with a good number of volunteers decorated the church for the Christmas season. Thank you to all who helped!

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, sign up on the calendar that is posted on the entryway bulletin board. The cost is \$25.00 for the Altar vases and \$15.00 for special flowers after the altar vases are taken.

It is also time to *sign up for Poinsettias* to beautify the sanctuary. The cost is \$12.00. Sign up on Sunday or call the church office if you would like to sponsor a plant.



The Altar Committee for December is Kathy Glende, Lucille Ortceiger, and Mindy Sayre.

*(Pat Ratz, president)*



### Evening Women's Guild

### Women's Christmas Luncheon

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon, the Evening Women's Guild of St. Paul's is hosting their annual Christmas party. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Plan to set aside three hours to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas caroling, stories of past Christmas celebrations, fun-filled games, and a crazy Christmas headgear contest for all those participating. We always start our celebration with an Advent devotion followed by a fine meal with desserts. Those attending the luncheon should bring:

- A dish to share
- A \$7-\$10 gift to exchange
- Crazy Christmas headgear

Any questions? Call or text Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

### St. Paul's Hosts the Pastor/Teacher/Delegate Conference January 15-16, 2018

Not so far into the future, St. Paul's will be the host site of the Pastor/Teacher/Lay Delegate Conference scheduled for Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> thru Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. As hosts, we will have the privilege of feeding 50-60 individuals in attendance. Three meals will be made available on Monday and two meals will be served on Tuesday. Snacks will also be supplied by St. Paul's. Volunteers will be needed to set up, serve, and clean up in between meals. Watch for more information in the church worship folders. Consider starting 2018 with this wonderful way to serve and thank the called workers and the lay leaders among us. Questions? Want to volunteer? Call or text Suzanne Geiger at 614-214-9305.

*(Suzanne Geiger, president)*

### Young at Heart



We will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Leithart's (750 Fairway Boulevard, Columbus, OH). We will continue our study of Predestination followed by Christmas carols and a potluck. Please consider joining us. Call Joyce Larger at 614-314-7571, if you have any questions.

*(Joyce Larger, coordinator)*



The teens continue to study *Prepared to Answer* on Sunday mornings. Meet in the auditorium at 9:15 for coffee, donuts, and devotion. Afterward we'll go to the music room for Bible study.

This Bible study is open to all teens.

Thank-you to the many youth who helped buss tables for the Reformation meal on November 4<sup>th</sup>. You all looked dapper with your black pants, shoes, and red, white, or blue shirts! Your service shed a good light on St. Paul's for this special occasion and helped everything to run smoothly.

This month the Youth Group will gather for games, food and devotion on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Vicar Spaude has learned a new game the past two gatherings and wants you there with him to enjoy not only the games, but the physical and spiritual food too. The meeting place and time is in the auditorium immediately following the late service. Since this is a youth group function we ask that only the youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade attend.

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> the youth will see the WildLights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. This event has been a favorite for the Youth Group in the past. Please check out “St. Paul’s Youth Group” on Facebook for more details to come. Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicar Spaude and Mr. Galecki



### **Public ministers of the gospel are called to serve**

2017/11/01/ Forward in Christ

Priests in the Middle Ages had two primary tasks: Correctly perform the sacraments of the church to earn God’s grace on behalf of the people and listen to confession. The people were required to confess all their sins to the priest at least once a year. Priests had to learn how to cajole people into remembering all their sins. They also had to investigate and probe the circumstances and motives of those sins to know what earthly punishments the person had to perform. The priests had to be spiritual detectives. And they knew everyone’s secrets.

This wasn’t the only problem among clergy at the time of Luther. Some of the more radical reform movements had self-proclaimed, self-appointed preachers. They took on the duties of spiritual leadership without being properly called to do so.

Truly Lutheran public ministers of the gospel are called to serve God’s people with the gospel. First, they are properly called to do this work. Individually, every Christian has the right and privilege to “declare God’s praises” (1 Peter 2:9,10)

and every Christian can forgive sins (John 20:19-23). But when Christians gather together around the Word and sacraments, someone who is gifted and trained needs to be called to serve the group with the Word and sacraments. Otherwise, disorder could result (1 Corinthians 14:33,40). The Augsburg Confession stated the point succinctly and clearly. “It is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Article XIV). The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is calling public ministers of the gospel through the church’s call (Acts 20:28).

Second, truly Lutheran public ministers are called to proclaim the Word faithfully and administer the sacraments rightly. Pastors and other public ministers of the gospel are not spiritual detectives, entertainers, or corporate executives. They are not to act as dictators in the church (1 Peter 5:1-3). They are simply servants of Christ whose name they proclaim, and servants of Christ’s people whose blood purchased them as his people. That’s why the qualifications Paul listed for public spiritual leadership emphasize a Christian character that won’t be an obstacle to the gospel. He wrote that a spiritual leader should “be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable . . . not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money” (1 Timothy 3:2,3). These qualified public ministers are called to use the Word and sacraments for the spiritual benefit of those whom they are called to serve. So they also need to be “able to teach” (1 Timothy 3:2).

Truly Lutheran public ministers of the gospel need to know the Word and know how to communicate the Word. That’s why Luther encouraged, “Pray diligently, as Christ Himself commands us to pray (Matt. 9:38), that God may grant us faithful laborers and pastors who are sincere and adhere to the Word” (*Luther’s Works*, Vol. 28, p. 62).

*Contributing editor Joel Otto, a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, is a member at Salem, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

## December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>Acolytes</u></b> 3-(E) Jamie (L) Katie 10-(E) Jamie (L) Dominic 17-(E) Jamie (L) Andres 24- <b>(9AM) Braylon</b> (7PM) Katie	25-(10AM) Jaelan <b>31-(9AM) Jaelan</b> (7PM) Katie	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3-(E) Poenisch (L) Reiner 10-(E) Thissen (L) Falter 17-(E) Howell (L) Colegrove <b>24-(9AM) Frye</b> (7PM) Howell	<b>25-(10AM) Ratz</b> <b>31-(9AM) Thissen</b> (7PM) Larger	<b><u>Altar Committee</u></b> Kathy Glende Lucille Ortziger Mindy Sayre	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon SS Pageant Practice  12:00 Noon Women's Christmas Party
<b>3</b> WELS Connection 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Teacher Call Meeting Youth Group Gathering	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  3:30 PM Lutheran Girl Pioneers	<b>6</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel  6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon SS Pageant Practice
<b>10</b> Communion 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM SS Pageant Caroling after Pageant	<b>11</b>  6:00 PM Evangelism Team 7:00 PM Board of Elders 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>12</b>  7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers	<b>13</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel  7:00 PM Area WELS Advent Service at -Shepherd of Peace in Powell, Ohio	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Pack Food Boxes 10:00 AM Distribute Christmas  Invites 3:00 PM Pick Up Time for Food Boxes
<b>17</b> 8:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM Fellowship 9:15 AM SS & Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>18</b>  6:00 PM Bd. of Education	<b>19</b>  7:00 PM School Children's Christmas Service	<b>20</b> 8:35 AM School Chapel School Parties with dismissal at 2:00 PM  6:15 PM Sr. Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. Choir	<b>21</b>  10:00 AM Young at Heart at the Leithart's home	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 9:00 AM Worship with communion 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  9:15 AM Christmas Carol Sing-Along 10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship with communion						