

# St. Paul Epistle—January 2015

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## A Letter from Your Pastor

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### Our Mission is:

- To Know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- To Grow in faith through His Sacraments and Word, and
- To Go share His Gospel with love in our community and world.



As people begin the New Year, they often make plans for what they will do differently. Many people want to live life in a more healthful manner. Some people make resolutions to exercise more often, while others make resolutions to eat more healthy foods. What about your spiritual health? Do you consider that? How can you eat more healthfully spiritually?

Remember that Jesus said, "*Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4). Are you ingesting God's Word on a regular basis? Why not begin the New Year by making a resolution to attend Bible study regularly?

Here at St. Paul, we offer a variety of Bible studies. Men's and women's Bible studies meet on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. Sunday mornings we have a special small group parents Bible study in the basement as well as the large group adult Bible study in the fellowship hall, both during Education Hour at 9:45 a.m. Our seniors have a Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

As you consider making a new beginning in attending Bible study, this is a timely opportunity to do so, as new studies begin. For example, this month our Sunday morning adult study begins a new subject, the foundations of the Christian faith; likewise, our Wednesday morning group will begin a new study, delving into the Biblical book of Acts.

January is a time of new beginnings. Make a new beginning (or a continuing) in your faithful study of the Word of God. "*When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight*" (Jeremiah 15:16).

In Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
Pastor Jenks

## *Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, January 4*  
*One Service Only*  
*Holy Communion*  
*10:00 a.m.*



*Sunday, January 18*  
*Holy Communion*  
*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*

*Sunday, January 11*  
*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*

**WORSHIP THE  
LORD!**

*Sunday, January 25*  
*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*

### **New Wednesday Morning Bible Study on the Book of Acts**

This January our Wednesday morning Bible study will begin a special study on the Book of Acts. The early Christians, empowered by the Holy Spirit, spread the Gospel message with persistence in the midst of persecution. In Acts we hear of the early Christians' courage for Christ and their conviction in their faith. We will be inspired in our own calling to be witnesses for Jesus. The Book of Acts includes the events of Pentecost, Paul's conversion, the early church's persecution, and detailed accounts of Paul's missionary journeys. Our sessions start at 10:30 a.m. and usually conclude at about 11:30 a.m. **Our first weekly session will be held January 7.** To get the most from our first session, if you are able to do so, please read chapters 1-3 of Acts prior to coming. (If you have extra time, read all 28 chapters of the book, to get an overall overview.)

**GOD** *exalted*  
**HIM** *at HIS*  
*right hand as*  
*Leader and*  
**SAVIOR.**

*Acts 5:31, NRSV*



## New Sunday Morning Bible Study on the Foundations of the Christian Faith

This January our Sunday morning adult Bible study will begin a new study of the foundations of the Christian faith. During the study we will review the Lutheran church's teaching on such subjects as the relationship and roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Scriptures/Word of God; justification/forgiveness of sins, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and much more. Adults who have never been confirmed may be confirmed by attending the Sunday morning sessions, completing the workbook lessons, and having a final personal meeting with the pastor for discussion and questions & answers. The book we will be using is available from CPH at [cph.org](http://cph.org) or 1-800-325-3040.. It is called "That I May Know Him" by Oswald Riess. It is item #175065 and is \$12.99 plus shipping.



## *Conversational Dinners*

Conversational Dinners met on the 13th for a "naughty but Nice" evening. The "Nice" - who ever heard of Christmas caroling in 50 degree weather, but those we caroled to really enjoyed our voices and time spent with them. We want to thank Carol and Keith Folkmann for opening their home to us all after the caroling where we enjoyed "Naughty" appetizers and desserts. They were all wonderful.

**Moving on to 2015.** We will meet on Sunday, January 11th and the theme for the evening is "Soup's On". More details will follow, but mark your calendars and plan to be there on the 13th.



Please come help "Undeck the Halls" on Monday, January 5th at 6:00 pm before the Kingdom Workers meeting. Many hands make light work.

# Education News

## St. Paul Children's Christmas Service 2014

### "He Will Bring Us Goodness & Light"

**More than 60 St. Paul children (*preschool – high school*) participated in this year's worship service! Thank you all for sharing the Christmas story.**

#### I. Candles of Prophecy

*From the first book of the Bible to the last, we hear about the Light that God promised to send His people—the Messiah, who brings the gift of salvation through His birth as a human being, His perfect life, and His sacrificial death to pay for sin. God's prophets bring a consistent message of hope for God's people through the years.*

#### II. Candles of Proclamation

*The Christmas story is so much more than just a story. It is the true account of the birth of a Savior for all people. Jesus was born as a human so He could fulfill the Law on our behalf and die as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The true light that gives life to everyone has come into the world.*

#### III. Candles of God's Gifts

*Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and salvation to everyone who believes. In Him, we also receive many other gifts, not just at Christmas, but throughout our earthly lives. These gifts bring us true light and help us reflect God's light and love to those around us through our vocations.*

**Readings** – Kaitlin Wegner, Kylie Cook, Katlyn Cook, Michael Vetter, Jakob Tibben, Abby Tibben, Jaden Ask, Henry Owen, Caleb Donovan, Erin Murphy, Emma Buttery, Madison Weber, Katie Dryer, Matthew Dryer, Jordon Vetter, Trenton Dougan, Ben Gebhart, Matthew Sabus, Katie Barnes, Hanna Fritz, Aurora Olson, Tate Ploessl, Matthew Latuska, Alex Highby, Micheal Vetter.

**Memorized Parts** - Ella Gebhart, Evan Buttery, Kiley Dougan, Keegan Wegner, Addison Sabus, JoLyn Ask, Erin Barnes, Tyler Olsen, Dylan Fritz, Kylie Taylor, Jackson Stensland, Allyson Donavon, Madelyn Sabus, Mia Vogel.

**Vocal Soloists**— Erin Barnes, Emma Buttery, Katie Barnes, Katie Dryer, Allyson Donavon, Hannah Fritz, Erin Murphy, Aurora Olson, Abby Tibben, Madison Weber.

**Youth Ensemble:** Katie Barnes, Donovan Jenks, Erin Murphy, Jakob Tibben, Abigail Tibben, Jordan Vetter

**Nativity Participants:** Delany Anderson— Mary; Eayon Phipps – Joseph; Jessie Ask – Angel: Maci Vogel – Angel: Daniel Murphy- Shepherd: Zachary Harris– Shepherd.

**Ushers:** Trent Dougan, Ben Gebhart, Alex Highby, Matthew Latuska.

**Special thanks to:**

**Service Assistants:** Brenda Dryer, Breanna Wetzler & Steve Wilcken

**Piano/Organ:** Mary Nelson

**Youth Ensemble Directors:** Deanna Tibben & Wayne Hagemoser

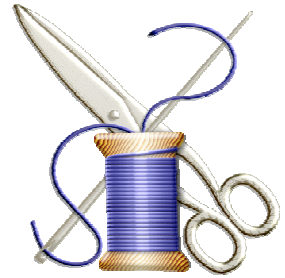
**Technical Assistance:** Cindy Baas, Julie Coy, Tom Peter, Brad Tibben, John Murphy

**Sunday School Teachers:** Rita Dougan, Katie Friedrich, Seanna Wilcken, Niki Schieffer, Ruth Schlotfeldt, Cindy Baas, Len Thiede, John Murphy, Thomas & Lisa Wilson.



# Education News

The Board of Education would like to invite all the sewers and quilters to a sewing party on February 21, 2015, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. As was started in 2013, high school graduates in the congregation will receive a special quilt from the church to always remember they are wrapped in God's love and our love. To get the task accomplished for this year's group, we invite those interested and able to attend to help in creating the finished product. People of all abilities are welcome to attend. Help is needed cutting, ironing, pinning, and of course sewing. Materials and supplies will be available. Please contact Breanna Wetzler ([brwetzler@gmail.com](mailto:brwetzler@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend or have an extra sewing machine you would like to bring. We look forward to seeing you and thank you in advance for your help and support in this project.



## St. Paul Lutheran Church Team Sunday

Organized by the Board of Education

**Sunday, February 1, 2015**

### God's Team

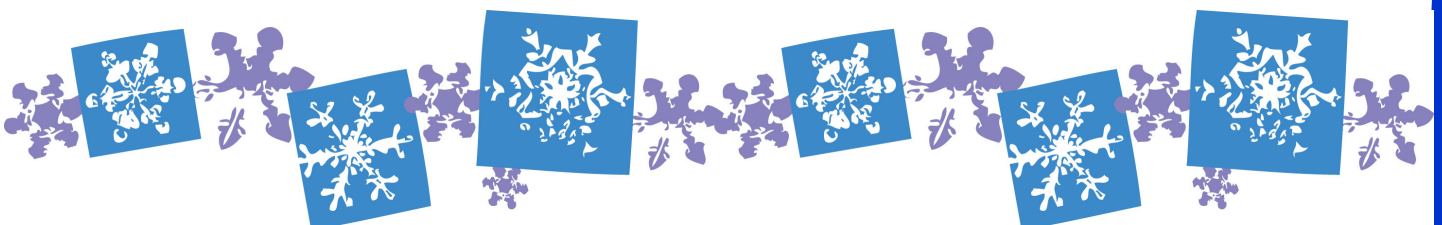
We are all members of God's Team.  
Show your team spirit by coming to  
Church and Sunday School as a fan.

You can participate by:

1. Wearing your favorite team colors or jersey  
(any sport, any team - high school, college or pro)
2. Wearing a St. Paul shirt



*Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it*  
1 Corinthians 12:27



# St. Paul Lutheran Preschool News

## January 2015

On Friday, December 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Preschool held its 11th annual Christmas Program.

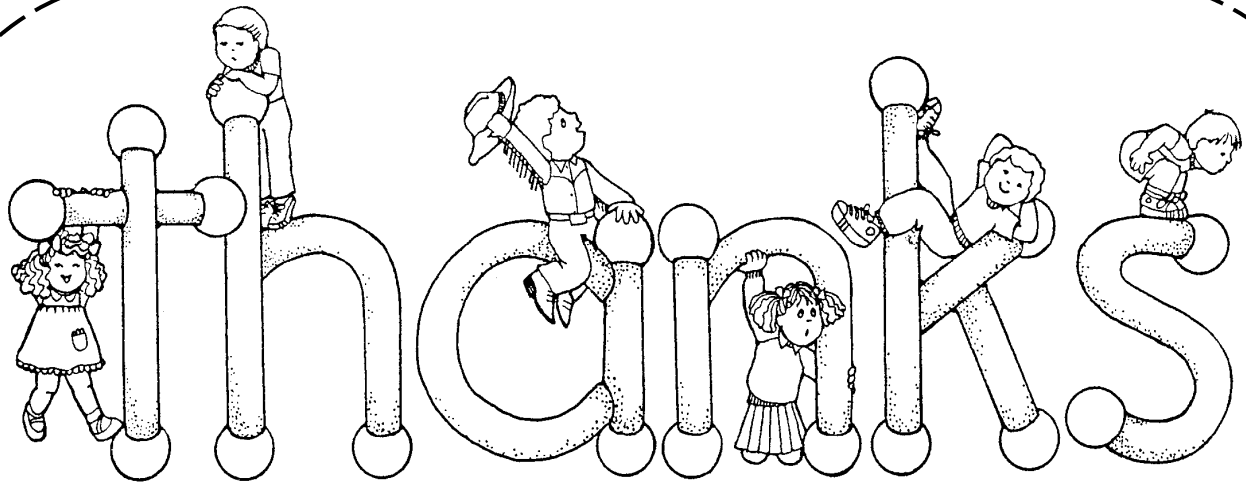
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it that we had the best looking homemade treats made by parents to eat after the program to celebrate? No— but thank you for your hard work, parents! They were very tasty treats.
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it the little wise man who wanted to sit by mom and dad and not go down to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus? No—but it did add a chuckle.
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it the 240 people who came to see their precious child or grandchild sing cute songs? No— but thank you for coming, parents and grandparents!
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it how all the preschoolers sang their songs, recited their poems, and played their instruments perfectly? No—but they sure were brave, cute, and adorable 3- and 4-year olds.
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it how DeAnn, Jeff, Katie and Erin Barnes; Kent and Jan Ziebell; Linda Surber; Lowell Highby; Karen and Dennis Griffin; Pam and Harry Mundt; Tom Peter; Pastor Jenks; Dawn Hollman and Angela Fritz all helped to make it a fantastic Christmas preschool program? No— but thank you all for all your help with the program. We couldn't do it without you!
- What was the highlight of that night? Was it that the fellowship hall was so full that we had to add tables down in the narthex and reset tables for 2nd settings? No—but thank you helpers and families for being so patient and understanding!

Even though all of the mentioned items are true— The highlight of the program was how excited the preschoolers were about celebrating the birth of their Savior! Jesus is what the season is all about! “Jesus was born for you!” Luke 2:11



Happy New Year & God's blessings to each of you from St. Paul Lutheran Preschool!





## From St. Paul Lutheran Preschool

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool recently received a check for \$6,000 for working as volunteers at Jimmy's BBQ/St. Paul Lutheran Preschool Food Booth at the Farm Progress Show 2014. Thank you to Jim and Susan Fangmann of Jimmy's Barbeque Pit (Boone, IA) and Duane Faas of Thrivent Financial (Ames, IA) for giving us the opportunity to fundraise money for St. Paul Lutheran Preschool. Your kindness will help many little children have a great start in Christian Early Childhood Education!



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Without these people's help and the help of our volunteers we couldn't have been able to fundraise such a large amount of money in a short period of time. We also thank all the people who volunteered from St. Paul Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Preschool to work at the Farm Progress Show to serve at the food booth. Not only did the workers enjoy having fellowship with each other, but we also got to tell many people about St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

# Human Care News

## Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Monthly Report

### Good Neighbor Board Report

The Good Neighbor Board met on November 18 at First Christian Church. There will be no meeting in the month of December, so the next Board meeting will be in January 20.

In the first four months of fiscal year 2015, Good Neighbor provided rent and/or utility assistance to 145 households and provided 1,904 "Healthy Food" vouchers to 476 households. A total of 83 gas vouchers have also been provided in the same amount of time. This is a 10% increase for the same time period for the last fiscal year. An additional service that has not been widely used but is available to individuals is "haircut vouchers". These are vouchers donated by PCI Academy on a quarterly basis to be used at the school for haircuts and hair styling.

The new contractor for the handicap ramp has delivered materials, however with the cold temperatures the ramp may not be completed this winter. An extension has been submitted with Story County Community Foundation so that the ramp will not have to be completed until June 30, 2015.

The Choir Concert held on November 9 raised \$10,670.00, a great big thank you to all of the participants for this fundraising event. In the last month, several groups/individuals have contacted the Good Neighbor office about adapting a family for the holidays. This is not a service that is generally provided by Good Neighbor being that there are other organizations in Story County that provide this service, however information have been provided to both parties and Good Neighbor will be the go-between for them.

Submitted by Steve J. Hanlin

Representative for First United Methodist Church



**Continue collecting clean, gently used winter coats, and new hats and gloves.** Items will go to HOPE Ministries or the Bethesda clothing bank.

## Bethesda Food Pantry

**Sunday, January 18, is Bethesda Food Bank Sunday.** Please bring items and place in the tub in the east entryway. Cash donations are also welcome and allow the food pantry to buy what they need at a greatly reduced price. You may place your check in the offering plate as long as it is marked "Bethesda Food Pantry."





# Human Care News

## *Need Help?*

**Congregational Care Cards** are now available and have been placed in the pews. If you or someone you know from the congregation needs meals provided due to illness or surgery, or if someone needs a visit or transportation provided, please fill out the card in the pew rack, place it in the offering plate, and either an elder or Human Care Board member will take action to help out. Thank you!

**Below is a card you can fill out and mail to the church if you have not been able to pick one up here at church.**

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE CARD

Do you or someone you know need assistance (e.g. meals, rides, etc.)?  
Please place this card in the offering plate or give to an elder.

Name of person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

For how long of a duration? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of assistance needed/Any additional pertinent information?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Stewardship News

**Stewardship Is:** Everything we do after we say, "I believe."

Once we say, "I believe," the joy of giving, participating in our Lord's ministry to all those around us, and taking care of God's creation in any way we can is our response to the covenant the Lord has made through the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. Once we internalize this fundamental relationship, commitment of our treasures (time, talent, gifts) will take care of itself.



## Youth News



### LET'S GO BOWLING!!!!!!

All youth are invited to have pizza and go bowling at Perfect Games on Wednesday, January 14.

We will have pizza in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:30 and once all are done we will leave for Perfect Games. We will return to the church around 8pm.

The Board of Youth will pay for the bowling, shoes and will give each youth a \$5 game card to use in the arcade. Youth are welcome to bring additional funds to add on to the card to play more games or laser tag.

Permission forms will need to be turned in by Sunday, January 11 so we can provide enough pizza and reserve lanes at Perfect Games.

### UPCOMING EVENT: Movie Night/Lock-in



ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER MORE EXCITING TO READ WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND.

## Women of St. Paul

### Family Service Meeting in December



#### Family Service:

With the holidays over, we will begin actively quilting again; however, our focus will be on lap robes to assist some of the nursing homes in Ames that are in need of these items. We welcome anyone interested in assisting in this project. January dates are Thursday, January 8 and January 22. We start at 10 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and join us. On the 22nd, we stop quilting at noon, eat lunch, have a devotion, a brief meeting, and a dessert. We'd love to have you join us.

**Do you know what is going on in the Iowa West District of the LWML?** The LWML IWD eNews is sent to all women of the congregation who have email. If you do not have email, a copy is printed and placed on the LWML bulletin board at the east end of the fellowship hall. You may read it and replace it when you are finished.

### “Book to Know to Help You Grow”

Our next meeting will be **January 8th** at the home of Adele Knop to discuss “*A Winter Dream: A Novel*” By Richard Paul Evans. The Barnes and Noble description says: The #1 bestselling author of *The Christmas Box* and master of the holiday novel reimagines the biblical story of Joseph and the coat of many colors, presenting an inspiring modern story of family and forgiveness. Joseph Jacobson is the twelfth of thirteen siblings, all of whom are employed by their father’s successful Colorado advertising company. But underneath the success runs a poisonous undercurrent of jealousy; Joseph is his father’s favorite and the focus of his brothers’ envy and hatred. When the father seems ready to anoint Joseph as his heir, the brothers make their move, forcing Joseph from the company and his Denver home, severing his ties to his parents and ending his relationship with his soon-to-be fiancée. Alone and lonely, Joseph must start a new life. Joseph joins a Chicago advertising agency where his creativity helps him advance high up in the company. He also finds hope for a lasting love with April, a kind woman with a secret. However, all secrets hold consequences, and when Joseph learns the truth about April’s past, his world is again turned upside down. Finally, Joseph must confront his own difficult past in order to make his dreams for the future come true.



Date	Hostess	Book
January 8, 2015	Adele Knop	<i>A Winter Dream: A Novel</i> By Richard Paul Evans
April 16, 2015	Shirley Tice	<i>The Red Tent</i> By Anita Diamant

# January 2014 Service Roster

	<b>Jan 4 10:00</b>	<b>Jan 11 8:30</b>	<b>Jan 11 11:00</b>	<b>Jan 18 8:30</b>	<b>Jan 18 11:00</b>	<b>Jan 25 8:30</b>	<b>Jan 25 11:00</b>
Organist	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson		Mary Nelson		Praise Team	
Elders	Brad Tibben	Brad Tibben	Steve Johnson →				
Lectors	Cindy Baas	Cindy Baas	Becky Jackson	Cindy Baas	Becky Jackson	Cindy Baas	Becky Jackson
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Cook			Kaitlyn Wegner	Alex Highby		
Ushers	Drue & Ellen Sander, Dennis & Karen Griffin	Drue & Ellen Sander, Dennis & Karen Griffin	Keith & Carol Folkmann, Scott & Brenda Dryer →				
Greeters	Dean & Ardy Ulrichson, Connie Buss	Dean & Ardy Ulrichson, Connie Buss	Doug & Jill Litwiller, Ron & Becky Juelfs →				
Coffee Fellowship	No Coffee Today						
Altar Flowers							
Offering Counters	Steve & Marlene Johnson →						
Power Point	Linda Naeve	Connie Lastine	Connie Lastine	Linda Naeve	Linda Naeve	Connie Lastine	Connie Lastine
Sound Board	Denny Ingwersen	Wes Lastine	Wes Lastine	Denny Ingwersen	Denny Ingwersen	Wes Lastine	Wes Lastine
Altar Guild	Karen Belz, Jan Ziebell,	Sandy Townsend →					
Video Recorder	Harry Mundt →						
Collate Bulletins	Carolyn Tweedt, Jan Ziebell →						