

# FEBRUARY 2021

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
610 15TH ST.  
AMES, IA 50010  
515-232-5838

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG)

OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMES, IA

**REV. DR. TODD JENKS, PASTOR**  
**THOMAS WILSON, DIR. FAMILY LIFE**  
**LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**  
**PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914**

## Letter from Pastor

Friends in the Lord,

During this pandemic, perhaps you have felt quite cooped up, or locked down, at your home. I'm guessing that you have become very familiar with the confines of your own abode. Maybe you have also been dreaming of other places and looking forward to when you can travel to those places once again.

This Lent, even in the midst of the pandemic, we are going to "travel" to some special distant places: Places of the Passion! Through this year's Lenten series, we will journey to some of the most significant spots on the path of Christ's passion. These places hold special meaning for Christians all around the world. These places remind us that Jesus Christ, God Himself in human flesh, literally walked upon this earth. He was physically present in actual locations on our planet. As we "visit" these places, we can engage in reflections on God's amazing plan of salvation.

During this pandemic, you may dream about traveling for a future vacation, for relaxation and for some sightseeing. The places we will visit this Lent meant no casual enjoyable sightseeing trip for our Savior. Jesus' travels were for a very signifi-

cant serious purpose. God the Father planned for our Savior to be at specific places in specific moments so that Jesus might fulfill all Scriptures as He would suffer, die and rise again. All of this was accomplished by Jesus so that whatever place we may be at in life, we have forgiveness, hope and strength right there with us, through Jesus.

Please join us for our special Wednesday evening Lenten series "Places of the Passion." Whether you worship with us physically in our sanctuary, or worship with us via live-streaming from isolation at home or in a nursing facility, or even by signing in online from your office, we will all travel together to some of the most significant places on earth! May God bless us as we revisit the places visited by Jesus so that He could bring us God's forgiveness, power and love!

Your "travel guide,"

Pastor  
Jenks



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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.

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

### *Sunday, February 7*

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church  
with Holy Communion*

*And*

*10:00 a.m. Live Stream*

*11:30-1:00 p.m. Walk up  
Communion*



### February Worship Schedule

### *Sunday, February 21*

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church  
with Holy Communion*

*And*

*10:00 a.m. Live Stream*

*11:30-1:00 p.m. Walk up  
Communion*

### *Sunday, February 14*

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church*

*And*

*10:00 a.m. Live Stream*

*11:10 a.m. Live Stream Bible  
study*

With Covid cases  
increasing, the  
worship schedule  
is tentative.

### *Ash Wednesday, February 17*

*7:00 p.m. Worship at church  
with Holy Communion*

*And*

*7:00 p.m. Live Stream*

Please watch  
your emails from  
the church  
closely for any  
changes.

### *Wednesday, February 24 Lent II*

*7:00 p.m. Worship at church*

*And*

*7:00 p.m. Live Stream*

### *Sunday, February 28*

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church*

*And*

*10:00 a.m. Live Stream*

*11:10 a.m. Live Stream Bible  
study*

## Wellness Team

2020 was a year that made it difficult to do our normal routines including some healthcare measures such as preventive health screenings.

Preventive tests such as mammograms, Pap tests, colonoscopies, blood pressure checks, vaccinations, and other screenings are essential to good health. These measures can prevent or catch problems early so treatment can be more effective. If you are due for a routine screening or test and are concerned about the COVID-19, talk with your healthcare provider.

The risk of acquiring the virus during a screening is quite low as long as you adhere to social distancing, performing good hand washing, and wearing a face mask. Please take good care of yourself!



*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,  
whom you have received from God?*      1 Corinthians 6:19

## Board of Stewardship

*"For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"*

As these words from Psalm 117:2 remind us, what a blessing it is to have the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord to guide and comfort us each and every day of our lives. And as we've discovered this past year, God's unending love is even more abundant when His children are experiencing trying times.

Yes, even during a year filled with historic pandemic, weather and civil unrest, we are assured that God has a plan for His people, and that He is always here to listen to our fears and be by our side.

Out of love and gratitude to God, our mission at St. Paul continues. We continue to bring the comfort of God's Word to our church families and to others in our community. But not unexpectedly, with disruptions in regular church attendance and the uneasiness that comes with the unknown over health and jobs, meeting our weekly church budget has been challenging.

As we enter the midpoint of our current fiscal year, **higher expenses and lower contributions have put our budget at a deficit of approximately \$36,000.** We encourage everyone who possibly can to continue to meet the offering goal you prayerfully set before yourselves for this fiscal year. Whatever offerings we might give, we do so joyfully, knowing God is good and His steadfast love endures forever! Praise the Lord!

## Evangelism

### Orphan Grain Train

#### Sponsored by Board of Evangelism

Thank you for all the donations we have received and which are always so gratefully received at the collection facility in Clemons, IA. (North of State Center)

They need more items to fill the tractor trailer they are trying to fill for a spring shipment. As always, they will take all types of clothing for adults and children. The items can be out of style and old but have to be clean and in wearable condition. Also needed are baby items, health items (like crutches, wheel chairs, etc.) There is a need for bedding and towels, too.

The containers are by the east doors and anyone can donate to them. If you know someone who has items to donate, you can bring them or they are welcome to drop off also. If anyone has a trunk full, they can be taken to Clemons Tuesday morning between 9 and 12.

This is a very good non profit organization and you may learn more on Facebook or their web page.

The preschool children have been donating, too. They will take school supplies and Bibles and handbooks.



## Education and Youth



### Virtual Trivia Night – An NYG Fundraiser

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our National Youth Gathering Fundraiser - Virtual Trivia Night, Saturday March 20th @ 7:00 PM. Cost is \$25/family. Watch for the complete details in the March Epistle and in upcoming emails!

### RecTeq Grill Raffle

The participants of the 2022 National Youth Gathering will be holding a special raffle in March for the opportunity to win a RecTeq TR-700 Pellet Grill Package (a retail value of \$1200)! Raffle tickets will go on sale March 1<sup>st</sup> for \$20 per ticket (only 100 tickets will be sold!). You can contact any participant of the 2022 NYG, Mike Emery or Thomas Wilson to get your tickets!

Raffle Winner will be drawn on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday!) Grill will be shipped from RecTeq directly to the winner!



### Youth in grades 3-8: Join us for our next event on February 10!

We will provide a pizza meal and have a special “forget me not” project. The event starts at 6pm in the fellowship hall right after midweek and will conclude at 7:30p. Safety protocols will be followed. An attendance form will be sent out via email so we can plan for food and materials.

### Youth Sunday

The board of youth along with Thomas will be putting together a program for Youth Sunday. We will email out information, assign parts and have a sign up genius to indicate when youth can come be recorded (like the Christmas program). This is for **grades 3-12**. We need youth to be readers, give the children’s message and the main message. (Date TBD at the time of Epistle submission but possibly late Feb. or early March).

### Save the dates for summer camp at Camp Okoboji

Cub Week #1 - TBD (there's a chance it'll be the last full week of June)

Junior High Week - July 11-17 (grades 6-8)

Cub Week #2 - July 18-24 (grades 3-5)

Youth Week - July 25-31 (grades 9-12)

The Board of Youth, the IDW and Camp itself have funds available to help pay for registration costs. If interested for more information or have questions please contact Carla Murphy.





## HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18 NIV*

Prayer vigils are people united with a common cause to pray and stand watch. After the crucifixion the disciples gathered in locked rooms in fear and prayer. It was a vigil of sorts. A prayer vigil is the practice of continual prayer carried out by a group. Prayer vigils have an ancient history carried on through the ages and then passed on in the monasteries. The first known Protestant continuous prayer was the "Hourly Intercession" of the Moravian Brethren in Saxony. Beginning in 1727 the prayers continued 24 hours a day uninterrupted for over 100 years!!!!

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 NIV*

The prayer vigil will be on **Saturday April 3 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We won't be asking for an hour of prayer for the next hundred years but only 15 minutes. We want to focus on prayers for guidance for our congregation's future direction; asking God's favor and blessing. We will also take many prayer requests ahead of time. There will be missionaries to pray for, prayers for our nation, leaders, and prayers to further God's kingdom. We will provide some preprinted prayers to assist you in this vigil also. Together we will be spiritually enriched and drawn to his throne in humble obedience.

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12-13 NIV*

## Women's Ministry

### Stamps for Missions – We Need Your Cancelled Stamps

St. Paul Women's Ministry Group is a member of LWML Iowa West District. A big part of the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) is raising money to fund missions around Iowa and across the world. One of the ways that we raise money is by collecting cancelled postage stamps. We want and need your help with this. Please look for and save stamps that you receive on envelopes and postcards. The stamps that we receive are then collected and sold to stamp collectors.

Here are the rules that **MUST** be followed when collecting stamps. Following these rules will help the LWML get the most money from your stamps.

- Trim 1/4 inch around ALL FOUR sides. Stamps missing edges and corners CANNOT be sold and will be discarded.
- Discard any stamp that is damaged, including those with heavy inked cancellations.
- Do not waste time trimming "common" stamps that do not have plate numbers. Your local post office can inform you concerning common stamps. Most are stamps bought in coils are common stamps.

**Remember Duck Stamps bring about \$5.00 each. They are sold at the Recorder's Office in the County Courthouse, as well as the Post Office. Most are purchased by hunters.** While you are at the post office, notice the poster which illustrates all the new stamps for the year. Most of these are the commemorative stamps that sell. It is unusual stamps that sell.

There is a small mailbox in the narthex (next to the elevator) that you may place your collected stamps in. If you have a larger amount of stamps, they can be dropped off in the church office.

Thank you for your help in funding missions through the LWML.

If you have any questions, you may contact Lisa Wilson at [lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com) or 515-570-4201.

## Women's Ministry



**See those HAPPY FACES!**

We have another **THRIVENT EVENT** starting again to get packets of dresses ready to sew. Everyone did such a great job sewing dresses we would like to “do it again—put MORE smiles on little girls faces!” You can still finish the packets that you have in your home and turn them into the office. Then pick up more from the St. Paul Lutheran Church office. Please contact Linda Peterson at 515-231-4730 if you have any questions.

I'm very sure the girls that these dresses will be made for will be very excited to receive them and will feel the love of Jesus through all your efforts! Thank you so much for spreading the love of Jesus through your very capable hands! Isn't that a wonderful gift of giving!

We can make more girls very happy and put lots of smiles on the girls' faces!

Donations for the transportation of the dresses to the relative countries is also being accepted. **Please make your checks payable to “St Paul Lutheran Church” with a notation on the memo line “Dress a Girl.”**

*The Women's Ministries AND the “Dress a Girl” foundation thanks you!*

*Here are some of the dresses the 4-H girls worked on and finished!*



## Women's Ministry

### LWML National 2019–2021 Mission Grant #17 — \$50,000 Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction

The Lutheran church has operated in Sri Lanka since the 1920's. Over the years, Lutherans in Sri Lanka have suffered numerous tests and trials. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has four very active congregations and seven preaching stations. There are three pastors for the 11 congregations. The need to train pastors is evident by the interest and enrollment in pre-seminary classes. For many years the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka has needed a sanctuary for Immanuel Lutheran Church, a central administrative office, and facilities to offer the theological classes for future pastors which will provide a permanent Lutheran seminary. Plans for a building to house the sanctuary, administrative offices, and theological classrooms have been designed. This grant will assist in funding the construction of the Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building.



Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation at worship on Sunday morning.



### LWML National Convention, June 24-27, 2021

Although June may seem like a long way away, it's time to start thinking and planning for the 39th Biennial LWML National Convention. All women of St. Paul are invited to attend the LWML National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky on June 24-27, 2021. Join your LWML sisters who are "Running the

Race ... Looking to Jesus," the convention theme based on Hebrews 12:1–2. Attendees will be inspired by the convention goal, "Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord." Registration for the convention begins on February 1, 2021. If you are interested in attending the convention, please let Lisa Wilson or Breanna Wetzler know, so that we can have an accurate count.

Additional information and the registration form can be found at <https://www.lwml.org/2021-convention>. If you have specific questions or would like additional information, please contact Lisa Wilson at [lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com) or 515-570-4201



# Women's Ministry

**LWML Mite Update:** as of 11/30/20

**2019-2021 National Mission goal:** \$2,100,000.00

**Amount Received:** \$1,754,544.77

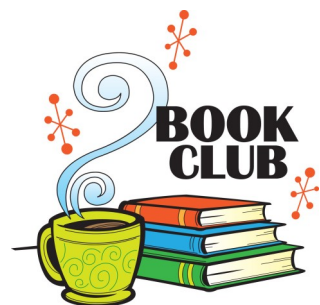
**Amount Needed:** \$345,455.23

We normally collect mites for missions on the 1st Sunday of each month. For more information about LWML go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

**FAMILY SERVICE** ~ Our quilters Have not decided yet if they will meet in January. Something will be in the mid-week news if they plan to meet. You may continue to bring fabric and place it in the tub near the east doors. Thank you.



## “Book to Know to Help You Grow”



Everyone is invited to join us via Zoom on March 11 at 3:00 pm to discuss “Saving Amelie” by Cathy Gohlke. If you would like to be included in the emails to book club members please let the church office know.

Barnes and Noble synopsis of “Saving Amelie”: Increasingly wary of her father’s genetic research, Rachel Kramer has determined that this trip with him to Germany—in the summer of 1939—will be her last. But a cryptic letter from her estranged friend, begging Rachel for help, changes everything. Married to SS officer Gerhardt Schlick, Kristine sees the dark tides turning and fears her husband views their daughter, Amelie, deaf since birth, as a blight on his Aryan bloodline. Once courted by Schlick, Rachel knows he’s as dangerous as the swastikas that hang like ebony spiders from every government building in Berlin. She fears her father’s files may hold answers about Hitler’s plans for others, like Amelie, whom the regime deems “unworthy of life.” She risks searching his classified documents only to uncover shocking secrets about her own history and a family she’s never known. Now hunted by the SS, Rachel turns to Jason Young—a driven, disarming American journalist and unlikely ally—who connects her to the resistance and to controversial theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Forced into hiding, Rachel’s every ideal is challenged as she and Jason walk a knife’s edge, risking their lives—and asking others to do the same—for those they barely know but come to love.

Date	Location	Book
March 11, 2021, 3 pm	Zoom	“Saving Amelie” by Cathy Gohlke
May 13, 2021, 7 pm	TBA	“Bread of Angels” by Tessa Afshar



## MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR IN FEBRUARY 2021

**REV. CHUCK AND CONNIE CORTRIGHT** serve in Riga, Latvia. We ask for your **PRAYERS** for our son, Patrick and wife, Kristen. Pat (39) was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma shortly after Christmas. Pat is the principal of Divine Savior Lutheran Academy in Sienna Plantation (Houston), TX.

Worship has changed for us. The Latvian churches are still open, but heavily regulated. Since there is a ban on singing, the service is more opaque than before: music helped us follow the parts of the liturgy. With the service entirely spoken in Latvian, we are now pure spectators. Connie and I do have our own English divine service in our home: Where two or three gather...

I will teach Early Church History as one of two for-credit online courses which will launch the Bachelor of Theology English-language program beginning January 25. Please keep the opening of our semester, our 28 students, and all involved in the Luther Academy in your **prayers**. **ASK** that the Lord would bless the students with diligence and insight and the instructors with faithfulness and dedication. Please continue to **PRAY** that the Lord would lift the scourge of the pandemic with its restrictions and privations. Please **GIVE THANKS** to God for His many blessings on this ministry. We are saddened by how the U.S. is so torn; our **prayers** are for our country in this critical time, especially for the preservation of our freedoms of speech and worship. Lord, in Your mercy: hear our prayer.

**REV. DR. MICHAEL AND JEN-YI "IRENE" PAUL** serve the Lord as missionaries in Taiwan. In this role, Michael serves as a theological educator for the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. He teaches in congregations and at China Lutheran Seminary, Hsinchu. He also writes and translates Lutheran Chinese resources and helps mentor new church workers. Jen-Yi "Irene". Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" have three beautiful children, Rachel, Jonathan and Elizabeth. **PRAY** for the Paul family as they serve in Taiwan. Ask God to give them wisdom to use their time wisely with the many opportunities to teach God's Word and share His love with the people in Taiwan. Let's **GIVE GOD THANKS** that the Paul's serve His children in this part of the world.

**REV. STEPHEN AND MAGGIE OLIVER** serve the Lord in the Asia region, based in Taiwan. As a theological educator, Stephen teaches the New Testament at China Lutheran Seminary in Hsinchu, Taiwan. Stephen first served as pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Iowa. Maggie earned a master's degree in counseling from China Lutheran Seminary in 2006. Stephen and Maggie have three beautiful children - Isaac, Gary and Virginia." My main **PRAYER REQUEST**," Stephen writes, "is that I would learn the Bible and Chinese well with a heart that is pleasing to the Lord (1 Cor. 13:1). I pray that God will give me His love for Chinese people so that through this ministry, the Spirit will work fruitfully in many people's lives." Let us **GIVE THANKS** that the Oliver family is serving God's children in this part of the world.

**DEACONESS CAROL LEE HALTER** has served as an evangelistic missionary among the Chinese people in Hong Kong since 1981. Carol does humanitarian, evangelistic and educational work among Chinese people of all ages who live in Hong Kong. After her graduation from Valparaiso University as a Lutheran deaconess, Carol committed her life to ministry to Chinese people. She received her master of divinity degree from Hong Kong Concordia Theological Seminary in 1984. **HER PRAYER** is that all Chinese people will hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ — especially from each other. Fluent in Cantonese, Carol nurtures and trains Chinese people to grow in Christ and to share the Gospel, by holding seminars and Bible classes, and by counseling individuals. **PRAY** that she would be filled with the Holy Spirit to do what God wants her to do in proclaiming the Gospel to the Chinese people.



## **St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and EK February News**

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Parents recently had a chance to share why they feel blessed about sending their child to a faith-based early childhood program at St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and EK. Here is what some families said...

"We have been overjoyed to have The Bear Class and all the teachers in our life! Our daughter has blossomed in her vocabulary, knowledge, and social skills since beginning at St. Paul. We are grateful for the excellent communication with teachers and the hard work put in to helping us build a solid foundation for her. The Bible-based teaching and chapel services are not found at most daycares and for these reasons we would feel lost without St. Paul. You have put our daughter's feet on a bright path and we can't thank you enough!" -The Wisecup Family-

"St. Paul feels just like home. The teachers and staff are beyond knowledgeable and genuinely loving and kind. They go above and beyond and have made a true difference in our child's life."  
-The Dunn Family-

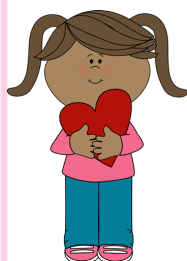
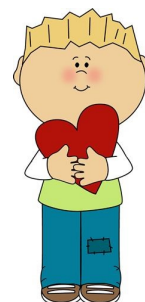


We are extremely grateful for St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and EK. We have sent two kids there and have had such excellent experiences! The teachers are kind, patient, and compassionate. "They [the teachers] continuously encouraged our children to work hard and do their very best in all things, and our kids learned so much--not only the crucial academic subjects, but also important life skills like how to be kind, share, get along with others, pray, and worship Jesus. Our children got a completely well-rounded and wonderful Christian education. Best of all, they loved going to school there and developed a strong bond with their teachers. We'll always think of the St. Paul staff as an extension of our family. We are so thankful for this special school in Ames!" -The Rees Family-

"I have had three children participate in the St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and plan to send my fourth child when she is old enough. I have been awed by the spiritual growth seen in my children as they progress through the preschool program. Not only have their experiences in the preschool enhanced the quality of our family-based spiritual work, but I have watched the children pass the Gospel messages learned in preschool to friends and younger siblings. Aside from the amazing spiritual development, my children have shown growth in social skills, academics, and creativity. Lastly, they come home every day saying how much they love their time at preschool. We are truly blessed to be able to put our children through this wonderful program." -The Thomas Family-

More wonderful thoughts and appreciation from our St. Paul preschool families will be coming in upcoming newsletters.

On behalf of the 60 families from our community who send their children as students in our preschool, THANK YOU to St. Paul Lutheran Church for your financial support of your preschool! This mission outreach of your congregation shares the Gospel of Jesus daily with over 5 dozen of God's little ones.



During this month the Cub, Lamb, Lion, Bear, and EK classes are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. During their time at school, the students will enjoy celebrating with a party where they will pass out valentines, eat a yummy sweet treat, play a game with their friends, and make a craft that reminds them about how wonderful God's gift of love is.

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool has welcomed 6 new preschoolers since the start of January! Our new students are Jeb Applegate, Ben Kornicki, Charlotte and Jackson Verash, Joah Bradley, and Riley Nelson-Johnson. God's blessings to each of our new students.