

# The St. Paul Epistle

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St. Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Orion, Illinois  
**December, 2017**

## FIRST, WE GIVE OF OURSELVES: Giving in Generosity



This fall we entered into the final leg of our three-year journey exploring discipleship and growing as stewards. We focused on "Giving in Grace" in the first year in 2015. In 2016, we explored the meaning of gratitude as we centered our attention of "Giving in Gratitude". This year, we turned our attention to "Giving in Generosity". What does God's generosity look like? How do we live each day in God's generosity? How does God's generosity provide a model for our own? These are just a few of the questions we explored together.

### Please Mark These Dates on Your Calendar:

#### **December 2 & 3** **"Generosity Sabbath"**

This is a special day providing an opportunity to celebrate the generosity of our congregation in sharing our gifts locally, synodically, churchwide, and throughout the world.

#### **December 16 & 17**

#### **"Celebration and Commitment Sabbath.**

At this service we will celebrate God's generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God's grace and for our ministry of sharing this grace.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services



Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, the church council decided unanimously at their October council meeting to have worship services at 3 PM and 9 PM only that day. There will be no Sunday morning worship service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

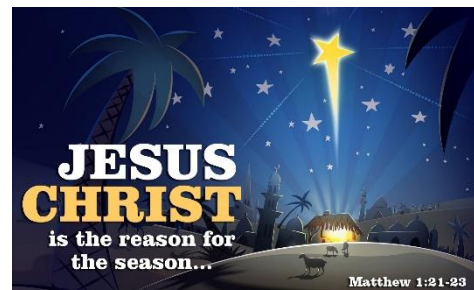
### Flower Chart for 2018



A **new** flower chart for 2018 is available in the narthex. You may sign up to provide flowers for 1 or 2 vases for our worship services. Flowers may be given in honor or memory of loved ones. Please pay for your flowers (\$20 per vase) at the time you sign up to provide them in the box located directly beneath the flower sign-up chart.

### Financial Report

Oct. 2017 expenses	\$24,959.03
Year to date expenses	224,053.31
Oct. 2017 income	\$27,151.19
Year to date income	218,237.33
Difference – October	\$ 2,192.16
Difference – Year to date	(\$ 5,815.98)



## December Birthdays



Christensen, Nate	12/01
Willis, Heather	12/02
Dahl, Bryce	12/03
Hogren, Marshall	12/03
Whitney, Carol	12/03
DeBaillie, Deborah	12/04
Filler, Kale	12/04
Bourne, Marilyn	12/05
Seabloom, Julie	12/05
Houser, Nathan	12/07
Weihler, Laurel	12/07
Werkheiser, Taylor	12/07
Hepner, Shirley	12/08
Johnson, Sonia	12/08
Jackson, Kimberly	12/09
Schroeder, Christian	12/10
Crawford, Michael	12/11
Filler, Kendyl	12/11
Carlson, Carolyn	12/12
Cook, Kenneth	12/12
Dahl, Jay	12/12
Rochleau, Caden	12/12
Lee, Ashton	12/13
Seabloom, Benjamin	12/13
Clark, Joyce	12/14
DeBaillie, Katie	12/14
Kerker, Scott	12/14
Thor, Stephen	12/14
Veyette, Georgia	12/14
Johnson, Nicholas	12/15
Weihler, Anthony	12/15
Weihler, Brittney	12/15
Lundt, David	12/16
Murdock, Blayden	12/16
Schroeder, Jeffrey	12/17
Schroeder, Cole	12/17
Anderson, Austin	12/18
Arkebauer, Emily	12/19
Bakener, Garrett	12/19
Bloomberg, Karen	12/20
Kunert, David	12/20
Lees-Soerensen, Camilla	12/20
Seaholm, Elena	12/20
Dahl, Debra	12/21
DeBaillie, Abby	12/21
Carlson, John	12/23
Johnston, Lisa	12/23
Westerlund, Cody	12/23
Zwicker, Leslie	12/23
Lindgren, Jessika	12/24
Crumley, Marcia	12/25
Bakener, Adam	12/26
Tappero, Brennah	12/26
Dahl, Brianna	12/27
Fliege, Elisa	12/27

Gritton, Madison	12/28
Edmunds, Dawn	12/29
Stenzel, John	12/29
Thor, Matthew	12/29
Bollinger, Ava	12/30
Holton, Janet	12/30
Brems, Courtney	12/31

## St. Paul Lutheran Church 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scrapbook Crop Saturday, January 27, 2018



All day for just \$45 -  
Save \$10 if registration is received by October  
31 (only \$35)

In celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> year, we are offering  
many specials, surprises, and treats!

10 raffle prizes will be given away every hour  
from 10 AM - 10 PM

A Baked Potato Bar will be available for lunch,  
and a Soup and Salad meal will be available for  
dinner

Proceeds will help our youth raise funds for  
the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Registration Forms are available in the court-  
yard hallway

### Aluminum Cans



Did you know the youth collect aluminum cans  
and turn them in for money! Please help us out  
with this simple project of collecting your cans at  
home and when you have a bag full, bring to the  
shed in the back of the parking lot!

## Backpack Blessings Program



The Orion Backpack Program of the Orion Food Pantry is once again being carried out through the Orion School District to address the needs of the children living in extreme poverty. The Orion Backpack Program provides nutritious kid-friendly food to children who live in “food insecure” households (households without consistent access to food) to get them through the weekend when school meals are not available.

Some of the items distributed must be purchased in quantity, but other items we like to send home with the children each week come from donations alone. Since the new school year began, we have already had a total of 29 children participating in this program from all three of the Orion schools. Your donations would be greatly appreciated by the children and youth that we serve. Suggested items include the following individually packaged treats:

Gold fish crackers, cheese crackers, animal crackers, pudding cups, fruit cups, fruit snacks, and jello cups. Thank you for your support of this program.

## December Baptismal Anniversaries



Melissa Abrahamson	12/01
Andrew Lestor	12/01
Tracy Hepner	12/02
Lon Mullen	12/02
Carl Abrahamson	12/04
Marilyn Dahl	12/04
Glenna Thrasher	12/04
Heidi Bernhardt	12/05
Hunter Larson	12/06
Susan Poe	12/06
Deena Beck	12/08

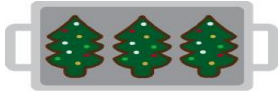
Mark Malmen	12/08
Theodore Arkebauer	12/09
Tony DeBaillie	12/09
Lily Johnson	12/09
Gary Nelson	12/09
Leslie Zwicker	12/09
Dawn Boney	12/10
Emma Brems	12/10
Ryan Brems	12/10
Lindsay Stegemann	12/10
Michele Cassillas	12/12
Judith Ward	12/13
Kyle Zwicker	12/13
Gavin Kerker	12/14
Jerry Sandau	12/15
Samuel Schutte	12/16
John Cox	12/17
Denise Killion	12/17
Roger Killion	12/17
Aleesha Shawgo	12/18
Joseph Guinn	12/21
Cindy DeBaillie	12/22
Jon Bloomberg	12/23
Jason Lilly	12/23
Raymond Parrish	12/23
Elyse VanDuyne	12/23
Jeannine Filler	12/24
Jerry Shawgo	12/24
Krystin Johnson	12/25
Joyce Meier	12/26
Gregg Meier	12/27
Kayla Mystic	12/27
Ronald Carlson	12/28
Madison Gritton	12/31
Kevin Larson	12/31

## Mark Your Calendars!



This year's Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 PM in the Ark. Christmas caroling for all ages will follow the program, weather permitting.

## Youth Sponsored Cookie Walk



The youth are sponsoring a Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9, from 9-11 AM. Cookies, candy, and fudge will be sold by the pound. Jacobsen's Rye Bread will also be available. Proceeds from this event will help send our large group of youth and adults to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. If anyone would like to help by providing cookies, candy, or fudge for this event, please sign up in the courtyard hallway. Tell your friends about this event, mark your calendars, and leave the holiday baking to us!

## December Worship Volunteers

### December 3, 2017

Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Chalice Bearers  
Hoffman, Kim Nightingale

Sound System  
Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Assisting Minister  
Chalice Bearers  
Welcome Center  
Altar Guild

### December 10, 2017

Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Lector (lessons & psalm)  
Chalice Bearers  
Judy Frenell

Sound System  
Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Lector (lessons & psalm)  
Assisting Minister  
Chalice Bearers  
Helke  
Welcome Center  
Altar Guild

### 8:00 AM

Dunlap family  
Team 1  
Blayden Murdock  
Ron Carlson, Beth

### 10:30 AM

Lori Dhabalt  
Kris & Laura Bowers  
Team 1  
Blake Peterson  
Debbie Nelson  
Rod & Helen Ward  
Jeannine Filler  
Beth Hoffman

### 8:00 AM

Rob DeBaillie family  
Rob DeBaillie family  
  
Diane Gainey  
Val Maher, Mark Border,

### 10:30 AM

Jeff Schroeder  
Thad Schroeder family  
Thad Schroeder family  
  
Jackie Willhouse  
Ed Willhouse  
Wilma Carroll, Jane  
  
Janet Boney  
Joyce Hepner

### December 17, 2017

Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Lector (lessons & psalm)  
Chalice Bearers  
Jeannine Filler

Sound System  
Greeters  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Lector (lessons & psalm)  
Assisting Minister  
Chalice Bearers  
Welcome Center  
Altar Guild

### 8:00 AM

the Lowery family  
Team 2  
  
Cindy Vestal  
Jim & Dianna DeBaillie,

### 10:30 AM

Sheryl Hiatt  
Dave & Marge Bowers  
Team 2  
  
Jean Sampson  
Lori Dhabalt  
Kris & Laura Bowers  
Ray Parrish  
Teresa Carlson

December 31 worship will be held at 9:00 AM only. There will be no Sunday School or Confirmation Class that day.

### Usher Teams

#### 8:00 AM

Team 1 – Gary Bourne, Dan Bergstrom, Ray Parrish, Ron Carlson  
Team 2 – Lanny Johnson, Denny Brodd, Jim DeBaillie, Randy DeBaillie

#### 10:30 AM

Team 1 – Jim Coulter, Ken Pulford, Jeff Schroeder  
Team 2 – Sue Dhabalt, Brad Gainey

## Christmas Poinsettia Orders



Poinsettia plants will be ordered to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship services. If you would like to purchase a plant(s) in honor or memory of loved ones, please complete the form below or fill out one in the courtyard hallway. The cost is \$12 per plant, and checks should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and enclosed with your order. The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, December 17.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants (at \$12 each) \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## Coat Collection



Our congregation is collecting good, used coats for free distribution to those in need this winter. Your donations of coats, gloves, hats, and scarves may be brought to the church office Monday – Friday, 9 AM – noon. The items will be sorted and hung, and distribution will begin to anyone who needs them during December. Those needing coats may drop by the church office Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9 AM – 11 AM, or by calling the church office for an appointment.

## WELCA Christmas Potluck



On Wednesday, December 6, beginning at 11:30 AM, the Women of the ELCA will be hosting a Christmas Potluck Luncheon in the Ark. All are invited to attend, and guests are also welcome!

The entertainment will be provided by a 10-12 member barbershop group called the "Chord-Busters", from Davenport, Iowa. They will perform a variety of songs for the enjoyment of all.

Mark your calendars and join us for this event!

## Worship Volunteers for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve worship services



Volunteers are needed as lectors, chalice bearers, greeters, and other tasks for the 3 PM and 9 PM Christmas Eve worship services and the 9 AM New Year's Eve worship service. A list of volunteers for each service will be placed in the courtyard hallway. Please sign up for those services you plan to attend.

## Church Cookbook



Our church cookbook, "God's Work – Our Hands" was created in 2010 with hundreds of our members' favorite recipes. They make great gifts. The cost is only \$5 each. The cookbooks are on display in the courtyard hallway.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jennifer Border and the children and helpers of the Fun & Fit program at St. Paul. They won first place in the scarecrow-making contest (business category) recently sponsored by Main Street Orion. They intend to use their prize money to help others in need. We are proud of you!

## Parish Nurse News

Thank you to all who helped in any way with this year's Annual Harvest Meal. The food and fellowship we shared was priceless!

I wish you all a healthy and blessed Christmas. Helen

## Our Sympathy



Our sympathy is extended to Virginia Haglund and her family at the death of her husband, Sam.

Our sympathy is extended to Judy Meirhaeghe and her family at the death of her husband, Bob.

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, you may be also.*

*John 14:3*

## New Birth



Congratulations to Alexandria Crumley and Kyle Johnson on the birth of their son, Jase Kyle Johnson, born on October 17. Congratulations also to grandparents Michael and Marcia Crumley, and to great grandmother Marcia Cox.

## WELCA NEWS



Thank you to everyone who donated items for our annual collection for Lutheran World Relief. We received and sent out:

- 27 mission quilts
- 10 Personal Care Kits
- 20 School Kits
- 12 Fabric Kits
- 5 pound of bar soap

Special thanks to Wilma and Larry Carroll for delivering all these items to a church in Galesburg for us.

Thank you also to everyone who helped fill 30 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse International Relief during the month of November.

## Live Christmas Wreaths



Our youth sold live Christmas wreaths this past month to earn money for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering event in Houston, Texas. Thank you to all who helped support this money-making project. The wreath provider sent us some extra wreaths in thanks for our business, and they are available to members on a first come – first served basis. The cost is \$20 each. Please contact Natalie Farwell or the church office if you are interested in making a purchase.

## Churchwide Christmas Caroling



On Sunday, December 17, following the Sunday School Christmas Program, all are invited to go Christmas caroling as we spread a little Christmas cheer to the people in Orion. Please mark your calendars and join us!

## Chili Cook-Off and Bingo



On Sunday, January 21, at noon, we will hold our annual Chili Cook-Off and Bingo event. You are invited to submit your own tasty chili recipe for judging and tasting, and prizes will be awarded. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun afternoon of chili-tasting, Bingo, and fellowship.

## St. Paul Trivia Night



On Saturday, February 10, our youth will be hosting a trivia event in the Ark. A table of eight people costs \$80. Doors will open at 6:30 PM, and trivia starts at 7 PM. There will be a 50/50 drawing, silent auction items, and walking tacos and desserts available for purchase. Registration forms will be available this month. Join your friends for a fun night of trivia in the Ark.

Proceeds will help earn funds for the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering next summer.