

# St. Paul's Epistle

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Monthly Newsletter

[www.stpaulsosseo.org](http://www.stpaulsosseo.org)

January 2024

*Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD. (Isaiah 2:5)*

Greetings to you, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

January is here! Christmas is over! Or is it? We are, in fact, still in the season of Christmas; for the Twelve Days of Christmas always fall on December 25<sup>th</sup>—January 5<sup>th</sup>. On January 6<sup>th</sup> we will be starting another season in the church year: the Season of Epiphany. This season begins with the visit of the Magi and is concluded with the Transfiguration of Our Lord (Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>).

On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, our 8:00a & 10:30a Services will commemorate The Epiphany of Our Lord and the Baptism of Our Lord. What a great way for us to begin the new year by being in worship and receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Epiphany is a season that is filled with light, the light of Jesus and His gracious appearance to His people with signs and wonders and favors given at His own expense. Epiphany is also about the Magi, the gathering of the Gentiles as God's people. It is also about the Baptism of our Lord, who prepares the waters of Baptism for us.

Our verse for this news letter article tells us that we need to come and walk in the light of the Lord. That is what we do in worship. We come to the Lord, listen to His Word, following Him in all that we say and do.

Also, with it being the beginning of a new year, I would like to encourage you to set Christ as a priority in your life and the life of your family. Our *Stepping Out in Faith* campaign will be continuing during January. So, take every opportunity to be in the light of Christ. Come to worship, be in Bible Study, and have your children be in Sunday School. Invite others to come with you to Saint Paul's. Let others know about *your Church*.

Let the light of Christ guide you this Epiphany Season, as you follow in His light. And let that light of Christ shine forth from you to all that you meet.

In Christ,

Pastor Burns

Romans 1:16

## **Remember in your prayers:**

### **Members who are sick and in need of healing and comfort**

Rose Ebert, Leah Pitts, Jered Glauvitz (Nephew of Dave & Erik Glauvitz), Derrick Doyle (son of Shirley Scheuble), Nancy Kitzman, Clarice O'Gary, Bruce Hecksel, Chad Hanson, Dan Wolinski (friend of Jason Voss), Pauline Williamson & Toni Susiy (friends of Shirley Scheuble), Jim Feuerstein (brother of Judy Opsal), Ada Fields (sister-in-law of Shirley Scheuble), Lawrence & Joanne Mendez (parents of Sherry Glauvitz) and Melissa Lee. Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform Pastor Burns.

**Our Homebound Members** are Alice Leitzke, Gladys Goerke, Irma Schmid, Clarice O'Gary, Jean Henderson, Rose Ebert, Melissa Lee, and Bertha Hannu (mother of Barb Gamache).

**Our Troops** who are serving abroad and here in the United States. For their safety and for those they are fighting for and against.

For the families of those who have lost their lives or were injured in the fight for freedom.

**For persecuted Christians everywhere.**

**For those serving in the mission field**

Lutheran Bible Translators, Johanna Heidorn and Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram.

**For peace and reconciliation world wide.**

**For our nation,** President Biden and the leadership of the United States.

**For our state,** Governor Walz and the leadership of the state of Minnesota.

## **Those Serving January 2023**

### **Elders**

Jan.	8:00a	Jason Voss
	10:30a	Bill McKibbin

### **Ushers**

Jan. 7	8:00a	Allison Hanson
	10:30a	Erin Hardy
Jan. 14	8:00a	TBD
	10:30a	Marsha McKibbin
Jan. 21	8:00a	Higgins Family
	10:30a	Justin Jones
Jan. 28	8:00a	TBD
	10:30a	Marsha McKibbin

### **Acolyte**

Jan. 7	8:00a	Tyler Hanson
	10:30a	Gabby Garcia Hardy
Jan. 21	8:00a	Tyler Hanson
		Gabby Garcia Hardy

### **Media**

Jan.	David Gamache
	David Glauvitz
	Jacob Andersen
	Sherry Glauvitz

**The Youth now have a vending machine right next to the pop machine.**

All the profits go to the Youth to use for service events and National Youth Gathering.

**Staff:** Pastor: Daniel Burns XXX.XXX.XXXX  
Email: XXXXX@stpaulsosseo.org

Administrative Assistant: Sherry Glauvitz  
Email: office@stpaulsosseo.org

St. Paul's Website: [www.stpaulsosseo.org](http://www.stpaulsosseo.org)

If you would like to place flowers on the altar please call the Church Office 763.425.2238.

## 2024 Budget

Over the last two months the church council has been working on our 2024 budget.

- Inflation has hit all of us, as well as the Congregation its self.
- Over each of the last two years our offerings have fallen short of our expenses by \$20,000/yr. We have been able to cover the short fall by dipping into our saving funds each of those years. Since 2019 our expenses are up over \$10,000/yr. and our giving has dropped over \$10,000/yr. Our savings is now at a level where we will not be able to cover a short fall like we have had the last two years.
- The council has cut items like our Right Now Media account; we have cut or eliminated many of our Outreach efforts; we have postponed the hiring of a choir director (a position we have had for over 50 years); and more.
- We pray that you will be able increase you're giving by 10%. If you are giving \$10/wk, can you give \$11! If you are giving \$100/wk, can you give \$110!
- I want to close with 2 Corinthians 9:7  
 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. "  
 The Church Council

**Church Council and Congregational Meeting minutes** are available in print or digital copies can be sent. Just call the office for a copy.

### Account Balances: (As of 11/3/2023)

Checking	\$1,940
Savings:	
Savings	\$20,273
Columbarium	\$ 7,579
Subtotal Savings	\$27,852
Scholarship	\$ 4,113
Total	\$33,904



1/01	Gerald Kiffmeyer	1/22	Bob Ehret
1/01	Verdell Schleif	1/22	Holly Lahd
1/02	Allen Haslach	1/22	Moriah Pitts
1/05	Heidi Ebert	1/23	Abigail Long
1/05	Erik Glauvitz	1/25	Kyle Glauvitz
1/05	Lucia Higgins	1/25	Zachary Kolden
1/09	Zoey Roberts	1/25	Forrest Zoll
1/10	Jean Jones	1/27	Henrietta Walter
1/11	Vicky Ehret	1/27	Randi Zinter
1/11	Jenny Hines	1/28	Dylan Braiedy
1/11	Katie McCullough	1/28	Amber Bretto
1/15	Daniel Burns	1/28	Jonathan Tuttle
1/16	Allison Kolden	1/28	Randy Weese
1/18	Leslie Gravatt	1/29	Bob Trafton
1/18	Sophia Schmidt	1/30	Courtney Perpich
1/18	Paulette Vollrath	1/30	Ashley Groenke
1/19	Za'Marr Nelson	1/31	Chris Higgins
1/19	Kathy Thoenke	1/31	Rebecca Iten
1/20	Meghan Reichstadt	1/31	Bradley Schue

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please let the office know.

**Newsletter Mailing Team** please come to help on Thur. Jan. 25 at 9:15a. Anyone who can help fold, stick labels on and sort is welcome. Coffee and treats provided.

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are in the mailboxes in the Narthex. Don't forget to pick yours up.





## Mite Box Sundays: January 7, 2024

Mite donations can be mailed to Sandy Slack, 11430 98<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Maple Grove, MN 55369. Checks should be written out to "St. Paul's LWML." Those attending church services in person may place their Mite Box Mission donations in the large Mite Box in the narthex.

**During November, the members of St. Paul's donated \$145.00  
for Mite Box Mission Grants!**

**Many thanks!**

*Sharing Christ's gifts with those in need!*

### *A Healing Space for At-Risk Children*

#### **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND — \$100,000**

The Christ-centered healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (DBGR) creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children, ages 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. Due to childhood traumas of violence, abuse, neglect, and more, children coming to the Ranch have experienced debilitating emptiness and loneliness at the deepest of levels; levels that only Christ can heal. A construction date of Spring 2024 has been set to build a chapel on their Bismarck, ND campus to serve as a healing space to help them know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power.

Another way to support **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch** is to **shop at their Thrift Stores** in Moorhead and Fargo. There are also two more in Grand Forks, ND. We stopped at the one in Dilworth, MN, just across the street from Moorhead. We bought coffee and Luther; well it was a COFFEE plaque and a book by Martin Luther. The proceeds help support DBGR.



Did you know that **Bethesda Lutheran Home of Watertown, WI** has **changed its name**? There are **over 500 different groups called Bethesda**? Their new name is **AbleLight** and the former Bethesda Thrift Shop in Minnetonka is now **AbleLight Thrift Shop**. AbleLight is exactly the same as Bethesda except for the name change. Please continue to support them by donating to and purchasing from their thrift shop.

**Please continue to donate items to complete the Newborn and Hospice Kits in February.**

**Please join us at our next Business Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at 1:30p  
in the Party Room at Mary Patrice Apartments, 100 3<sup>rd</sup> St. NW, Osseo, MN**

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR JANUARY 2024**

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Our Christmas program, “Christmas Conversations”, was amazing. If you missed it or would like to watch it again, you can find it on our church’s website.

Thank you to the many people who lent their time and talents to help us put together this program and make the day special:

Jenny Hines who revised an old Christmas program that Carol Emmans wrote many years ago for many more children. Some of the parts were videotaped in advance which made this program unique and different from anything we have done in the past. She also assigned the parts and directed the program. Great job, Jenny!

Cindy Scheevel for co-directing.

Pastor Burns for his guidance and support.

Esther Burns for the musical accompaniment.

The Sunday School teachers who helped out as needed.

Brian and Jane Hines for picking up the pizza, serving the food for Jesus’ birthday party and cleaning up afterwards.

Leah Olson and the Alumni Sunday School Parents for the delicious luncheon following the program.

All the people who set up and took down the stage, set up and put away tables for the luncheon and helped clean up.

Parents for all the hard work you did helping your kids learn their parts and making sure they were at church for the practices. Without your help, this program would not be possible.

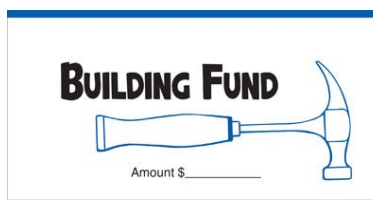
Last, but not least, a special thank you to the amazing Sunday School kids for sharing the Christmas story with the congregation. We are all so proud of you.

## **LESSONS**

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or December 31. On January 7, we will be watching the Christmas program video. We will then finish up the unit with Yeddy, the bear, learning about our powerful God. The last Sunday in January will be about Jonah where we will be reminded that just as God was always with Jonah, He will never abandon us or fail us either.

## **CROSS TOY DRIVE**

Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations to the CROSS Toy Drive. We collected more toys and gift cards this year than we have in previous years. Because of the low volume of toys coming into CROSS at the beginning of their distribution dates, our toys were delivered weekly and put directly into the Toy Shop. A lot of them were given out that very same day. Thanks again for helping to make Christmas merrier for so many children.



God has blessed Saint Paul's Lutheran Church for over 150 years with faithful members who love their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the Church, as well as in our households, there are times that can be challenging. Saint Paul's is facing this right now. But instead of looking at this being difficult, we would like to look at this as an opportunity for our congregation to grow in our faith and our Christian Stewardship.

Our building is over 70 years old. With that comes routine maintenance. Last year, we had many projects that were completed: We updated our outside lighting with LED fixtures that will bring savings in the future with our electric bill. We updated the drinking fountain in the basement by the bathrooms. And, we had a costly repair to the boiler system, which has brought more efficient use of energy for heating the church. Last month we had the gas leak that led to an unexpected repair to our gas line.

All of these projects were funded through our Building Fund in the Savings Account. We would like to encourage every member to help us in rebuilding our Building Fund. After all, with an old building, we know that others items can and will come up in the future. So, we want to be ready by having a strong and robust Building Fund.

Please consider giving a special gift to the Building Fund. This gift should be above and beyond your normal giving to the church.

You can assist us in having a strong and robust Building Fund with a special gift to the "Building Fund."



We are forming a safety committee here at St. Paul's. We are looking for volunteers from the congregation. We are having a Safety Committee Meeting on Jan. 10th at 7:00p, join us at the meeting if you are interested in serving.



## St. Paul's Lutheran - Our New Online Giving Page is Here!

Hello – We are pleased to announce our new and improved online giving page! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has updated their online giving platform to make it easier than ever to make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations to our church.

The new page is live on our site now. Nothing about our online giving has changed except the look of the page. You can adjust existing donations, set up new gifts and update personal information from the new Vanco Online.

### How Do You Sign Up with Vanco Online?

It's easy! If you're a new giver to our church, visit our website at <https://www.stpaulsosseo.org/home> to create a Vanco Online account. From there, you can read more about our mission and give to our ministries.

If you already have a Vanco account, you can log in using the same username and password as before. To do this, visit our online giving page at <https://www.stpaulsosseo.org/home> and click "Online Giving" then click the "Log In" button at the top right of your screen. From there you can update scheduled donations or set up new recurring gifts by clicking "Profile" and then "View Scheduled Donations."

We are thrilled about our online giving page's new look. Please stop by the church office or call us if you have questions or need assistance.



A big thank you to the Alumni Sunday School Parent group who give so selflessly of their time and money during a busy time to put on a dinner after the Christmas program every year. We are grateful to Thrivent, who sponsors us, and our group members who fill the bucket with donations to make a wonderful event! A big thank you to Paulette Harff, Amanda Harff, Samantha Harff, Julie Norman, Jeff Norman, Kristin Gamrath, Reed Olson and Marlin Olson.

Thank you also to Cindy Pomerleau, who navigated the coffee pot and everyone who helped with tables and chairs.

**ALL members of the congregation are invited to attend a Lutherans for Life presentation, on Saturday, January 13 at 9 AM.** Hosted by the Shepherd of the Grove LWML women.

Theme: **"Just As...I Am" based on Ephesians 2:10**

*"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them."*



Shepherd of the Grove  
11875 West Eagle Lake Drive  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

xxx.xxx.xxxx

xxxx.xxxxx@sotg.org

Coffee, juice, muffins, and more will be served. Bring a Friend!



## **Hymn Studies With Esther- January 2024**

**\*All information taken from Lutheran Service Book- Companion to the Hymns, published by Concordia Publishing House**

**The Hymn:** LSB #411- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**The Author:** Kathleen Tomerson

During a heat wave during the summer of 1966, Kathleen Tomerson and her family, in an effort to escape the rolling brownouts of St Louis, elected to return to the comfort of her mother's air conditioned home in Houston. Tomerson's recent meditations on Scripture passages dealing with childlike faith unexpectedly began to evoke the first stanza of this hymn, which she composed, phrase by phrase in text and tune, instead of packing for the airport. She completed the remaining stanzas in the same way after arriving in Houston. It was originally used as a choral anthem, and performed at Church of the Redeemer in Houston. Congregation members routinely took the copies from the pews at that church- leading to the necessity of copyrighting the hymn in 1970. It originated at this Episcopal church, but has been in hymnals of numerous denominations and has been translated into Welsh, Japanese, Spanish, Dutch, and Hmong.

### **Hymn Background:**

Although in our hymnal's Epiphany section, the text, which has even been used at weddings and funerals, bears a prominent Advent theme. The direct emphasis on light contrasted with darkness, links it not only to the hymn tradition of Luther, who also focused on this contrast. Greek hymnody also alluded to the light of Christ to the Gentiles. The hymn's origin, as well as its devotional character, also suggests general congregational use beyond one or two liturgical seasons.

The theme of Christ abiding within the heart of the Christian was inspired by Ephesians 3:17- "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." The hymn may manifest a theme of childhood, alluding to Jesus' words in Matthew 18:3- "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven," but was initially composed for adults to nurture their childlike faith. The popularity of this hymn was a surprise to the composer, who originally only had modest aspirations for her choral anthem.

### **When are we singing this hymn?**

#411- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light- will be sung on January 7, when we celebrate both Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord.





In GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, we learn that Christmas is a holiday of suffering. If there was no suffering in this world, then there would be no need for Christ. As we celebrated our remembrance of the first coming of Christ, we remembered why He came: to go to the cross to pay the price for our sins. It is through His death and resurrection that we have the forgiveness of our sins and the free gift of eternal life. But even while we know this truth, we still mourn those who have gone before us.

The journey from mourning to joy shouldn't be walked alone. That's why there's Grief Share.

Starting in January, I will be leading GriefShare classes every Thursday evening at 6:30p in the Youth Room. Classes will begin on January 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be 13 classes. The dates for the classes will be on our website ([stpaulsosseo.org](http://stpaulsosseo.org)) and in the church calendar.

Please contact the church office to register 763.425.2238 or [office@stpaulsosseo.org](mailto:office@stpaulsosseo.org)



**LWML is collecting items needed for the Hospice and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries.** Items can be placed in the basket in the Narthex. The goal is to assemble kits on February 11th.

Here is a list of all the items needed for the Hospice and Newborn kits.

#### **One Hospice Kit contains these items:**

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 52" long), new or gently used
- 1 washcloth, new or gently used (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar unscented soap, such as Dove Unscented for Sensitive Skin, in original packaging
- 1 toothbrush, in original, individual packaging
- 1 pick-style comb
- 1 nail clipper, Larger size preferred
- 6 Band-Aids, rubber-banded together
- 1 jar or tube of pure petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline/Approx. 4 ounces, lid taped
- 1 pair heavy-duty household gloves/Kitchen type, size medium

#### **For one Newborn Kit use new or gently used items**

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 52" long)
- 1 washcloth (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap, *in original packaging*
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie"

Size 0-3, or newborn

- 1 newborn stocking hat/*Small size, a newborn's head is about 14" circumference*
- 1 baby receiving blanket (approx. 30" x 30") *Cotton or light flannel, knit or crocheted*
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

## *The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad*

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)**

### **2&1 Club**


**Mark your calendars for our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange!** We will be meeting on Sunday **January 21st** at 5:30p at Dehn’s Country Manor (11281 Fernbrook Lane, Maple Grove). We’ll have dinner and then our gift exchange. Please bring a White Elephant gift– remember, one person’s trash is another person’s treasure! We look forward to another great time!

Please RSVP at xxx.xxx.xxxx by Jan. 14 for the dinner.

763.425.2238

# January 2024

office@stpaulsosse.org

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 	2	3 Confirmation 6:00p	4 GriefShare 6:30p	5 Office Closed	6
7 Epiphany of Our Lord/ Baptism of Our Lord Communion Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Communion Service 10:30a Mite Box	8 Staff Meeting 10:30a	9 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a Board of Elders 6:30p All Other Boards 7:00p Council Meeting 7:30p	10 LWML Business Meeting 1:30p Confirmation 6:00p	11 Circuit Meeting (Beautiful Savior) 9:30a GriefShare 6:30p	12 Office Closed	13
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a	15 Staff Meeting 10:30a Newsletter Deadline	16 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a	17 Confirmation 6:00p Web Meeting 7:00p	18 GriefShare 6:30p	19 Office Closed	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Communion Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Communion Service 10:30a 2&1 Club Dehn's 5:30p	22 Staff Meeting 10:30a	23 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a Sunday School Teachers' Meeting 7:00p	24 Confirmation 6:00p	25 Newsletter Team 9:15a GriefShare 6:30p	26 Office Closed	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a	29 Staff Meeting 10:30	30 <i>Bible Study 9:15a</i> Morning Prayer Service 10:15a	31 Confirmation 6:00p			



**ST. PAUL'S**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
OSSEO, MINNESOTA

**January 2024**

St. Paul's Lutheran  
710 East Broadway Street  
Osseo Minnesota 55369  
Office Telephone: 763.425.2238



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Osseo, MN 55369

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