



St. Paul Lutheran Messenger

Volume 2020 Issue 1

January 2020

Our Mission Statement:

“To Grow in God’s Word and Share
God’s Love”

Our Core Values:

1. Building community inside and outside of our church building.
2. Nurturing and developing faith lives for all ages
3. Serving Others (in our neighborhoods, community, state and beyond)
4. Caring for our members and church building.
5. Investing in children, youth and their families.

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Pastor's Pen

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Holy Conversations

In the Bible passage from Jeremiah, God is speaking to a group of people who feel that they have lost their past and are uncertain about the future. I think we can all relate to their experience; especially if we have ever grieved the death of a loved one or a dream. We know we cannot go back and reclaim the past and are forced to live in a new reality that we don't want nor do we feel prepared for what lies ahead – it's like trying to build a bridge while you're on it walking into a fog.

There are many, many churches that are experiencing the same thing. Most congregations have lost the majority of their membership and the remaining members are aging with fewer and fewer young families attending. In a recent internal study by the ELCA the future seems bleak.

“According to projections from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Office of Research and Evaluation, the whole denomination will have fewer than 67,000 members in 2050, with fewer than 16,000 in worship on an average Sunday by 2041. That's right: according to current trends, the church will basically cease to exist within the next generation.”

No longer will it work to simply engage in a new strategic planning process, develop a new program model, worship service, or hire new staff. What we do know is that the change has to be much deeper. It will need to be like Ezekiel 37, where the Holy Spirit breathes new life into dry bones or when Jesus says that we will need

says that we will need new wine for new wineskins. Now, that doesn't mean that you give up your past, but it's more like learning to sing an old song in a new way. There are core values that have been a part of St. Paul from the very beginning that we want to rediscover, and hold onto while we learn new ways of living them out.

Even though the new reality we find ourselves in is challenging, and the statistics from the ELCA are unnerving, I don't think it needs to be our future reality, because I know all things are possible with Christ, I have also journeyed with congregations that have experienced an inner renewal and transformation that has allowed them to experience a future filled with hope.

However, in order for that to happen you must be willing to put “everything on the table” and collectively we need to seek the Lord in prayer as we come together and heal as a congregation. It will not require a large financial cost, but there will be other costs: you must be willing to forgive each other as God has forgiven you; you must be open to learning new ways of engaging God in prayer and become more disciplined in your practice, and you must be willing to engage in heart-to-heart conversation with each other and our community in order to discern whom God is calling us to be, what God is calling us to do, and whom God is calling us to serve.

To that end I'm looking for people to serve on a Holy Conversations leadership Team. As a group will decide on the process so that people won't become over extended. As a group we will receive training on how to deepen our prayer life, and we will learn to how listen to God and each other in new ways. In turn, we will lead the congregation to do the same through a series of interactive, fun, events.

If you would like to be a part of the leadership team please contact me: email me at fredrick.hanson1964@gmail.com or call me at 612-877-0228.

Grace, peace and joy in Christ Jesus our Lord,
PF

Presidents Corner

This year we are celebrating our 150th birthday. That's right, St. Paul Lutheran has been serving the St. Croix Valley for 150 years. As a church, we had a very successful 2019. We were able to call a Pastor and added members to our membership roll. We renovated our fellowship hall and are nearing completion of the remodeling of the lounge/office area. We continued building community with our joint venture with St. Croix Family Resources and operating the Youth Connections Drop in Center. We are continuing to explore the possibility of partnering with other non-profits and churches in order to actually construct an affordable housing project in Stillwater or surrounding community. We have been very blessed, but more importantly it is the efforts of our members that have made all of these things possible. For that we are very grateful.

In our 150th year, we intend to continue supporting certain areas, but will be undertaking a very critical look at our church and what we want our future to be. Pastor Hanson will be leading us in Holy Conversations. He, along with others will be training our leaders so that we can interact better with our members and hopefully help us to discern how we can serve Christ in our local community and in our mission. This process will be very deliberate and intense and we will take a sabbatical from certain events in order to allow us to focus on this process.

You may be wondering why we are taking these steps? We believe that along with most other churches, we are at a crossroads. Do we do things to essentially maintain our mission and facility with the expectation that we will cease activities at some short time interval (ten years) or can we make changes to continue our mission and take the initiative that will cause growth and support of our efforts to serve Christ and his mission in the World?

While we all hope the latter question is the answer it is sometimes difficult to make that happen in a church. These days people are more driven or are seeking instantaneous rewards. In order to find an answer to our question, we understand will take a great deal of prayer and discussion with our members, the Pastors and our leaders. As a church we have historically supported those seeking education and we developed the HCM fund to allow us to provide for those less fortunate. We were able to use our building and our people to focus on youth homelessness. We are looking to partner in providing affordable housing to young families and the elderly in our community.

I would ask for your continued support and prayers as we move through this process. I would also like to invite you to attend our annual meeting which is scheduled for February 2, 2020. The meeting will be held right after the service and we should be done by 11:15 a.m. We will not be having the potluck this year and are hopeful that people will stay after the service to participate in building community.

In Christ,

Kevin K. Shoeberg

President



Meet Daniel O'Brien!

Hello! my name is Daniel O'Brien, and I am serving as your Student Coordinator of Children Youth and Family Ministries. I was born and raised in Park Ridge, Illinois, a northwest suburb of Chicago. There I attended Redeemer Lutheran Church where I very involved in youth group all through high school. With the help of our youth director, I discerned a call to youth and family ministry which led me to Wartburg College to pursue a bachelor's degree in religion with a concentration in youth and family ministry and a minor in leadership. During those school years I served in both volunteer and paid youth ministry positions in local churches to really put what I was learning into practice. During the summers I served at Ewalu Bible camp as a counselor and most recently as their Program Assistant. While serving there I felt a desire to learn more about outdoor ministry which lead me to an outdoor ministry project taking me cross-country to Lutheran camps investigating the similarities and differences that allow them to minister in a variety of contexts. During my final years at Wartburg College, I continued my discernment which led me to a visit and now as a student at Luther Seminary pursuing a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. That program led me to St. Paul, where I am serving in part to work through a number of goals that Pastor Fred and myself have formed to help me grow as a leader and prepare me for future ministries.

What excites me most about serving at St. Paul Lutheran Church is the opportunity to be learning with a community as you are entering into big conversations of who you are and who you want to be. Although I want to continue being involved in the children, youth, and family ministry while at St. Paul, I also want to be a part of the nitty-gritty conversations and ministries that extend to all generations of St. Paul.

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One of my primary goals going into the new year is to form a children's ministry team. This team, comprised of both parents, leaders, and youth, will help to guide the children's ministry through forming a vision and mission for the children's ministry here at St. Paul. One of the main purposes of forming this team is to ensure consistency for the children in this community. Having people who have and will be a part of this community actively engaged in the formation of their children helps to create a more relational ministry and a deeper relationship with God for both children and leaders. This team will also give the Sunday school leaders the much-needed support when needed. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for the children's ministry team moving forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

In Christ,

Daniel O'Brien



January Health Minute



January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. Each year, more than 11,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer. There are some things you can do to help prevent cervical cancer.

HPV (human papillomavirus) is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity. In some people, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cervical cells to become cancer cells.

About 79 million Americans currently have HPV, but many people with HPV don't know they are infected. The HPV vaccine (shot) can prevent human papillomavirus.

Parents should make sure pre-teens, both boys & girls, get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12. [*Note 2012 study: HPV vaccination of girls at the recommended ages was NOT associated with increased markers of sexual activity, as measured by pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease infections.*] Teens and young adults need to get the HPV vaccine - if they didn't get it as pre-teens. Women up to age 26 and men up to age 21 can still get the vaccine. Consult with your health care professional.

Thanks to the health care reform, you and your family members may be able to get these preventative vaccine services at no cost. Check with your insurance company to learn more.

Cervical screenings can find sometimes discover cell changes before they become cancer. Also early-stage cervical cancer generally produces no signs or symptoms, so women should start getting regular cervical cancer screenings [PAP smear] at age 21. When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life.

For further information, check with your clinic, or go to the American Cancer Society:
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer.html>

"Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security". Jeremiah 33:6 NIV

Linda Peterson

**Parish Nurse
Office Hours:
Tuesday 9am-12pm**

Stop by for a blood pressure check, medication review, medical questions, or just to chat! Available at other times by appointment.



Upcoming Events and Updates

Evening Women's Group

- Starting Monday January 6th!
- This will be a combination of a book study and prayer group. The book that we would like to start with is "'I'm Not Good Enough" and Other Lies Women Tell Themselves' by Sharon Jaynes. "It's time to be set free to see yourself as God sees you!"
- Location: The Youth Room at SPLC
- When: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.
- Starting Time: 6:00 pm
- Please let Kristie Mack or Sabrina Bell know if you are interested or have any questions.
kristiemack55@hotmail.com
sabell710@gmail.com

Pizza and Movie Night!

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening January 12th at 5 p.m. for another family pizza and movie night! The movie being featured is "Breakthrough." Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Area. Pizza, popcorn and soda will be provided.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held after the 9:00 a.m. service on February 2nd 2020. There will not be a meal.

Yarnsters

The Yarnsters's next meeting will be on January 11th, 2020 from 10 a.m. – Noon.

Hope for The Journey Home

Hope for The Journey Home has been scheduled for St. Paul Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church of Stillwater for the week of February 16th. The Social Concerns committee needs your help. We, St. Paul Lutheran, will take the last half of this week. Our schedule will be as follows: **Wednesday, February 19**, we will staff only the overnight shift from 8pm-9:15am; **Thursday, February 20**, no supper shift and the overnight shift will begin at 8pm-9:15am; **Friday, February 21**, we will staff the dinner shift and you can arrive between 4:00-5:30 until 8:15pm and the overnight shift will begin at 8pm-9:15am; **Saturday, February 22**, we will staff the dinner shift and you can arrive between 4:00-5:30 until 8:15pm and the overnight shift will begin at 8pm-9:15am. More detailed information on these shifts will be in the gathering area after the holidays. Please consider volunteering your time to help make these families welcomed. Any questions, please contact Adele.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Pastor Fred's church email address, fred@stpaulc.org, has been "spoofed". Please disregard any emails you receive from him where he is asking you to purchase gift cards, Google Play cards or any other financial request. The church is working on a fix for this situation.



FREE! All are welcome!

Dress for comfort & movement.

TAI CHI



TAI CHI EXERCISES

Tai Ji Quan/Movement for Better Balance

Mondays & Fridays at 10AM

Fellowship Hall

St. Paul Lutheran Church.

609 S. 5th St, Stillwater, MN

Certified Instructor, Paul Ryberg

Sponsored by the SPLC Health & Wellness Committee.

For further info: St. Paul Lutheran Church 651-439-5970



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Seniors Committee Meeting 9am Men's Bible Group 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Choir	2 9am Quilting 11am Social Concerns Meeting 2-5pm YCDC Open	3 10am Tai Chi	4
5 9am Worship Service 10am Fireside Chat 10am Blood Pressure Service 11am Ageless Lunch	6 10am Tai Chi 2-5pm YCDC Open 1pm The Reading Club 6pm Women's Evening Bible Group	7 6:15pm Edu Committee Meeting 6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	8 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Choir	9 2-5pm YCDC Open 3pm Evangelism & Membership	10 10am Tai Chi	11 10am Yarnsters Meeting
12 9am Worship Service 4pm Fellowship Committee 5pm Pizza and Movie Night	13 10am Tai Chi 2-5pm YCDC Open	14 6:30pm Business Management 7:30pm Executive Meeting	15 9am Men's Bible Group 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Choir	16 2-5pm YCDC Open	17 10am Tai Chi	18
19 9am Worship Service	20 10am Tai Chi 2-5pm YCDC Open 6pm Women's Evening Bible Group	21 7pm Church Council Meeting	22 9am Men's Bible Group 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Choir	23 2-5pm YCDC Open	24 10am Tai Chi <i>Urban Immersion Retreat</i>	25 <i>Urban Immersion Retreat</i>
26 9am Worship Service <i>Urban Immersion Retreat</i> <i>January Messenger Deadline</i>	27 10am Tai Chi 2-5pm YCDC Open	28	29 9am Men's Bible Group 6pm Memorial and Grants Committee 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:15pm Choir	30 2-5pm YCDC Open		



St. Paul Lutheran Church
609 South 5TH Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

We invite you to come to
worship with on Sundays.

Worship time: 9:00am.

Sunday School 9:00am.

