

Contact Information

St Paul's Lutheran Church
101 W Chandler Ave
Arlington MN 55307

Website: www.stpaularlington.com

WELS website: www.wels.net

Pastor Matthew C. Rauh

507-964-2731

Email: mrauh@gac.edu

Email: church@stpaularlington.com

Church Assistant Don Koch

507-964-5452 / 507-964-2731

Email:

Don.koch@stpaularlington.com

Principal Eric Kaesermann

507-964-2397

Email:

Eric.kaesermann@stpaularlington.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From Your Pastor
- 2 St. Paul's History – 1942-1952
- 3 St Paul's School News
- 4 Bible Study/Forward in Christ
- 5 150th Anniversary of St. Paul's
Did You Know?/Youth Group
- 6 Forward in Christ-Dec./
Special Christmas Services
- 7 Mission Society Notes
- 8 Dress Yourself with Patience

From Pastor

FOLLOW THE STAR

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”

Matthew 2:1-2

How do parents get the word out that their baby has been born? Today's generation will use Facebook, or texts, or emails. In my day it was a card sent through the mail. And you didn't have to send the notice to everyone. When we told our parents, we knew they would tell our aunts and uncles. The word got out. How did God announce the birth of his Son? With a special star.

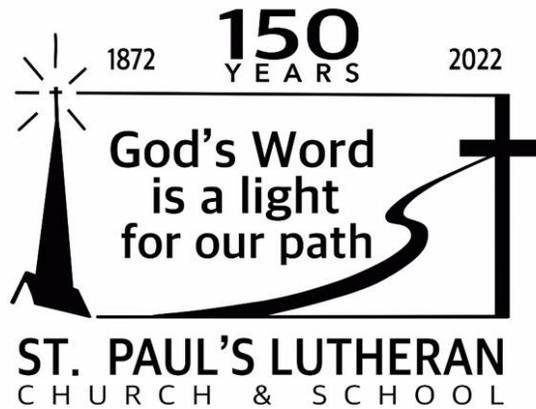
We don't know much about these Magi or wisemen. Tradition gave them names, but we really don't know their names. We know they travelled from the east, but how far? God doesn't give us any details about them. Why do you think that is? God knows it would distract us. We are already distracted by so much.

He does tell us what we need to know. That star announced the birth of Jesus who was born to be our Savior and King. And that announcement causes a reaction in us. The Magi traveled to Bethlehem, not because of the star; that star only announced the birth. They travelled there to worship Jesus as God and Savior and King.

We continue with our ten-month anniversary celebration, and this month we will focus on the Star. It is one of our symbols carved in the stone above our door. It will be seen on top of our trees. It will be handed out as a free ornament at Bethlehem Express. You will probably bake some cookies in its shape. Good. May that star continue to do what it is intended to do. Whenever we see it, even in the dark sky at night, may it remind us that a Savior has born to you.

Don't be distracted. Did the star move? Was it brighter than the rest? Is it still out there? Was it a natural phenomenon or supernatural? What were the names of the Magi? All that matters is that star announces the birth of your Savior. And don't be surprised if a certain desire comes over you to worship him.

He is worth it!



BRIEF HISTORY of ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1942-1952

December 7, 1941, ushered in Pearl Harbor and World War II. Close to 120 men of the congregation were called into service. The Lord held his guiding hand over our men as only one man of the congregation, Arthur Ziegler, lost his life in World War II. As a side note this also extends to World War I, and action in Korea and Vietnam. Some of our men were wounded, but only one casualty throughout all the military actions. God be praised that He watched over our men.

In the fall of 1942 Principal A.E. Gerlach of our school accepted a call to St. Paul's of St. James, MN. At this time Miss Elsie Heidmann, who taught in the lower grades, temporarily took over the principalship. Student teachers from Dr. Martin Luther College taught until the end of the school year. During the summer of 1943, Mr. Arthur Glende of North LaCrosse, WI, accepted our call as principal and served until the summer of 1955. In 1945 Miss Mavorette Lenz of Renville, MN accepted a call to teach the lower grades. She taught through 1949.

During this time it appears that the congregation had a Sunday School, but it was changed to Thursday School. The classes were conducted from 3:30-4:45pm and were taught by the regular school teachers.

In June of 1947, the congregation observed its 75th Anniversary of the congregation. At the quarterly meeting, it was decided to enlarge and modernize our school. The remodeled school was rededicated on June 4, 1949. With the enlarged school, the enrollment increased, and so another teacher was needed. Mr. Richard Poetter, a graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College and a ministerial student at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, accepted our call to teach the middle grades during his vicar year. He also helped the pastor with some of his work. (As a side note, I believe, he became a pastor of WELS and a missionary to Japan.)



“Preparing Children Now and For Eternity”

December 2021

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD: Our school theme from Psalm 119:105 reminds us that we have the greatest God to give our thanks too. We have a God who guides our path and especially a God who gave his son to die for our sins on the cross. On Thanksgiving our school families are thankful for a Christian School supported by an entire congregation to carry out our Gospel mission. Continue to keep the school and its mission in your prayers.

SAVE, SAVE, SAVE: Thank you for saving these items. Labels can be dropped off at school or use a collection container in the back of church. Aluminum cans can be placed in the trailer in alley by school.

1. Thrivent Choice dollars– designate to school
2. Our Family UPC labels– Keep Saving
3. Scan Receipts Box Tops for Education
4. Aluminum Cans
5. Coborns/Cash Wise designate Reward Points
6. Country Hearth UPCs—Keep Saving
7. Amazon Smile– Designate to St. Paul’s Church

SCHOOL ALUMNI: All Alumni please check out our website page. We are gradually uploading information from the years you attended school. Go to our website and slick the blue folders with your years of time for artifacts and pictures. The alumni page is up and running - www.stpaularlington.com/school look for a class picture to click at the top of the site. Our goal is to have a place where we can have an archive of information from 1945-1979 for students, along with sending alumni updates about events for them. We are encouraging all former students/staff to fill out a survey at <https://forms.gle/PbgbB6FtaxgTAixs>

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM: We are busy preparing for Christmas Eve Service, December 24, at 6:00PM. Invite family and friends to attend this service to hear the message from the children.

BASKETBALL SEASON: The basketball season is underway. You are invited over to school to see our teams play! Check the calendar for details and home games.

WEBSITE and FACEBOOK: Keep up-to-date with all school events and happenings online. Go to www.stpaularlington.com/school and click calendar. Like us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stpaularlington

UPCOMING EVENTS:

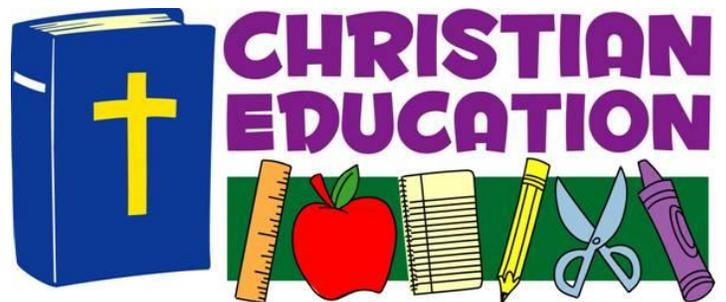
December

- 4 Bethlehem Express
- 9 Home Game vs Gaylord 4:00, 5:00
- 14 Game @ Fairfax 4:00, 5:00
- 15 Midterm Reports
- 21-22 Pre-K Christmas Program @ gym 2:30
- 24 Christmas Eve Program 6:00
- 23-31 No School Christmas Break

January

- 13 Game @ Gaylord 4:00, 5:00
- 15 CES Meeting- Swimming day?
- 17 No School?
- 18 Home vs. Hutchinson 4:00, 5:00
- 20 Game @ Nicollet 4:00, 5:00
- 21 End of 2nd Quarter
- 24 No School
- 27 Home vs./St. Peter 4:00
- 29 Games @ MVL 9:00
- 31 Game @ Courtland 4:15, 5:00

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11



SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY BIBLE CLASS

Sunday morning Family Bible class meets at 9:00am. in the church proper. The topic during December will be the 4 announcements of the angel. Everyone is invited to come.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Wednesday Afternoon Bible class meets at 2:00pm downstairs at church. During the month of December we are focusing on "Expectations of Advent." What do you expect of Christmas? Are there traditions you have to have? What do you expect for gifts this year? Will you see your family? Will there be time for everything? Some of these questions will be answered as we discuss these topics Schedule for December is:

December 1	Traditions
December 8	Gifts
December 15	Family
December 22	Time
December 29	No Class



FORWARD in CHRIST- NOVEMBER

Here are just a few articles for November. A little late, but this issue arrived late due to shortages. There are some November issues left in the narthex as well as the December issue. Some of the better articles (*all the articles are good and extremely informative*) ARE:

* **"Confessions of Faith"** (p.7-9) This article is about teens from Watertown, WI that go to The ROC (Recreation and Outreach Center) and tells about a unique outreach program in their city.

* **"Q & A with David Scharf"** (p.14-15) This month the question is "I know that we are saved by grace apart from works, but that seems too easy. How can that be how it works? The answer and accompanying Bible study offers great comfort!

* **"Parent Conversations"** (p.16-17) This is great for PARENTS! It answers the question "How can parents maintain a healthy marriage?" How appropriate this is in our fast pace age!

* **"My Christian Life"** (p.18-20) An 80 plus year old lady encourages us in our lives as she writes to future workers in the church. What an example of "holding up the prophet's hands!"

* **"Please Explain"** (p.26-27) This column is helpful as it may answer some of our same questions. This month the question is: "What does it mean to have your name written in God's book?" The answer provides some great comfort.

Take advantage of these wonderful and faith-strengthening articles. ENJOY!



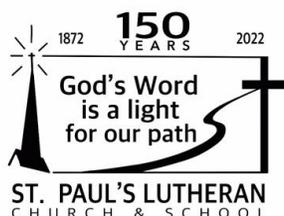
150th ANNIVERSARY of ST. PAUL'S

The Fourth Anniversary Service will be held by the time many of you will have read this. If not, it is Sunday, Dec. 5, with Rev. Mike Muehlenhardt, pastor at Cottonwood, MN and a former member, preaching. The symbol is the star with emphasis on our Christmases and Bethlehem Express. **The Fifth Anniversary Service** will be on Sunday, Jan. 9. Our own Pastor Rauh will be preaching that day with the shell as the symbol. The shell represents Baptism. We hope to have a list of Baptisms available that day similar to that of funerals.

ADVENT SUPPER hosted by the Anniversary Committee will be on Wed., Dec. 15, from 5:00-6:30pm. We will be serving BBQ's and the fixings. A free-will offering will be taken. All proceeds will be given to the Anniversary Fund.

Commemorative Anniversary Calendars & Mugs are still available. The calendars cost \$10 a piece. The attractive mugs are in 6 different colors with a cost of \$8 per mug or 2 for \$15. **Cookbooks** will be here before Christmas. They will be for sale at \$15 per book. All of these make great Christmas gifts. They can also be *purchased during the week from the church office.*

Anniversary Fund - You can give to the Fund by using your church envelope. Just write on the outside – Anniversary Fund.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ... Married Couples' club was organized in 1947.
- ...Married Couples' Club sponsored a Christmas Song Festival in Dec. of 1949.
- ...there was a congregational picnic in June of 1949 at Ronard Poplau's Woods.
- ...In June of 1949 we had 23 students graduate from our school.
- ...in the 1940's & 1950's a truck from Dr. Martin Luther College picked up donations of canned goods and vegetables from our members.
- ...in the fall of 1950 we had 5 young people enrolled at Dr. Martin Luther College.

*Our Church
History*

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Christmas Party will be on Dec.5 at 4:00pm at the Scherer's – 18609 391st Ave. Green Isle. The youth of our congregation and their families are invited for supper. We will prepare gift bags for the shut-ins, play games, and see the movie – "God's Not Dead-We the People." Come and enjoy!!

As a recap, 10 people met at the WOW Zone in Mankato for our November meeting with laser tag, bowling, and an arcade. We enjoyed pizza afterwards. A good time was had by all!

Darvin Scherer (507-995-0114)
Jenny Scherer (320-510-1022)
Nick Doetkott (952-288-8778)

FORWARD IN CHRIST - DECEMBER

Well, the December issue of Forward in Christ came on time as expected. That is good. It didn't give us much time for the November issue, however. But this issue is here in time for us to dwell on the true meaning of the Christmas season. The articles are short AND well-written. Take some time for Jesus. Here are some highlights from the December issue of FIC:

* **"THIS IS WELS"** (p.4) This is one page mostly of pictures of various things going on in various congregations throughout our Synod.

* **"He's Coming – Really!"** (p.5) This opening devotion reminds us of the Advent season of not only Jesus coming as a baby, but His second coming as well.

* **"Confessions of Faith"** (p.7-8) This is a faith-strengthening column. This month is a story about how 'neighborly kindness-and blueberry pancakes-forge a relationship' that leads a couple on a path to Jesus. This takes place mostly in New York City.

* **"What Makes Christmas Christmas?"** (p.10-11) This article beautifully answers that question based on the letters in M-A-N-G-E-R.

* **"Q & A with David Scharf"** (p.14-15) The question for Rev. Scharf this month is: "Our 'time of grace' refers to the time we are alive to come to know Jesus. Is that a fixed date really unchangeable? Or do our actions impact it?" This is an important question with an important answer.

* **"PARENT CONVERSATIONS** (p.16-17) FOR PARENTS (Worthwhile Reading!!) - The discussion this month helps to answer the question: "How Can We Help Today's Overwhelmed Teens?"

* **"My Christian Life"** (p.18-19) Another series favorite! This month the article is written from a pastor's point of view who spent last Christmas in the hospital with COVID. It gives us all something to think about!

* **"Please Explain"**(p.26-27) This is another article in a series, but does such a terrific job. This month's question is: "As a Christian, what does it mean to be humble?" A must read for everybody!!

* **"Mary"** (p.30) The editor of FIC talks about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

* **"Away in a Feed Trough"** (Back Page) A parting thought from one of our favorite Christmas carols – "Away in a Manger". This is a reminder that Jesus lived a real human life, subject to all the realities of the times in which he lived.

There are more articles, more information about how the Gospel is spread in our synod, and more news from our sister congregations. Take the time to read it all. You will be glad you did!!

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ADVENT SERVICES

"What To Open Before Christmas"
Dec. 1,8,15 at 7:00pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 15 – 7:00pm

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE
"Jesus Is the Light of the World"
Dec. 24 6:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Dec. 25 9:00am

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Dec. 31 6:00pm



MISSION SOCIETY

November 21, 2021

Mission Society was called to order by President Barb Bening at 11:10 a.m.

Roll call was taken with 7 of 13 members answering. The Secretary's report was read. Corrections made. Motion, second and approved. Treasurer's report was read. Motion, second and approved. Correspondence was read. No Sunshine Lady report. No bills were presented.

Old Business: Report on the results of the meal served as our fall mission fundraiser. We had an estimate of 120 persons attending and staying in to eat.

Funeral reports: There were three funerals served in November. Two large and one small. We are doing well with volunteers being able to help out each time, and we only bring a pan of bars.

Discussion on whether or not to change our meeting day and time or leave as is. Tabled to next meeting. Fleece blankets were cut and tied last month for MLC college bingo prizes. Pat G. was able to find more fleece on sale in order for us to make six more of these blankets. This will be done in January.

New Business: Election of officers went swiftly. Motioned to keep current officers as they are if they are willing to serve another term. Discussion, no problem with those who are currently in the president and treasurer positions, second and approved. This means Barb Bening will continue as president and Janet Hansen will continue as our treasurer.

Communion set-up schedule will be similar to last year. Ramona Bade requested to be removed from the list.

Mary Piotter, our Sunshine Lady will be taking care of Christmas cards for our called workers and shut-ins. A motion to hold our Christmas party, generally held in December instead of a meeting, to January 16th. Pastor Rauh and wife Janice will supply ice cream and toppings for ice cream sundaes and we will sing Christmas carols. Second and approved.

One more item brought up by the Rauhs was to plan a forum in January at our church. We would like to invite women of the congregation of different ages to come and give input on other ways women of the church can use their God given talents. More discussion in January.

There will be quilts to be tied soon. Tabled for January agenda.

December Communion set-up: Pat Grabitske and Karen Archer. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Wendland
Secretary



Dress yourself with... Patience

It was 21 degrees below zero the February morning Jerome's son decided to enter this world. Jerome held his son and lovingly hugged his mother. Then he left so his wife could get some much-needed rest. On his way out the door he promised he would bring her some of her favorite chocolate when he returned.

When Jerome headed back to the hospital, however, he forgot about the chocolate.

As soon as he entered the room and saw the disappointed look on his wife's face, he realized his mistake. He apologized profusely and his wife forgave him. Her God-given patience allowed her to overlook his offense.

That's what Solomon had in mind when he wrote: "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense" (Proverbs 19:11).

It is the human, sinful thing to store up offenses in feelings of resentment. It is the godly, glorious thing to forgive them.

God is hurt deeply every time we offend him by ignoring one of his commandments. He has the right to condemn us for our many offenses. Instead, God loves us and sent his Son, Jesus to be our Savior.

Knowing how God has forgiven us for our many offenses makes us willing to forgive those who offend us.

We hope you visit us soon. The more we learn about God's love and forgiveness, the more we can grow in our wisdom and patience.