



St. Paul's Epistle
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1844 Highland Dr., Carroll, IA 51401

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Volume 42

JANUARY 2012

Issue 1

A Word from the Pastor ~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17 ESV)

Blessed New Year to you in Christ our Lord!

A whole new year lies ahead of us. Twelve months of new opportunities! Graduation, college, a new job, engagement, marriage, better grades, better family life, retirement, travel,...the possibilities seem endless. The sky's the limit! Think and dream big! It's going to be a great year.

But—what if it isn't? What if things don't go the way you planned this year? What if you get sick? What if someone you love dies? What if that new job never comes along? What then?

It's a scary thing looking at the future. No matter what your attitude—positive or negative or even neutral—no one truly knows what the future will bring. Except, of course, the One who is the giver of all good gifts—our Heavenly Father.

Sometimes He gives us what we want. But He always gives us what we *need* (even when it's not what we want). He's always looking out for us in Christ, when things work out the way we like, and when they don't.

No matter what happens in the next year, this much is certain—Jesus was born so that He could shed His blood for you. After three decades of living a perfect life under the Law for you He was condemned under the Law for your sins. He bore your sins on the cross and there He shows you your future. It's a future filled with hope and certainty because the debt has been paid for your sins. With that debt paid the gates of heaven stand wide open

to you. You approach the future redeemed. His life and forgiveness is certain, no matter what goes on in your life.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 ESV)

Happy New Year! You are forgiven! Your future is secure!

In the name of Jesus. Amen

Pastor Licht



Epiphany Service

Carroll Circuit Epiphany Service will be at Zion Lutheran, Arcadia, Friday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. Guest preacher will be Rev. Bradley Ketcham of St. John, Audubon. The service will be interpreted with sign language by Pat Monroe of Iowa District West Deaf Ministry and the offering will be collected to support our District's Deaf Ministry.

Please join us as we enjoy Zion's newly-renovated Sanctuary.



Thank You

A Big Thank You to the following church officers whose terms end on December 31, 2011:

President—Dale Schmidt

Vice-President—Ralph von Qualen

Secretary—Shari Toft

Elder—Tracy Onken

Trustees—Ryan Rueter

We thank them for their time and dedicated service to the congregation.

Those whose terms were up but who agreed to serve another term are:

Treasurer—Brian Widdel

Elder—Mike Janssen

Older Adult Ministry—Jan Hoff

Thank you for your willingness to serve another term.

Those newly-elected to serve as church officers are:

President—Jay Woodhouse

Vice-President—Todd Nelson

Secretary—Deb Schmidt

Elder—Lew Orcutt

Trustees—Jeff Hoffman

Evangelism—Adam Schweers

Stewardship/Family Life—Reese Abbe

We thank them for their willingness to serve.

From the President:

I would like to thank all the people that donated time, talents and treasures during my time as President of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Thank you to Pastor Licht and Pastor Anthony for faithfully preaching the Word. I would also like to thank the officers that served with me, chairpersons and members of the various boards and special committees, worship helpers, and all involved in the education of our youth. And thank you to all who do those things that just seem to “magically” get done.

I encourage all to be involved in “sharing the one thing needful.” Happy New Year and Blessed 2012.

In Christ,
Dale Schmidt

From Seminary Student Adam Onken,

Dear Members of Saint Paul,

Greetings this Advent in the name of our coming Lord and Savior! I write to you from the beginning of a new quarter, with fresh challenges and opportunities for learning and growth. I've just returned from a time away from the seminary, and several weeks certainly make a difference in autumn....It certainly is a beautiful place in all seasons, but the fall is always a special time of year. Thank you for your support that allows me to study in both an incredible academic institution and such a picturesque location.

This quarter I have the opportunity to study the book of John and several of the later Epistles in the New Testament in Greek, Pastoral Leadership and Pastoral Theology, courses that examine the pastoral office from different angles, and studies in creation where we study evolution and other competing theories in light of the Biblical narrative and seek inroads into teaching the truth of creation to members of our congregations and to those around us. In addition to my classwork, I also have the opportunity to continue working with and worshipping at my fieldwork congregation, Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. I have the occasional opportunity to assist in liturgy, and will be preaching there for Advent services in a week and a half.

As we continue through this Advent season of anticipation of our Savior's coming into this world, I pray that these coming weeks are filled with the awe and joy that only our Lord can bring into our lives. As I continue my studies I am deeply thankful for the support and prayers that you offer for me, and I pray for joy and peace in this season for you as well!

In His Name,
Adam Onken
801 Seminary Place
Clayton, MO 63105



St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment and Legacy Fund

The Endowment and Legacy Fund preliminary committee was appointed by Church Council in January 2011 to review 1999 Endowment Fund Bylaws. Jim Schroeder, Christian Will Planning Counselor for Iowa District West-LCMS, offered his services to St. Paul to assist with this process. Jim is committed to work with various congregations in IDW to look towards the development of endowment funds for the mission and ministry of the church. Initial Committee members were Dale Schmidt, President of S. Paul; Brian Widdel, Treasurer of St. Paul; Mike Janssen, Chairman of the Elders; John Panning, Miriam Auen, Darlene Rueter, and Pastor Brian Licht. Subsequent meetings dealt with committee members comparing suggested changes/updates from Jim Schroeder with St. Paul's current 1999 Bylaws. The following changes to the Endowment Fund were approved by Church Council and St. Paul Voters at the July and October meetings:

1. Include "Legacy" in the Endowment Fund name (Legacy gifts offer another option if members do not want to give to an endowment fund. Legacy gifts may be used immediately or spread out over several years.)
2. Congregational Restricted Funds are the Scholarship Fund, Missions Fund, Human Care Fund, Little Lamb Preschool Fund, Education Fund, Capital/Building Improvements Fund, Church staff Fund, and Youth Program Fund. Fund goals for these 8 funds total \$14 million.
3. The previous St. Paul Scholarship Fund remains a separate Fund but will be managed by the Endowment and Legacy Fund committee after January 1, 2012.
4. The Fund committee members will be appointed yearly by Church Council.
5. The Fund committee will meet at least quarterly to receive gifts to the Fund, review Fund investments, make plans for fund distributions, and make plans to promote the Fund.

Current committee members approved by Church Council and the Voters are John Panning (President), Darlene Rueter (Secretary), Brian Widdel (Treasurer), Miriam Auen, and Pastor Licht. Jim Schroeder was commissioned as St. Paul Christian Estate Planning Counselor on December 18th. Quarterly committee meetings have been scheduled for 2012. The committee will be planning small group informational meetings to explain Christian estate planning to give church members. St. Paul members have the opportunity to

provide support for the mission and vision of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

(Submitted by Darlene Rueter)

Notes & News

Annual Reports from all Board Chairpersons and Group leaders are due in the church office by **Tuesday, January 10**.

The next Men's Table Talk will be Saturday, January 14, 8:30—10:00 a.m. This is open to all men and their sons or male guests. Join us for good fellowship, breakfast and a DVD and light Bible Study.

The Christian Fiction Book Club will meet Sunday, January 22, at 2 p.m. in the East Room. We will discuss the book *A Pearl in the Sand* by Tessa Afshan. Everyone is welcome.

Choir Rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Hospitalized: Pastors and other clergy no longer have computer access to names of those hospitalized at St. Anthony Hospital. Therefore it is very important that you or a family member notify Pastor Licht or the church office when you are hospitalized. Hospital Chaplain Peg Scheidt will call us only if you request her to do so. Thank you for your cooperation

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 15—1:30 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall

Congregational Survey

On Sunday, January 8,
during the Adult Bible Class hour
in the Fellowship Hall,
the Elders will be presenting
results from the
Congregational Survey taken last Fall.
Please come to join in the discussion.

From the Parish Nurse ~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One must be prepared when traveling during winter months. FEMA and CDC have suggestions for staying safe while traveling by car.

Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories in the areas of expected travel. If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.

Prepare your car for winter travel. Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level. Check tire tread or if necessary, replace tires with all weather or snow tires. Keep gas tank level full to avoid ice in the tank or fuel lines. Use a winter-time formula in your windshield washer. Have a cell phone with full battery with you.

Keep a winter emergency kit in your car in case you become stranded:

Blankets, flashlights, battery powered radio, extra batteries
 Food (energy bars) and water
 Booster cables, flares or emergency light sticks, tire pump
 Bag of sand or cat litter for traction
 First aid kit, plastic bags

Learn safety rules to follow in case you become stranded in your car:

1. Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away (about 1 block).
2. If walking to safety, keep your arms and legs moving.
3. Stay visible in your car by tying a bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.
4. Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour.
5. Keep a downwind window open at least one inch when the engine is running.
6. Make sure the tail pipe is not blocked.

May God keep us safe as we travel not only through the winter months but through the rest of the year.

In His Service,
 Darlene Rueter, RN, St. Paul Parish Nursing

Human Care

Human care for area residents is provided by:

St. Anthony's Regional Hospice...712-792-8279
 Division of St. Anthony Home Health..

1-800-684-3020

Email: ckwilliams@stanthonyhospital.org

24 hours/day, 7 days/week

- Provides support of terminally ill patients and families in their homes with Respect, Dignity and Love through a team approach utilizing:
- Medicare certified
- Skilled nursing and home care aide service
- Hospice educated volunteers
- Social workers & chaplain
- Pharmacy
- Physical therapy and occupational therapy
- Nutritional counseling
- Inpatient care and respite
- Bereavement follow-up

Mission in Mercy Outpost

225 4th Street (Thomas Plaza)

Carroll, IA

Phone: 775-2262

Scheduled Activities:

Sundays: Prayer Service – 1145 am

Mondays: AA meeting – 530 pm

Tuesdays:

Wednesdays: Bible Study – 4:30 pm

AA meeting – 530 pm

Thursdays: Alanon meeting – 530 pm

Fridays: AA meeting (Women) – 8 am

Saturdays: AA meeting – 1030 am

NA meeting – 12 pm

Simply Giving Program

As we head into a new year, we are reminding you to consider the Simply Giving Program. To refresh your memory, Simply Giving is a program where once a week, once a month, or twice a month, your offering is automatically deducted from your checking or savings account and automatically deposited into the church's account. All you need to do is remember to record the amount in your check register. That's all there is to it. The amount is set by you and doesn't change unless you request it to be changed or discontinued. Special services like Advent, Lent, Christmas, etc. are NOT automatically deducted and we would encourage you to use your offering envelopes for those services just like in the past. The additional bonus would be that our giving throughout the year would be more consistent. Contact Donna in the church office for more information.

Ready, Set, Recycle!”

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) of Iowa will host the 2015 National Convention in Des Moines! You can help our Guild earn funds to cover expenses by being a part of our “Ready, Set, Recycle” campaign. Bring the following recyclable items to church and place them in the box in the cloakroom off the Narthex or call Barb Brockelsby at 790-9592:

- Empty inkjet printer cartridges
- Empty laser printer cartridges
- Used cell phones
- Laptops, including power cords
- Palm Pilots (PDAs)

Please leave in original boxes if possible or place in plastic zip-lock bags. Thank you for your help.

Unacceptable items: Toner tubes/cartridges, Epson printer cartridges, Cannon BCI cartridges, Remanufactured cartridges, refilled cartridges or new unopened cartridges. Any cartridge that **DOES NOT** have a metal print head is unacceptable.

Circle Dates—

Lydia: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall, Vicki Grundmeier, hostess; Darlene Rueter, topic;

Rachel: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1:30 p.m.,
 Fellowship Hall, Virgene Behrens, hostess; Pastor, topic





LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Child Abuse

by Linda D. Bartlett www.titus2-4life.org

Why don't we just admit it? Child abuse is legal in this country. We call it sex education. But in truth, it is child abuse. Modern sex education abuses children by stripping them of their innocence. It sexualizes our children. Comprehensive sex education incorporates sexuality into language, thinking skills, health, science, and lifestyle.

Educators and parents (consciously or not) put their trust in a child abuser named Alfred Kinsey. He is called the father of modern sex education. Children, he said, are "sexual from birth." Few people paid any attention to the fact that Kinsey used known pedophiles to experiment on children for the purpose of research. His twisted documentation made its way into textbooks. Homes. Churches. Those who share Kinsey's disrespect for life and the innocence of children stood ready to profit—to further loosen moral restraints.

Removing the innocence of childhood has created a flourishing market for retailers. The advertising industry. Pharmaceutical companies. Healthcare. Planned Parenthood. Who other than this government-subsidized monolith more unashamedly vies for the role of sex educator, pushes all manner of sexual paraphernalia, and then provides abortion services (for a fee, you understand)?

I haven't always used the term "child abuse" to describe sex education. It was Douglas Gresham, the step-son of C. S. Lewis who helped me see it for what it is. I had written Gresham to invite him as a speaker for Lutherans For Life. I happened to mention personal efforts to help my church understand the dangers of sex education. You are right to do so, he said, because "modern sex education is child abuse." Gresham knows what he's talking about. He ministers to women who've suffered sexual abuse and the loss of life through abortion that often follows years of abuse. I, too, have heard the painful stories of women who became promiscuous after being exposed to early instruction in sexuality or blatantly sinful abuse.

For years, I traveled here and there speaking to boys, girls, and their parents. I did not explain the intimacies of sex, but rather the uniqueness of

male and female. This was received as a strange and novel idea. Maybe not surprising considering that moms and dads had been under the influence of Kinsey, too. I kept asking: Why would we want to teach our children about all things pertaining to sex before first mentoring them to be boys? Girls? On the path to biblical manhood. Womanhood.

Churches have failed the youngest generations. That's what happens when we are deceived. Fooled. The world stands before us, hissing, "Did God really say ...?" We look around to see new trends. Sophistication. Contemporary teaching. Then, we fall into doubt. We rationalize. And we play the game. The world wins when we are distracted from our vocation of instructing children in purity to instead educate them in sex. So, along with others, I continue to encourage my church to please consider the source of modern sex education. To refuse to wrap Jesus around worldly opinions and trends.

This mother and grandmother has a sensitively in tune antenna. I sense, hear, and see that modern sex education is recruitment into sexuality. Therefore, it is child abuse.

Modern sex education:

- Is not anatomy class
- Fails to guard the innocence of children
- Breaks down inhibitions by placing boys and girls together in the same classroom
- Instructs children to be "comfortable with their bodies" (And so they are—with girls having no clue as to why two cups and a thong might attract un-gentlemanly attention.)
- Tempts children to believe they are, first and foremost, "sexual beings."

When we believe that we are "sexual beings," then it only follows that we have the "right" to be "sexual." That we "need" to be "sexual." And, in today's culture, no one should deny "my rights." No one should deny "my needs." Well, here's the truth that I will continue to proclaim: We are — first and foremost — human beings, made in the image of God and, although fallen from that image, we are called to holy living as a man or a woman. Equal, but different. Can you imagine how that changes the way we see ourselves and others? The choices we make? The way we treat one another?

The media and the general public is angry when a priest sexually abuses a child. We should be. But where is our righteous anger when children fall under the tutorage of Planned Parenthood? SIECUS?

(continued next page.....)

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LGBT and GLSEN-approved textbooks? Projects such as "It Gets Better," the "bullying" program initiated by homosexual advocate and leading "sexadvice" columnist Dan Savage? (Warning: All of these sites are graphic.)

Children are not on this earth for our use. They are gifts from God. They are treasures of Jesus Christ. I stand on this truth as a woman. A mother. A grandmother. Try to prove me wrong. Take your case before the Creator. Question your reasons for defending sex education and the source of your information. Educating children in sex is cruel. It is a far cry from a parent's role to instruct sons and daughters in purity. Remembering our own mistakes, we may fear for our children, but comprehensive sex education does not protect young hearts, minds and souls. Instruction in purity does. It allows us to protect our children in ways we, perhaps, were not.

What can a parent do? For starters, teach boys what it means to be a man. Girls what it means to be a woman. There are only two sexes, equal but different. Teach respect for both. Resist falling for the lie that "experts" know better how to raise your children. Help children and teens set goals. Discuss the consequences of choices. Remind them that their bodies are not their own to do with as they please, but creations of God and valued at high price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

There is a time for everything. Childhood is a time for innocence. Therefore, keep the fence up and the gate closed.

LABELS FOR SCHOOL

The Carroll Community School District wants to thank you for your support in collecting **Campbell Soup labels, Boxtops for Education, Tyson labels, and Nestle Water Bottle Labels.**

A box is in the Narthex for the labels. Thank you for your support of CCSD.

From The Richmond Center, Carroll

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of The Richmond Center's consumers, staff and Board of Directors, I thank you for your sharing the spirit and hope of the holiday season with our consumers.

The Richmond Center is your Community Mental Health Center in Carroll County. We provide out-patient therapy, psychiatric care for children and adults as well as Outreach (home and community based) Services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

The Outreach Services Department holds a celebration annually for all consumers in a four county catchment area. Approximately 35 consumers from Carroll County participated this year. We provided a catered meal, entertainment and socialization opportunity for the consumers of our services. The Richmond Center conducted an internal fund drive as well as participating in other fund raising ventures and we have applied for community grants.

(Your) Parishioner's donations of \$289.00 allowed for our consumers to travel to the Christmas celebration. Your gift has truly made the holiday brighter for all of our consumers.

Our Holiday party was a tremendous success. It provided our consumers with a memorable and joyous celebration. We truly appreciate your generosity!

Sincerely,
Cari McPartland, BA
Outreach Services Coordinator
The Richmond Center

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Invest in Ministry

Through the grace of God, Lutheran Church Extension Fund continues to provide low-cost loans and services to LCMS ministries across the country in ways that further His Kingdom. This is accomplished through LCEF's unique ministry-through-investment program. LCEF investors earn competitive interest rates, while ministries borrow at cost-effective loan rates. Contact LCEF for the latest information on investment interest rates at 1.800.843.5233 or visit www.lcef.org

Worship Assistants for January

LECTORS: (Sunday Only)

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Jan. 1 | Pastor |
| Jan. 8 | Shari Toft |
| Jan. 15 | Pastor |
| Jan. 22 | Vicki Grundmeier |
| Jan. 29 | Pastor |

GREETERS:

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Dec. 31 | Reese & Jan Abbe |
| Jan. 1 | Volunteer needed |
| Jan. 7 | Bob & Betty Grundmeier |
| Jan. 8 | Merle Holmes |
| Jan. 14 | Susanne Brotherson |
| Jan. 15 | Jeff & Janet Hoffman |
| Jan. 21 | Arlo & Lois Buck |
| Jan. 22 | Vicki Grundmeier |
| Jan. 28 | Ken & Rosemary Beckman |
| Jan. 29 | Jay & Julie Woodhouse |

ELDERS:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 31—5:00 | Joe Eisenbacher |
| Jan. 1—9:00 | Joe Eisenbacher |
| Jan. 7/8— | Leon Schoenfeld |

Rest of January to be determined

ACOLYTES

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Jan. 1 | None |
| Jan. 8 | Bryce Widdel |
| Jan. 15 | Tyler Harmening |
| Jan. 22 | Justin Thooft |
| Jan. 29 | Maddie Schroeder |

5-8 GRADE USHERS

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Jan. 1 | None |
| Jan. 8 | Sarah Riesberg |
| Jan. 15 | Peyton Raymond |
| Jan. 22 | Miles Millard |
| Jan. 29 | Journee Kajewski |

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ADULT
USHER LISTS HAVE NOT BEEN
ESTABLISHED BY THE ELDERS**

ALTAR GUILD

Pat Beck, Chairperson
Jill Schweers
Darlene Rueter
Misty Thooft



Beta Sigma Psi, the only Lutheran fraternity and one of few Christ based organizations at Iowa State University helps students grow their faith during college in many ways: 1) Close connection with Memorial Lutheran and University Lutheran Churches, 2) Bible studies and prayer breakfasts, 3) Service opportunities: teaching Sunday school, helping elderly in the Ames area, mission trips even as far as Africa, 4) a close-knit band of Christian brothers who offer help, support and aid academically, emotionally, physically or spiritually when needed.

The Alumni of Beta Sigma Psi offers **3 \$1500 Scholarships** to freshmen men attending ISU in the Fall 2012 through the **Darryl Jahn Memorial Scholarship**. Visit <http://epsilon.betasigmapi.org/recruits/scholarship.php> to apply online. For questions contact Beta Sigma Psi at betasigscholarship@iastate.edu or call 515.259.0302.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

The Lutheran Hour may be heard on Sundays on the following radio stations in our area: KAYL, 990 AM, Storm Lake, 10 am; KDSN, 107.1 FM, Denison, 6:30 am; KDSN, 1530 AM, Denison, 10:30 am

Also available 24 hours/day on the Internet

@ www.lutheranhour.org Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jan. 1—*The Lord Will Have the Last Say!*

The Lord Jesus saves, the Lord Jesus reigns, and in all things He will have the last say! We begin the new year in His Name (2 Tim. 4:6-8)

Jan. 8—*Jesus' Baptism: Solidarity with Sinners to Save Them!*

Jesus stepped into the Jordan River for a baptism He didn't need in order to save a people who didn't deserve it. He showed solidarity with sinners so that they might receive God's forgiveness and mercy by grace. (Mark 1:4-11)

Jan. 15—*Bought with A Price!*

What are you worth? We live in a world that doesn't know how to answer that question. Your true value is found in a restored relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

Jan. 22—*Living a Life With Purpose*

In Christ, God has a plan for you—a life with purpose, life to its fullest measure, life in Him—for others. (Mark 1:14-20)

Jan. 29—*One With Authority*—Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Even Jesus' enemies had to admit that He spoke with authority. What's more, Jesus showed His power and authority to forgive sins and conquer death itself. (Mark 1:21-22)