

# St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Box 726, Garrison, ND 58540

November/December 2022      Volume 40- Number 6



Our **10th grade confirmands** will affirm their baptisms on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to **wear red** as we commemorate Reformation and God's unfolding call in the lives of these confirmands:

*Jayden Diffely   Joe Kolden   Trevor Mautz*

We pray that God will continue to guide these young people in their journey of faith!



## **Welcome to God's Family!**

Clover Hudgen, Renna Pastir, Jordan Kellar, Haven Kolden, Eli Maki, Lucy DeWitz, Liam DeWitz and Cohen Bittner

**Welcome New Members:** Jenni Bakken, Virginia (Jena) Belle; Amy & Jamie Betz; Donna & Glen Blanchard; Wanda & Ken Hodnefield; Maryann & Neil Narum; Marsha Privatsky; Darla, Derrick, Devan, Dillon & Dannika Rasmussen; Sheldon Smith; Deb Stoppler; Dannielle, Jim & Adley Wilson; Vi & Marvin Zabloutney; Robert Ziemann.



## Operation Christmas Child

We are filling Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We ask that you *please return filled boxes by November 6<sup>th</sup>* to a table in the Narthex. There will also be a box for collecting donations for the \$10/box postage.

**Baked Potato Fundraiser:** for youth activities has been *rescheduled for Nov. 13*, after worship when Bishop Schweitzer is here. The 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are serving.



Greetings friends!

Autumn is upon us, and I love this time of year. I enjoy watching the green leaves turn into beautiful colors and the brisk air that comes along in October and November. I am happy to not cut grass anymore, and even though they were a delight this summer, I am tired of watering plants outside. I am not ready for the white stuff, but our land surely needs some sort of moisture this winter.

Along with the fall season and its changes comes a change in our church liturgical seasons. I look forward to sharing Advent and Christmas with you. We move from the green paraments to Advent blue and Christmas white. There will be two worship options every Wednesday for Advent this year and we will be having 2 Christmas Eve services. We will not be gathering in person on Christmas Day, but our staff is putting together a Christmas Day worship service that will air via Facebook, YouTube and will be available on our website. We will gather on Sunday New Year's Day for a lessons and carols worship service.

The first round of Confirmation classes is ending soon, and confirmation will begin again in January. St. Paul is blessed with bright students who take their faith seriously. 3 young men will be affirming their faith this year and have put a lot of time into sharing their faith statements with you. We hope you enjoy this different way of sharing it this year.

I have been enjoying hanging out with high school youth on Wednesday mornings and junior high age on Sunday evenings. I feel blessed that I can share this ministry with Holly.

Thank you!! Together we have really lifted up "You are welcome here!". We have had new members join us and have had and will continue to have baptisms this fall into the winter. We have had new children join us for Sunday School and Sonshine Friends. Even the men's Bible study has a new friend joining us on Tuesdays. Thank you for your hospitality and reaching out to those who are new to our family of faith and who are visiting and figuring out who we are.

Along with your tremendous support for all our outreach ministries, I will be asking that you help me bring greetings to all of our students who are continuing their education after high school. We will be sending them care packages. Please prayerfully consider helping support this along with the other important outreach ministries we have this fall.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you are interested in new ways for you to be involved in our community of faith.

If you are struggling, please remember there are many resources at St. Paul that can help you in your journey, whether it be going well or in a season of struggles. There are many sisters and brothers in Christ who would be available to visit with you and share in your life happenings with you.

My office door is always open, I am easily emailed, and I am a cell phone call or text away! And if you are a Snap Chatting person, I am slowly but surely learning how to do that too. ☺

Blessings as we move into the Advent and Christmas season!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janis".

Rev. Janis Sloka, III  
Pastor

### **Church Cleaning**

Thanks to all who helped clean the church and some hard-to-reach places! Your help was really appreciated!

### **German Supper**

Thank you to all who made the Supper a success: from the cooks to the helpers to the donators to the eaters. We will have more food next year!!!:) We cleared \$5371 plus received a grant from GAIA for \$1000 to the camp. Thanks for supporting Camp of the Cross!

**Snowbirds:** Please let Loree Jeffers know when you are heading south and returning, so that she can change your mailing address for the winter/summer.



- Christmas is one of the most important times of the church year. It is the season that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many special church activities in December.
- We are having our midweek Advent services this year with a *noon Bible Study/bring your own lunch* and/or an *Advent service at 6:30 p.m.* on Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21.
- On December 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul Lutheran and the First United Church of Christ will have a joint Christmas Choir Festival service here at our regular 9:45 a.m. time.
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be presented during worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- A Blue Christmas service will be December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Two Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight services will be available at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.
- No Christmas Day service will be held in person this year. However, a virtual service will be available by the staff @ 9:45am.
- On January 1<sup>st</sup> we will have a Lessons & Carols worship service.  
*Please join us in celebrating Jesus' birth during these services!*

**Blue Christmas Service:** December 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul. The holidays can be difficult times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. A service of comfort is a way we can recognize the depth of the season and help process those negative feelings that might be held within during the holidays. By doing so, we can all celebrate more fully, knowing we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us or what we might have left behind.

### **DECEMBER CIRCLE INVITE**

All women of St. Paul's are invited to Circle on Wed., December 7 at 10:00 a.m. We will have caramel rolls, coffee, Bible Study and maybe a Christmas game or two.

**Poinsettias** - We will be purchasing poinsettias for the altar this year. We welcome all that would like to give an honorarium, or memorial for someone special or a donation in thanksgiving. You can buy a poinsettia, (deadline Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>), or have your money go towards a gift for the Garrison Area Resource Center (GARC). See the order form in the Epistle.



## *Christmas Choir Festival*

This year's Christmas Choir has joined singers from our congregation and that of the First United Church of Christ. We hope you join us at worship on Sunday, December 11, as we use song and scripture to prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus!

### *Christmas Choir practices*

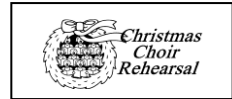
Wednesdays, @ 6:30 p.m. Nov. 2, 9, 16

Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. Nov. 22.

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. Nov. 30, Dec. 7

Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 8:30 a.m. Performing in Service @ 9:45 a.m.

Anyone 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older is invited to join in this special singing.



**Christmas Cards** are in the church store now. Please put the money for the cards in the wooden box on the shelf.

## **Dicken's Bake Sale**



Once again St Paul will be sponsoring a bake sale the second weekend of the Dickens Festival, December 2nd and 3rd. We will need all bakers and booth workers available in order to make this the success it has been in the past. The 1st Sunday in November, we will put out sign-up sheets for work schedule and anticipated donations as well as sheets with suggested prices and packaging info. We have ordered frozen caramel roll dough again, so there will also be a sign-up sheet if you wish to bake some of those. Baking pans will be provided when you pick up the frozen dough. The St. Paul Women help the church, youth, camp, and many others in the things they do.

## **Lefse Making Day:**

We are looking for lefse makers to come and share their talents in making lefse for the Women's Bake Sale at the Dicken's Festival. The lefse making will be on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the church kitchen. Please call the church or signup at the church if you can help.

**Equal Exchange** coffee and chocolate are for sale on a cart in the fellowship hall and make good Christmas gifts. Please feel free to put your money in the box if no one is at the cart. This is a service of the Social Action Committee supporting the small farmers.

Loree will be *ordering the Equal Exchange Coffee* early November, if anyone wants to order chocolate, tea or coffee, let her know.



St. Paul Lutheran is participating again in the Gifts from the Heart Program. However, it is going to look a little bit different this year: Gifts from the Heart and GARC are teaming together to provide both the gifts and food items for the holiday meal. Why duplicate it when we can combine efforts and make it even better. Look for food drop off sites to support GARC and look for the gift stars at the banks and at St. Paul to support GFTH! Join us Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM-8:30PM to wrap gifts.

## Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Harvest for the Camp

October 28-29 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bash

November 19 Scandinavian Supper

Jan 18-22 January Crafting Retreat

Jan 27- 29 Men's Retreat



## 2023 Offering Envelopes

We will continue with the offering envelopes as we have in 2022. Offering envelope packets will be on the table in the narthex and single envelopes in the pews. You may use your old envelopes, as your number is the same. The key part is if you give cash and want credit, you will need to put the cash in an envelope with your name. Thank you for giving to the church and our mission in Jesus Christ.

## Weather closer info. for Worship & Wednesday Activities

Information concerning cancelling or changing worship or activities will be via Breeze email and/or text and on social media. *Please let the office know if you need us to call you.*

**Quilters:** notice that quilting is November 14 & 15, it has changed weeks for this month, and has changed to a Monday & Tuesday for the third Week of every month.

## **Sunday School**

-Sunday School has performed two VBS Songs during worship in October and have been following along with the readings.

-We are still looking for a couple of volunteer leaders, please check out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you can help. I will have everything prepped for you.

-We will be performing with the Choir on November 20th during worship. We will then start practicing our Christmas Program, which will be during worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The kiddos are excited, and several have said they want speaking parts this year.

-I look forward to watching them all work hard to bring you a great program. Thank you for sharing your precious littles with me as we continue to travel through the Bible following the lectionary.

Lisa L Maki, Sunday School Superintendent



*From Holly's Desk*

### November:

2<sup>nd</sup>- Sonshine Friends Group B (3-6<sup>th</sup>) 3-4:30pm

9<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friendsgiving meet from 3-5:00pm

13<sup>th</sup>- Baked Potato Fundraiser (6-8<sup>th</sup>) after worship

16<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friends Thanksgiving Party-both groups 3-4:30pm

20<sup>th</sup>- 9-12<sup>th</sup> LOL 11:00am

Messy Christmas Sunday School age youth 12-3:00pm

25-26<sup>th</sup>- Selling Fleischkuechle on Main Street 4:30-6pm

30<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friends Group A (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) 3-4:30pm

### December:

2-3<sup>rd</sup> & 9-10<sup>th</sup>- Selling Fleischkuechle on Main Street 4:30-6pm

4<sup>th</sup>- 6-8<sup>th</sup> LOL 11:00am

7<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friends Group B (3-6<sup>th</sup>) 3-4:30pm

9<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friends Urchin on Main Street 4-5:30pm

11<sup>th</sup>- 9-12<sup>th</sup> LOL 11:00am

14<sup>th</sup>- Sonshine Friends Christmas Party (both groups)

18<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Program during worship

## Fleischkuechle Sales

Our LYO Youth will again be participating as a Dickens Street Vendor by selling fleischkuechle on Garrison's Main Street each evening of the Dickens Festival. Their booth is located beside the Firefighter's Museum, and they serve from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Stop down to support our youth and enjoy good eats!!

### CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Church Council met on September 22, 2022.

**Pastor Sloka** shared that new members would be received on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. The German Supper is on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop Schweitzer will be visiting St. Paul in worship.

**Holly** reported that the Baked Potato fundraiser is moved to Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. Over a \$1000 was raised at the Spaghetti Dinner for C.A.R. Sunday school and Sonshine Friends has started and is well attended.

**Old Business:** Radon work completed in the parsonage. John Kallberg will work on tree stumps in the back of the church. Gavin and Eli Ruud will clean sidewalks this winter. Pastor Janis, Clair and Jenny will meet with Insurance people to come up with a recommendation. There's no longer a contract with the First Congregational Church.

#### **New Business:**

-Annual meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2023.

-Sarah, Jenny, Clair and Mike's terms are up on the council in January 2023. Sarah's two terms are done, the other three can run again; Andrew can no longer be president.

-Budget and pay increases will be looked at in November.

-St. Paul will have our own Thanksgiving Service during worship on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. There is no Community Service.

-Blue Christmas Service is Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

-Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Services will be at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no Christmas Day Service. Worship on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> will be Lessons and Carols.

**The next meeting is Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.**



## Financial Update

	Year to Date
Income	\$120,304.97
Parsonage Principle	5,576.83
Expenses	<u>\$133,402.68</u>
Difference	<b><u>(-\$18,674.54)</u></b>

Every good and perfect gift is from God. We *thank you* for your offerings of time, talent and treasure. Please consider catching up on any offerings that you may have missed over the summer months as we continue to lift up our ministry and bear witness to the love of Christ.

## Looking Ahead



**Annual Report** – Loree Jeffers will need all **reports** from 2022 by Wednesday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>** (the earlier, the better). This year we are not mailing the whole report. We will email the whole report and have copies of the report on a table in the church entry by January 22<sup>nd</sup> for anyone to pick up. Anyone wishing to have the report mailed to them can let Loree know. We will be sending a notice of the congregational annual meeting by mail and/or email by at least 10 days prior to the meeting as per our constitution. It will also be advertised the two Sundays before the meeting.

## Annual Meeting - January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's will be after worship. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

## Soup/Sandwich/Salad Scholarship Lunch

Will be served during the Annual Meeting (1/29/23). Free Will donations will be used for scholarships for our graduating seniors.

### Confirmation: January Schedule:

- 11th- 7th grade 6PM-6:45PM
- 8th-9th grade 7PM-7:45PM
- 18th- 7th grade 6PM-6:45PM
- 8th-9th grade 7PM-7:45PM
- 25th- 7th grade 6PM-6:45PM
- 8th-9th grade 7PM-7:45PM



We will be purchasing poinsettias for the altar this year. The cost is \$20 for one. We welcome all that would like to give an honorarium or memorial for someone special or a thanksgiving gift. We will use the money for a plant or your donation can go to our local pantry, GARC. You choose. Please fill in the information below and place this completed form along with your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or send it to the Church.

- Deadline to get poinsettias ordered is November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Deadline to give donations (no plant) is December 18<sup>th</sup>.

For a Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ OR - For a pantry donation: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THANKSGIVING

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_