

THE OTHER GOOD NEWS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

22915 Greater Mack Avenue, St. Clair Shores, Michigan
Church 586-777-0215 E-mail – st.pauls.scs@gmail.com
Websites – “stpaulsmi.com”, and “www.lcms.org”

January 21, 2018

Christian Education is important

Worship Services Sundays 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Adult Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Sundays

Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am

Vision Statement

“A Christian church that shares the love of Jesus.”

Mission Statement

“St. Paul’s is a family of evangelical Lutherans that share the love of Jesus Christ. We believe the **Holy Bible** to be the true Word of God, without error, and the basis of our teaching, as confessed in the ‘Book of Concord 1580.’ Our Savior Jesus Christ answers prayers, provides comfort, peace, and blessings. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we respond to God’s love by joyfully worshipping, serving, teaching, and witnessing.”

“St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Early Childhood Center shares the Lord Jesus Christ with children, their families and friends, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, many will believe in Him and be saved.”

His week

Sunday (21)	Worship Service 8:30 am Sunday Bible School 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Divine Service* 11:00 am Circuit Forum Meeting, Angelica, Allen Park 2:00 pm
Monday (22)	Preschool 8:30 am Jr. Confirmation Catechesis 4:15 pm Event Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
Tuesday (23)	Preschool 8:30 am Bible History Class 4:15 pm Stewardship Board 7:00 pm A. A. 8:00 pm
Wednesday (24)	Preschool 8:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Prayer Circle 12:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm LifeLight Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees’ Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday (25)	Preschool 8:30 am Food Pantry open 11:00 am – 12 noon Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
Friday (26)	Preschool 8:30 am Youth Group Fun Night at Christ the King from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm Movie Night 7:00 pm
Saturday (27)	A. A. 10:30 am
Sunday (28)	Divine Service* 8:30 am Sunday Bible School 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am

* indicates Holy Communion Service

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:3

Preschool enrolling now.

ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL . . . offers a variety of activities: Art Classes, Field Trips, Story Time, Snacks, Music and Movement, Weekly Themes, Cooking, Bible Lessons and Prayers.

Taught by Michigan Certified Teacher:

Heather Thomason



Superbowl Parties always are nicer with the Gourmet Nuts offered by the Shorewood Kiwanis. For \$20 you can purchase a container. Please contact Pastor Rutter, a member of the Shorewood Kiwanis to receive yours. [The Shorewood Kiwanis earns just over \$4.00 per can, which is used to fund numerous programs in St. Clair Shores to benefit children.]



Portals of Prayer for January through March, 2018 are now available. Please pick up your copy from the table in the Parish Hall today.

Readings for Sunday, January 21st: I Samuel 3:1 – 20, Psalm 139:1 – 18, I Corinthians 6:12 – 20, St. John 1:43 – 51

Readings for Sunday, January 28th: Jonah 3:1 – 5, Psalm 62, I Corinthians 7:29 – 35, St. Mark 1:14 – 20

The towel dispenser key for the bathrooms is missing. It is a small key attached to length of yellow yarn. If you have it, please return it. If you know where it is please call the church office. Thank you.

Community-minded persons interested in networking to discover ways of volunteering for the welfare of the community are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Shorewood Kiwanis cozy evening of networking and fun at the Watermark Grill, 24420 Jefferson, SCS, Thursday, February 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$10 at the door provides 1 beverage ticket, light appetizers, and more. A speaker from Women At Risk International will address the assembly at 7:00 p.m. RSVP 586-772-0100, or let Pastor Rutter, a member of the Shorewood Kiwanis, know. Thank you.



Weekly Stewardship Bible Verses:

St. Mark 1:14-15 – Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel."

To repent means to turn away from sins and our former way of thinking and turn toward belief in God and His Gospel of grace and mercy. The whole Christian life is one of repentance and faith – where is God calling you to repent today? How is He calling you to deeper faith?



"Life issues didn't arise overnight. Their frequent connection to medical technology can make them seem like recent developments—and advances in understanding physiology and pharmaceuticals have made abortion and euthanasia more efficient and available of late. But these circumstances have been causing society's difficulties—and providing opportunities to proclaim the Gospel—since ancient times." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Bible Reading Plan for January 21 – January 27, 2018

January 21	Isaiah 1 – 2, St. Mark 1:1 – 22
January 22	Isaiah 3 – 4, St. Mark 1:23 – 45
January 23	Isaiah 5 – 6, St. Mark 2
January 24	Isaiah 7 – 8, St. Mark 3:1 – 19
January 25	Isaiah 9 – 10, St. Mark 3:20 – 35
January 26	Isaiah 11 – 13, St. Mark 4:1 – 20
January 27	Isaiah 14 – 16, St. Mark 1:21 – 41



Preschool Prayer Pals

Dear Congregation,
This year in preschool we would like to introduce a Prayer Pal activity with our children. If you would be willing to be a Prayer Pal for one our preschool children, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the clipboard by the bulletin board. Please sign up by September 10th. We will send you cards and letters from your prayer pal. If you would like to respond you may drop off letters in our mailbox by the preschool door. Please pray for your child. We will also have the child pray for you. Thank you for your support with this activity.

Sincerely, Heather and Christine

We now have three volunteers to work on the new pictorial directory and could use at least five. So at least two more are needed to begin this project. Can you help? If so, please sign up or contact the church office.

LifeLight Bible Study has begun. If you wish to participate, the classes are every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your donations to our food pantry. Currently needed are these items: soup (except cream of mushroom), breakfast cereal, canned meat, and canned fruit. Between 1 and 6 people visit the pantry each week. In addition to 2 bags of groceries, guests receive a *Portals of Prayer* devotion book, a prayer, and an invitation to church services. Please pray for those we serve that they will know Jesus loves them.

Human Care Ministry <*)>><

Volunteers are needed as Trustees. Please speak to Anita for more details.

Young Persons needed – Junior High and older, to serve as a Communion Cup Washer; rotating schedule, likely once or twice per month. Mentoring provided. Please contact Pastor Rutter if you would like to serve; if leaving a message, indicate which Service you prefer to attend. Thank you!

Preschool Mission needs help in the following areas: help with the storage room --- organization/maintenance, vacuuming, dress-up clothes, making packets, phone work, substitutes in cases of emergency, toy cleaning, rubber-mat cleaning, wall-washing, book organization, classroom clutter controller, etc. If you can periodically help with any of these needs, please contact the church office. Thank you.

YOUR CHILDREN...THEIR FUTURE...OUR COMMITMENT

St. John Lutheran School in Fraser will be having an open house on February 11th from 12:00-2pm for students Young 5s class – 8th grade for the 2018-19 academic year. We encourage you to consider St. John for your child(ren). St. John Fraser is known for its academic excellence, a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, and a highly regarded music program, to name a few. But most important to us...we are committed to the future of our students; we prepare them not only to be highly qualified Christian citizens for this life, but prepare them each day to live ETERNALLY with their Savior in heaven! Please call the school office (586) 294-8740 for more information!

A congregation in the Word thrives.
A congregation not in the Word dies.
Conclusion: Each member be in the Word.
Read the Word of God at home. Study the Word of God together with your Pastor and brothers and sisters in the congregation.



Lutheran High Northwest is offering its High School Placement Test for incoming 9th graders on Saturday, January 20, from 9AM-Noon. Families interested in the high school are encouraged to register their child for this required test by calling the LHNW School Office at [248-852-6677](tel:248-852-6677) or emailing our Admissions Director at mgutenkunst@lhna.com. Test results will be shared with families at our Registration & Curriculum Night on Thursday, January 25, 7PM at the high school (<1000 Bagley Avenue> in Rochester Hills). Our school registration fee will increase from \$100 to \$150 on 2/1 so January is an ideal time to register your child for LHNW! Please call or email us if you would like to have a registration card mailed to you.

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom. (LCMS – Stewardship Ministry)

Volunteers are one of the most valuable assets of every congregation. Like most churches volunteers are a precious commodity and sometimes difficult to obtain. Currently, St. Paul's is seeking volunteers to be greeters, especially at the early service. This is an easy opportunity. All you have to do is greet worshipers and visitors and hand out service folders and newsletters. Please contact Donna L. or the church office if you are able to serve in this way. Thank you.

Special Needs Program here at St. Paul's, has been a blessing to many since 2007. **What is needed? Students ... ages 16 and up Do you know anyone or know of anyone with developmental disabilities? Please invite them to attend. There are no fees. We share the love of Jesus with the students as we teach them His Word. Please keep this program in your prayers, that more persons will come to know Jesus. Thank you!**

TWO AMAZING WEBSITES for LIFE
www.lcms.org/life
www.lutheransforlife.org