

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”
December 24, 2017

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 (24)	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 pm No morning services will be held
Monday (25)	Christmas Day Divine Service* 10:00 am
Tuesday (26)	A. A. 10:30 am
Wednesday (27)	Bible Class 10:30 am Prayer Circle 12:00 pm
Thursday (28)	Food Pantry open 11:00 am – 12 noon Dinner and Christmas Caroling 5:00 pm
Friday (29)	
Saturday (30)	A. A. 10:30 am Sunday Bible School Rehearsal 11:00 am
Sunday (31)	New Year’s Eve Divine Service* 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Divine Service* 11:00 am
Monday (25)	New Year’s Day Divine Service* 10:00 am

* indicates Holy Communion Service

Readings for Sunday, December 24th: Isaiah 7:10 - 14, Isaiah 9:2 - 7; Psalm 110:1 - 4, Psalm 96; I John 4:7 - 16, Titus 2:11 - 14; St. Matthew 1:18 - 25, St. Luke 2:1 - 20
Readings for Monday, December 25th: Isaiah 52:7 - 10, Psalm 2, Hebrews 1:1 - 12, St. John 1:1 - 18
Readings for Sunday, December 31st: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3, Psalm 111, Galatians 4:4 - 7, St. Luke 2:2 - 40
Readings for Monday, January 1st: Numbers 6:22 - 27, Psalm 8, Galatians 3:23 - 29, St. Luke 2:21

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

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

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

Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 24 — 4:30 pm and 11:00 pm Candlelight Services

Monday, December 25 — 10:00 am Divine Service*

Sunday, December 31 — 8:30 am and 11:00 am Divine Services* with Bible class for adults

Monday, January 1 — 10:00 am Divine Service*

Please note: No morning Services will be held on Sunday, December 24 --- only the two "evening" Services --- 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.



Holiday Nuts available --- no peanuts, from the Shorewood Kiwanis (a worldwide organization that helps support the needs of children --- including the children in St. Clair Shores). \$20/can --- a great value. Contact Shorewood Kiwanian Pastor Rutter to order & receive same minute or for more information. Thank you.



CAROLING

Christmas Caroling to Homebound members December 28 (Thursday) --- meet at church 5:00 p.m. for Pastor's Chicken Noodle Soup --- an unforgettable meal which will provide sustenance while we sing around town (and beyond.) Others who would like to assist the Pastor with the hearty meal --- please contact him.



Weekly Stewardship Bible Verses:

Luke 2:12 "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor, for behold the King who must be laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

John 1:12 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

What a joy to be called the children of God! We have a Father who cares for us and loves us. Therefore we have no need to fear. For perfect love casts out fear. And with our fear set aside, we are free to serve the Christ who has become flesh.



"So celebrate that divine-human Gift who has so changed your life by His Spirit. Praise Him for His gracious forgiveness and righteousness. Praise Him as the One who will one day transform the mortal into immortality. Indeed, He who was once a baby has changed and is changing lives and will one day change His whole creation." *Rev. David Fuerstenau, Holy Truth Lutheran Church, Ketchikan, Alaska – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*



Augsburg Confession

The Lutherans stood before the entire world and confessed. Given the opportunity to say what they believe, they freely and joyfully confessed the truth that God justifies sinners by grace, through faith, for Christ's sake. The Augsburg Confession was read out loud on June 25, 1530, during the Diet of Augsburg. Written by Philipp Melancthon, this document explained the faith of the Christian Church as taught by Luther in accordance with the Scriptures. Article IV contains the central confession of how God saves people. Read it. Especially Article IV. (LCMS Reformation 2017)

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 <*)><

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.

How Fitting to Read the Word of God on a daily basis, especially in 2017, the 500th Anniversary year of the Reformation of the Church. Martin Luther translated the Scriptures into the language of his native land so that the people could read the Word of God and know the doctrines of the Church. The Board of Elders at St. Paul's determined at their September meeting to offer a pamphlet to our members, which assigns portions of God's Word on a daily basis, so that after 365 days the reader has read the Scriptures in their entirety. Consider the blessings that will come for each person who reads the Word of God on a daily basis, with the goal of reading every Word of God during the course of a year --- indeed, personal blessings and congregational blessings. Won't you please join us in reading through the Bible during 2017. Our journey begins today. If you fall behind, read fervently to "catch-up." Please receive a copy of the itinerary (a blue pamphlet in the Parish Hall.)



Bible Reading Plan for December 24 – December 30, 2017

December 24	Micah 1 – 3, St. Luke 21:20 – 38
December 25	Micah 4 – 5, St. Luke 22:1 – 20
December 26	Micah 6 – 7, St. Luke 22:21 – 46
December 27	Zechariah 1 – 4, St. Luke 22:47 – 71
December 28	Zechariah 5 – 8, St. Luke 23:1 – 25
December 29	Zechariah 9 – 12, St. Luke 23:26 – 56
December 30	Zechariah 13 – 14, St. Luke 24:1 – 35



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

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10–11).

We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)!

We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger, but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy.

The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deut. 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas, but throughout all the year.

We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.

We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us.

Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

(LCMS Stewardship Ministry)

Volunteer needed, twice monthly, to take returnable bottles and cans located in the church kitchen to Kroger and return the cash to the church.

Young Persons needed — Junior High and older, to help the Communion Cup Washers; 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!

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.

TWO AMAZING WEBSITES for LIFE

www.lcms.org/life

www.lutheransforlife.org

Opportunity: Preschool Advisory Committee ... needs a few more members. Duties: up to 3 meetings per year, offering advice to the Director and Staff regarding the basic functions and needs of the St. Paul's Preschool, also some work helping with dinners, flyers, etc.



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

Doubts about Creation? Pulled toward Evolution? Check this website: www.answersingenesis.org. "Answers in Genesis", an auxiliary of The Creation Museum, Petersburg, Kentucky.

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.

Get-To-Do" ... servicing opportunity periodic (maybe 4 times/year) washing of the communion cups. Rewarding, beneficial for many. If you can serve in this capacity, please contact Wilhelmina M. or the church office. 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!

