

the St. Paul
SEED PACKET
your monthly guide to
sowing the seed of relationship

Monthly Highlights for December

✝ 13th Annual “German Christmas Market”

December 1 – 9 AM - 4 PM – Riverfront Community Center Gym

✝ School Christmas Services (in the Sanctuary):

Preschool 3 – Thursday, December 11 – 10:30 AM

Preschool 4 – Friday, December 12 – 2:30 PM

Grades K-6 – Wednesday, December 19 – 6:30 PM

✝ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service

December 24 – 5:30 PM

** No Midnight Service or Christmas Day Service*

** December 23 & 30 – 10 AM Worship Services Only!*

✝ The Church & School Offices will be Closed the last week of December.

✝ New Year’s Eve Communion Worship Service

December 31 – 7 PM



At St. Paul, we C.A.R.E.

We are “Cultivating Awesome Relationships for Eternity!”

And, one way we do that is by

“Personalizing a Christ-Centered Education that Develops the Whole Child.”

Dear Christian Friends!

Most of you know that the deadline for submitting articles to the *Seed Packet* is the 15th of the month prior to publication – many of you know that the last article submitted each month is mine. And, while I had planned to write my article shortly after Thanksgiving, two little boys had other plans for my weekend. Two little boys, twin brothers, Henry & Rhett ... my grandsons! So, not only is my article the last one, the entire focus has changed. This whole “grandpa thing” is pretty fun. Here are Grandma & Grandpa Mease with Henry (on the left) and Rhett (on the right).



And, since the priority of my agenda this week has shifted, I'm going to share my space with our President, Janice Denney:

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Celebrating God’s blessings and thanking Him for those blessings – it’s something we should do more often. I mentioned at our recent Voter’s Assembly that we need to celebrate more often. We had much to celebrate at the meeting, including the divine call issued to Cindy Hammons as a Commissioned Minister of Religion to be our next principal. We also praised God for His financial provisions which support our various ministries.

In this time of Thanksgiving, thoughts also turn to the 7th Street Feast which completed its 17th annual community meal a few days ago. As John Goodloe shared following the event, 1,654 meals were provided through delivery, dine-in, and carry-out options. The event brought together various churches, services groups, sororities, and an army of volunteers who came to share a part of their Thanksgiving Day with our community. It was a joy to behold.

During the recent visioning session with your Ministry Directors and the School Ministry Team, attendees were asked to write notes about what is going well at SPLCS: what should we give thanks for? Included below is a partial list of things your leadership shared during the session:

Food ministries, including Paul’s Buffet and Back Pack Buddies

Social outreach and ministries – Opportunity to grow current ministries

Pam Robinson, and more involvement between church/school – Strong Gospel every Sunday

Our visioning process continues after the first of the year, but for now we celebrate how God blesses us ... and others in our community through us.

There are many things I am thankful for and you are counted among them! No matter your current circumstances, you too have much for which to be thankful. Please take a few moments NOW to think about, pray for, and thank God for some of His many blessings to you.

And, to her words, I would add how thankful we are – Becca, Leah, Rick and myself – for your many prayers for the safe and healthy delivery of these two little “one month early” Christmas gifts ... and to our loving Lord for answering those many prayers!

Now, back to the nursery!



Principally Speaking

It is with joy that I have the opportunity to share words of gratefulness for the many things that the congregation does for the school. We appreciate the continual support that the school receives from the church. It is a great privilege and honor to say thanks to the St. Paul Lutheran Church family on behalf of our school family. Enclosed in this *Seed Packet* are some recent pictures that demonstrate some of the ways you have expressed your love.

Many blessings to each of you,

Pamela Robinson

Principal

St. Paul Lutheran School ☩

You are Cordially Invited to each of the following Upcoming Events:

December 2 – German Christmas Market (at the RiverFront Community Center – Gym & Track)

2:20 – 2:40 PM	St. Paul School Youth Handbells
2:45 – 3:15 PM	St. Paul School Choir Grades K-6
3:20 – 3:35 PM	St. Paul School Youth Handbells

December 11 – Christmas Program: PK3, 10:30 AM, in the Sanctuary

December 12 – Christmas Program: PK4, 2:30 PM, in the Sanctuary

December 19 – Christmas Program: Grades K-6, 6:30 PM, in the Sanctuary ☩



Merry Christmas!

Cynthia J. Hammons
3199 S. 381 Road
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744
(417) 296-4389

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Yesterday (Wednesday, November 21), I received the call document to serve as Principal for St. Paul Lutheran School.

I will begin reading the considerable amount of material about the church, the school, and the community of Leavenworth that was graciously included. Most importantly I will be praying for God's will in this ministry opportunity. My husband, Bill, and daughter, Alyssa, are praying for me, for God's will, and the ministry of St. Paul as well.

We would like to come visit. As soon as we know Alyssa's schedule, I will contact you. Alyssa works in housekeeping at the local hospital and plans to begin classes on December 3 for her certificate as a medical assistant. I will let Pastor know what works for us. It is my aim to have a prayer-filled decision by Sunday, December 8.

I would like to close with one of my favorite Bible passages and as I pray for His will for St. Paul and for me:

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” *(Hebrews 13:20-21)*

God's richest blessings to His saints at St. Paul,

Cindy †

Plan to attend this Community Event:

German Christmas Market

**Saturday – December 1,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at Riverfront Community Center**
located at 123 S. Esplanade

Come experience Christmas through

- ◆ Entertainment (live performances & strolling minstrels)
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Over 30 Unique Gift Booths
- ◆ Traditional German Food & Beverage (Gluhwein)
- ◆ Children's Activities (including a Craft Booth)
- ◆ Visit with Father Christmas

Reminiscent of the German Christkindlemarkt

Same day/area location as Community-sponsored Breakfast with Santa,
and the Carousel Museum Small Mall for Children

An event sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
(for more information call 913.682.0387)



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

School Christmas Worship Services

Thursday, December 11 – 10:30 AM – Preschool 3

Friday, December 12 – 2:30 PM – Preschool 4

Wednesday, December 19 – 6:30 PM – Grades K-6

Mid-Month Communion Worship Service

Wednesday, December 19

Luncheon, Noon; Worship, 1 PM

Christmas Eve Communion Worship Services

Monday, December 24, 5:30 PM (*Candlelight*)

– *No Christmas Day Service* –

** The Church & School Offices will be Closed
December 25-29*

** December 23 & 30 – 10 AM Worship Services Only!*

New Year's Eve Communion Worship Service

Monday, December 31, 7 PM

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

7th St. (from Miami to Osage), Leavenworth, KS 66048
(913) 682-0387 Church, (913) 682-5553 School
(913) 682-1139 Church Fax
Business e-mail: office@splcs.org
Web Page: www.stpaul-lcms.org



OFFICE HOURS

Church Office: Mon. – Fri., 8 AM – 3 PM
School Office: Mon. – Fri. 7:45 AM – 3:45 PM

HOURS OF WORSHIP & STUDY

Sunday Morning Worship, 8:00 & 10:30
Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15
* For Small Group Schedule, call Church Office

Rev. Ed Mease, Sr. Pastor
Pamela Robinson, Principal
Rocky Meadows, Marketing Coordinator
Dawn Booth, Church Secretary
Chyza Nelson, School Secretary
Katherine de la Cruz, Accountant
Kayla Moritz, Extended Care Director
Roxie Summers, Kid's Connection Site Mgr.
Matthew Denney, Church Custodian
Chuck Goff, School Custodian
Michelle Denney, Worship Tech
Daniel Mease, Webmaster

Teachers

Kevin Dierks	Sally Niemann
Leonora Feldman	Glenn Owen
Suzie Lawson	Rhonda Spencer
Debbie Martini	Susan Wells

Aides

Monica Collins	Karen Jessup
Jill Gau	Sarajo Mance

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

President: Janice Denney
Vice President: Mark Klotz
Secretary: Barbara Regnier
Treasurer: Steve Fruechtenicht

At-Large Ministry Directors:

Rhonda Crute, Ed Dane, Susan Grace
Del Housworth, Vanda McGraw

Member Care Ministry Team

Velma Bass, Alan & Maggie Beisert,
Gwen Ernzen, Lynn Genter, Brenda Goebel,
Margaret Hanawalt, Virginia Harth,
Janet Jackson-Knight, Pat King, Becca Mease,
Cheryl & Tom Orlowski, Mary Rogers,
Angie Schwalm, Roxie Summers & Pastor Ed



PAUL'S BUFFET VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

December 15 & January 19

Contact Kathy Johnson at
913-669-7043 if interested. ☩



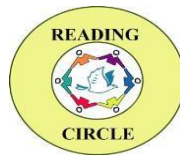
*Life Quotes
from
Lutherans
For Life*

“God created you in the womb. He formed your very being. He called you by name for His great plans. He made your life new through the Holy One of Israel. God gave you a new heart through Christ. God has loved you so deeply – and He gives you the gift of life so deeply – that He gave you the heart of Christ. HIS heart beats within you. THAT is God's gift of grace.” – Rev. Paul J. Frank, Hosanna Lutheran Church & School, Mesa, AZ – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life.

www.lutheransforlife.org ☩

LUTHERAN ANNUAL 2019 – If you'd like a copy (which includes info on every LCMS congregation and associated ministry, plus every rostered professional church worker), please contact Dawn in the Church Office (913-682-0387; office@splcs.org) by December 15. Cost: \$25. ☩





For January, we will read “A Dog’s Way Home” from W. Bruce Cameron (the author of the #1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling novel “A Dog’s Purpose”). A classic story of unwavering loyalty and incredible devotion, this is a beautifully told, charming tale that explores the unbreakable bond between us

and our pets. Lucas Ray is shocked when an adorable puppy jumps out of an abandoned building and into his arms. Though the apartment he shares with his mother, a disabled veteran, doesn’t allow dogs, Lucas can’t resist taking Bella home. After Bella is picked up by Animal Control, Lucas has no choice but to send her to a foster home until he can figure out what to do. But Bella, distraught at the separation, doesn’t plan to wait. With 400 miles of dangerous Colorado wilderness between her and her person, Bella sets off on a seemingly impossible and completely unforgettable adventure home.

The Reading Circle meets at 10 AM, on November 10 at the Kansas Country Store, 728 Cherokee St., in Leavenworth. Due to everyone’s busy schedule in December, we don’t meet again until January 12. Questions? Book suggestions? Contact Becca Mease (913-547-0763; rmease@kc.rr.com). †



From July through September
18 Households donated \$89.59
Thank You for your support!



OUR ORGANIZATION NUMBER HAS CHANGED — NEW NUMBER IS PG858. All the money earned goes to support our Youth Ministry, please encourage others to register their Dillons Rewards Cards to benefit SPLCS.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS must be received before our New Year’s Eve worship service in order to claim the deduction for 2018 (we do not have mail service on December 29 or 30). A contribution received after that date is counted as a contribution for 2019 for income tax purposes ... even if the check was written in 2018. *However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2018 will still be deductible.* †



STEWARDSHIP IN REVIEW

Date	Worship Attendance	Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	Offerings
11-04-2018	109	18/29	6821.59
11-11-2018	93	14/29	8356.00
11-18-2018	95	12/28	6471.00
11-25-2018	30	0/11	1545.85

A complete Treasurer’s Report is available from the Church Office.



Aha! Prepare to be fooled. For the first time in almost 19 years, I'm NOT going to start the December *Seed Packet* article by fussing at you about the "12 Days of Christmas" starting on December 26 and not December 13. *Go back and read past articles for my what-used-to-be-annual rant.* (It's still true, BTW. But I've decided I'm tired of fighting what seems to be a losing battle.) ((But the 12 Days DO last until Epiphany.)) (((Couldn't help myself, I guess.)))

I got a little bit lost in the past when I looked through articles I've written to see if I'd already used the one about the little word, UP. (*I had – quite a few years ago. I almost used it again to see if you would catch me at the repeat!*) What caught my scanning eyes were the many times since 2000 that I have thanked all of you on this page for caring for us: colon and breast cancer (Velma); prostate cancer (Larry); corneal transplants (Larry); broken bones (Larry, two hips and a femur; Velma, wrist); radiation enteritis (Velma); emergency colon surgery (Velma) – and now you've done it again. Cards, notes, phone calls, visits, cookies, flowers, carpentry, leaf raking – you've showered us with help and love and caring and compassion. Two little words hold as much gratitude as we can pack into them: THANK YOU. All of you have been Christ-like to us and for us.

Is it possible that it's time for Christmas Market already? What a great day for our parish to let our community know the true reason for the season! Someone said at one of our planning meetings that we have to get rid of the mind-set that it's done for the money: if we all kicked in \$50, we'd have the same amount of profit with a lot less work. But it's the JOY that we bring to the people who walk through our Christmassy-venue that counts. We talk, we smile, we sing, we play, we tap our toes to a German oompah band, we share our beliefs about Baby Jesus, we bake cookies, we eat brats, we help each other, we wear ourselves out – and we show a little bit of Christ to the community. A recent Facebook post intrigued me: I'm not so worried about putting Christ back in Christmas. He didn't leave. I'm concerned about putting Christ back in Christian. Well, December 1 is a day when we see Christ in Christians at our Christmas Market. Go, St. Paul!

One of Larry's Home Health therapists was 30 minutes late for one visit: he had been on the telephone with family and doctors and hospitals in Oklahoma as he fought for hospital care for his Dad, who had been denied needed dialysis because "his white blood cell count was too high." As the population of our world ages, ALL of us will learn about battles with insurance companies. It's not a pleasant part of aging. We need insurance – but it's true that insurance drives health care, and that seems backwards. What shall we do about it? (*I have only questions, no answers.*)

Remember the saga of our darkened tree last year? Pre-lit, the strings went out one-by-one until only the bottom layer was lit. We have a NEW tree this year: the lights burn brightly and it will be up and decorated by the time you read this. May the lights and sights and sounds of Christmas this year be punctuated for you by the love and laughter of friends and family – and may you hum/sing/strum "Silent Night" with the knowledge that your BEST gift came wrapped in swaddling clothes, a long, long time ago.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League – News from our Ladies Aid

Our Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner & Celebration will be held on the *SECOND* Wednesday of December this year: December 12. It will begin at 12:30 PM, with a meal furnished by hosts John & Connie Denney. The study will center on Christmas, and roll call will be answered with a verse about wisdom or being wise. In addition to our mite offerings and gifts to support our child in Guatemala, we will receive a special offering to benefit LUMA, Lutheran Urban Mission Agency, in Kansas City, MO.

We have received some gifts of 45-inch material and some pillow cases for our upcoming “make dresses” project. Beth Diaz is making bias tape for us, and we'll be cutting and stitching in the upcoming months. If you'd like to contribute some cotton or cotton-blend material for this work, talk to Connie Denney (913-547-2300; connie@splcs.org).

Together, we “serve the Lord with gladness.” Won't you consider joining us (... usually always the first Wednesday each month)?

Questions about LWML or Ladies Aid? Talk to President Velma: 913-682-8942. ☩

THE LEAVENWORTH ASSISTANCE CENTER is in great need of: underwear – boy's (sizes 6, 8, 10, 12) & girl's (sizes 6, 8, 10, 16); socks for kids (3-5 & 6-12 years); diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6. This year we do not need hats, but we do need black gloves. Please do not gift wrap articles. These will go to the needy children and families in Leavenworth County. Gift cards from Wal-Mart, Aldi's, Price Chopper, or Dillons, as-well-as other donations are gladly accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Assistance Center (426 Miami), or you can call 913-682-7873 to arrange for larger items to be picked up. Our goal is to give each child what they need. We also need your help in securing volunteers to help at the Assistance Center on a regular basis ... sorting clothes, helping in the office or the Thrift Shop. If you think this is the place for you to give back to the community, please call Rose White at 913-682-7873. Thank you for your generosity! ☩

St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan invites you to travel with them to **The Creation Museum & Ark Encounter** near Cincinnati: February 15-18, over President's Day weekend. You can register for the trip at goo.gl/forms/l19WuB3KcA1P1jG3. Register early (by January 1) and receive a free ticket to a planetarium show at the Creation Museum. Registration must be turned in by January 15. Costs range from free (for children under 5) to \$70 for adults (\$60 for those over age 60) – plus hotel \$125/night. Questions? Call Charity Smith, DCE, at: 785-539-2604. ☩



STEPHEN MINISTRY

This is the conclusion of the "Frequently Asked Questions" series of articles. The purpose of the article is to help you become familiar with Stephen Ministry. If you have further questions, or if you would like to request a Stephen Minister, please see the contact information below.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Stephen Ministry (continued)

Where Did It All Start?

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. We have had Stephen Ministry here at St. Paul Lutheran since 1998, and are one of more than 13,000 Stephen Ministry congregations from more than 170 denominations. More than 75,000 pastors and lay leaders from those congregations have been equipped at Leader's Training Courses and more than 600,000 lay people have received training as Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministries St. Louis, the organization behind this international ministry, is headquartered in Missouri.

How Can Someone Receive Care from a Stephen Minister?

Helen Genter and Eric Rathburn are our Stephen Leaders. Either one of them can coordinate a referral. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Helen or Eric, or Pastor Ed. (See contact information below.) Any of our Stephen Ministers would also be happy to help you understand the process. (If you want to talk about Stephen Ministry for someone else, make sure you get his or her permission first.)

How Much Does It Cost?

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry available to our members and community free of charge.

How Can Someone Become a Stephen Minister?

Begin by talking to one of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers and they can tell you more. We have not trained a new class of Stephen Ministers in quite a few years. Our number of active Stephen Ministers is dwindling. We could use more help. The training is beneficial for a lifetime and requires at least 50 hours of time. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to train and serve.

What Does the Stephen Series Logo Mean?

The Stephen Series logo consists of a cross and circle together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person behind the cross symbolizes the brokenness in our lives due to our sin and imperfections. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.

If we can be of service to you – to lend a listening ear or to answer your questions about becoming a Stephen Minister – please contact:

Helen Genter (913-775-0710; lgenter63@gmail.com) or

Eric Rathburn (913-221-2411; rathburneric@gmail.com)

You may also contact Pastor Ed Mease (913-758-7624; pastor@splcs.org).



The Stephen Ministers of St. Paul wish you a most blessed Christmas!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Erica Cassella	13	Jordan Denney	20	Lillie Angelbeck
	Janet Jackson-Knight		Susan Grace		Keith Jordan
3	Bryan Market	14	Alex Miller		Jason Panek
	Michael Reynolds		Emilio Santana	22	Katey Dembowski
4	Alyssa Hochard		Mary Rogers		Ryan Hoppe
	Zen Crowley		Christene Souser	23	Robin Beemer
5	Sarah Adams	15	Lauryn Denney	25	Tina Moncus
	Trinity Wilson		Ruth Loewenstein	27	Adriana Carnoali
6	James Poff	16	Claude Collins		Justin Moritz
7	Solomon Adkins		Rebecca Griffith	28	Lu Knueven
	Justin Wisdom		George Humble		Kohen Laramore
	Athena Hart	17	Kim Parrish	29	Vicky Tague
	Connie Shelley		Robert Harris		Sarah vonSeggern
8	Jeannette Allison		Julian Kankelfitz	30	Ryder Barrett
	Chuck Engstrom		Travis Malto		Matthew Olson
9	Lena Humble	18	Laurie Richter		Jessica Wiley
	Daytha Williams		Gary Cole	31	Kevin Crim
11	Alyssa Hopkins	19	Nicholas Kappeas		Jerry Elkins
12	John Stiglmire		Ivey Harris		Scarlett Linton
			Angie Schwalm		Joshua Sickler

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Seth & Audra Madison	28	CJ & Heather Wolters
3	Kevin & Tammie Wahaus	29	Ed & Gayle Grace
8	Don & Eleanor Denney		
	Dave & Carol Wiseman		
12	Jeff & Lori Adams		
18	Bob & Rosie Wells		
20	Fred & Darlene Berg		
22	Bob & Margaret Meyer		
27	Harry & Jeannette Allison		

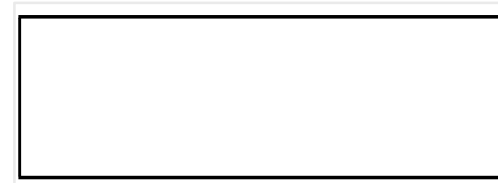


St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

311 N. 7th (@ Miami) Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048-1994
(913) 682-0387 – Church
(913) 682-5553 – School
(913) 682-5583 – Daycare

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Leavenworth, KS
Permit #7

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER



Sunday Worship Schedule at St. Paul

- * 8:00 AM – Liturgical Service
- * 9:15 AM – Sunday School
& Bible Classes
- * 10:30 AM – Prayer & Praise Service

Communion Served 1st & 3rd Sundays of each Month

Adult-Staffed Nursery provided!

DECEMBER 2018