

St. Paul Lutheran Church
235 Jefferson
Hanover, IL 61041



St. Paul's EPISTLE

Dateline: December, 2018

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

--John 1:1 (NRSV)

I've been thinking a lot about words lately. Perhaps it's because I make my living on them. Perhaps it's because I am in week three of my Faith Works! Bible study on the book of James, and chapter three of that book has a lot to say about the power of words (you really should go read it sometime!)

But I'm mostly pondering the power of words. Words can give life, but they can also destroy it.

In Genesis, we have God speaking, and creation bursting forth in full-bodied, living-color glory. God's words from which all life was created, words of hope.

But then there were other words. Words spoken in deceit and manipulation and fear, like those spoken by the serpent, the woman and the man in Genesis 3. Words that were intended to destroy life. But demonic and human words couldn't really destroy it all, because God had the last word. On Christmas morning, God's word, Jesus Christ, took on human flesh. God's word, Jesus Christ, spoke forgiving and transforming love to a world that is broken and hurting. God's word, Jesus Christ, says it all. So as you wrap your presents, trim your trees and bake your cookies, perhaps, if you can, you might take a few moments to savor the silence around you. The silence that acknowledges that all there was to be said about God's love has already been spoken by the Babe of Bethlehem. And then, when you do speak again, may your words be Christ's words, words that heal and give hope. Merry Christmas!

Blessings, Pastor Lisa

Holy Communion in December

Sunday, Dec. 2 - St. John at 9 am
and St. Paul at 10:30 am

Sunday, Dec. 9 - Trinity - 9 am

Sunday, Dec. 16 - St. John at 9 am
and St. Paul at 10:30 am

NO CHURCHES HAVE COMMUNION on Dec. 23rd. BUT ALL CHURCHES have communion at ALL Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Upcoming Meetings

Church Council Meetings

Sunday, Dec. 9 - 11:30 am – St. Paul

Tues., Dec. 11 - 7 pm - Trinity

Tues., Dec. 18 - 7:30 pm - St. John

Mutual Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, December 4 - 7:30 pm - Trinity

Men's Group Ministry

The Men's Group Breakfast Meeting will be on Sat., Dec. 15, at 8:30 am at the Welcome Inn in Elizabeth.

Women's Group Ministry

The Women's Group Ministry will meet on Thurs., Jan 17 at 2 pm at Trinity..

Christmas Services - Both St. John and Trinity will have Christmas Eve candlelight services again this year, both beginning at 7:00 p.m. For St. John the service will include stories from the different characters and bystanders that witnessed the nativity of Jesus. These will be interwoven with favorite Christmas carols and special music. For Trinity the service will include our children's pageant along with special music from members. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Jill Harmston and her family. Both Christmas Eve services will include Communion and the traditional candlelight singing of Silent Night. For Christmas Day, St. John will have a special Communion service at 9 a.m. and St. Paul will have their own lessons and carols service with Communion at 10:30 a.m. Please consider sharing the true message of the Christmas Child with friends and family by inviting people to our Christmas celebrations.

Pastors' Vacation - The pastors will travel to Colorado for family Christmas the night of Dec. 25th and return Jan. 3rd. Pastoral care will be covered by several local pastors so please just call Pr. Bruce and Pr. Lisa for refer all for any needs that come up.

Energy Assistance Programs Available

NW IL Community Action Agency has announced the 2019 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and Weatherization Programs. PIPP applications deadline is December 31, 2018, and LIHEAP applications deadline is May 31, 2019. Also, an Emergency Furnace Assistance Program is available for LIHEAP households of Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are homeowners and whose existing heating systems are not function or have been red-tagged by their utility. This funding is available through March 31, 2019. For more information on these programs, please call 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111.

Beyer Family Quilt Raffle Drawing

The drawing for the two quilts being raffled off to help the Beyer family with housing will be on Dec. 9th after service at Trinity. Winners will be contacted. Tickets are still available by contacting Marilyn Wurster.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

St. Paul's WELCA would like to plan a Christmas Cookie Exchange that we could then share with our shut-ins. Let's plan on bringing three dozen cookies (of the same kind), fruit or chocolates to church on December 16. After church we can exchange two dozen each to take home and leave the third dozen to make up plates to be taken to our shut-ins. We will then deliver the plates out to shut-ins and those on our prayer list. Please contact Kathy Teberg with comments, questions or suggestions for this project.

Community Meals - Thank you to all the volunteers from each of our three churches who continue to keep our free community meals going in Elizabeth and Hanover. Attendance has remained strong and we have people who regularly come for the fellowship. If you haven't stopped by before, please consider dropping in and learning what these are all about.

In Elizabeth - last Tuesday of the month from 11 am to 1 pm.

In Hanover - usually the second Sunday of the month from 4 -6 pm.
Check the calendar for exact dates.

Supper with Santa

Our December Community Meal at the VFW Club put on by the Community of Christians will include Santa and Mrs. Claus along with a mailbox for letters to Santa and drawings for pizza and other goodies.

This event combines what had been Breakfast with Santa put on formerly by the Hanover FD Auxiliary with our free community meal. The meal will include hot dogs and mac'n'cheese for the younger set and meatloaf for the older crowd. Young and old are invited to this meal with Santa for all ages.

Community of Christians Elizabeth Meal

The Elizabeth Community Meal will be on Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All volunteers are welcome to pitch in. Come to join the ministry, come for the food, check out the fellowship!

Community of Christians Meeting

The entire Community of Christians will meet at St. Paul Lutheran in Elizabeth on Wed., Dec. 12, at 2:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. This is for ALL churches in the Elizabeth/Hanover area.

Contact Information

Pastor Lisa Burbank
Cell phone: 608-201-1860
Email: pastorlisaburbank@gmail.com

Pastor Bruce Burbank
Cell phone: 303-638-8716
Email: pastorbruceb@outlook.com

(continued)

Parsonage Phone: 815-591-9970

Church E-mail:

churchsecretary@sandprairie.net

Parish Website address:

www.scenichillslutheran.com

Prayer List - Please continue to pray for:

The ELCA Bishops Eaton and Clements, the Church and Synod Councils, those serving our country in the military or the diplomatic corps, those who have served and returned with wounds, scars and emotional effects of war; all medical, aid and relief workers here and around the world, firefighters, first responders, doctors and nurses; and to those grieving including the family and friends of Bonnie Peters.

Also please continue to pray for those with special prayer needs: Gerry Norton, Don Crawford, Buddy Johnson, Adrienne Seagraves, Daryl Steinhagen, Maureen Sheppard, Libby Tipton, Rev. Ken Matthews, a former pastor for the Hanover Presbyterian Church, Kay Watson, Jackie Reusch, sister-in-law of Anna Appleby (Raymond's wife), Karl Croffoot, and our shut-ins: Anna Appleby, Doris Schaible and Sue Vandervate.

If you would like to serve as a "prayer warrior" on the Prayer Chains and pray for special needs OR know of someone who needs prayer, please call Barbara Schaible (815-591-3306) at St. Paul. You may only get the name.

Thank you for helping to bring the healing grace of our Lord into the lives of so many people. Prayer touches and changes the lives of those we pray for as well as the life of the one who prays. Whether you are on the prayer teams or pray by yourself, please keep all those listed in your prayers. Many of those on the list have already received miracles and we must pray that God grants many more.

Parish Calendar

Sun., Dec. 2 - 1 pm - Worship at Elizabeth Nursing Home

Mon., Dec. 3 - 7 pm - Faith Works! Bible Study at Trinity

Tues., Dec. 4 - 7:30 pm - Mutual Ministry Meeting at Trinity

Thurs., Dec. 6 - 10:30 am - Faith Works! Bible Study at St. John

Sun., Dec. 9 - 9:30 am - St. Paul WELCA meeting before worship

Sun., Dec. 9 - 11:30 am - St. Paul Council Meeting after worship

Sun., Dec. 9 - 4-6 pm - Hanover Community Free Meal at the VFW

Mon., Dec. 10 - 7 pm - Faith Works! Bible Study at Trinity

Wed., Dec. 12 - 2:30 pm - Community of Christians Meeting at St. Paul, Elizabeth

Thurs., Dec. 13 - 10:30 am - Faith Works! Bible Study at St. John

Sat., Dec. 15 - 8:30 am - Men's Group Breakfast Meeting at Welcome Inn

~~Sun., Dec. 16 - 9:30 am - St. Paul WELCA Meeting before worship~~

Sun., Dec. 16 - 11:30 am - St. Paul Cookie Exchange after worship

Tues., Dec. 18 - 11 am-1 pm - Elizabeth Community Free Meal at the Elizabeth Comm. Bldg.

Mon., Dec. 24 - 7 pm - Christmas Eve worship services at Trinity and St. John

Tues., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day worship at 9 am at St. John and at 10:30 am at St. Paul

Tues., Dec. 25 (evening) until Jan. 3 - Pastors' vacation
