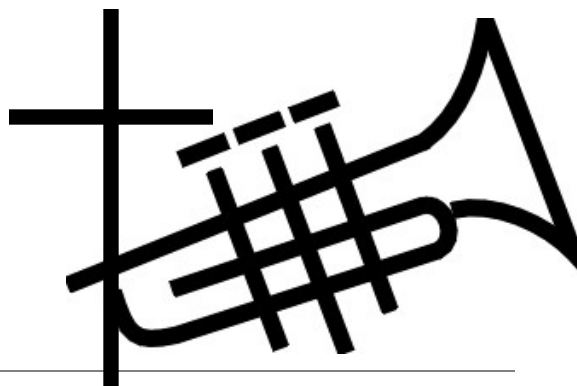


The Trumpet

2017 EPIPHANY/LENT ISSUE

St. Paul Lutheran Church



**Responding to God's Grace, We Welcome All People,
Prepare Disciples, and Live Faithfully Through...ACTION**

Knowing Jesus and the Weakness of God

I remember waking up in the middle of the night in the Arizona desert and looking up at the stars. I was too young to appreciate constellations, or even to recognize the Milky Way, but nevertheless I was transfixed at what I saw. I had never been so free from the light pollution of the city, and the air seemed so thin. As if I could literally reach out and touch the sea of stars.

Whenever I think of God, that Arizona epiphany comes to mind. God is over and above the vastness of the stars and even the universe. God is awesome beyond imagining.

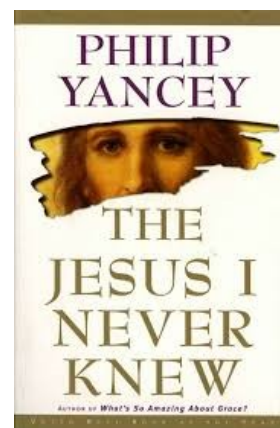
But what is truly awesome, or awe-inspiring, is that this 'almighty' God chooses, for whatever reason, to be known in **weakness**. The fancy word for that is *kenosis*, which means "emptying". God opts to empty God's own self, presumably for the reason of not overwhelming us, and revealing to us something we otherwise wouldn't know about God. God's only de-

sire is to give Godself away, that we may grow to be like God.

The self-emptying love of God reaches its fullness in the person of Jesus. Which is why this Lenten season we will focus on him who is for us the model, or "the blueprint" as Richard Rohr says, of God's life for us. In our upcoming retreat, in our Wednesday vespers, in a book study, and in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations, we will explore this Jesus who continues to divinely astound us with his humanness. And who, in virtue of that emptying, leads us to a deeper life in God.

Please join us this Lent as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus towards the life God intends for us.

Yours along the way,
Pr. Joel



Lenten Book Study: *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey

Please watch upcoming emails and announcements for information regarding our Lenten Book study, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, a modern classic by Philip Yancey. The book explores the life, times, and person of Jesus in depth with surprising insights about Jesus that often go beyond our common perceptions and expectations. This Lent, join us in a journey with Jesus leading to the cross and empty tomb.

St Paul Office Hours

Monday 10-1
Wednesday 10-1
Thursday 10-1
Friday 10-1

Pastor Joel can be reached at
515-468-5074 or
prjoel8998@gmail.com.
The office can be reached at
515-462-4270 or
stpaulslutheranchurch@hotmail.com

Annual Meeting in a Minute

Follows is a shortened synopsis of the Treasurer's report, Old Business, New Business and President's Report from the official St Paul Lutheran Church Annual Meeting minutes of January 22, 2017.

TREASURER'S REPORT Wayne Martens reviewed the balance sheet. Checking balance as of Dec 31, 2016 was \$22,747.35. It was suggested by Dan Nielsen that the congregation be provided a comparison report showing 3-5 years. It was announced that the church's bookkeeping is now in-house with our secretary, Meisha Sible, keeping the books. Lowell Miller reviewed the 2017 budget.

OLD BUSINESS 1. Capital Campaign: Wayne Martens presented the recommendation for St Paul to use ELCA Mission Investment Fund to lead our Capital Campaign to raise funds to reduce the current mortgage. 2. Sign Ad-Hoc Committee discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS 1. Leon Schwartz explained the changes to the church Constitution and By-laws. The council had previously set quorum to be 7% of church membership. Dan Nielsen moved to change the quorum to 25 members, this was seconded and passed. Trust Fund Committee By-law changes were also accepted. 2. Karl

Korte presented the Nominating Committee Report: Alyssa Tadlock and Daniel Cross were appointed to the Church Council. Tucker Baker & Pat Nelson were elected to the Church Council. Barb Kellogg was elected to the Trust Fund Committee. Jim & Pat Nelson were elected to represent St Paul at the Synod Assembly. John Sneller & Julie Feirer were elected to the Nominating Committee. 3 more people are needed for this committee. Wayne Martens & Terri Stolte were appointed to SPRC. Marilyn Mount & Camma Stott were nominated and will be presented to the Church Council for election.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Pat Nelson reported that the Council approved the Furniture Ministry as a sanctioned Ministry of St Paul. The Furniture Ministry can now issue a charitable tax receipt for the furniture and household items donated.

Due to limited time, no further verbal reports were given - everyone was encouraged to review the written reports, which can now be found on the St Paul website.

Blood Drives

Thanks to all of the volunteers and donors in our 2016 blood drives! We sincerely appreciate your time and dedication in helping save lives.

Interested in donating? The next blood drive is **Tuesday, March 21, 1:00-6:30 pm**. To schedule your donation, visit lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800-287-4903.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue of *The Trumpet* is **March 17**. Please submit any articles or photos to stpaulutheranchurch@hotmail.com.

Worship Server Schedule

DATE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SERVERS	READERS/CHALICE BEARERS	USHERS
Feb 19	Martin & Beth Sunds Jason & Nicole Darling	Liz Hansen Tom & Jen Acton	Jim Nelson Annie Nau	Joe & Amy Kimball Curtis & Nicole Anderson
Feb 26	Leon & Judy Schwartz Connie & Tad Tadlock	Barb Kellogg Karl & Ruthanne Korte	Debi Martens Don Darling	Gene & Keri Lehman Eric & Kristy Hoefing
Mar 5	Steve & Pat Wetlaufer Jason & Teri Stolte	Marilyn Mount Eric & Kenna Johnson	Jim Nelson Jason Stolte	Rich & Genelle Thompson Steven & Robin Dick
Mar 12	Dick & Mary Anderson Matt & Candi Dole	Bob & Bethene Boardman Jason & Nicole Darling	Dick Anderson Mara Feirer	Dave & Sheila Stewart Alan & Julie Feirer
Mar 19	Dean & Ann Bartelt TBD	Lori Blythe Genelle & Rich Thompson	Jacque Mohs John Patience	Gene & Keri Lehman Mark & Linda Kenyon

*If you are unable to serve at an assigned time, **please try to find a substitute.**
If you are unable to find a substitute, please contact Twila, 462-1505.*

DATE	COMMUNION BREAD	ACOLYTES	SOUND	NURSERY
Feb 19	Connie Tadlock	Madeline Kimball Carson Bellamy	Jerry Swanson Bekah Nau	Courtney & Joel Keiser and Addie Burkett
Feb 26	Karen Meyer	Hudsen Wilmes Halle Hoefing	Lowell Miller Dan Cross	Stacy Marean, Parker & Paige Anderson
Mar 5	Trudy Langford	Madeline Kimball Kael Blanchard	Jerry Swanson Andrew Dick	Courtney & Joel Keiser and Savannah Charlet
Mar 12	Coleen Johnson	Josh Miller Brynn Acton	Wayne Martens Scott Tryon	TBD
Mar 19	Genelle Thompson	Addie Burkett Avary Darling	Barb Kellogg Don Darling	TBD

Hospitality Lists

Earlier this year the Hospitality Lists were sent out. Please be sure you are using the REVISED version as the original one that was published this year was incorrect. The dinners and specific dates that each group will be hosting are still being created, please stay tuned for further developments!

Coleen Johnson, Erlene Henrichs, Liz Hansen & Linda Kenyon

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, is **Tuesday, February 28, 5:30-7:00 pm**. This supper is open to the community so be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to come and celebrate one final time before we put on our Lenten ashes! Don't miss out on all the fun!



Ash Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday, March 1st 7pm**, here at **St Paul Lutheran Church** for this year's Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, an intentional time of prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness as a way to prepare for the resurrection of Christ at Easter. Please come to remember your baptism and to prepare inwardly for the Lenten journey ahead.

Midweek Lenten Series: THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW

As part of our Lenten/Holy Week/Easter focus on knowing Jesus we will reflect during our Wednesday evenings on the life and ministry of Jesus, especially as he offers a flexible model for us to follow and grow into. We will focus on insights from Philip Yancey's book *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Please join us on Wednesday evenings, starting on **March 8, at 6:15 for dinner, followed by worship at 7:00**. Come and prepare for this holiest time of year by waking in his steps!



Lenten Retreat 2017: Pondering Jesus

Just as Jesus' mother "pondered these things and treasured them in her heart", so too this Lent do we have an opportunity to pause from the daily grind and reflect on who Jesus is *for us and with us*. Through his call (Matthew 6.1-18) to Almsgiving, Prayer, and

Fasting, we follow in his footsteps to prepare for the greater Lenten journey before us.

Come to a retreat exploring these 3 disciplines of Lent on Saturday, February 18, from 8:00 to 12:30, at St. Paul Lutheran. We will have discussions from Cheri Grauer, Sally Wilke,

and myself on these practices, and also enjoy some time in silence, which is "God's first language". Please come to renew body and soul for the weeks ahead! Breakfast and lunch is included. Please RSVP to Pr. Joel at prjoel8998@gmail.com or call or text 515-468-5074.

Parent's Night Out!!

Courtney Keiser, Director of Children's Ministry recently arranged a Parent's Night Out event at St. Paul Lutheran.

Parents dropped their children off at the church for dinner, a hair and nail 'salon' for the girls, games, and a bible story by Rev. Sally Wilke.

The group closed the evening with the movie Trolls in the sanctuary. A fun time was had by all.

Special thank you to our pastor, and adult and youth helpers! Without you, this event wouldn't be possible!

Here is just one of the thank yous we've received from parents who utilized the service.

We really appreciated the Parent's Night Out opportunity Saturday. What a blessing to have a low-cost opportunity for us to spend kid-less time together! Thank you for serving the community in this way!



LAMP Youth Group

The LAMP Youth Group has been having a blast this winter. Over Christmas break we had fifteen youth attend our lock in at the First United Methodist Church. We prepared several meals for the Salvation Army Breakfast Food Truck in Des Moines, we learned about how it often takes time for God's plan to reveal itself, and we had some intense nerf battles! We have moved our activities to St. Paul's. Worship begins just following Confirmation at 6:30. Worship is welcome to people of all ages. Come check out our Student driven praise band! Youth group starts right after worship and goes until 8 pm. We hope you can join us!

SCRIP card program

We will be placing a SCRIP card order on Monday March 6th - this should have the cards available for pick up by Sunday March 12th.

Please check your bulletin to find an order form, or to review what types of cards are available to purchase. Extra order forms can be found on the ushers table.

If you'd like to place an order, please leave your order form and check in the Office mailbox by March 6th.

Generally we will try to have Kum & Go, Casey's, Hy-Vee and Fareway cards on hand for purchase. If the table is not set up, please feel free to contact the office for purchase.



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stpaulslutheranchurch.net

