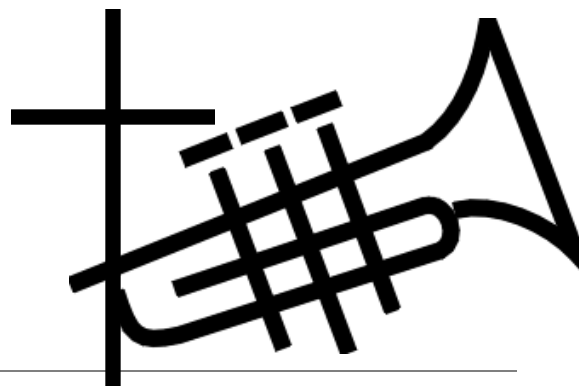




The Trumpet

EPIPHANY/LENT ISSUE

St. Paul Lutheran Church



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

St. Francis of Assisi was faced with a dilemma. He felt called by God to be the leader of a new, reforming movement in the church, which would involve a very public persona, but he also felt called to a life of prayer and contemplation. Historically in the church these categories of prayer and action have been mutually exclusive: you either are a cloistered monk or a public servant, but neither at the same time. Yet Francis felt called to both. What to do?

Here is where that helpful word "and" became so inspirational to Francis. He was called to both prayer AND action. And that is why to this day among Franciscans there exists a "Third Order" which consists of lay people who are active in everyday life, and who also feel called to lives of prayer and devotion.

As we have explored our mission more deeply over this past year, we have spoken a great deal about the inward side of our faith: worship, scripture study, prayer. But for this last facet of our life together we focus on the

fruits of faith: how we live our commitment to Christ beyond our walls.

Here is where our Lutheran sensibility kicks in. As champions of grace, we do not revel in heroic acts of self-sacrifice, or magnanimous feats of do-gooding... however wonderful those are. Lutherans at their best look for and live out the grace of God in small, daily acts of kindness and love. I may not be able to solve the refugee crisis, but I can turn an angry conversation around to embrace a more civil tone. I cannot solve world hunger, but I can give to the Souper Bowl of Caring or call a legislator in favor of the SNAP program. Luther said even changing a diaper is a holy act, because of the service performed for one of God's children.

But ultimately, our actions have value not in their intrinsic nature, or in their usefulness, but in the faith by which they are performed: "God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling, not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith." Ultimately faith does the work, because faith, activated by love and prayer, cannot keep still.

I doubt we can improve upon our namesake St. Paul: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." In this 75th anniversary year, we have our work cut out for us, which God has entrusted to us for our own good and that of our Madison County community. But we act in faith, and in so doing we discover that faith acts!

Yours on the way,
Pr. Joel

21st Century Luther

For our Lutheran Refresher this term we will look at ways our Reformation Faith still speaks to us today, and how it has changed and been modified since the 16th century. We'll explore both new and traditional understandings of the cross, spirituality, and what it means to be the church. We'll meet on **February 14, 21, and 28 in the Chapel at 9:30am.** Hope to see you then!

Super Souper Bowl Sunday



SM It was more than 20 years ago when a church

youth group began discussing having a Super Bowl party. While they discussed what snacks and treats to bring, they began to think about those friends and neighbors who couldn't afford meals, never mind special treats. They decided to celebrate by bringing cans of soup to the party for the emergency pantry shelves.

The idea took off and they were able to provide more than they

expected. Other youth groups in that town wanted to become a part of that party. Then groups in adjoining towns also joined the fun. Soon there were groups from all denominations and all over the state.

Now Souper Bowl Sunday has become a nationwide organization. Church and service groups are gathering food and/or making donations to hunger related organizations on Super Bowl Sunday. St. Paul Lutheran Church has participated for many years.

We try to collect as many gro-

cery items as possible and also give a special offering to the ELCA Hunger Appeal. The only requests made from the national organization are that we report how much and where we are giving.

If you haven't already started bringing extra food items in for the Multi Purpose Center, now is a good time to start. If you choose to make a monetary donation, you can make a tax-deductible check to "ELCA Hunger Appeal".

Let's join the party! Everything takes place **February 7**.

2015 Blood Drive Results

Thanks to all of the volunteers and donors in our 2015 blood drives! We sincerely appreciate your time and dedication in helping save lives.

Here are the results of blood drives:

- 445 registered donors
- 372 donors were eligible to donate
- 396 unites of blood collected
- 10 first-time donors
- Up to 1,188 lives saved!

Interested in donating? The next blood drive is **Tuesday, March 15**, 1:00-6:30 pm. To schedule your donation, visit lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800-287-4903.



Smile for
the Camera!

Lifetouch is joining us **March 13-16** to take individual and group photographs for our new anniversary pictorial directory.

More details soon.

Please mark your calendars!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue of *The Trumpet* is **March 14**. Please submit any articles or photos to stpaulslutheranchurch@hotmail.com.

Worship Server Schedule

DATE	GREETERS	COMMUNION SERVERS	READERS/CHALICE BEARERS	USHERS
Jan 31	Jim & Pat Nelson	Tim & Jacque Mohs	Jim Nelson	Gene & Keri Lehman
	Martin & Beth Sunds	Jason & Nicole Darling	Kim Patience	Steve & Robin Dick
Feb 7	Wayne & Debi Martens	Marilyn Mount & Gus Henrichs	Pat Nelson	Barb Kellogg
	John & Kim Patience	Debra Cleghorn	Jason Stolte	TBA
Feb 10 Ash Wednesday	Dan & Lonna Nielsen	Don & Linda Darling	Julie Feirer	Mark & Linda Kenyon
Feb 14	Leon & Judy Schwartz	Jim & Pat Nelson	Leon Schwartz	Dean & Ann Bartelt
	Ted & Bea Leonard	Bob & Bethene Boardman	Scott Tryon	Eric & Kenna Johnson

*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
Jan 31	Rikka Korte	Kael Blanchard	Keri Lehman	Stacy Marean, Jacob Dick, Peyton Dick
		Carson Bellamy	Jen Acton	
Feb 7	Ruthanne Korte	Josie Burkett	Wayne Martens	TBA
		Avary Darling	Eric Hoefing	
Feb 10 Ash Wednesday	Teri Stolte	TBA	Andrew Dick	
Feb 14	Trudy Langford	Lia Miller	Lowell Miller	TBA
		Addie Burkett	Ryan Cross	

2016 Hospitality Groups

This year's Hospitality Groups list is out. Please check your email and/or church mailbox. Hospitality Groups are formed to prepare and serve Lenten and Advent dinners. If you have any questions concerning the groups, please contact Erlene Henrichs (462-3252), Linda Kenyon (758-2565), or Liz Hansen (462-3987). If your contact information on the list is incorrect, please let the church office know: 462-4270 or stpaulslutheranchurch@hotmail.com.

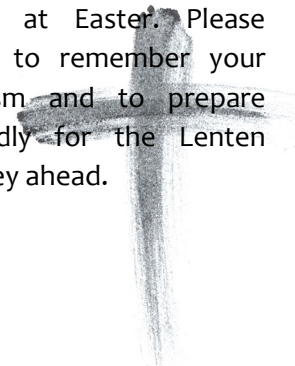
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, is **Tuesday, February 16, 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, February 10, 7pm, at First United Presbyterian 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: You Shall Love the Lord Your God

In Mark 12, a scribe comes to ask Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answers, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength'" (Mark 12:28-30). Jesus responds to the scribe's question with words from Deuteronomy that are recited daily



by many of the Jewish faith. In our Midweek Lenten reflections, we will focus on these

words which form a covenant between God and God's people. Each week we will explore one of these ways (with heart, soul, mind, and strength) to respond to this God who so extravagantly loves us through the cross.

Midweek services are from 7:00 -7:30pm February 17 and 24, and March 2, 9, and 16. Before worship, please join us for a meal that starts at 6:15pm.

Spiritual Formation Retreat

Christianity is experiencing a spiritual revolution! Lost, ancient forms of prayer which used to be common in the church are now being rediscovered. One example is Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a way of cultivating a deeper relationship with God, a way to quiet the mind while maintaining its alertness. It is a path of transformation, a deepening of faith

in God's abiding presence. Centering Prayer is resting in God beyond thoughts, words, and emotions.

I, Pr. Joel, have been daily Centering (or trying to!) for over a year now, and as a result I am more hopeful for the future, less edgy about setbacks, and feel a stronger connection to God. Results aren't immediate,

and prayer is work, but it is also a necessary and joyful part of the spiritual life.

Come to our Spiritual Formation Retreat on **Saturday, February 27, 8am-12pm**. Spiritual Director Kathy Reardon from the Des Moines Pastoral Center will be our guide. You will thank yourself for receiving the gift of these ancient forms of prayer!

God Squad Spreads Joy

God Squad wrapped up 2015 by spreading joy to others. Along with learning about God's Word, children made cards for older people around Winterset. They learned about sharing their inner "joy" especially during Christmas with others who are less fortunate. They made Christmas cards for veterans who have no family and are living in Iowa Veteran's Home in Marshalltown. The cards were started with gusto and turned out amazing! Kids wrote things like, "Remember God loves you" and "I love you, and I am

praying for you!" We should all be very proud of their work. They surely made many veterans' Christmas.

On the last God Squad before the Christmas break everyone celebrated with a Christmas story, singing *Happy Birthday, Jesus*, and sharing birthday cupcakes. There was loads of fun, games, laughter, and presents for all the kids.

The pre-K through 2nd grade class is taught by Liz Hansen and RoxAnn Rhoads, along

with student helpers Kim Lukenbill, Andrew Dick, and Allie Stolte. Liz and RoxAnn want to thank all of the children who participated in God Squad this year. They enjoy the kids immensely and look forward to joyful 2016.



God Squad kids writing Christmas cards.



Thank You for the Care Packages

Care packages were sent to our college students in December. These packages included donations of snacks, toiletries, and office supplies. Here are a few of the thank you notes we have received.

Thank you so much for the care package! It is appreciated

more than you know. With Finals Week looming in front of me, it's nice to have a bit of home comfort. Emily Wells

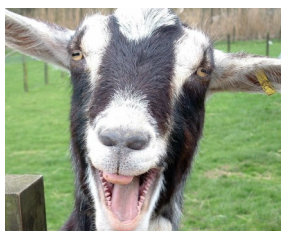
Thank you very much for my care package! I really appreciate knowing that I have a family thinking and praying for me! Megan Scott

Thank you for the wonderful care package! The snack and goodies will help me get through finals. I love it at UNI. Thanks again for this kind gift. I appreciate you all for thinking of me during this stressful time. Emily Schroeder

Who Wants to Buy a Goat?

Looking for a unique gift or donation? The ELCA Good Gifts catalog showcases various items that provide food, income, and health for families living under harsh circumstances. Individuals and congregations can purchase animals that are most needed.

A goat can be purchased for \$50. Goats make a great gift because they can thrive almost anywhere in the world; surviv-



ing some of the world's harshest environments.

Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for families, and the goat's offspring can rapidly transform a community when offspring are shared with other families in need.

St. Paul's Mission Team has chosen to purchase several goats from ELCA Good Gifts this year, and the Trust Fund will add funds to purchase even more goats.

Interested in learning more? ELCA Good Gifts catalogs are available at the usher's table. You can also check out animals available and make purchases at www.elca.org/goodgifts.

Table Service

A free meal, time of prayer, and opportunities to serve and be served are what is offered weekly at Shobi's Table-a food truck that serves homeless and near-homeless residents of St. Paul, MN.

Pr. Margaret Mary Kelley and Noah have both been there from the beginning. Noah, once homeless in the Twin Cities, was keenly aware of the limited dietary options for those living on extreme margins. Together, they worked to find a solution.

Their solution came in the form of a food truck-a vehicle that

allows them to serve freshly prepared meals and bring food to the community at a location that is a natural gathering place for many. Pr. Margaret and Noah have been able to serve around 75-100 neighbors a week since 2014.



"When the church does communi-

ty well, we do it well," shared Pr. Margaret. "We come around the table to gather for lunch and God's meal; people need a lot of both."

What is Shobi's Table's hope for the future? To acquire a bus that would offer indoor and outdoor seating to protect their patrons from the cold Minnesota winter months and to expand their offerings to include vocational training. Each plan is designed to lead them one step closer to accomplishing their mission-to provide food, friendship, faith, and employment skills to the homeless and near-homeless people of St. Paul.



Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Will you help with your gift today? **YES!** I would like to support ELCA World Hunger.

☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$250.

☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$100.

☐ Other \$ _____

Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to: ELCA World Hunger

PO Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Give online with a credit card at www.ELCA.org/hunger.



ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Day on the Hill: Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families

*Families living in poverty.
Iowa children who go hungry.
Former refugees building new
lives.*

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual

day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 17.

Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy beginning January 6 for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

Austin Emerson, Czech Republic NBL's Best

Tammy and Brad Wheeler have a lot to be proud of as her son, Austin Emerson, received special recognition from the Czech Republic's National Basketball League in January. Here is a statement from their website:



American Guard Austin Emerson had an amazing evening in the last round for Usti n/Labem, receiving a Eurobasket.com Player of the Week award for round 21. The player was the main contributor (22

points, six rebounds and six assists) to his team's victory, helping them to beat J.Hradec 81-68. Usti n/Labem maintains the 9th position in Czech Republic NBL. In the team's last game Emerson had a remarkable four three-pointers out of 7 attempts. He has many years of experience at Usti n/Labem, through which he has constantly improved. Austin Emerson averages this season 4.4ppg.

Way to go, Austin! Please congratulate Tammy and Brad Wheeler next time you see them!

Many of you provided meals and have been praying for Carolyn Petsche's mother. Here is a thank you we received.

Tony and I wish to thank you all for your generous care and love at our time of need. When our daughter, Carolyn Petsche asked your pastor for help with meals he said, "That's what we do!" You are indeed the hands and feet of our Lord there in Winterset. We are on a journey through cancer to wholeness. We covet your prayer. God's power does indeed heal. Thank you, too, for being the community of faith that our daughter's family call their own. We are most thankful to you. May God be glorified.

Thank you, Evelyn Nester

Courtney Keiser, New Director of Children's Ministry



We are pleased to announce the Hiring Team and Council unanimously approved the hiring of Courtney

Keiser to fill the position of DCM at St. Paul Lutheran. Courtney and husband Joel moved to Winterset nearly two years ago, and along with children Morgan, Zane, and Vivian have become active members of St. Paul.

We welcome Courtney to our staff and look forward to her ministry with us.

Courtney can be reached at courtney.keiser@gmail.com or 641-895-5177.



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