

Monthly Highlights for January

- ✝ Epiphany – January 6
*(We will Celebrate Epiphany Sunday,
returning to our usual 8, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Schedule)*
- ✝ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 21
(No School – Church Office Closed)
- ✝ National Lutheran Schools Week – January 22-25
(We will celebrate in worship on January 27)
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**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."**

Cynthia J. Hammons
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El Dorado Springs, MO 64744
417.296.4389
cynhammons@gmail.com

December 8, 2018

Dear Fellow Believers of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I am both humbled and honored by the call to serve as Principal. I am humbled because I know that I am not worthy for this call, but our Lord calls men and women to service as Commissioned Ministers of Religion in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children and their families whom we serve. I am honored to serve beside and with the saints at St. Paul to carry out the mission to Create Awesome Relationships for Eternity by sharing God's grace, mercy, and His plan of salvation to those in the day school ministry, the church, and the community.

I would like to thank the families of St. Paul for their warm welcome and for the encouragement and prayers that have been lifted for my family as we have been in prayer regarding the call to serve as Principal of St. Paul Lutheran School. My prayers have been that our Lord would give me guidance in this decision. It has been almost a year since our first meeting, yet in His time, He has seen best to bring this Call of service to me at this time. With that said, I am writing to let you know that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and many prayers, I am led to accept the Call to service at St. Paul Lutheran School as Principal of the day school ministry. May the Lord continue to guide us and strengthen our faith for service.

My family and I rejoice in this new Call and our partnership with all our Brothers and Sisters at St. Paul as we continue the mission and ministry which He has set before us. May the Lord continue to bless us and our ministry as He has done so generously in the past.

In closing, I would like to share this verse:

"For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"
(Psalm 117:2)

Your humble servant,
Cindy Hammons ✠
Ephesians 2:8-10



Principally Speaking

I would just like to take a moment to express my gratitude to the congregation for embracing their mission of supporting the school. You have truly embraced Matthew 19:14, where Jesus said: “*Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*” The students attending St. Paul Lutheran School have the opportunity to get to know the Lord. They receive the spiritual tools that will help them to develop their spiritual connection to God.

Our students in Preschool (2½-year-old) up to 6th Grade have had the opportunity to share some of their knowledge about Christ during our Christmas services. They shared their love of Christ’s birth through the performance of skits, singing, bell ringing, praise and worship to our Lord and Savior. They have put songs and joy in our hearts by sharing the gospel of Christ.

Children are God’s precious gift of life!

Blessings,
Pamela Robinson
Principal ☩

SPL STUDENT EARNS AWARD!



The Leavenworth Kiwanis Club posed this question for students who participate in their annual writing contest: “If you had \$100 to give to a local charity, who would you give it to; and why?”

A panel of six Kiwanis members evaluated the essays on spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and theme. One of two winners chosen was Kyren Brown, a 6th Grade student at SPLCS.

Kyren chose Backpack Buddies as his charity. He wrote: “Backpack Buddies is an important charity that donates to kids who don’t have food over the weekends. Lunch at school gives them nourishment but when school’s out and/or it’s the weekend ... sometimes there isn’t food left or they are left starving.”

Leavenworth Kiwanis representatives gave a \$100 check to Kyren who in turn presented it to Backpack Buddies.

Well done, Kyren!



**An Update
From Our President**

At the November Voter's Meeting, I said we should celebrate more. Even my Seed Packet article last month talked about celebrating God's blessings and giving thanks in all circumstances.

Becca Mease's Sunday morning Bible Study class has been studying the power of prayer. Every week, at the end of the study, each table writes a prayer in response to that day's study. Following a recent study, we were challenged to write a prayer of praise for God's presence in our life expressing ways we worship Him. We should all take a moment to praise God for His Presence. If you feel so inclined, write out your prayer.

Randall Hoppe summarized the thoughts of those gathered around one of the tables.

Dear God,

I praise You in my car every morning. I praise You when I rise and when I lay down. I praise You before I eat.

I praise You when things are going great. I "try" to praise You even when things aren't going so great.

Sometimes, my praise reveals the worry and troubles in my life. I know that I should praise You with a happy heart, but I know that You know the truth deep in my soul that I love You. I desire to know You. I want my entire family to love You. I want my friends to love You.

I praise You today and thank You for the opportunity to voice it out loud with my family of faith today.

Amen.

(If you'd like to learn more, we've been reading and discussing "The Prayer that Changes Everything: The Hidden Power of Praising God" by Stormie Omartian.)

To Randall's words, I would add praise and thanksgiving for the many blessing to all those involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion to serve as our next principal. God answers prayers! And, we joyfully announce Cindy Hammons as our next Principal! To God be the glory! The Psalms end with praises to God. The final words instruct everything that has breath to praise the Lord.

Praising our newborn King,
Janice Denney †

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, Gwen Erzen, Lynn Genter, Brenda Goebel,
Margaret Hanawalt, Virginia Harth,
Janet Jackson-Knight, Pat King, Becca Mease,
Cheryl & Tom Orłowski, Mary Rogers,
Angie Schwalm, Roxie Summers, Rosie Wells & Pastor Ed



PAUL'S BUFFET VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

January 19 & February 16

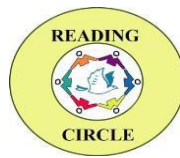
Contact Kathy Johnson at
913-669-7043 if interested. †



*Life Quotes
from
Lutherans
For Life*

“Every life has value because every life is someone created by God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and someone He either has called or wants to call into an eternal relationship with Him. It doesn't have to be complicated! Amen.” – *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life.*
www.lutheransforlife.org †





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. *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.



STEWARDSHIP IN REVIEW

Date	Worship Attendance	Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	Offerings
12-02-2018	68	/19	7211.00
12-09-2018	93	/26	4748.60
12-16-2018	82	/15	12045.70



Aha! With an 'early deadline' for the Seed Packet to be mailed, I can talk about Christmas again this month! If the Post Office isn't completely overwhelmed with packages and cards, you'll be reading this BEFORE December 25, when "The Twelve Days of Christmas" truly begin. I love Christmas music, and it bothers me a little to see that this song, which was once a way for Christians to remember the tenets of our faith, has become a major way to sell things. A lot of things have changed since my childhood in a small town:

... Christmas preparations didn't begin until about the 10th of December – all except the fruit cake which was baked the day after Thanksgiving and wrapped in a liquor-soaked cloth to be ready to come out on Christmas Day. In our small town, Santa Claus arrived about December 20 – and only one came to town. How do children handle a Santa in every store and on every street corner beginning the first of November? Who is real and who isn't?

... An orange was a real treat for a child innortheast Nebraska. Grocery stores didn't have huge supplies of fruit year-round as they do now, and methods of shipping were much slower. The orange usually came in a brown sack at the Sunday School program on Christmas Eve: in good years, it was accompanied by a bright Red Delicious apple, some hard candy in a little cellophane wrap, and a batch of peanuts. Very few Sunday School programs are on Christmas Eve any more: people leave town on vacations, and family events interrupt that schedule. There was always church on Christmas Day, one of four times during the year that we had communion. Evidently Martin Luther said once that if you didn't partake of communion four times a year, you might not be a Christian. Our parish interpreted that to mean that communion would be offered only four times a year, and you'd better be there. We always had to 'announce' for communion on the Saturday prior: the 'announcement' wasn't a service as suggested in our hymnal on pages 290-293 (corporate or individual). A telephone call on the old crank telephone to 'announce' our intention sufficed.

... Mom remembered real candles on her tree, which would be put up on Christmas Eve behind closed parlor doors. The candles would be lit only once, the doors would be flung open while Grandpa and the older brothers stood by with buckets of water, which probably wouldn't have been much help if a fire had started. I'm not that old. We didn't have candles and since we didn't have electricity on the farm, our tree's sparkles came from the foil icicles that covered it almost completely. Uncle Ernest and Aunt Hilda had a marvelous German music box that held their tree (it was only about three feet tall) and it played "Silent Night" and "Oh, Come, Little Children." It was a precious antique: I wish I knew which family member inherited it because if they wouldn't want it anymore, I'd take it. (Mom also remembered that Santa Claus came at the end of their Sunday School service to pass out those brown sacks. She grew up at Forest Green, Missouri: so did Ed Hafemeister, if you remember that name.)

... I had two siblings: each of us got the obligatory underwear and socks and one other gift on Christmas morning. The idea that children should 'make a list' of what they want is the reverse of its origin, I think. Santa Claus "made the list and checked it twice" in his coming-to-town song.

Somehow that morphed into a list of "what I want." Now, Christmas morning is often marked by a ton of wrapping paper scattered around in the living room, and many, many gifts for each person.

New ways to celebrate aren't bad – they're just different than my memories. The most important thing is that we celebrate our BEST gift: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Merry Christmas!

Comments, questions, and suggestions should be addressed to Velma Bass, 682-8942, larrygb@att.net. ☞

STEPHEN MINISTRY

*(Thanks to Dick Koehneke for permission to use his “Encouraging Words” from December!
Dick’s column can be found monthly at <http://richandcharlie.com>.)*

Encouraging Words From Dick Koehneke

December 2018

Hope in the Lord

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” *(Isaiah 40:13)*

What does it mean to hope in the Lord? Christian hope is not wishful thinking. It’s being confident that God will keep His promises. God has given us many wonderful promises. There are two promises of our Lord that are especially helpful to me these days. One is, “I am going to prepare a place for you; I will come back and take you to be with Me where I am.” The other is, “I am with you always, until the end of the world.”

The first promise tells us that we have a home with God in heaven through faith in Christ. Trusting this promise keeps our focus on what really matters: not so much on the twists and turns of life in this world, but on our eternal destination in heaven, our true home. Christ is preparing a place for you. Someday He will come and take you to be with Him. The promised future of life with God in heaven gives us strength to deal with the struggles and challenges we face here on earth. Someday we will be with our Lord, beholding His glory. What a joyous day that will be, what a glorious day, what a victorious day!

Until we are with our Lord in heaven, He is with us here on earth. That’s the second promise I try to remember: “I am with you always, until the end of the world.” The literal meaning of the word “always” in the original language is “all the days.” Jesus is with you all your days on this earth: on your good days, on your bad days, your high days and your low days, your days of success and your days of failure, your days of health and your days of sickness, your joyful days and your sad days, and also on those days when you’re just plain in a daze, when nothing is working and nothing makes sense.

The song “Hills and Valleys” by Tauren Wells says it beautifully. Here are the words to the chorus:

“On the mountains I will bow my life to the One who set me there.
In the valleys I will lift my eyes to the One who sees me there.
When I’m standing on the mountain I didn’t get there on my own.
When I’m walking through the valley I know I am not alone.
You’re God of the hills and valleys, and I am not alone!”

Our Lord is with you in the hills and valleys of life – “all the days” of your life. Even on your lonely days, you’re not alone. Jesus is with you, closer than your next breath, nearer than your next heartbeat. He helps you take your next step, and the next one, and the one after that, until you take your final step across the threshold of heaven. When the world ends, or when your life ends – whichever comes first – Jesus won’t be with you anymore, because you will be with Him! That’s why He says, “I’m with you until the end of the world.” Then we’ll be with Him in heaven!

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Our hope is not the same as optimism. Optimism says, "Cheer up! Things will get better." But sometimes, things don't get better. Christian hope says, "Even if things get worse, if disaster turns into a meltdown, if calamity becomes catastrophe, God has a plan and a purpose for me. My salvation is secure in Christ, the Lord is with me in all my experiences, and I have a home in heaven."

I invite you to say those words right now, either in your heart or out loud, pausing after each sentence to reflect and let God speak to your heart. Here goes:

- "God has a plan and a purpose for me."
 - "My salvation is secure in Christ."
 - "The Lord is with me in all my experiences."
 - "I have a home in heaven."

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." When you're soaring on wings like an eagle, hope in the Lord. You say you're not soaring like an eagle? You may not be soaring, but maybe you're running. When you're running and not getting weary, hope in the Lord. You say you're tired of running? Maybe walking is the best you can do. When you're walking and not fainting, hope in the Lord. It could be that you're exhausted and you can't walk anymore. When you have no strength left, hope in the Lord. Rest in Him. You don't have to do anything. Be still. Let the Lord love you and care for you.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." Yes, Lord. Let it be so.

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 blessings in the New Year!



Plan now to see the **Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany in September 2020**. *Yes, it is almost two years away ... but it only happens every ten years!* We are planning on going with the same tour agency that took us to the Luther Land of Germany for the trip of a lifetime last year. If you have any interest in touring with us, please contact us for details and we will put you in touch with our hosts. *Join 8 of your SPLCS friends on this adventure that is available only once a decade!*

John & Connie Denney †

john@jfdenney.com; 913-683-9604

connie@splcs.org; 913-547-2300



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

Our Ladies Aid will meet on Wednesday, January 2, at 1 PM in the Church Basement, WEATHER PERMITTING. *(Those two words are in caps because we will stay at home if it's bad driving and/or if the streets/ramps/steps are snow and ice covered.)* Officers will serve a few Christmas treats: the Bible study for the day will be about Epiphany, and roll call will be answered by a Scripture verse referring to Light. Yearly membership donations of \$10 will be received by our Treasurer: mites will be gathered for missions and "Jennifer's Jar" will take gifts for our LeadAChild in Guatemala. The 2019 membership booklets will be available for distribution at church on December 23 and 30: see Connie or Velma. They'll be ready for you on January 2, for certain.

We look forward to "serving the Lord with gladness" for another year together. During 2019, we hope to prepare pillowcase-dresses for little girls who don't have as many opportunities to have new clothes: we can use 45-inch material, too, if you'd like to donate some yard-goods. ☩



HELP WANTED!

What: Member of School Ministry Team

When: Immediate upon Appointment by Ministry Directors

Requirements: Member of SPL Church and able to pass Background Check

Duties: Develop policies and procedures for the School; work with Principal to operate the School; support staff and students using your time, talents, and treasures with love and prayer; attend various events (including monthly SMT meetings); and other duties as opportunities arise. There tends to be frequent homework assignments!

More Info: Contact John Denney (at: 913-683-9604)

Apply to: Ministry Directors (Attn: Janice Denney)

Reward: Lots of good fellowship, friendships, thanks you's, love, and satisfaction ... knowing you helped a young student obtain a Christian education. ☩

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Doug King John Crowley	14	Ron Bates John Ochs Cheryl Orłowski Jim Wells	24	Trevor Hochard Steve Fruechtenicht Helen Genter Zachary Harrison
3	Mia Booth Sid Brown Sam Murphy Wesley Winters	16	Doris Johnson Justin Malto George Nelson Ellie Seeler	26	Carol Reese Logan Bailey Jane Seuser Tony Mangler.
4	Chris Hochard				Keith Warman
7	Christine Clutton Daylan Williams Laralee Wolters	17 19	Payton Erzen Sandra Harrison Heather Wolters		Leslie Wilson
8	Gina Swartz	20	Jim Donald Caitlynn Kankelfitz	27	Michael Bednarz Matthew Mansil Nash Sloop
9	Mark Klotz				Leon Wilson
10	Donovan Norton Martha Parrett	21	Darla Mansil Caleb Cribb	28 29	Charlie Barrett
12	Desra Balock Del Housworth	22	Zina Williams Trevor Adkins	30	Pamela Huling-Jordan Elizabeth Pretz
13	Sarah Beemer Jason Grace	23	Thaddeus Moulden Erin Holland Shanna Meyer Megan Rich Wyatt Wilk	31	Makenzie Sullivan Ron Harrod Leah Kappeas

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



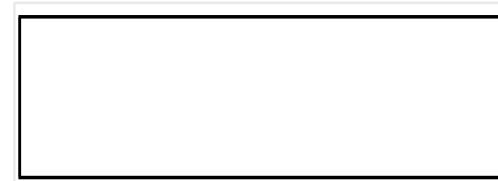
2	Jon & Christine Clutton Steve & Nancy Fruechtenicht
3	John & Natasha Layman
15	Jerry & Laura Elkins
18	Kelly & Mary Mansil
27	Ricardo & Chyza Nelson

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



**WORSHIP
WITH
US** 

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!

January 2019