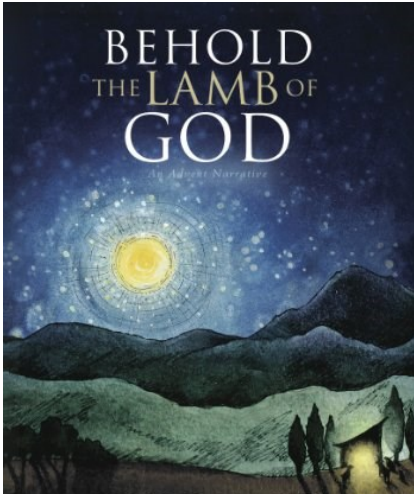


# ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

January 2024 NEWSLETTER

100 N FREMONT ST | LEWISTON, MN 55952



The life of Jesus as true God and true man becomes known through the scriptures. He'll explain through parables and sermons. He'll show his love and mercy through miracles. And we'll come to know why he is the Lamb of God. Come and hear for yourself the continued good news!

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The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 2024 in the Fellowship hall following the Sunday service. This is a good time to get caught up on the many issues of the previous year and what to look forward to in 2024. As you know the interior of the church is being repaired; some landscaping has been done, but more is on the horizon; improvements and upkeep are needed and appreciated to members and visitors alike.

And then there are the workings of the church that nourish the body and the soul. There are various sign-up sheets regarding Sunday ushering; Acolyte; Altar

Guild; and Counters. How about helping with Fellowship Coffee or being part of the Praise Worship? Lots of things are happening at St. Paul's that need your input in both mind and muscle. Come and find out what has happened; what is going to happen; and what is a good fit for you. All are welcome.



### Office Hours:

T-Th  
8:15 am-12:15 pm

Call if you have any  
announcements or  
prayer requests.

507-523-2643

## Greeting Cards!

Would you be willing to take a minute to write a card (or color a picture) and send it to one of our elders? The thing that I share when I get to visit our elders who can't always make it to worship is that, "Just because you can't come to church on Sunday, doesn't make you any less a part of the church. We get to come to you!" Would you join me in sending a written greeting as a church-together?

Ila Musser

232 S. Fremont Street  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Renata Rislow

Bremmer Suites Good Shepherd  
803 Home St.  
Apt. # 108 or PO Box 747  
Rushford, MN 55971

Dick Schultz

9 Williams Street  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Anniversary: Gale & Ruth Rasmussen (1/1)

Birthdays: Shawn Kennedy-Lee (1/2); Sonja Daley & Allyson Rislow(1/5); Twyla Reps-Peshon (1/7); Desi Peters (1/11); Sarah J Sommer (1/13); Emma Danielson, Jim Olson, Trent Olson (1/19); Deb Krage (1/20); Amanda Koelln & Harvey Randall (1/23); Beth Olson (1/26); Ben Daley (1/27); John Botten & Sidney Daley (1/31)



## Prayers for those needing strength:

Bobbi Jo Jensen: cancer treatment;

Renata Rislow: recovering from a fall;



the family of Iris Haake: passed away on Dec. 2nd;

Don Groth: (Pastor Tami's Dad); surgical recovery;

Robin Thelan (tony Thelan's mom): accident recovery;

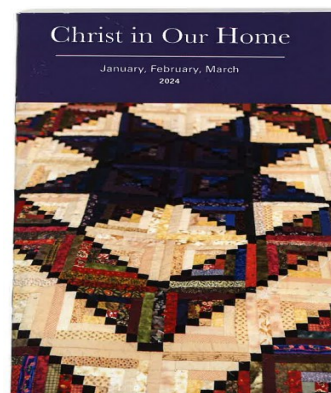
Families of Rev. Gerald Melby who passed on Dec. 26th.

If you want to add to this Prayer List, please inform the church office at 523-2643 or email [stpaullewiston@gmail.com](mailto:stpaullewiston@gmail.com).

## *Is there a quilter among you at St. Paul's?*

*The first quarter of "Christ in our Home" devotionals are available in the narthex. This covers the months of January February, and March. There are two sizes, (4x6 and 8x11) and these are great daily readings for anytime of the day or week.*

*Pick up a copy and see how richly God sews together your life for service to others and praise to Him who made all things and in his mercy, gives us the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The mission work still goes on.*



## Pastor's Page

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This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. –Psalm 118:24

Dear friends in Christ,

I've been thinking about finding Joy in the New Year, and I invite you to share in those thoughts as I experience a deep and strong connection between joy and living out our mission of serving and welcoming others. I also find much joy in worshiping and serving at St. Paul's, and am grateful for this community and the many ways you serve and welcome one another and the wider community.

As we enter a new year, it's natural to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. We may be filled with hope and anticipation, but also uncertainty and even anxiety. But as Christians, we have a source of joy that transcends the ups and downs of life - our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). It's a deep and abiding sense of well-being that comes from knowing and loving God. It's not dependent on our circumstances, but rather on the unshakeable foundation of our faith.

So how can we cultivate joy in the new year? Here are a few ideas:

- Focus on your relationship with God. Spend time in prayer, reading the Bible, and worshiping with other believers. These activities help us draw closer to God.
- Think about yourself as a spiritual being. When do you feel most fully alive and who God created you to be? This may be a clue to what spiritual practices will nurture your faith.
- Express gratitude. Take time to appreciate the blessings in your life, both big and small. When we focus on what we have instead of what we don't, it's easier to experience joy.
- Serve others. Helping others is a great way to take our minds off ourselves and focus on something bigger.
- Live in the present moment. Focus on the here and now. Be mindful of the good things that are happening in your life, even the small joys.
- Remember that God is always with you. No matter what challenges you face in the new year, know that God is always with you and he will never abandon you.

As we embark on this new year, let us remember the words of the Psalmist: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24). May your new year be filled with joy, peace, and love!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tami

## Church Council Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2022

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### Church Council Minutes

December 12, 2023

Called to order by: John Botten

Those in attendance: Pastor Tami, Leann Jacobson, Jim Olson, Diane Rislow and Sarah Sommer.

Opening prayer: by Pastor Tami.

Secretary report: motion made by Diane and seconded by Leann and approved.

Treasurer report: motion made by Leann and Diane to accept the report, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Mutual ministry met on Dec 17th after ice cream sundaes.

Worship committee: Is looking into have a second Sunday with praise worship.

Property Management: Thanks to John Botten, Jim Olson and Leann Jacobson our new railing in front of the church is installed. Our church roof is also repaired. We are going to have work done in the church with the water damage, our financial support is always important with our repairs. We have been very blessed with the Fisher Foundation grant and funds given by the Cemetery Fund but we do have a gap between that and the repairs on the church.

Stewardship Committee: no report.

Parish education: A great Christmas program was provided on December 17.

Spy report: There was an ice cream social fundraiser after the Christmas program. There is also Snow tubing at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch on January 14, 2024.

Outreach and Evangelism: The Alter Guild is doing a great job.

Pastor report was given.

Congregational life: Has done a very good job with Iris's funeral.

**Old business**: We are still wanting members to prayerful consider sitting on church council.

**New business**: Motion made by Jim and seconded by Leann to hire Asphalt armor repair our back parking lot in the spring. Motion carried.

Semi annual meeting will be held on January 21, 2024

Next meeting will be held on January 11, 2024 @ 6:30.

Closing prayer was done by Pastor Tami.

Adjourned by Jim and Leann.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Sommer, Secretary

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Praise to God and thanksgiving for His divine providence on St. Paul's Church. In 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 we are told that the gifts of the Spirit are beneficial and are from the Triune God. Each person is given a gift as the Spirit desires for the common good. Verses 12-31 describe the diversity of these gifts that enhance the unity of the body and the spirit in spreading the Gospel. Maybe we aren't apostles, healers or speak in different languages, but He has given each of us gifts to use for His glory. Please consider using your gifts at St. Paul's with various skills. Serving on the council is very important in the inner workings of the church. Serving as an usher, communion assistant, acolyte, a counter, Sunday School teacher or aide; baking for the Fellowship coffee and being part of certain projects; running the AV system so non-members can see and hear the Gospel via technology—it all adds to the glory of God.



# Praise Worship

January 14, 9:00 am

Coffee and treats follow  
in the Fellowship Hall.



Zach Schultz receives a “*Thinking of You*” care package from St. Paul's. When the boxes arrived in their mailbox, they unpack all kinds of treats from snacks to gift cards. The ladies behind this project are from left to right: Ann Lubinski, Ann Riebel, Mary Botten, and Beth Olson. Not pictured are Judy Hovelson and Diane Rislow. What a fun project!

## Secretary's Note

Do you know that 2024 is Leap Year? That's right, February has one more day, the 29th. And Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14th....Valentine's Day. It also is the beginning of Lent and ends with Easter on March 31st. I started to think about the number of days between the major dates in the Church calendar. Let's see:

2023: 22 days Advent to Christmas

12 days Christmas to Epiphany (2024)

2024: 40 days Epiphany to Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

46 days Ash Wed to Easter

40 days Easter to Ascension

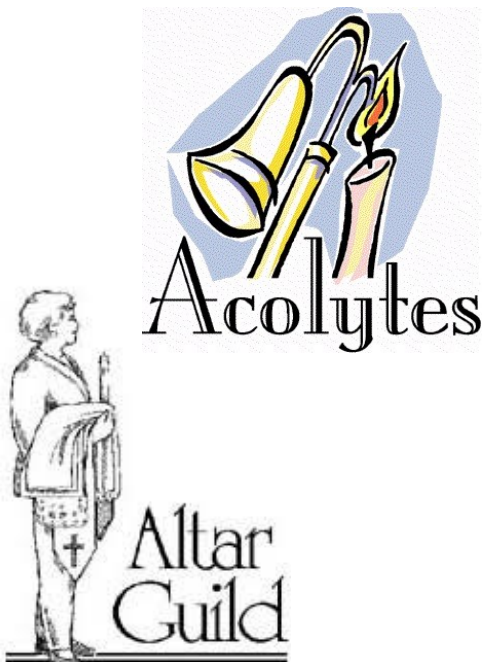
10 days Ascension to Pentecost

196 days Pentecost to Advent

366 days in the church calendar year. (leap year)

That's a lot of days for learning and praising. In these uncertain times I find myself wanting to learn and understand more of God's love and mercy. The next 366 days hardly seems to be enough time. How about you?

**HERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT ST. PAUL'S AND THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE NARTHEX TABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:**



**OFFERING  
COUNTERS**

## January 2024

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

Counters	Ushers / Communion Assist	Acolyte
7	Leann Jacobson	
14	Mary Botten	
21	Beth Olson	
28	Heather Reys	

**AV:** Jeff & Dexter Nelson    **Altar Guild:** Dianne Rislow

### Dates for your calendar

- Jan. 3: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
  - Jan. 7: 9:00 am Worship and communion in Fellowship Hall
  - Jan. 10: 6:30 pm SPY Meeting
  - Jan. 11: 6:30 pm Council Meeting
  - Jan. 14: 9:00 am Praise Worship in Fellowship Hall
  - Jan. 17: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
  - Jan. 21 9:00 am Worship w/Communion in Fellowship Hall. 10:15 am Annual Meeting
  - Jan. 23 8:00 am Newsletter articles due for February
  - Jan. 24: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
  - Jan. 28: 9:00 am Worship hopefully back in church sanctuary
  - Jan. 31: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
- Pastor Tami away Jan.31-Feb. 6.



**January meeting to be determined. Watch for date and time in the bulletin announcements. The colors are white and green.**

If you like to place flowers on the altar for church service, please contact the Altar Guild (Dianne Rislow) to let her know. Or contact the church office Tues-Thurs 12-4 pm. As always, it is greatly appreciated!

# S.P.Y. NEWS

Decorating our church for Christmas is a group effort. Thanks everyone!  
(And it wasn't all work, either)



*Thank  
You!*

**A special thank you to all those that supported S.P.Y.'s poinsettia fundraiser, and our coffee fellowship fundraisers. Your donations are a blessing to our youth program.**



# MORE S.P.Y. NEWS

**S.P.Y. CHRISTMAS PARTY – We started the night with an incredible pizza supper donated by Jim Mueller, and we had some crazy fun games throughout the night.**



**We ended our December youth group by gathering in the chancel under the cross and near the Christmas tree to hear the Christmas story read. We heard how parts of the familiar Christmas story is from the gospel of Matthew, part from the gospel of Luke, and that the beginning of the gospel of John also gives us Jesus as the Word of God, and that we receive a fuller picture of Jesus and his human birth when we hear all their voices.**



## January S.P.Y. Happenings:

**January 10 (Wed.) – S.P.Y. Supper Mtg. 6-8pm**  
**January 14 (Sun.) – S.P.Y. Snow Tubing – Leave @11:30am back at 3:30pm**  
 more details on the S.P.Y. Facebook page in January.



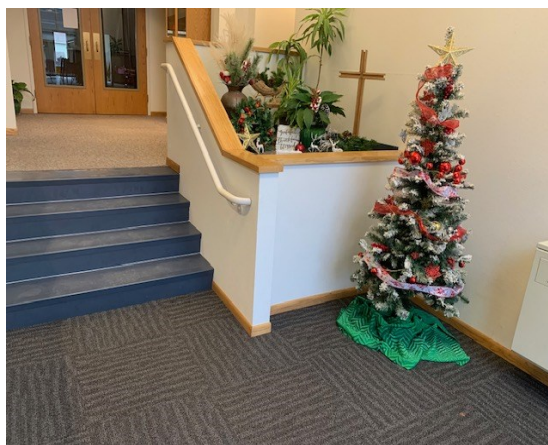
A few pictures from Sunday, Dec. 17th with the Sunday School No Rehearsal Christmas Program and SPY's Ice Cream Sundaes for Jesus' birthday. It was a fundraiser and don't forget the ugly sweaters, too. Wow, what a great time together.



An update on improvements paid from the Fischer Foundation:

Entering the church is so important for looks and safety. Below is a photo of the Back entrance with carpet and rubber steps. At right is a photo of the new railing that was installed a couple weeks ago when the weather was decent. Both were much needed projects. We thank Mary & John Botten for their work.

What you don't see are the repairs to the roof that had been leaking since last year. Now on to the interior work!



# Months of the Year

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the months of the year in the grid. Look for them in horizontally and vertically.



JANUARY

JULY

FEBRUARY

AUGUST

MARCH

SEPTEMBER

APRIL

OCTOBER

MAY

NOVEMBER

JUNE

DECEMBER