



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

100 NORTH FREMONT LEWISTON, MN 55952

January 2020



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Great Earthworm Race

There's nothing more sad than a lost earthworm. Many years ago when we lived in the country my daughter Nina and I were walking down the long dirt road between the parsonage and the church to pick up the mail.

A very unlucky earthworm had crawled from the lush green grass at the edge onto the sandy surface of the road. You could trace his progress in the sand. He seemed headed across the road when he swerved. Something threw him off, I don't know what. But we could see he was crawling in circles. When we found him, the poor thing was thin and dry, covered with tiny grains of sand, in utter despair. Round and round he wriggled as the sun rose higher hastening the hour when either the sun's heat or a car tire would end his trip.

"Let's rescue him," Nina said. She gently lifted his grainy form from the road and deposited it gingerly in the safety of the tall grass at the side. What a way to begin a day. It makes you feel good deep inside to rescue one of God's creatures, no matter how small.

But then we noticed that this wasn't the only worm that was confused. There were others. Worm after confused worm had made his way from the safety of the grass to the expanse of desert we call the road. Occasionally we'd find a fat, juicy worm just beginning his brave journey, blissfully unaware of the dangers ahead. We worked quickly to rescue every worm, then we started to wonder if any of the worms had reached the safety of the grass. Only one. And sadly, when it was inches from salvation it turned to head back across the road.

Today, as we begin this New Year and this new decade of 2020, I can't help thinking about us here at St. Paul's. Where are we on *our* journey? Where are we going, anyway? Do we have a life goal, a destination, or are we just wandering? As Christians we follow The Way of Jesus Christ. That is the broader context of our day to day lives. But today, and tomorrow, and the next day... do you have a plan? Because, *God has a plan* for you.

A verse came to mind as I spotted one more worm in need of saving "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you" (Psalm 32:8). If only those worms had a Guide in an airplane--someone with a far bigger perspective to radio down which direction to choose--they could make it.

And then I remembered how desperately we, too, need a Guide to show us the way across the deserts and dangerous places in our lives, to help us make good choices that keep us focused on our faith in Jesus.. Or, perhaps, we need a Rescuer who will pick us up, hopeless and lost though we may be, and gently deposit us on the safe side.

Continued on next page...

"Rescuer," did you know "Rescuer," means about the same as "Savior." Jesus is that Rescuer. He knows The Way, not only in the dangerous places, but also in the everyday places. Do you ever feel that your efforts are not focused on the most important things in your life? That you have no idea what God's plan for your life is? Are you tired of going round in circles, fighting fatigue and fear and frustration each day? Lift your weary head one more time and utter a faint worm-prayer. *Dear God, lead me in the direction you would have me go. Help me understand the plan you have for my life. Guide me to seek your will in my life. Amen.* And then, look up! Watch for your Rescuer. Look up! Listen to his voice encouraging you to go along the right path. Take each day and dedicate it to God, then arrange your days so you aren't going in circles. God has the bigger view that we don't have, but God is giving us advice, hints, and encouragement for our daily journey.

God Bless You!

Pastor Carol Garman



Unexpected Heroes – January 2020

Carlyn Wardwell and Melissa Nelson

This month we have **two Unexpected Heroes** who have been quietly going about their faithful journey of following Christ here at St. Paul's. Along their journey they have contributed mountains of quality care of our young people, youth, and the church itself. Why are they sharing the spot of Unexpected Heroes? Perhaps, because they seem to volunteer *together* all of the time.

I first met them last Summer during Vacation Bible School, and discovered very quickly that their energy and joy are unbounding. This brings such fun for anyone who is volunteering along with them. During VBS they were dressed up in Hero clothing for the occasion with crazy hats and all, they lead music with gusto, and moved and sang inspirationally with the kids during the music. They arranged a wide variety of activities and games as well as fun interludes, along with Jenn Schultz and other teachers and leaders. The kids loved it, especially when they got to throw water balloons at a church event! I soon learned that when they tackle something, look out. Prepare to work hard and enjoy every second.

These two are the movers and shakers of our High School Youth events called H2O, which is truly an inspiration. So many times young people in churches disappear after Confirmation. Not at St. Paul's! Because during the Sunday School Hour they are being led all over town to do kind and generous things for people in church and people in town. One day I received a big yellow bag that said it was Pastor Appreciation Sunday, and it included yellow highlighters, pens, pencils, gadgets, and the best part were the notes from the youth thanking me for being their pastor. What a thrill! I have never seen an organization that is so good at helping young people develop a faith in action, as they move from a strictly learning group to a group that explores how to share God's love and generosity with those around them.

Recently Carlyn and Melissa have joined Randy Snell as part of the Outreach Team. At our first meeting I was almost dizzy keeping up with their many good ideas. These two have been developing our Facebook accounts at St. John's by adding information, by following events and adding pictures, and also by putting up many inspiring quotes and pictures. Well done Carlyn and Melissa.

GROWING TO SERVE...SERVING TO GROW

Musicians:

Jan 5th: Jon Nienow

Jan 12th: Jennifer Rupprecht

Jan 19th: Nancy Wagner

Jan 26th: Jon Nienow

Acolyte:

Jan 5th: Owen Sommer

Jan 12th: Kamea Nelson

Jan 19th: Abbey Rasmussen

Jan 26th: Zane Nelson

Counters:

Jan 5th: Judi/Leann

Jan 12th: Beth/Mary

Jan 19th: Jeff/Renata

Jan 26th: Olson's

Ushers: Dean and Kristi Reps

Altar Guild: Ellsworth and Helen Simon

Coffee Fellowship: Circle 1

Birthday's In January

Shawn Lee (Kennedy-Lee)	1/2	Jim Olson	1/19
Caily Reps	1/2	Trent Olson	1/19
Mason Jacob	1/3	Deb Krage	1/20
Sonja Daley	1/5	Melanie Wardwell	1/22
Allyson Rislow	1/5	Amanda Koelln	1/23
Twyla Reps-Peshon	1/7	Peggy Olson	1/23
Justin Schindler	1/7	Harvey Randall	1/23
Katelynn Reps	1/9	Beth Olson	1/26
Chad Tweten	1/10	Benjamin Daley	1/27
Desi Peters	1/11	John Botten	1/31
Sarah Sommer	1/13	Sidney Greden (Daley)	1/31
Emma Danielson	1/19		

Anniversaries in January

Gale and Ruth Rasmussen

1/1



Church Council Minutes

Page 4

December 17, 2019

Call to order: Carol Boynton

Members Present: Jennifer Schultz, Carol Boynton, Kevin Huseth, Jon Nienow, Randy Snell, Dennis Martin, John Botten, Pastor Carol

Secretary Report: Dennis Martin. Jon N moved to approve Randy S seconded motion carried

Treasurer's Report: John Botten. Jon N moved to approve Kevin Huseth seconded. Motion carried

Church Committee Reports:

Mutual Ministry: Committee met and discussed pastor and staff yearly evaluations. It was decided to revisit the format and timing for evaluations after the annual meeting in January. Committee also discussed the need to begin planning for pastoral leadership after pastor Carol's contract ends a year from this coming May. It was decided to delay planning until after the annual meeting. Pastor Carol indicated a willingness to serve an additional one year term after her contract ends if that is the will of the congregation. Randy Snell moved to schedule the annual meeting for January 19th and to also schedule the January council meeting on January 14th to plan for the annual meeting. Jon N seconded. Motion carried.

Outreach and Evangelism: Christmas caroling and fellowship gathering last Sunday was a big success. Approximately 15 members and youth participated and enjoyed caroling and fellowship. Thanks to all who attended! No meeting of Outreach and Evangelism committee for December.

Parish Education: Thanks to all who attended the Sunday School Christmas program. It was well attended with many positive comments. No December meeting for Parish Ed. Committee.

Property Management: No Report Josh was not present.

Worship: Possible service of Christmas Hymns discussed at last meeting for January 5th. Communion service. No final decision has been made. No December meeting is scheduled.

SPY: No Report in Church Council packet Pastor indicated an interest in attending Quake in March if funds are available for her registration and transportation costs. No action taken, will decide later.

Old Business: 29 gifts were provided by congregation members for the sharing tree. Thanks to those who contributed! Parts have been ordered to repair ovens in kitchen. Volkmanns will do the work. Pastor spoke with Ralph Wangberg about attending a council meeting to discuss process for filing church name change with synod. No date has been set at this time. The energy company came out and checked the electric meter. No problems found with the outside meter. Jon N will check circuits and boards inside the church. Becky Baer has agreed to work with training of kitchen volunteers after the first of the year. Sara Sommer has agreed to serve on alter guild to fill a vacancy. Kevin H. moved to get a new bid from Norman Electric for replacing lights in the sanctuary, Randy S. seconded. Motion carried Jon N moved Kevin H seconded a motion to approve allowing the Red Cross to use the church for a blood drive. Motion carried

Continued next page....

New Business: Pastor ask a question concerning possible problems with lights in the front of the church as to when they turn on and off. Jon N will check program settings and report back. Pastor Carol has approved the use of the church for Christin Rislow wedding if they decide to hold the wedding there. Wedding venues are still being considered. Pastor indicated that email correspondence should be sent to her home email rather than church email whenever possible. It is faster and more efficient for her to locate and reply to emails if they are all sent to one place. Carol Boynton announced that Chris, the church secretary, will be resigning at the end of the month. We will need to begin a process to post a notice of vacancy and hire a new church secretary. It was moved by Kevin H and seconded by Jon N to post the position for 12-16 hours per week at a salary of \$12-\$15 dollars per hour based on experience and qualifications. Chris will be offered to continue in the position at the new salary if she is interested before the position will be posted. If Chris declines the offer, the council will give her a departing gift of \$75 and a position posting will be drawn up and distributed to local media and posted at church and in the local community. Motion approved. Jon N moved Kevin H seconded to approve the January Church calendar. Motion Approved.

Adjournment: 9pm



January 19th St. Paul's Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend. If you are head of a committee please watch your email for information on submitting your committee reports.

S.P.Y. will be serving a fundraiser meal before the meeting.



ANNUAL GROUDHOG MEAL WILL BE FEBRUARY 1ST.
PLEASE SEE SIGN UP

SHEETS ON THE USHER'S TABLE.

THANK YOU



S.P.Y. & H2O Important Dates:

- Jan. 5 (Sun.) – H2O from 9am- 10am – meeting once this month.
- Jan. 5 (Sun.) – Mpls. Quake Deposit Due - \$95
- Jan. 8 (Wed.) – S.P.Y. Supper Mtg. 6 – 8pm
- Jan. 12 (Sun.) – Snow tubing – Leave St. Paul's @ 2pm & back by 6pm
- Jan. 15 (Wed.) – S.P.Y. Adv. Board Mtg. – 5:30pm
- Jan. 19 (Sun.) – Annual Mtg. – S.P.Y. to serve fundraising meal – 11:15am



SIGN UP FOR SNOW-TUBING!!!

We'll be making our annual trip to Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville on Sunday, January 12th! We will leave St. Paul's at 2PM sharp and we'll be back at church by 6PM. The cost is \$12.00 per person and the tubes are furnished. This is really a fun day! Dress warm, bring a snack, a water bottle, and invite a friend to come along! We'll have the hot chocolate ready for you! Please sign up with Diane because we need to pre-pay.

The St. Paul's Sunday School did a fantastic job of presenting "The Not-So-Silent Night" Christmas program. We have some very talented youth in our church. Before and after the program S.P.Y. hosted a LIVE nativity scene complete with Bella the bunny.





THANKS FOR ALL THE DONATIONS FOR THE BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS. WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE MANY TIEMS TO THE WINONA VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO GIVE TO MAOTHERS AND BABIES IN NEED. ALSO, THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS FOR THE SHARING TREE.



Beautiful music and a wonderful message at our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.





Christmas caroling on St. Paul's UCC/ELCA FB site Dec. 15th – Group caroling outside (says Fa, La, La, La in caption) and the picture of the entire Christmas caroling group inside the church. **Caption could be: Sharing some Christmas joy with a little caroling and lots of FUN!**

H2O Blessing the Community!





BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



Community Blood Drive St Paul's Church

100 N Fremont Street

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: St Pauls to schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

© 2019 The American National Red Cross | 262701