



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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"Be Still and Know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

December 20, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Two things: First, I am a History nerd. Second, old habits die hard. As many of you know, I love the study of History and its many facets. I love teaching. I also love the celebration of Christmas. So much so, that I used to teach a class called The History of Christmas and its Traditions. One of the more interesting facets of Christmas is the origins of the ornaments we use to decorate, perhaps none more important than the Christmas tree itself. So, I'd like to share with you just a little bit of the class I taught, and maybe help keep alive some of the religious aspects, of what has become a secular holiday.

The use of a Christmas tree indoors appears to have begun in Germany. In some areas evergreen trees were scarce so the families would build a Christmas pyramid, simple wooden structures which they decorated with branches and candles. The English Royalty help popularize the tree in England by decorating the first Christmas tree with candles, candies, fruits, and gingerbread.

Many legends exist about the origin of the Christmas tree. One is the story of Saint Boniface, an English monk who organized the Christian Church in France and Germany. One day, as he traveled about, he came upon a group of pagans gathered around a great oak tree about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor. To stop the sacrifice and save the child's life Boniface felled the tree with one mighty blow of his fist. In its place grew a small fir tree. The saint told the pagan worshippers that the tiny fir was the Tree of Life and stood for the eternal life of Christ.

Another legend holds that Martin Luther, a founder of the Protestant faith, was walking through the forest one Christmas Eve. As he walked he was awed by the beauty of millions of stars glimmering through the branches of the evergreen trees. So taken was he by this beautiful sight that he cut a small tree and took it home to his family. To recreate that same starlight beauty he saw in the wood, he placed candles on all its branches.

Others feel the origin of the Christmas tree may be the "Paradise Play." In medieval times most people could not read and plays were used to teach the lessons of the Bible all over Europe. The Paradise Play, which showed the creation of man and the fall of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden was performed every year on December 24th. The play was performed in

winter creating a slight problem. An apple tree was needed but apple trees do not bear fruit in winter so a substitution was made. Evergreens were hung with apples and used instead. Thereby starting the tradition of decorating Christmas trees.

Christians have long held the fir as a symbol of the Tree of Life. Early Christians knew their symbolism well, as they added candles and apples to their Christmas firs. These candles represented the light of Christ. The apples symbolized knowledge which spawned man's original sin according to Christian belief. Christmas Tree Decorations can be what you want to make of them, however, each item carries religious symbolism! The Evergreen tree is of course a symbol of everlasting life and light; blue and white represent snow and winter and red the blood of Jesus the Savior.

It is my hope and prayer that you stay "rooted" in the true meaning of Christmas this year, and that you pass those Christian beliefs and traditions along to your children.

Merry CHRISTmas to you and your family.

Jack Burkee, Principal

PS Check out this link for some more interesting information!

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/christmas-ideas/g4064/hidden-symbolism-behind-christmas-decorations/>



REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

In Christ, the community of St. Paul's Lutheran School partners with families to equip children academically and prepare children and families spiritually to witness and serve.

COOKIE WALK

A big THANK YOU to the many volunteers and bakers that helped make the Cookie Walk a huge success. Through the efforts of many we raised over \$2500 for the school.

GRADES 1-8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON RADIO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD AT 8:00AM

The 1st – 8th grade Christmas program was recorded and will be played during our Sunday morning broadcast on December 23rd at 8:00am. The radio station it will be on is JOY1340 AM.



CHOICE MEETINGS

As most of you know, St. Paul's participates in the Wisconsin Parent Choice Program and the Milwaukee Parent Choice Program. One of the stipulations of the Choice Program is to hold two meetings per school year to meet with all families to answer any questions about the Choice Program, get any information about the Choice Program, and learn about the Choice Program. Our first meeting was held on Friday, November 16th. This meeting is for all of our families, not only families who are in the Choice Program this year or may be in the Choice Program in future years. The second meeting is set for February 24th. Please come to our meetings if you would like to learn more about the two Choice Programs in which St. Paul's participates.

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH HOT LUNCH

This year Hot Lunch is offered once a week. The program is overseen by Chelsea Rudig, she needs volunteers to help. Hot lunch is offered every Wednesday. **Sign up to help at the following link:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084ba4ae2ba5f94-volunteer7>

**Chapel offerings for December
will be used to purchase gift cards for our pastors to use in
ministering to the needy of our community.**

SCRIP

Scrip, which are gift cards, is a fundraiser that runs year round. When you purchase a gift card a percentage (2%-15%) of the money comes back to us! They can be bought (check or cash) after the 5:00 and 8:00 services and before the 10:30 service. You can also pick up a form, with all the cards that are available, or contact Tammy Evers (541-6251 ext. 3011) to place an order.

Thank you so much for those who have bought in the past and May God continue to bless this and all things here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in the beginning stages of planning for our Vacation Bible School for the summer of 2019! We would love for you to be a part of this excited adventure! If you would like to be involved and share your talents contact Natalie Romano at 847-636-1534 or nmiller0103@hotmail.com.

ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

Members from the VFW Post 12100 were at Chapel Families Wednesday afternoon to present three 7th graders with awards for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the Post Level in the Patriot's Pen Essay Writing contest. All three essays will go on to compete at the district level. Ashton Poritz placed 3rd, Hannah Schaber was 2nd, and Lillia Carson's essay placed first. Congratulations on your achievement.

SPELLING BEE QUALIFIERS

Congratulations to the following 5th-8th grade students who qualified for the 2019 St. Paul's Spelling and Vocabulary Bee: Melia Allen, Isabella Avila, Carolyn Baars, Eric Brofka, Leyla Candelaria, Lillia Carson, Sorcha Gehl, Keira Hutchins, Aubrey Kadolph, Kayla, Knapp, Ashley Matusewic, Nick Nault, Alexis Plumeri, Meredith Powers, Luna Ramos, Hannah Schaber, Isabella Sholty, Cameron Skenandore, Lexi Tavidian, Ashley Vogt, Deondre Williams, and Riley Zacharias.

The Spelling and Vocabulary Bee will be Wednesday, January 16th at 9:15 A.M. in the gym. Family and friends are invited to attend.

FROM THE PASTOR

First of all, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas celebration, gathering with loved ones, opening some gifts, and, most especially, centering everything of the birth of Jesus who came to love and save us all.

There is a grand reality about Christmas. It has often become buried under all the other "stories" told at this time of year: The Grinch, Elf, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Christmas with the Kranks, Home Alone, Christmas Vacation, and a myriad of other novelty stories watched this time of year. I have personally been entertained by many of those over the years. That's entertainment. Christmas is reality.

In my message during our last Children's program on December 19 (and the kids did a great job!), I mentioned that God really loves us . . . and God really sent His Son into the world to save us from sin and all the sinful effects all around us. Jesus is real. His birth truly spoken of by angels to shepherds who listened to their message and went to see this holy little Child born to save them.

If you know this to be true, praise God. And I don't mind reminding you of its reality! (2 Peter 1:12). If you have never been instructed in the Christian faith or if you are looking for a church home, I want to invite you to attend our next Adult Instruction Class. It will begin in January and be held on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30am. We would love to have you as part of our church family where we worship Jesus, live in His love, and walk in His ways day by day.

Again, blessings on your Christmas Celebration! If you would like to worship Jesus here at St. Paul's, we have services on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) at 4pm, 6pm, and 11pm. We have one service on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) at 9am. May Jesus bring you His gifts of love, joy, hope, and peace this Christmas and always.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bender

ST. PAUL'S CHILDCARE CENTER WANTS AND NEEDS

Prayers

Publicity - \$1000.00 (yard signs, social media etc.)

2 cribs - \$800.00 (Due to state licensing rules I would need to order these)

Play yard - \$100.00

2-4 Pack N Plays - \$400.00

Carpeting-\$200.00

Baby Jumper - \$150.00

DVD player to hook up to TV or projector

Child care will be open Wednesday, December 26 - Monday December 31 from 6 AM-6 PM. Please register in advance at amy@splcwa.org Thank you and God Bless.

BOYS CLOTHING DRIVE



Hopkins-Lloyd Community School which is on 15th and Hopkins is in desperate need of boy's coats. Various sizes between 10 and xx large (mens). Boy's pants sizes 5, 6, 7, 8. If you are able to donate, there will be drop off bins at both the school, 79th Street doors and at the ECC building. If you have any questions please contact Crystal Barry. Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

- **Handbells – Wednesday 7:15am**
- **Varsity Girls – Monday & Friday 4:45-6:15pm**
- **Varsity Boys – Tuesday & Thursday 3:15-4:45pm**
- **JV Girls – Monday 3:15-4:45pm & Thursday 4:45-6:15pm**
- **JV Boys – Wednesday & Thursday 3:15-4:45pm**

Church at St. Paul's: Saturday - 5:00pm; Sunday - 8:00am and 10:30am; Sunday School/Adult Bible Class - 9:15am

Acolyte Schedule:

Saturday, December 22	5:00pm – Sophia Novotny
Sunday, December 23	9:00am – Lillia Carson
Monday, December 24	4:00m – Luna Ramos
	11:00pm – Logan Rauter
Saturday, December 29	5:00pm – Olivia Kukor
Sunday, December 30	8:00pm – Ashton Poritz
	10:30am – Riley Zacharias

SINGING SCHEDULE

January 26	5:00 p.m. NLSW Celebration 3K-8 th (last names A-H)
January 27	8:00 a.m. NLSW Celebration 3K-8 th (last names I-Q)
	10:00 a.m. NLSW Celebration 3K-8 th (last names R-Z)

SPORTS SCHEDULE

January 8	JVGirls @ Our Redeemer 5:15pm
	JVBoys @ Our Redeemer 6:15pm
January 9	VGirls @ Hales Corners 5:30pm
	VBoys vs. SPI @ St. Paul's 5:30pm
January 12	VGirls @ Mt. Olive 10:00am
January 15	JVBoys vs. Mt. Olive @ St. Paul's 5:00pm
	JVGirls vs. Immanuel @ St. Paul's 6:00pm
January 16	VBoys vs. St. Paul Ocon. @ St. Paul's WA 4:30pm
January 17-20	Zion Men. Falls Tournament for JV Boys and Girls

UPCOMING DATES

December 22-Jan 2	Christmas Break – NO SCHOOL
January 3	Classes Resume
January 11	End of 2 nd Quarter
January 12	Shorts Shots 1:00-2:15pm
January 21	Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!!**