

Forgiveness through Jesus

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

2 Corinthians 5:19

February holds the day that often makes or breaks relationships: Valentine's Day! It's a day of engagement rings, flowers, dinners, and the hope for returned affections. For all the happiness of Valentine's Day, it's also bittersweet. For every happy or newly engaged or blissfully married couple, you can find someone who is sadly alone, someone who longs to be loved, someone going through a devastating break-up. No wonder the game is, "He loves me...He loves me not."

Imagine if the pressure of Valentine's Day was off. Imagine there was no doubt about how that special someone felt about you. Imagine that person did what the Bible says, "Love keeps no record of wrongs."

We have to imagine, because our experience is that human love is conditional. It is usually based on how people look, or what they have, or how they treat us. As a result, we are led to think that God is the same. We think that he loves us if we're lovable. We assume that he loves us if we show our love to him. The truth is that God loves us not because of who we are or what we do. The Bible clearly describes God's amazing love by what he has done for us: "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."

Honestly, we have to admit that there are all kinds of sins on our record before God. Our attempts at love throughout life—failures, breakups, lies, adulteries, divorces—all are an astonishing record of wrong. God ought to oppose us. But in amazing love, God doesn't count our sins against us. That means that he doesn't keep a record of all our actions, thoughts and words that violate his holy will.

God doesn't keep a record of our sins because of Jesus. God took all our sins, the sins of everyone, and charged them to his Son. In our place Jesus willingly and lovingly suffered the punishment of death that we and all people deserved. This is the great love that God has for us...for you! Through Jesus Christ, our relationship with God is restored and by faith in Jesus we will enjoy the blessing of his love forever.

In our relationship with God, it's not "He loves me...He loves me not." In Christ, it is always, "He loves me...He loves me...He loves me."

FEBRUARY 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LOPAHS

- **Sunday bulletins** are always your most up-to-date source of information
- We will continue **early dismissal** of Sunday School teachers and students during announcements
- **Small child care/Little Lambs** available during Adult Bible Class

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5: Epiphany 5

- 9am Worship with Holy Communion
- Our service includes the Installation of all Church Councilmen and all officers and leaders of the various organizations of church and school
- text/message: 1 Peter 2: 9-12 How to live in a foreign country (which foreign country do you live in?)
- [It's Super Sunday, for those who think that's important]

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12: Epiphany 6

- 9am Worship
- Sunday School sings: "I Am the Light of the World"
- text/message: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-13: How can we be sure about God?
- 11:30am Pioneers meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19: Epiphany 7

- 9am Worship. It is Communion Sunday
- Text/message: Matthew 5: 38-48 "Your Father in heaven is Perfect"
- Deadline for items for the March newsletter

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

- 9am Worship
- singing: Adult Choir
- text/message: Matthew 17: 1-9 "Take a Good Look at Your Savior!"
- WELS Connection
- The March newsletter will be in your mailbox

REMEMBER: MONDAY NIGHT WORSHIP 7PM

While you may be busy or gone over the weekend.....please remember....there is Monday night Worship at 7pm!

AFTERNOON GUILD – January 12, 2017

St. Paul's Afternoon Guild met January 12 at 2:00 p.m. (This was a week later than usual due to Marian Eineke's funeral the previous week.) Because Pastor Lopahs could not be there, Clarice Fastenau led the Bible study based on the patience of Mary, Jesus' mother, at the annunciation, Jesus' birth, the visit to the temple when Jesus was 12, and the wedding at Cana.

President Mary Lopahs opened the business meeting. Roll call was answered by 11 members. The secretary read the minutes of the December meeting. The treasurer reported a balance of \$390.34. She also gave the end-of-year report for 2016. Dues of \$20 are due at this time for 2017. The secretary's report and treasurer's reports were approved. The secretary read numerous thank you notes, including a thank you from Rev. Larry Schlomer for the \$101 sent to Multi-Language Publications and from the MLC Auxiliary for the \$100 donation.

Committee Reports:

LWMS: Clarice read a brief report from a Summer Assistant funded by LWMS contributions. The spring rally will be April 29 at St. Paul's in Arlington.

Treasure Haus: Sue read excerpts from the newsletter. Business continues to go well, and numerous sales and discounts are planned for the next months.

CAMM – Clarice read about the Teethsavers program in Malawi which has provided tooth brushes and oral hygiene education to Malawians. This is the first time many of them had owned a tooth brush. Clarice will check on the requirements for making rolled bandages for Zambia.

Old Business:

Care Packages – Thanks to all who contributed to the 14 care packages sent to college students.

Third Grade Bibles – Sue will check with Mr. White on the funding needed for this. Afternoon Guild had paid for them in the past. Louise Knickrehm donated \$200 to the project last year.

New Business:

500th Reformation Anniversary – The first committee meeting to make plans for our congregation to observe this milestone will be January 17. All are invited.

Wish List – All are asked to give suggestions for the wish list which lists projects which could be funded by memorials and special donations.

Christmas Poinsettias - It was MSP to pay the congregation \$88.47, which is half of the expense for the shut-in poinsettias and half of the amount for the altar poinsettias not paid for by orders. Evening Guild will pay the other half.

Miscellaneous:

Group 1 serves the next event. . . Lenten soup suppers begin March 1 served by PTO, serving groups and YIA. . . January birthdays: Barb Rinne (4), Pastor Lopahs (5), Lois Miest (21), Irene Turner (26). January Altar Guild: Jean Nelson and Marian Rathman. February Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller and Lana Sander. Thank you to Clarice Fastenau for serving refreshments today. **Next Meeting – February 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** Barb Rinne will serve refreshments.

Mary's Thought for the Day: "If you are grateful, you can find happiness in anything."

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Clarice Fastenau, Secretary



St. Paul's Lutheran School

A Christ-Centered Education for a Christ-Centered Life!



PreK: January began with the ending of Christmas. We reviewed Christmas, learned about the wise men, their gifts and how God protected His Son by sending them to Egypt. Then our Jesus stories began to focus on how God was preparing Jesus for His Ministry. He went to the temple and wowed the Teachers of the Law, He was baptized by His cousin John and collected friends and followers. Our next stories will be on the Miracles of Jesus.

Our theme this month has been snow and ice. We dressed up in Winter wear, made Snow People with collage materials and we melted a cup of snow and got dirty water. Maybe my class will think twice about eating snow! We played in a mixture of shaving cream and hair conditioner. Now we are exploring "clean mud," which is white, shredded toilet paper, Ivory soap and Borax. We put white objects and colored objects inside the clean mud to learn about camouflage. In Music and Movement we have had fun playing that we are outside by skating on waxed paper, pretending to make snow angels on the floor and throwing pretend 'snowballs,' which are actually small white yarn pom-poms. (I am looking for donations of white yarn so I can make more 'snowballs.' It would be even better if someone would like to make the snowball for us!)

We are looking forward to Christian Education Week, our Bible lesson skits with our Chapel Buddies and have already learned the refrain to the song we will be singing in church on Sunday, January 29th for Winter Fest. Hope to see you there!

We've been keeping extra busy in January in the **Kinder-1st grade classroom!** We have learned about a couple of miracles Jesus performed after he was baptized. We've learned we can always trust Jesus and we can pray to him whenever we're worried about anything. He will answer every prayer! The 1st and 2nd grade students finished studying about force. We performed a Magic Show for the Kinders, our parents and friends to show what we have learned about magnets, gravity, and electricity. The Kinders and 1st graders began to work on square dancing. We will be performing a couple dances between the basketball games at Marian Hall on Thursday, Feb 16. We've also been practicing jumping rope so we are ready to Jump Rope for Heart. The Kinders have been working hard learning about numbers up to 30. Next we will talk about comparing length, weight and capacity. The 1st grade students will be working on the same concepts in math. In Social Studies the 1st and 2nd grade students have been studying our country's early years: the first people who lived here (the native Americans), when the Spanish came and settled in Florida, the Pilgrims settling in Plymouth, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War! The Kinders have also been talking about their five senses. As we work so hard on these subjects and more it's good to get outside and run around in the fresh air- but the cold cold weather kept us in for many days! It's been nicer weather the last couple of weeks so we've been able to get that fresh air we need! We're looking forward to celebrating our 100th day of school in the next two weeks!

St. Paul's Youth In Action

St. Paul's St. James Youth In Action met on Sunday, January 22. Pastor Lopahs led us in devotion about how young people can make a difference by setting good examples for ourselves and for what we believe in. Our checkbook balance is \$2,462.75. Up next for our plans is making bake sale treats on Saturday, February 11. The following day, February 12, we will sell all the treats we made. Our February activity is still unknown, we're debating going bowling, board games, sledding, or watching a movie. March 12, we have a meeting, meal, and go to the Sky Zone in Burnsville. March 29, we will serve tacos in a bag for the Lenten meal. Tammy Foss is looking for information on a mission trip this summer.

Meals on Wheels Valentine Treats – Our school children are again planning to distribute Valentine treat bags to residents of St. James and Butterfield who receive Meals on Wheels. The bags will include a message from our church. Your donations toward this project would be appreciated. Suggestions are cocoa, instant oatmeal, tea bags, small packages of cookies or crackers, granola bars, candy, etc. The boxes for food and monetary donations will be in the narthex from January 29 until February 12.

St. Paul's Lutheran Pioneers

February 2017 Newsletter

February Meeting: The next Pioneer meeting will be on *Feb. 12th*. We are looking for servers for this meeting. The meal will start at about 11:30.

Our Pioneers will be planning a Minnesota summer vacation. Families, please talk about places you would like to visit, including a state park and other attractions that interest you. We will be using a Minnesota map and other tourist materials. Games and car activities will be planned.

Follow-up from January 8th Meeting: It was a very cold Sunday afternoon, but 8 Pioneer youth ventured out to St. James Lake to try ice fishing. We had wonderful help from Mike Malmgren and Travis Kiecker. We got to see how an ice auger worked to drill the hole for fishing. The ice was at least 12 inches thick. We got to see how ice fishing poles are different from the poles used in the summer. Travis had his portable ice house set up. It was warmer inside. Several fish were caught and more were seen on his camera. We warmed up with hot chocolate and goodies back at church!

Chicken Fry: Our Pioneer's work for the St. James American Legion's Chicken Fry on March 4th! Workers need to be at the Legion by 4:15 p.m. We need 6-7 Pioneers and 4-5 adults to help that evening. 10 workers eat free, and our groups earn \$250 that evening! **Please sign up at our February meeting!**

Boy Pioneer Movie Night: This event is scheduled for Friday night, March 10th, with the Acosta and Haseman families serving the meal around 6 p.m. Fun activities are being planned. All boys of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. Please sign up so we can plan for food and activities. ***Boy Pioneer parents are needed to help with this event!***

Swim and Gym Day at Lake Crystal: The District Girl Pioneers will be hosting a family event at Lake Crystal's Recreation Center on March 19th. All families of the congregation and friends are invited to spend the afternoon swimming or having fun in the gym. There will be a devotion and snack bar. ***Each family is asked to bring a snack item to share with the group.*** Plates, napkins and beverages are provided. Our Pioneer program will pay for the water slide for those Pioneers interested in sliding. Please watch for more details and the sign-up sheet.

LGP Spa Night/Sleep-over: This event will be on Friday evening, March 31st. We are planning many fun spa, relaxation, and craft activities! Invitations will be given out to the girls with more information. The girls are encouraged to invite friends, but all need to sign up so we can prepare for the night.

We are in need of families to serve the meal which will begin around 6 p.m. We will need Moms and others to assist with crafts and spa activities in the evening. We are asking for at least one Mom to stay overnight and help with supervision! ☺

Pine Car Derby: We did not have a derby last year. Is there interest in racing those cars from last year at a derby this year? Additional cars can be made this year and are available to purchase for \$5.00!

Girls-Save the Dates for these Summer Events:

- * District camp at Flandrau in New Ulm will be on Thursday, June 15th at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m.
- * District Sunbeam Day Camp at St. Peter: June (date to be determined). This day is for our youngest Pioneers currently in Pre-K to 2nd grade.
- * National Camp at Crivitz, WI. will be from July 30th to August 5th

Evening Guild Minutes

January 3, 2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Evening Guild met on January 3 at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Lopahs opened our meeting with a devotion from Mark 7 continuing our study of the Hard Sayings of Jesus. Jesus challenges our view of ourselves.

Dorothy Hedberg Evening Guild President opened the meeting with welcoming us.

Roll Call was answered with 14 members present.

Secretary's Report was approved as read. Correspondence was read from faculty and staff thanking for the Christmas gifts.

Treasurer's Report – Balance on Hand was \$5,470.21, total designated is \$3,104.01 and total undesignated is \$2,366.20. Kitchen fund has a balance of \$890.06.

Pastor's Notes: First 500 Committee Meeting is to be held on January 17. New Bible Information Class is starting.

Committee Reports

LWMS- Clarice shared the new LWMS calendar with us and gave us the highlight for January.

MLC – Sue- No report

Spring Banquet- May 7, location to be determined

Symposium- 109 were in attendance. Good day. Good speakers.

Curtains- curtains in the Narthex being worked on.

Kitchen Committee- Metal spatulas and a can opener are needed.

Poinsettias- M/S/P – Pay for the remainder of \$88.40 left on the poinsettias

Children's Bags- Looking for donations of Children Christian Board Books. Bags will be categorized into age groups. More information to come.

Old Business

Ladies Bathroom Project- No update

Accordion Window Shades/Dividers- Kitchen Committee working on this

College Care Packages: Wonderful donations. 14 packages sent out

Mats by back door: Being worked on

Narthex Paint Payment: M/S/P Pay \$247.81 the remainder of what is left for upstairs painting project.

New Business

Banner Committee needs to meet for new banner

Lent Serving Schedule: March 1- PTO

March 8-Group #1

March 15- Group #2

March 22- Group #3

March 29- YIA

April 5-

Serving Groups: Group #3 Marion Eineke Funeral January 5

Group 1 up for next function/funeral.

January Birthdays Pastor Lopahs 5th, Marianne Krumrei 5th, Audrey Welchlin 17th, Jane Birkholz 21st

Kitchen Cleaning: January: Jody Smith, and Jill Klinkner, February: Patty Rotert, Lynn Wagner and Sheri Swanson

Servers for February: Rhonda Miller and Jane Birkholz

Next Meeting February 7, 2017

Adjournment 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Nommensen, Secretary

MONTHLY REMINDER OF SERVERS, FEBRUARY 2017

Deacons

Feb 5	9:00am	Tim Flitter
Feb 12	9:00am	Jan Miller
Feb 19	9:00am	Kevin Foss
Feb 26	9:00am	Jim Garrison

Greeters: Please arrive 20 minutes before service begins.

Feb 5	9:00am	Judy Mickelson
Feb 12	9:00am	Denny/Lana Sander
Feb 19	9:00am	Gerald/Loretta Hoffman
Feb 26	9:00am	Brent/Mona Kueker

Organists and Pianists:

Feb 5	9:00am	Chris, Myrna
Feb 12	9:00am	Clarice, Sherwood
Feb 19	9:00am	Chris, Glenda
Feb 26	9:00am	Clarice, Myrna

Recorders:

Feb 5	9:00am	Sanders
Feb 12	9:00am	Parker
Feb 19	9:00am	Foss
Feb 26	9:00am	Flitter

Kitchen Cleaning: Sheri Swanson, Patty Rotert, Lynn Wagner

Flowers: Brenda Nommensen

Kitchen Supplies: Rhonda Miller

Kerry Candles: Kathy Rathman, Janelle Munsterman

Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Lana Sander

Ushers

Feb 5	9:00am	Howard Swanson, Dale Lange, Dan Gratz, Scott Hoffman
Feb 12	9:00am	Bryan Rathman, TaShawn and Garrett Parker, Paul Jacoby
Feb 19	9:00am	Steve White, Steve Sodeman, Joseph Parker, Dan Birkholz
Feb 26	9:00am	Ben Foss, Willie Sander, Adam Munsterman, John Munsterman

Please arrive 20 minutes before service begins to hand out bulletins.

THRIVENT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CONGREGATIONAL PROJECTS

At the 2013 annual meeting, the voters approved allocating 25% of Thrivent Choice funds coming to the congregation to be used to supplement projects within our church. The remaining 75% is directed to the church's general fund.

We are asking organizations that are interested in applying for supplemental funds for any project held between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 to complete this application and submit it to one of the coordinators listed below by Sunday, March 12th! We would like to review all the applications at the same time to be able to divide the funds in the fairest possible way. Organizations can apply for more than 1 project or event.

If you have applied for Thrivent funds in the past, your organization or event will receive a copy of this form in your church mailbox. All organizations are encouraged to apply. Additional copies are available in the tract rack in the church fellowship hall.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS Supplemental Funding Request Form St. Paul's Lutheran Church St. James, MN.

- Organization requesting funds: _____
- Date of request: _____
- Date of activity: _____
- Name of activity and brief description: _____

- Funds will be used for: _____

- Approximate amt. of funds raised from the activity: _____
- Total funds requested from Thrivent: _____
- Who should check be made out to? _____

Contact person for this project:

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

**Please return this form to Cheryl Brown,
Sue Renz or Lana Sander by March 12th!**

St. Paul's Church and School

February 2017

HC=Holy Communion ABC = Adult Bible Class SS = Sunday School PSCC = Public School Confirmation Class BIC = Bible Information Class

				1 Early Dismissal 1:30p 9:30 Bible Class 4:00 PSCC 7:15p Choir practice	2 2:00p Afternoon Guild	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 LL, SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC 10:15 Heritage board Installation of all Council members and all lay leaders	6 7p Messy Monday 7p Worship	7 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Evening Guild	8 Early Dismissal 1:30p 4:00 PSCC 7:15p Choir practice	9 10:30a Brandt Ridge 11:00a Prairie View	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 Treasure Haus Work Day YIA Cooking and Activity	
12 9am Worship 10:15 LL, SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC 11:15 Pioneers meeting YIA Bake Sale 6:30p <i>Evangelism Team</i>	13 10:00 Pastor's Study Club 7p Worship/HC	14 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View/HC 5:15p Women's Bible Study	15 Early Dismissal 1:30 9:30 Bible Class PSCC 4:00p-5:30p 7:15p Choir practice	16 7pm Church Council	17 Pastor's Day Off NO SCHOOL	18	
19 9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 LL, SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC *Newsletter deadline*	20 NO SCHOOL: in-service for teachers 7p Worship	21 9:00 Ladies Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study 5:30-7: PTO	22 Early Dismissal 1:30 PSCC 4p-5:30p 7:15p Choir practice Newsletter printing	23 Pep fest	24 1pm newsletter assembly Pastor's Day Off MLC Basketball Tournament	25 MLC Basketball Tournament	
26 9am Worship 10:15 LL, SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC WELS Connection MLC Basketball Tournament	27 Treasure Haus workday 7p Worship	28 9:00 Ladies Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View 5:15p Women's Bible Study 7:00 500 th Anniversary Reformation Committee Mtg	Spirit Week February 21-24				29

Each Sunday: 6:30am "Time of Grace" cable Ch.9.
 8am Lutheran Chapel service, KNUJ 860 AM radio
9am Sunday Worship, and 7pm Monday worship
 HC 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month,
 Each Friday, our service is shown at 1pm on cable Ch. 7 or 8.

The Lamplighter

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