

Baptism for All

Baptism...saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 3:21

“Want a tough stain out?” That’s how the old commercial began. It ended by claiming a product that could get the job done. There are lots of sprays, foams, and cleaners that companies promise are the answer to our coffee, wine, and pet stain problems. But can any of those products deliver? If there actually was a stain remover guaranteed to deliver results as promised and was free...would you be interested?

God has one for you. He has provided a special “product” that has his faithful promise and almighty power behind it, and it is completely free. It’s not for coffee, wine, or pet stains, but for something far worse. It’s for guilt!

Guilt is what is left behind when we sin, and like an ugly stain it sticks in our hearts and minds. We want to get rid of it, but how? We can’t shout it out, even though guilt can make us angry and do lots of shouting. We can’t scrub it out, even if we try our hardest to clean up the messes we have made. So, what can get the tough stain of guilt out?

Baptism.

Baptism is a word that means to wash with water. God’s word together with water makes baptism a cleanser that God promises will bring results: “...not the removal of dirt...but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.” A guilty conscience comes from sin, and sin makes us unacceptable before our holy, sinless God. Baptism takes away our guilt because in baptism God connects us to Jesus and his work of salvation. In baptism God gives us the great gift of forgiveness through Jesus. His death was the payment for sin, and his resurrection is the guarantee that the stain of our sin has been removed. By our baptism God frees us from guilt. We are saved from the consequences of sin—death and damnation!

Think about your house with every single stain removed from your carpet and couch, and from your shirt and blouse. Even the toughest stains are eliminated. Baptism is a blessing of God that is much greater! Baptism is God’s amazing life-saving “product” to take out the stain of sin’s guilt from your heart. Jesus guarantees it.

JANUARY 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, JANUARY 1, 2017 : NEW YEARS DAY!

- 9am Worship with Holy Communion
- text/message: Revelation 21:5 "I Will Make All Things New"
- There will be NO Sunday School or Bible Classes on New Year's Day.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 : celebrating EPIPHANY, GENTILE CHRISTMAS!

- Pastor Lopahs is preaching on KNUJ today
- 9am Worship
- text/message: Matthew 2:1-12, the wise men come and worship the baby Jesus
- singing: Day School PreK-2
- 11:30am Pioneers meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017 : Epiphany 2

- 9am Worship. It is Communion Sunday
- Text/message: John 1: 42 "And he brought him to Jesus"
- As the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump will occur on Friday, January 20, we will remember him and all elected officials in our prayers today.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 : Epiphany 3

- 9am Worship
- text/message: Isa 9: 1-4 "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light"
- Deadline for items for the February 2017 newsletter

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017 : Epiphany 4

- It is the Day School's Winterfest festival
- text/message: Ps 1: 2 "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."
- Here is our special schedule for this day, weather-permitting:
 - 9am Worship - Day School sings
 - 10:15am - Voters meeting, meets upstairs in church
 - 10:15am - Little Lambs, Sunday School, Jr & Sr Teen Bible Class
 - 10:15am - presentation for adults/parents by Mr Buboltz from MVL (recruitment)
 - 11:30am - Winterfest Meal sponsored by St Paul's PTO
- February newsletters 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!

Church Council Minutes – December 15, 2016.

Present were Pastor Lopahs, Mr. White, Klarice Rinne, Elwood Heldt, Sherwood Wessel, Adam Munsterman, Ted Hedberg, Jim Renz, Josh Haseman, Elroy Geistfeld, Jared Schwichtenberg, and Brent Kueker. Travis Kiecker and Jan Miller were excused.

Pastor, Mr. White, the Council and their wives gathered at 6 p.m. for the annual Christmas potluck. Chairman Rinne called the Council meeting to order at 6:45 and Pastor led the prayer.

The evening's agenda was approved. The Nov. 17 minutes were approved.

The Council voted to accept the following into membership, the adults having successfully completed Bible Information Class: Holly Ware-Malmgren and daughter Allison – by affirmation of faith, from Baptist church; Steve and Nicole VanWyk and children Kahsen and Lynnzae – by affirmation of faith, from St. Olaf, Odin (ELCA); Andrew Ekstrom by affirmation of faith from Immanuel, Fairmont (LCMS); Bethanie Denton by affirmation of faith from St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Fairmont.

Elwood said the wood for the railing has arrived.

The Council passed the annual IRS resolution for section 107 for Ministers of the Gospel.

Bill Lammle's family would like to give \$300 - \$500 in memory of Bill. The council discussed some suggestions.

Ted said that the church's MVO statement was discussed at the open forum on Dec. 10.

Jim Renz said the Technology Committee needs to meet and discuss the next phase of the project.

Pastor Lopahs discussed the importance of deacons and ushers this time of year. There will be many friends, relatives and community members who are not familiar with our building, and we want to make them feel welcome. A new BIC class will start in January. The Reformation Anniversary Committee will get together in January.

Mr. White contacted the families who attended Trunk or Treat and expressed interest in our school. Christmas for Kids is cancelled because of the winter storm forecast for Dec. 17.

Josh Haseman said the city will put up school zone speed limit signs. The school is allowed to block off the street by the park at recess.

Enrollment is 51. Mr. White said that there should be at least 8 preschoolers next year.

Elroy Geistfeld said the 2017 envelopes are out.

Treasurer Heldt said we had to borrow \$5000 at the end of November. We have about \$19,000 in bills and payroll due by the end of the month.

Brent Kueker reported for the Trustees. They will look at the birch trees by the parsonage in spring. The grills over the organ speaker were put back. Thanks to the Browns. The lights for the front of church will be done by Dec 16. We will have to spread ice melter by the entrances as needed throughout the winter.

The Council discussed the Nominating Committee report.

The next council meeting is on Jan 19. Tim Plath and Jim Hahn from MVL will make their annual visit then. The Voters will meet upstairs in church at 10:15 on Jan 29. This is also Winterfest. Brent Kueker excused himself from both the Council and Voter's meetings. Councilmen will be installed on February 5

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Everyone stayed to put together the Christmas bags.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherwood Wessel

AFTERNOON GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY– December 1, 2016

St. Paul's Afternoon Guild met Thursday, December 1, at 2:00 p.m. for their Christmas party. President Mary Lopahs welcomed the 14 members and 1 guest who attended.

Mrs. Foss led her class (Kindergarten and Grades 1-2) in singing a number of Christmas songs. Mrs. Hoffman's class (Grades 3-4) led by Mrs. Loeschen played a Christmas carol on tone chimes. Mary Lopahs and Sue Renz read several Christmas poems and stories. The ladies joined in singing carols and Pastor Lopahs read the Christmas story from Luke 2. Clarice Fastenau and Germaine Rust served lunch

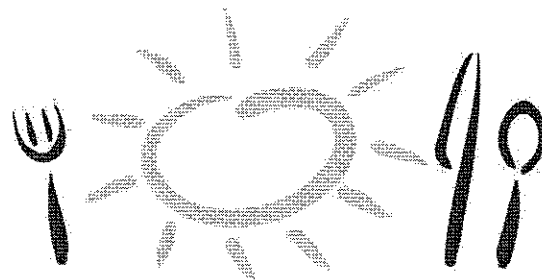
At the November meeting the ladies voted to give their Christmas offering to Multi-Language Publications, which has printed 2.9 million items in 47 languages for use in our mission work in many countries. The Christmas offering collected at the meeting was \$101.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Clarice Fastenau, Secretary

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Christmas for Kids on December 17 was canceled due to the very wintry weather.



Meals on Wheels

We deliver smilesSM

Meals on Wheels January 9-20. Sign-up sheets will be on the counter in the narthex. Please sign up for one or more days.



St. Paul's Lutheran Pioneers January 2017 Newsletter



THANK YOU! We would like to thank the Pioneers who were able to attend our December meeting, their parents and friends who participated in our Sharing Tree project in December. Each Pioneer purchased a gift of clothing and a toy for a child their own age. The shopping took place at Shopko and then gifts were wrapped back at church and placed under the Christmas tree. The Pioneers enjoyed hot chocolate and goodies! A Thrivent Action Team was utilized to make this project a reality.

January Meeting: Our first Boy and Girl Pioneer meeting of 2017 will be held on *Sunday, Jan. 8th*! We are looking for families to serve the meal at about 11:30! Our theme of MN. Adventures will continue with a trip to a local lake to try our hand at ice fishing. We are looking for Dads and Moms and other interested adults with a love for ice fishing **and** equipment to help us try this Minnesota winter pastime. Please watch for more details in the church bulletin and school news.



Meetings and sign up sheets: Remember that we plan for and hope to have all of our Pioneers at our regular Sunday meetings. *****Please call Lana or Beth if you will NOT be at the meeting!***** When we have activities such as a movie night or sleep-over, or when we participate in fund-raisers we have sign up sheets. This allows us to make sure we have enough workers or helps us to plan our projects/crafts for those that have signed up. Thank you for your help to make our Pioneer program run smoothly!

Servers are needed: Help is needed to serve meals before our meetings in 2017. See notes below and call Lana or Beth if you can help out! You will be serving with another Pioneer family. Thank you for your help!

Kids Care Donations: We are continuing to collect coins/donation for this project, which is "Family Ministry for Outreach".

February Pioneer Meeting: The February meeting is Feb. 12th. Servers are needed for the meal! Our Pioneers will work on map reading and planning a summer vacation in Minnesota. Pioneers and their families are encouraged to talk or dream about possible vacation destinations in Minnesota, including state parks and other attractions that interest them. We are planning to have a Minnesota map and other materials available for each Pioneer to keep. We are working on other surprises too!



Chicken Fry: Our Pioneer's work for the St. James 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 watch for sign-up sheets!**

Boy Pioneer Activity and Movie Night: This event is tentatively scheduled for March 10th, if there is enough interest. Servers are needed. *Boy Pioneer parents are needed to help plan this event and supervise that evening or it will not be held.*



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 snacks. Please watch for more details in the school news and Pioneer newsletters.

LGP Spa night/Sleep-over: Please note that this event is being planned for Friday, March 31st. We are hoping to have many fun spa/relaxation activities and crafts too! We will work on some Minnesota projects as well.

Assistance will be needed to make this event happen. We are looking for servers for the meal as well as Moms or other adults to help with spa activities and crafts in the evening. We are asking for at least one Mom to stay over night and help with supervision! ☺

Pine Car Derby: We are hoping to have a pine car derby this spring. Details are yet to be determined for the time and location of the derby. Cars are available for \$5.00! Please check with Mr. White if you are interested.

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



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!**

MONTHLY REMINDER OF SERVERS, JANUARY 2017

Deacons

Jan 1	9:00am	Sherwood Wessel
Jan 8	9:00am	Warren Krenz
Jan 15	9:00am	John Munsterman
Jan 22	9:00am	Elwood Heldt
Jan 29	9:00am	Howard Swanson

Greeters: Please arrive 20 minutes before service begins.

Jan 1	9:00am	Mike and Deb Johnson
Jan 8	9:00am	Dale and Karen Lange
Jan 15	9:00am	Don and Clarice Fastenau
Jan 22	9:00am	Sherwood and Beth Wessel
Jan 29	9:00am	Elwood and Connie Heldt

Organists and Pianists:

Jan 1	9:00am	Clarice, Sherwood
Jan 8	9:00am	Chris, Glenda
Jan 15	9:00am	Clarice, Myrna
Jan 22	9:00am	Chris, Sherwood
Jan 29	9:00am	Clarice, Glenda

Recorders:

Jan 1	9:00am	Parker
Jan 8	9:00am	Foss
Jan 15	9:00am	Flitter
Jan 22	9:00am	Freitag
Jan 29	9:00am	Lundberg

Kitchen Cleaning: Jody Smith, Joyce Wentzel, Jill Klinkner
Flower Committee: Clarice Fastenau
Kitchen Supplies: Rhonda Miller
Kerry Candles: Kathy Rathman, Janelle Munsterman
Altar Guild: Jean Nelson, Marian Rathman

Ushers

Jan 1	9:00am	Paul Jacoby, Dan Birkholz, Adam Munsterman, John Munsterman
Jan 8	9:00am	Mike, Brandon and Lucas Johnson, Don Fastenau
Jan 15	9:00am	Sherwood Wessel, Elwood Heldt, Denny Sander, Brent Kueker
Jan 22	9:00am	Klarice Rinne, Brandon and Damion Lundberg, Jim Garrison
Jan 29	9:00am	Travis Kiecker, Chad Lange, Kirk Kratovil, Tim Flitter

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

St. Paul's Church and School

January 2017

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

1 9:00am New Year's Day worship with HC No SS or Bible Class	2 No School 7p Worship/HC	3 School resumes 9:00 Ladies Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study 7pm Evening Guild	4 Early Dismissal 1:30p 9:30 Bible Class 4:00 PSCC 7:15p Choir practice	5 2:00p Afternoon Guild	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 9:00 Worship PreK-1 sing in church 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC 10:15 Heritage board 11:15 Pioneers meeting	9 10:00 Pastor's Study Club 7p Messy Monday 7p Worship	10 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View/HC 5:15p Women's Bible Study	11 Early Dismissal 1:30p 4:00 PSCC 7:15p Choir practice	12 10:30a Brandt Ridge 11:00a Prairie View	13 End of 2 nd quarter Pastor's Day Off	14 Treasure Haus Work Day
-----Meals on wheels January 9-20-----						
15 9am Worship/HC 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC	16 No DaySchool: In-service 7p Worship/HC	17 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study	18 Early Dismissal 1:30 9:30 Bible Class PSCC 4:00p-5:30p 7:15p Choir practice	19 7pm Church Council with folks from MVL	20 Report Cards go home. Pastor's Day Off	21
-----Meals on wheels January 9-20-----						
22 9am Worship 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen, ABC *Newsletter deadline*	23 Science Fair projects due Treasure Haus workday 7p Worship	24 9:00 Ladies Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View 5:15p Women's Bible Study 5:30-7p PTO meeting	25 Early Dismissal 1:30 PSCC 4p-5:30p 7:15p Choir practice Newsletter printing	26	27 Parent's Day at DaySchool, lunch @ 11:45. Jump Robe for Kids 1pm newsletter assembly Pastor's Day Off	28
----- 1/22-1/28 Christian Education Week -----						
29 9am Worship DaySchool sings 10:15 SS, Jr Teen 10:15 Voter's meeting 10:15 PTO speaker in fellowship hall. 11:30 Winterfest meal ***Winter Fest***	30 Treasure Haus workday 7p Worship	31 9:00 Ladies Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study	<p>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.</p>			

The Lamplighter

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School

(W.E.L.S.)

315 9th St. South

St. James, MN 56081

507-375-3636

Address Service Requested

Rev. Martin J. Lopahs 507-621-4128

Principal Steve White 608-451-1482

www.stpaulsstjames.com

www.facebook.com/stpluth

