

# The St. Paul Epistle

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Lutheran Church  
Orion, Illinois  
**January 2021**

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Pastor Gwen

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## Pastor Gwen Sefrhans- Murphy:

Thank you for all you do for our common ministry here at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Thank you for all the Christmas wishes, cards and notes. My family and I appreciate them. Thank you for your kind support and generosity.

2021 is a new year, (thanks be to God). Even though we know that things will not immediately change for the better the minute the clock changes to 2021, we look with hope for an end to this pandemic, with the availability of a vaccine slowly increasing.

In a year of so much uncertainty and changed plans, we might feel like we are done: done changing, done being flexible, done with everything.

Our faith points to a different truth though-that we are always being made new, every day, in our baptisms. Martin Luther emphasized the daily aspect of our need for repentance-that we can confess our sin, receive forgiveness and turn back to God every day. God's grace is always there for us, renewing us and strengthening us.

Even when change seems to overwhelm us, we cling to the good news that God is with us, making us new.

Praying that we all might see how God is making us new as individuals, a congregation, and as the wider church in 2021,

God's peace be with you,

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Paul:

150th Anniversary of St. Paul: The 150th Anniversary dinner and program has a new date of **Sunday, April 25, 2021**. As the time gets closer, we will give information about the free dinner for those who had not made their reservations yet. Bishop Jeffrey Clements will be able to be with us, for which we are incredibly grateful. It will be a joy filled day no matter what the date.

Thank you,  
150th Committee

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## Learning Committee:

The Children's Christmas was a success! Thank you to all the students and parents who helped to share the Christmas story with us. Thanks also to Heather DeBaillie, Beth Carlson and Jeff Bernhardt for their time and talents in putting this together.

The Learning Committee

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## November 2020

### Finances:



November YTD expenses: \$217,003.06

November YTD income: \$201,452.89  
October YTD Net Loss: (\$15,550.17)

we will use your payment from 2020. Thank you!

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## Orion Area Christmas For Kids:

The process was a bit different this year, like everything else. But this past Christmas season the people of St. Paul once again gave generously to help several Orion School District families have gifts for their children they might otherwise not have been able to provide. This was a fantastic way to express God's love and ministry to these children and families in need during the holiday season. Our sincere thanks to the following for their wonderful support: Beth Hoffman, Laurie & Ken Johnson, Sheryl Hyatt, Karen Arkebaur, Jeff Bernhardt, Heather Hoftender, Annika Kerker, Rachael Krack, Ray & Cindy Parish, and Diane Gainey.

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## Orion Area Food Pantry & Volunteer Information:



Each year, the Orion Area Food Pantry asks members of each of the area churches to help on food distribution days. **Distribution days: Tuesdays from 4-6 PM**, except for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas meal distributions, which have longer distribution hours. Distributions take place at the lower level of the village hall. If you can help with any of these dates, please sign up on the bulletin board located in the courtyard hallway.

St. Paul's month for donations is **March and September**.

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## Flower Chart 2021:



A **NEW** flower chart for 2021 is available in the narthex. You may sign up to provide flowers for 1 or 2 vases for our worship services. Flowers may be given in honor or memory of loved ones. Please pay for your flowers (\$20 per vase) at the time you sign up to provide them in the box located directly beneath the flower sign-up chart.

**\*If you paid for altar flowers last year and did not get your flowers due to the shutdown, you can reserve your flowers this year and**

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## Religious Music:

If you are searching for meaningful religious music, Augustana's NPR radio WVIK (90.3 FM) offers it at 6:00 AM on Sundays. The music is beautiful! This is sponsored by First Lutheran in Moline. Program name is, "With Heart and Voice."

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## LCW News & Events:

WELCA is now LCW  
(Lutheran Church Women).



No Meetings at this time.

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### Annual Report:

The Annual Report will be on Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 11:45 AM. Time and date could change due to restrictions.

Reports (finance excluded) are due to Nikki by Sunday, January 17, 2021. Thank you!

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### January Birthdays:

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

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Norton, Jeffrey	01/01
Peterson, Amber	01/01
Bloomberg, Brent	01/03
Perrin, Richard	01/03

Dhabalt, Lori	01/04
Minneart, Jillene	01/04
Buffington, Robyn	01/05
Fliege, Wylie	01/05
Vestal, Charles	01/05
Gainey, Danielle	01/06
Dhabalt, Christofer	01/07
Border, Katelyn	01/08
Gustus, Hunter	01/08
Ward, Helen	01/08
Kelsall, Dennis	01/09
Nelson, Daryl	01/09
Pulford, Deborah	01/09
Farwell, Olivia	01/10
Gehring, Terry	01/10
Abrahamson, Carl	01/11
Pettifer, Karli	01/11
Peterson, Dorothy	01/12
Hutton, Benjamin	01/14
Shepherd, Mary	01/14
Swope, Richard	01/14
Nelson, Debra	01/15
Gustus, Evan	01/16
Gustus, Alyssa	01/16
Wherry, Diana	01/16
Hiatt, Sheryl	01/17
Enders, Janice	01/18
VanDuyne, Hayley	01/20
Fliege, Sawyer	01/21
Gehring, Connor	01/21
Pettifer, Dena	01/21
DeBaillie, Nikki	01/22
Schroeder, Jonathan	01/22
Stenzel, Elmer	01/22
Beck, Spencer	01/25
Bowling, Payton	01/25
Gehring, Tricia	01/25
Gritton, Michael	01/25
Lievens, Caine	01/25
Schutte, Katherine	01/25
Swanson, Dorothy	01/25
Nguyen, Autumn	01/26
Nelson, Jenna	01/27
Abrahamson, Carolyn	01/28
Cassillas, Derek	01/28
Larson, Lauren	01/28
Bowling, Gary	01/29
Schroeder, Lynne	01/29
Whitsell, Chase	01/29
DeBaillie, Drew	01/31

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## January Baptismal Anniversaries:



Jeffrey Schroeder	01/03
Ryan DeBaillie	01/07
Mary Lindgren	01/07
Kaitlyn Seabloom	01/08
Hannah Swope	01/08
Robyn Buffington	01/09
Eric Pulford	01/09
Gregory Tappero	01/09
Alan VanDuyne	01/10
Duane Abrahamson	01/11
Leslie Carey	01/11
Lisa Stiles	01/11
Abby Weber	01/11
John Carlson	01/13
Mikayla Seabloom	01/13
Maya VanDuyne	01/15
Katie DeBaillie	01/16
Stephanie Ortegel	01/16
Kimberley VanDuyne	01/17
Jaxson Lindgren	01/18
Jessika Lindgren	01/18
Dianna DeBaillie	01/19
Teresa Carlson	01/20
Kallie DeBaillie	01/21
Sarah Frenell	01/21
Hannah Stockton	01/21
Ann Weber	01/21
Braylin Crose	01/22
Daryl Nelson	01/22
Jeffrey Bernhardt	01/23
Deborah DeBaillie	01/23
Austin Hepner	01/23
Cole Schroeder	01/23
Christian Schroeder	01/24

Byron Carlson	01/27
Jeannette Stenzel	01/27
Lilian Houser	01/28
Parker Larson	01/28
Gabriel Carlson	01/29
Troy Whitsell	01/29
Jeremy Kruse	01/30

## January Worship

### Volunteers:



Worship volunteers have been assigned for the **month of January.**

**\*Right now the only volunteers we need are Altar Guild. Thank you!\***

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#### January 3, 2021:

Altar Guild: Debbie Dahl

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#### January 10, 2021:

Altar Guild: Judy Frenell, Jody Belowske, Hannah Stockton, and Sarah Frenell

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#### January 17, 2021:

Altar Guild: Mary Lindgren & Jeannine Filler

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#### January 24, 2021:

Altar Guild: Joyce Hepner

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#### January 31, 2021:

Altar Guild: Teresa Carlson

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## Paris News:



# Say **NO** to injuries when your child is playing in the Snow!!

With winter upon us, injuries related to snow and ice are inevitable, BUT can be prevented with a few safety measures. With regards to children, more than 28,000 are treated in the emergency room each year for snow skiing and snowboarding injuries. More than 20,000 children are treated in the ER each year for injuries related to sledding. And more than 600 children are treated each year for injuries received in snowmobile incidents.

Here are some basic tips to keep your child safe in the snow:

- Use sturdy, safely constructed equipment.
- Sled and ski only on terrain that is free of obstacles.
- Never ride on a sled that is being pulled by a motorized vehicle, including ATVs.
- Kids should wear a helmet sledding to protect against a serious head injury.
- When sledding, do not go downhill head first. Sit up, face forward, use a clear safe path and make sure an adult is supervising.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that operating snowmobiles is inappropriate for children younger than 16.

- If a child is riding as a passenger on a snowmobile be sure he or she is wearing an approved helmet. Children younger than 5 years of age should never ride on snowmobiles.

Source: [www.unitypoint.org](http://www.unitypoint.org)

## Don't Fall! Tips for Staying Safe in Icy Conditions

Just one bad fall on ice can have serious, long-term consequences. Pay attention to the weather and stay inside to avoid icy hazards when you can. When you do venture out, walking in winter requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling. No matter how well the ice and snow is cleared from parking lots or sidewalks, one still may encounter a slippery surface. Here are some safety tips:

- In cold temps, assume that all wet, dark surfaces are icy and slippery. Look ahead when you walk and proceed with caution.
- Wear shoes and boots with a slip-resistant sole and adequate tread.
- Walking along the grassy edge of snow or ice-covered sidewalks provides better traction.
- Use special care when exiting and entering your vehicle. Use the vehicle for support.
- Do the Shuffle and walk safely like a penguin. Point your feet out slightly like a penguin to increase your center of gravity. Extend



your arms out to your sides to maintain balance. Take small steps, like shuffling for stability. Keep your hands out of your pockets. When your hands are in your pockets while walking, it decreases your center of gravity and balance. Plus, if your hands are free, you can help break a fall if you do start to slip or fall. Watch your step and go slowly!!

**USE EXTRA CAUTION THIS WINTER TO AVOID A TRIP TO THE ER!!**



The 2021 Red Cross blood drive was scheduled at St. Paul for January prior to Covid-19. Unfortunately, since we have no known end date for the fight against the coronavirus, I have decided to postpone it until late February. I want to be sure that all donors, volunteers, and employees of the Red Cross will be safe while we are in The Ark at St. Paul. I am praying that by then, we will be seeing a decrease in the number of cases of the virus.

So, with that being said, **the American Red Cross still has a constant and ongoing need for blood and platelet donations to meet the needs of patients.** Right now, the Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for Covid-19 antibodies. Those samples of blood that test positive for coronavirus antibodies may help someone that is currently fighting the disease.

If you feel that you would like to help out now, instead of waiting until late February, Red Cross can schedule you at one of their other blood drives. The number to call is 309-229-6223, and Gwen, the Account Manager will assist in getting you set up.

Have a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!!  
Judy



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## Endowment Ministry Programs

### Fund:

Grant application forms are in the hallway. The Endowment Committee will review all applications and recommend a plan of distribution, which Church Council will review. Please turn your form into the church office when it is completed.

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## **Blessing Bags:**



Thank you to the generous donations from Congregation Members for items for the Blessing Bags! Family Life filled 30 bags at our meeting last month and they are ready for members of St. Paul to take and hand out. As this supply runs out, this committee will restock the bags, but in order to do so, we continually need help with donations. The bags ready for distribution are on the table outside of Nikki's office and the basket for donations of items for the next restock is under the that same table! Thank you to the wonderful members of St. Paul to help keep this outreach program going!

At God's Work, Our Hands Day, these bags were created and handed out to people in need. However, our supply is

out, and we need more! So, Family Life Committee would like to keep the Blessing Bag Program going and needs your help! We are asking for donations of items to be put in the bags. The donation items are:

\*Warm Socks      \*Wipes  
\*Chapsticks      \*Granola Bars  
\*Hand Warmers   \*Rain Ponchos  
\*Deodorant       \*Kleenex  
\*Protein Snacks   \*Gum

There is a collection box in the hallway. Please drop off your donations at any time. Make sure they are travel size and individually wrapped. We will stuff bags at our monthly meetings and have them available for you to take and hand out as needed.

Thank you for your help with this project!

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### **College Student Request:**



If you are moving and changing addresses, please contact Jeff Bernhardt or Nikki in the church office. We send out care packages and want to make sure your package will make it. Thank you!

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**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Orion, Illinois**

**“God’s Work, Our Hands”**

*“Rooted in the Gospel, Nourished by God’s Word and Sacraments,*

*Sent Forth by the Holy Spirit to Proclaim Our Faith in Jesus Christ”*

### **Council Meeting Highlights from December 2020**

#### **Resignation:**

- Chris Holst announced that he is resigning from Church Council. He accepted a job position in Kansas. We were fortunate to have his leadership on Council. He and his family will be missed. We wish them the best!

#### **Snow Removal Contract: Oct 1 – Apr 31:**

- Quote was received and signed.

#### **Return to Worship:**

- Restrictions continue to change.
- Please look for communication on St. Paul’s Facebook page, Web page, the bulletin and Epistle.

#### **Communication:**

- Communication continues to be a challenge. If you have any ideas, please contact the office.
- If you have any questions, please contact the office and leave a message.

#### **“See the Light” Stained Glass Update:**

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Auction and continue to donate!

#### **Sunday Church School:**

- A recorded Christmas program is being completed. Check out the Facebook page. Thanks Jenn!

#### **New Software for Congregational Information:**

- A letter will be sent out with the statements explaining the new look along with details on the new software.

#### **Stewardship:**

- Intent cards are still welcomed! Please turn in as soon as possible so a budget can be completed. Any questions, please contact the church office.