



Chapel Bells

St. Paul's U.C.C.-Erin

December, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I received my first Christmas card. It's from Steve and Alice. They are always the first. Steve's letter is informative and fun - "Steve Plans and God Laughs".

Thinking about plans and God, we are about to enter a new church year. The church calendar begins on December 1st, not January 1st. To most of you that doesn't change the way you go about your daily lives. For me, it means the beginning of Advent, which many of you are familiar with, but probably not so much the liturgical Year C.

The Christian church calendar is based on a three-year rotation. Year A focused on the Gospel of Matthew. We have been in year B with a concentration on the Gospel of Mark and selections from the Gospel of John. Year C, my favorite, focuses on the Gospel of Luke. Why my favorite? The author of Luke is very descriptive in comparison to the others and mostly rotates pericopes (seminary word for a passage) featuring women and men. He was way ahead of his time. And who knows he might have been a she! Theologians like to wrestle with the idea that it could have a woman. Also, the Christmas story in Luke is so sweet and tender.

St. Paul's is all a flurry of Christmas missions including the Brown Street Project, The Shoebox Christmas gifts and the gift cards for the kids served by the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha. Cookies, lots of cookies, will soon fill our Fellowship Hall. My heart is warm seeing, smelling and hearing all the good things that make this church so special.

While Steve and Alice may have sent out their Christmas Greetings a bit early (before Thanksgiving), I'm hoping this message from Jeff and I will find you each in the best of health and ready to begin Year C with Advent and Christmas from the book of Luke.

I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be your pastor. My prayers are with you always. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the dedication of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bonnie and Jeff



CHRISTMAS EVE services at 4 and 6 PM will be filled with the love of carols, the joy of the Christmas Story and the peace of candle lighting. Come and adore Him!

CREATION CARE FALL CLEAN UP



Fall Clean Up workers pruned and cut (think Jacquie and her chainsaw plus two more) and poisoned the buckthorn firepit area and the Rooster Door garden. A little work went a long way to cleaning the area up. MANY thanks to the Duwells and their daughter and grandchildren, Bill E., Bill A., Jacquie B, the Huterstrums, Vicki L, Judy N., Jill P. and Pastor Bonnie for their love of creation. By the way, the John D. makes an excellent fire and the hot dogs and smores were so good.

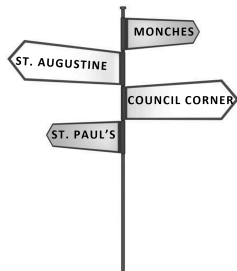
The committee is looking forward to replacing several of the benches and repairing others to make this area a great place to gather around a

fire and praise God with hot dogs and smores!



BLUE CHRISTMAS - December 11th at 7 PM

This is a very simple service of prayer, scripture, song and candle lighting, which can be very powerful to those of us for whom Christmas is not a season of joy, but one in which our feelings of loss intensify. Anyone who has lost a loved one, lost a pet, or is spending the holidays without family understands just how “blue” Christmas can be. As always, all are welcome. If you know someone who might find this type of service beneficial as they cope with a loss, please invite them.



NEW OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE

Thank you to the family of Dan Hanrahan for donating funds in his memory that allowed the Altar Committee to purchase a new outdoor nativity scene for Christmas. It will be displayed on the north side of the church

beginning in early December. Also thank you to Jack Duehring for constructing the stable and setting up the scene. ****Pastor Note**** The dedication of the outdoor nativity scene and christmas lights will be held on December 8th during worship.



GREETERS SIGN UP

Beginning on December 1st, a clipboard will be circulating allowing you to sign up to be a greeter for the months of January to June. This is a very important job! St. Paul's has always been known as a very friendly church. Part of this is due to how we greet members and visitors when they enter our church!

Please take your turn to be a greeter. Two greeters are needed each Sunday. If you are a single member, feel free to sign up with a friend. Greeting includes handing out bulletins, saying hello, lighting candles, and collecting offerings. On the first Sunday of the month, greeters also serve communion along with two other members.

If you can only greet, that's okay. Indicate that on the sign up sheet and the altar committee will find someone else to do the rest of the job. A detailed list of greeters' duties is available on the greeters' stand.

If each family or individual signs up just once the first half of the year and once the second half of the year, the dates will be filled. Reminders of who has signed up are put in Chapel Bells each month and in the bulletin each week.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Annual Meeting Date: Sunday, February 2

Chili Luncheon and Pie Sale Date: Sunday, February 23 11-2



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia remembrance forms can be found on the greeters' stand. They need to be turned in to members of the Altar Committee by Sunday, December 15.

SECRET PALS REMINDER



The Secret Pals Christmas Party and Pal Reveal will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Bring a gift for your Secret Pal and a dessert or appetizer to share. Drinks will be provided. Names will be drawn for a secret pal for 2025. Let Charmaine Duehring know if you will not be able to attend or you wish to be a new member for 2025.



Gift Card

THE MISSION COMMITTEE is collecting gift cards from Target and Walmart for the Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council. They will go to kids ages 12-18. Can be in amounts from \$10-\$15-\$20-\$25. Please write the amount on the gift card. The donation box is in the hallway by the offices. Last day to collect is December 8th.

Also, Mission Committee's BUNDLE UP BROWN STREET project in connection with the 3rd grade class at Brown Street Academy in Milwaukee will begin November 3 and run through December 1. Gift bags, the children's pictures and instructions will be at church near the rooster doors starting November 3. We invite the congregation to participate by choosing a child and purchasing a new warm winter jacket and a package of socks specially for them. Financial donations of any amount will be warmly received and go toward filling the bags. Thanks to all in advance for your kind generosity. Contact Bernie Chase with any questions.



WOMEN'S GUILD

Cookie Walk plans were the main topic at the November Guild meeting. The week before our December 7 cookie walk will be a busy one. Peggy A. will be leading a cookie frosting event at 9 AM on Thursday morning, December 5. There is still time to sign up if you are interested in learning some decorating techniques while helping create cookies for the Guild to sell (sign-up sheet on coffee table). Beginning immediately, you can drop off items for the Silent Auction and Gifts to Go sale in the conference room behind the sanctuary. Questions? Ask Debbie S. or Betty Z.

Guild members and volunteers will be at church to accept your cookies on Friday, December 6, from 9 AM to noon, and from 5 – 7 PM. Please put your name on your containers so they can be returned to you after the sale.

Saturday's the big day, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to shop St. Paul's 33rd Annual Cookie Walk and fill their Christmas platters from tables full of our beautiful cookies! Sales begin at 9 AM, but the doors open for shoppers at 7:30 AM. Shoppers are given a number as they arrive and can wait in the warm sanctuary until cookie sales begin. There they will find a Christmas Silent Auction as well as a Gifts to Go selection of lovely holiday gift and decorating items.

There will be no Guild meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 16. All St. Paul's women are encouraged to attend. Arrive at noon with a bag lunch—dessert will be furnished. We are a friendly bunch, welcome new faces, and can always use the support.



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOOD DRIVE

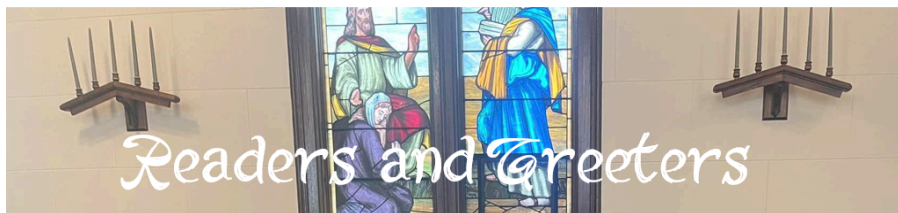
Our North Lake neighbors at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish on Highway 83 have Versiti blood drives scheduled every eight weeks—next drive Thursday, December 19, from 1:30 to 6:30 PM. Schedule an appointment through Versiti or contact Rita at 262-719-2815.

CHILI DINNER

Our annual church fundraiser.
The Chili Lunch & Homemade Pie Sale
will be Sunday, February 23rd.
Donation slips, promotional flyers
and a sign-up to help form will be available in January.



A message from PJ - St Paul's has had good representation at these concerts for quite a few years....
 I have offered free tickets to anyone interested. I have retired from singing in the choir, but I am still on the board and will serve as an usher at the concert. [Click here for details](#)



	Reader:	Greeters:
December 1st	Eugene D.	Kim and Mark K. G, C, O, Com Jack and Charmaine D. Com
December 8th	Polly E.	Cheri and Corey J. G, C, O
December 15th	John E.	Sunday School G, C, O
December 22nd	Charmaine D.	Steve and Alice M. G, C, O
December 24th		4:00 Jack and Charmaine D. G, C, O 6:00 **Needed** G, C, O
December 29th	Katie G.	Jill P. and Jill S. G, C, O

Thankful  *Grateful*  *Blessed* 

THANK YOU!

Roy and Carol K. for providing a subscription to our church library of *Kids National Geographic*

Vicki and Jerry L. for driving the Smith's van so they could attend the Veteran's Salute on November 3rd. It was good to see them in person.

The Nutty Knitters for providing a red, white and blue afghan given to Lee A. during our Veteran's Salute service.

Jodi S. for organizing the slideshow and music for our Veteran's Salute Sunday.

Mission Maniacs and their parents and teachers for a fantastic breakfast in honor of our Veterans.

Jack D, Roy C., Eugene D. and Bill A. for replacing the light bulbs in the sanctuary. New bulbs really make a difference.

The Richfield Fire and Ambulance services and the Washington County Sheriff's Department for attending our November 24th Sunday worship as our way of thanking them for all their efforts to keep us safe and quick response to emergencies.

Keith G. for demonstrating the use of the AED equipment and the use of CPR.

Steve and Alive M. and Kim K. for sharing their church stories as part of our Stewardship campaign.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please keep Betty P in your prayers as she transitions to an assisted living home near her son. If you would like her new address, please see Pastor Bonnie.

We continue to pray for Betty Z., John and Polly E., Steve M., Joyce O, Ron and Diane S. and Isabel H.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Curt and Carrie H. on becoming grandparents to twins!

To Mason W. for once again running way faster than any of us.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Christmas Gift Suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. - Oren Arnold.



Like us on Facebook: "St. Paul's United Church of Christ Erin" AND "St. Paul's Mission Maniacs"
Receive our E-Blasts: Please let us know if you would like to be added or have a new email address
If you would like to ask for prayers, share a joy or have an announcement, when attending worship virtually via our [YouTube Channel](#), please enter it in the chat or email Pastor Bonnie prior to service.

Check out the Church Website: stpaulserin.org. Visit the News & Resources tab and click on

Worship Resources for a recording of Sunday's Worship.

Church Email Address: saintpaulserin.pastor@gmail.com

Church/Pastor's Phone Number: 262-416-5094

Church Address: 495 St. Augustine Road, Colgate, WI 53017

Pastor Bonnie's Office Hours: Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by for a visit. Friday and Saturday are Pastor's weekend

Church Council Meeting
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
October 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Charmaine Duehring at 6:00pm. Those in attendance were Charmaine Duehring, Connie Johnson, Cindy Cain, Kay O'Keane, Pastor Bonnie Jacque, Fred Dieball, Kim Kersten, Vicky Dost and Janene Kluever.

The Meeting minutes from September 16th were approved. The meeting minutes for the Special Congregation Meeting was reviewed. The Financial Report for September was approved. It was discussed to have a Pot Luck meal for our local Civil Service people, such as our local sheriff, Fire Department, Ambulance service, road service for the Township of Erin. We will send a letter to see who will be attending. The Pastor's Report was reviewed.

The snowplowing provided by Jeff Schultis has not determined the fees as of this date. When there is a church closing, we will send out the email blast to all who have them available. The others will be called and Vicki Dost has offered to make these calls. We requested evaluations of our Organist, Jill's performance. We will check with the Sunday School and the Choir for evaluation forms. We will also offer the congregation to fill out evaluation forms for Pastor Bonnie, if they wish.

Thirty-two people have signed up for the CPR class, provided by Keith Gothard. Jack Duehring has repaired the sidewalk. The inner doors and lights have been left on and should be turned off and closed when people leave the building. He also fixed the doors in the kitchen cupboards. We will make a note in Chapel Bells to remind everyone to shut the inside doors and lights off. The outdoor Nativity Scene will need a spotlight and Bonnie Hanrahan has offered to apply some of the Memorial Fund for her husband Dan Hanrahan to get both Nativity items. The Altar committee will provide the poinsettias for Christmas and will ask for the \$5 donation from the congregation, for memorials or honor to loved ones. Adam Staus has offered to take care of the garbage pickup for the Church.

The Budgets for the varied Committees of the Church have been received and will be discussed with the new year budget. Our next meeting will be November 11, 2024. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship	2	3 Seniors	4	5 Cookie Decorating 9 AM	6 Cookie Drop off 9 AM to noon, and from 5 – 7 PM	7 Cookie Walk 9 AM
8 9:30 Worship	9 Council mtg 6 PM Barb B.	10	11 7 PM Blue Christmas Service	12 Bible Study 1 PM	13	14
15 9:30 Worship Children's Christmas program Secret Pal Gathering 12:30-2:30	16	17	18	19 Coffee w/Bonnie 10 AM Java Dancer Blood Drive @ St. Calcutta 1:30—6:30	20	21 Chapel Bell items due to Donna
22 9:30 Worship Norb & Barb B., & Erik & Connie J. Anniversary	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4 & 6 PM	25 Mike J Marvin S.	26	27 Charles K. Jr.	28
29 9:30 Worship	30 Jodi S.	31 				If your birthday or anniversary is missed, please let Donna Runte know. I don't know it if you haven't shared it with me.