

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

February 2019

Volume 2, Issue 2



Pastor's Logos (word):

Are We too Busy?

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

February is the shortest month of the year. With all the holiday activities, winter weather and well, just life, sometimes it seems like it's the longest month. Frankly, I have never liked February. It just seemed like a nasty extension of winter, prolonging the wait until spring. My mother passed away this last February and that pretty much sealed the deal about my not liking this month.

When I was a kid, February had the five major holidays; "Groundhog Day", "Valentine's Day", "Lincoln's Birthday", "Washington's Birthday" and of course, Basketball District Playoffs! Now, you have a whole bunch more added in, even with the consolidation of the presidents' birthdays. What I am

getting at here is that time, especially in a short month, bad weather and event overkill, has made our time way too limited.

Recently I read an article about what is the greatest challenge to church worship attendance . . . the answer was time. No, not when you scheduled worship, but when other activities were scheduled. There is only so much time in the day for anyone's busy schedule, let alone a family trying to keep it together, to even considering going to worship, or attending a Bible study or participating in a church activity. Sunday is no longer sacred and the options for our time is way too much.

I realize that I have talked about

this before in my blog, but to hear religious leaders talk about time as a limited resource, tells me we have some serious issues going on in our society and the church.

Maybe I dislike February because it is the month with the fewest days, the month that ended time with my mother and then folks tell me that this is a bad time of year to schedule things. You can see why I want to blame the

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Worship

St. Paul's to Host "This is Living" Youth Musical

BY ERIN RODGERS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is excited to host Christ the King Lutheran Church's (New Brighton, MN) youth musical, "This Is Living" on **February 16th and 17th** during our weekend church services.

Christ the King, in New Brighton, MN has a 30-year history of student created, written, and performed faith-based musicals. This year's theme is "This Is Living" which focuses on five vignettes exploring the dynamic nature of living a life of faith in a complex world.

You can expect engaging dialogue, a relevant message, and uplifting music. Please join us in worship on **February 16th and 17th** to experience "This Is Living."

Scout Sunday

February 2 & 3



CTK YOUTH MUSICAL 2019

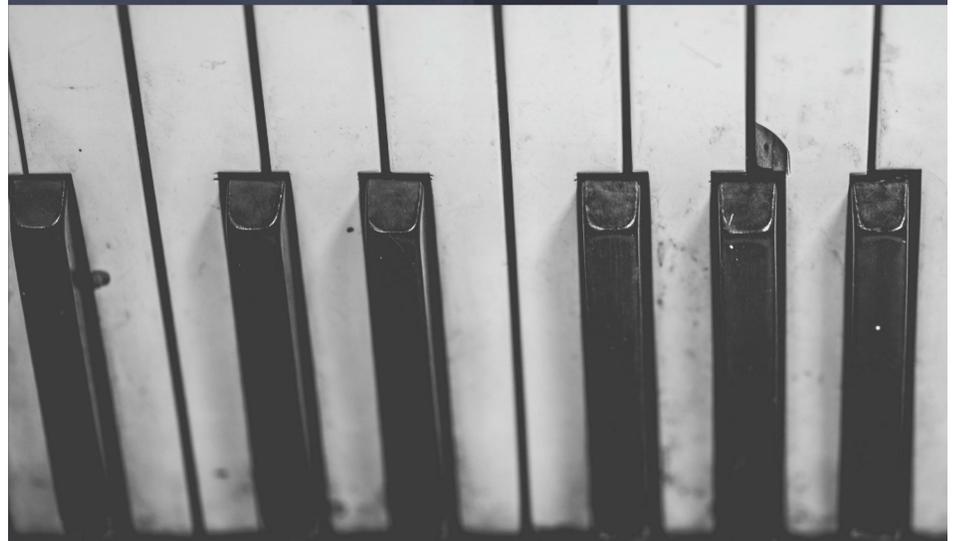
THIS IS LIVING

Vignettes on Living a Life of Faith

REGIONAL TOUR
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
OMAHA, NE
FEB 15-17-18, 2019

CHRIST THE KING
NEW BRIGHTON, MN
FEB 24, 2019

www.lifeatctk.org



Member Spotlight

April Taggs

BY KAREN HANSEN

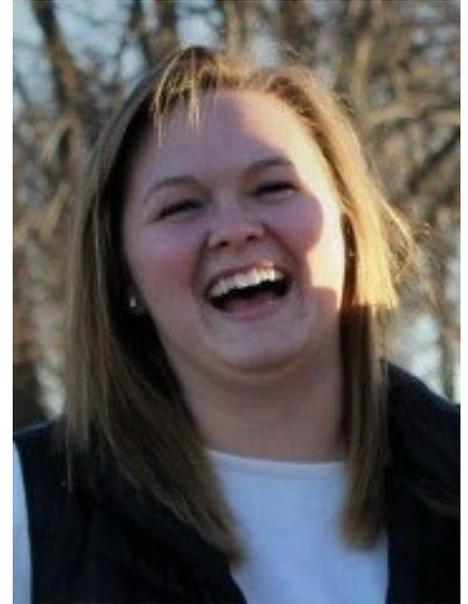
Google it! That is getting to be the answer to almost every question, but there are times when it really *IS* the answer. Google brought April Taggs to St. Paul's, and that was a good thing. More about that later.

April Taggs was born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1993 and was raised in Harlan, Iowa. Her dad is a mail man who drives 1½ hours one way to deliver mail out of the Bellevue, Nebraska Post Office. Her mother is employed by The Iowa Extension in the outreach department which involves such programs as 4H. When asked about her musical talent, April chuckled, "My mom is extremely musical, but Dad is farthest from it! He has many amazing talents, but music is not one of them!" April has a younger sister Emily, still in Harlan Community High School from which April graduated. Her brother Jacob is in culinary school in Denver. April proudly tells how a restaurant owner approached Jacob and offered him a job since she'd hear about "this kid from Iowa". April attended Harlan Community Schools where she participated in many musical activities and 4H. Her 4H experiences revolved around public speaking, baking, sewing and leadership. After high school, April enrolled in the nursing program at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She decided nursing was not her field and

changed majors to Criminal Justice at Peru State. Upon graduating, she began her career at Boys Town in the Psychiatric Residential Facility, continuing there for almost two years when the opportunity came for her to move to the Foster Care Department last year. That department oversees the licensing of foster parents, offers them support and attempts to find the best match for the child and the foster parent. April's work often enables kids to live with relatives such as grandparents if the family dynamic requires the child to be away from a parent who may be in jail.

There are foster parents who also have the intention to adopt. At the time of this writing, April was working with foster parents who were hoping to adopt 5 siblings all under the age of 8! There are many aspects to the Foster Care system which are truly difficult. People in foster care simply for the money must be weeded out. The department advocates for people who are seriously interested in what is best for the child. The department is dedicated to go with case by situations, making every effort to search out *what is best for the child*.

It was after arriving at Boys Town that summer and moving to Omaha that the Google search happened. St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Millard was the second



option, so April attended a Wednesday night worship service. After becoming acquainted with Worship Director Erin Rodgers, April received an e-mail from Erin asking, "How are you with baptism under fire?" Erin needed a singer for *that* Saturday night service! From there, April's part in the St. Paul's story took off. She took a part-time job with St. Paul's under the direction of Jan Lundgren, doing administrative work in the office. Then Youth Director, Bogart Nomad, reached out to her; and she assisted him until his leaving, continuing with Pastor Sarah until she moved on due to medical issues. Now April and Emily Dalen are coordinating duties with April's focus being with youth and Spirit. She travelled with the Spirit group to Houston. Spirit has serving projects she oversees such as the adoption of a family through Heartland Family Services during the holidays. Spirit is now planning a mission trip for June to Denver. They are reaching out

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Member Spotlight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

now to non-profits to discover how they can serve while they are in Denver. April has asked her Denver-based brother to help find ways to make the trip a unique experience for the kids.

April is an experienced traveler herself, having gone to New York, D.C., Chicago and the Dominican Republic during her high school and college years. Further travels after college were to London, Paris and Amsterdam. She tells of a mission trip to Tanzania in high school, being the first kid to be invited to participate in this particular trip. Her parents had different reactions to the prospect of the trip. Her father taught her self-defense, and her mother just prayed.

We are blessed at St. Paul's to have April as part of our church



family. She is an extremely gifted musician. She has a heart for kids in whatever place in life they find themselves. She has travel and service experience far beyond her years. When asked about her vision for St. Paul's, April tells how her home church was a community of people doing God's work. She hopes to see more adults and kids connected to each other in a community of worship and service in the name of our Lord. Aren't we blessed? She Googled us and she came!

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Pastor's Logos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

month.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the author speaks about there is a time for everything under the sun. God has given us life and life is made up of time and God gives us each day to use as we can. I cannot change the past says the writer of Ecclesiastes and the future is God's hands, but today, I can live, love and celebrate life if

I so choose.

I hope we are not too busy to enjoy life, I hope we are not too busy to be with those we love and I hope we are not too busy to worship the God who loves us! Take time to be you, to love others and worship God. I promise you, it will be time well spent. Even in February!

Pastor Paul

Women of the ELCA



Deep cleaning and reorganizing has been happening in the church kitchen. We are blessed with a very good kitchen and pantry. Please be respectful as you use them. Your consideration is appreciated by the kitchen team and by those who will use these facilities after you.

Please note that there is a mandatory clean-up list that needs to be followed by whomever utilized the kitchen to keep our kitchen in the best condition we can to continue to serve our community. See the book on the kitchen island for the forms to be completed.

Love Circle annual bake sale is February 9-10. Help support their efforts for LWR by contributing and by purchasing home-made baked goods.

The 2nd Monthly Community Meal is **February 23rd**, please watch the Chat, The Connection, Sign-Up Genius and other communications to find out the best way you can participate in St. Paul's new Outreach Ministry.

Anyone interested in Women of the ELCA activities contact Karen Hansen 402-616-1178.

Karen Hansen is President of St. Paul's Women of the ELCA. Contact Karen at karen_hansen409@hotmail.com or 402-616-1178

Faith in Action

Our first Community Meal was January 26. We started out the day with a snow overnight and lots of wonderful volunteers and desserts.

Then the wait for the community to come. And the wait, and the wait, and the wait and then the disappointment of not many, well, only two attending. One attendee, Michael, saw our banner on the SE corner of the building on his way to get gas that morning. Michael does a lot of volunteer work for the local food pantries and the mobile food pantries. Our second attendee, Heidi, saw a post on Face-

book and was coming from a funeral service and just thought she'd stop in. She shared that she was now a published writer with her first book of poetry titled [Waking to the Dream](#).

Both attendees are willing to help us spread the word for our next meal on **February 23rd** by liking our Facebook posts and through further communication to the local pantries. We hope to see both of them at our next meal and pray that our attendance grows each month. See Page 16 for information on our next Community Meal and how you can help.

Campaign for the Community: Buy One, Give One

St. Paul's is such a giving congregation however, we all know there is so much more we can do to help our brothers and sisters in Christ who may be experiencing tough times. When thinking of ways we can make an impact at several nonprofits, Faith in Action kept coming back to providing personal hygiene items. By providing a person who is struggling with regular size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream and/or feminine hygiene products, we have the ability to feel a little better about themselves. Therefore, we are starting a Buy One, Give One campaign at St. Paul's. When purchasing these type of items, we ask you to buy an extra one to donate to the campaign. A basket marked with Buy One, Give One campaign will be marked and placed in the commons area beginning **February 1.**

We will be dividing up the items and giving them to the following nonprofits:

Black and Pink:

Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and "free world" allies who support each other.

Metropolitan Community College 180 Re-entry Assistance Program:

Works with prisoners during their re-entry to the community

Youth Emergency Services:

YES serves homeless and at-risk youth by providing critically-needed resources which empower them to become self-sufficient.

Carole's House of Hope:

Designed to provide hope and healing for mothers and their children through programs and services that promote self-sufficiency and independence.

Community Alliance:

Helping individuals with mental

illness achieve their unique potential and to live, work, learn and contribute in a community of mutual support.

Items that are needed in full size

- Feminine hygiene products
- shampoo and conditioner (especially for African American hair)
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- mouthwash
- soap
- body sprays and washes
- razors
- shaving cream
- Q-tips
- lotion
- Chapstick/lip moisturizers
- diapers/pull-up's
- wipes
- toilet paper
- brushes and combs

If you have questions, please contact Megan Moslander at 402-669-0061 or mmoslander@splcomaha.org



Middle School Gathering held in Kearney



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7 ESV

Two hundred youth and adults from churches all across Nebraska gathered January 19-20 in Kearney for the 2019 Middle School Gathering to learn about the theme, "Rooted", which was based on Colossians 2:6-7. We talked about how we can stay rooted to Christ as we live out our days. Life is full of joys and struggles and we can rely on Christ to walk with us. We are also rooted to each other. As baptized members of the body of Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and given gifts to walk alongside each other.



Faith Formation *CONTINUED*

GROWING
IN
FAITH
TOGETHER



January 13 we learned about baptism and celebrated those that were baptized within the last year. We had beach ball conversations, participated in a group art project, made mirrors to remind us that we're children of God, made a "loved" pin, and made hand soap to remind us that our sins are forgiven, washed away.



GIFT will be held on **Sunday, February 3** and we'll learn about Daniel and the Lions' Den which is also the story that will be the focus of the weekend's worship services. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We meet in the **Family Life Center** at **9:30 am**.

Faith Formation CONTINUED



4 and 5-year-olds and parents are invited to a Prayer Milestone on **Sunday, February 10 at 9:45 am in the Chapel.**



A baptism class will be held on **Sunday, February 17 at 9:45 am** in the Library. Those who are interested in having a baptism at St. Paul's, or just want to learn more, are welcome to attend.



Volunteers Needed for March 5

This year's Mardi Gras celebration will be held on Tuesday, March 5. Youth and parent volunteers are needed to serve food and drinks, clear tables, run to grab extra items, and be on the dish crew. As you know, this is the biggest fundraiser that St. Paul's does and most of the proceeds go towards ministries with kids. Because of this, we are asking youth and parents to sign up to help. We'll serve a pizza dinner from 5:30-6 pm with work starting promptly at 6 pm for servers and runners. They should wear black pants and white shirts if possible. The dish crew can arrive at 7 pm. Training will be held from 6-6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 27 and from 4-4:30 pm on Sunday, March 3. Please make every effort to attend a training. Let Emily or April know if you're willing to help. A google doc: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lhJaFq8TuCPjfaDVuZJ6Vblhx1D411ZlhXALV2lwV6Q/edit?usp=sharing> is also available to use when signing up.

Help us celebrate our graduating seniors! This year we'd like to wrap our students in tied, fleece blankets made by members of the congregation as we recognize their efforts and bless them during the Graduation Milestone service to be held in May. Would you be willing to make a blanket for a student? We're hoping that the blankets can reflect the student's interest, current school colors, or future school's colors. Talk to Emily or April to "adopt" a student and receive needed instructions. Note: A student isn't officially adopted until you talk to Emily or April.



Help us celebrate our graduating seniors! This year we'd like to wrap our students in tied, fleece blankets made by members of the congregation as we recognize their efforts and bless them during the Graduation Milestone service to be held in May. Would you be willing to make a blanket for a student? We're hoping that the blankets can reflect the student's interest, current school colors, or future school's colors. Talk to Emily or April to "adopt" a student and receive needed instructions. Note: A student isn't officially adopted until you talk to Emily or April.



We need volunteers to help prepare the meal, serve and clean up on **February 24** for the Crossroads Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church. **This volunteer activity is for 6th & 7th grade youth and parents and will count as service hours.** Contact Emily if you can help.



Faith Formation *CONTINUED*

Everything I Know About Ministry I Learned in the Kitchen

BY EMILY DALEN

This article is the beginning of a chapter Emily was asked to write for a Faith Formation Council Report. You can read more of Emily's published article in the March issue of The Connection.

Synopsis: We have all seen the baking shows where outrageous cakes are created. Ask any baker and they will probably say that they did not start out making towering, life-like cakes. Most probably started by standing at the counter with someone they love, dumping in ingredients, stirring, and licking the beaters. They learned the basics and built on that foundation.

Combining her passions of Cross+Gen Faith Formation and baking, Emily will introduce you to St. Paul's Lutheran where they have intentionally focused on Cross+Gen ministry for the last two and a half years. Cross+Gen was already in their Mission Statement. But programs for kids were well received and a complete overhaul of the system was out of the question. So instead of a revolution, Emily began

an evolution. Her team took a look at existing ministry and started to make small shifts toward Cross+Gen. She added Cross+Gen learning during Advent and Lent, and introduced FAITH5 in worship. Emily also began inviting people of all ages to lead worship. Every ministry in the church has been challenged to consider how they might bring all ages together to learn from each other and grow closer to Christ. Because of these small shifts in approach, Cross+Gen is becoming the culture.

Piece of Cake

We have all seen the baking shows where outrageous cakes are created. Cakes are filled with sugar flowers that rival the real thing, more layers than

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Everything I Know CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

people can possibly eat, and weigh more than the average person can carry. On the popular show, *Cake Boss*, Buddy Valastro is known for creating larger than life cakes including a Transformer, unicorn, and giant slice of pizza. Questions arise as we wonder how something so life-like can be made from layers of cake, frosting, fondant, and Rice Krispie treats. We experience the nervous feeling as the baker moves the cake to its location and collectively breathe a sigh of relief upon its safe arrival. The people receiving the cake are shocked by its beauty. Expressions of joy are caught on camera as the first bite is savored.

Have you ever wondered how these bakers pull it off? No one starts off baking these amazing creations. It takes time, experimentation, and a lot of work. The same can be said of ministry. After seventeen years of working with children, youth, and families, I have narrowed it down to this: Everything I know, especially my work in ministry, I learned in the kitchen.

Growing up in a home where everything was made from scratch, boxed mixes were not found in the cupboards. Homemade bread and canned goods from the garden were staples. Early memories include washing dishes and setting the table for company. Projects in the kitchen were plentiful. What happened in that space nourished more than the body. The space became holy ground.

Conversations at the sink or around the table focused on the day's events. The house was always open; foreign exchange students, cousins needing a place to stay, or friends were welcomed. Challenges were discussed. Faith was stirred. Prayers were said. Those gathered around that dinner table altar left sustained by more than food.

Cross+Gen Before Cross+Gen Was Cross+Gen

The same can be said of the church kitchen because it was there that faith was lived out. Making popcorn balls each Advent season for treat bags, baking lefse (think Norwegian tortillas), serving meals, or helping at the annual Scandinavian festival connected the

generations. The corner table in the fellowship hall was where coffee and life were shared. Relationships were shaped. Kids gained adopted aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Cross+Gen Ministry was happening long before anyone decided to name it.

Ask any baker and they will probably say they did not start out making towering, life-like cakes. Most probably started by standing at the counter with someone they love, dumping in ingredients, stirring, and licking the beaters. They were surrounded by expert bakers in culinary school and encouraged by others. By the time the baker secures a show on TV, they have been refining their skills for years. TV producers leave out the sunken, raw, burnt cakes of trial and error. No one sees the long hours, the sink piled with dishes or the bags of flour dropped on the floor. What comes to life on TV is a slice of the work needed to create beautiful cake.

Starting with the Basics

To become a great baker, start with the basics. Begin with measuring and learning basic terminology. Learn to follow a recipe. Baking is a science. Measurements matter. One extra tablespoon of flour and the cake is dry. Use water that is too hot or cold, and the yeast may not activate, making flat bread. Get to know your oven. Bake cookies for the exact time listed on the recipe, and they may burn. Learn to check doneness before the timer goes off. Tackle these first steps and the reward may be a warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie. There are a lot of steps between cookies and amazing cakes, but everyone has to start with the basics. The same can be said of ministry.

Step 1: Start with Measuring

Seven years ago, St. Paul's Lutheran on Millard Avenue in Omaha, NE decided that it would no longer hold Sunday school during worship services. They had a thriving children's ministry, with kids attending on Sundays and 200+ kids attending on Wednesday evenings. There was a plethora of volunteers and

Everything I Know CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

from an outsider's perspective, things were flourishing. They decided, however, that they wanted more for the kids and the adults who were teaching. A decision was made to hold Sunday school between church services so that families could worship together. Six years ago, the change was implemented. At first, they paid the price. Numbers in programs decreased, and occasionally people still asked if they should go back to having services and Sunday school at the same time. Fast forward to 2015, and St. Paul's continued to say they want to bring all ages together. They had settled into kids being in worship, and they still wanted more.

They decided to start with the basics. It was time to measure the temperature of the congregation. A mission statement of "Sharing Christ's message to transform all generations" was the guiding recipe. Basic ingredients included committed parents and well-attended Sunday school classes. The pastor was on board with the idea of Cross+Gen ministry and supported having all ages in worship. Staff for children's, youth, and worship ministries had been



hired. A committed children's ministry team was in place. The church was marking basic events including baptism, starting Sunday school, getting a new Bible, Confirmation, and Graduation. Having heard of a program called Milestones Ministry that would aid in connecting kids and parents, they tweaked the recipe and added occasional classes to coincide with special events in kids' lives. Kids and parents gathered to learn, celebrate in worship, and receive tools to use at home. When I started my position as Director of Children's Ministry in the fall of 2015, St. Paul's was creating a foundation with the basics and wanted to master those warm, gooey chocolate chip cookies.

Knowing that the church wanted to move forward with Cross+Gen ministry, the staff realized that they must also be on the same page. Some had worked with the idea for years, while others were unaware of the philosophy. At just the right time, a memorial was given for children and youth ministry. A former school administrator, deeply involved in the church, had died and his wife decided to honor him with a gift for ministry with kids. A decision was made to receive coaching to help everyone start with the basics. Together we read [Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory](#) by Tod Bolsinger to broaden our understanding of ministry. Goals of building leadership beyond staff, finding ways to bring all ages together at purposeful times,



Love Circle will be having their annual bake sale February 9-10 before and after services. Just in time for Valentine's Day! Proceeds this year will help them make health kits for LWR and to help Caring Touch.

If you would like to help with donated baked goods, contact Ina Averman @ 402-778-9304.



March 5, 2019

Cocktail and Social Hour starting at 5:30 pm

Dinner prayer at 6:45 pm

Choice of Prime Rib or Jambalaya

Live and Silent Auctions throughout the night

Come ONE Come ALL! This is the event that you've been waiting for! St. Paul's 4th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration will be Tuesday, **March 5, 2019**. Cocktail and Social hour starts at 5:30pm. Dinner with your choice of Prime Rib or Jambalaya will be served after the Dinner prayer at 6:45 pm. The ticket price includes one drink ticket along with a free chalice. Wine and Beer will be served. The Live Auction will start at 7:45 pm. Here's the fun part – an evening with other folks just like you who want to have some fun and raise money for St. Paul's! There will be a Dixieland Band, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction that will include some of the best pies in the city!

Last year, this event raised over \$38,000 with an attendance of 270. This year our goal is \$45,000! Money raised will be used to support Faith Formation —St. Paul's Children, Youth and Family Ministry. In 2018, proceeds from the Mardi Gras helped to cover expenses for 110 kids to

attend Vacation Bible School and 27 Youth and Adults from St. Paul's to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. These are just a few examples of how this event has made a difference and changed the lives of the children and youth here at St. Paul's!

This is honestly one of those events that you don't want to miss. Tickets are \$60/person. A reserved table for 8 is \$640 and includes advertisement for your business or organization. You can purchase tickets in the commons before and after each church service. Or you can purchase tickets on line thru the St Paul's website or at <https://stpaul Lutheran church.ticket.qtego.net/tickets/list>

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T COME?

You can still be a part of the fun and support St Paul's by bidding on any of the silent auction items that will be found on the Qtego website. Please Register and watch for announcements of GO LIVE for the Silent Auction. Click the

"Register for Event" button on the website:

<https://stpaul Lutheran church.ticket.qtego.net/tickets/list>

ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW.

Possible donation ideas: Tickets to sporting events, gift certificates to restaurants, special events, concert tickets, services and gift baskets. Donate individual items or invite your friends to create a basket. All donations will be accepted. Items may be dropped off at the church office or for more information, please contact Dan or Marcia Abendroth at Marcia_abendroth@hotmail.com or 402-305-2828.



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

St. Paul's

Mardi Gras

Tickets
\$60.00

March 5
cocktails - 5:30pm
dinner prayer- 6:45pm

DINNER & AUCTIONS



YOU'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR...

Join us for our annual St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mardi Gras event at
13271 Millard Avenue
on Tuesday, March 5th.

This exclusive event and fundraiser will feature
live and silent actions throughout the course of the evening.
A plated dinner will be served at 7 o'clock p.m.
and your choice of entrée will include
Prime Rib or Jambalaya.

Come out for an evening of delicious food, fellowship, music and fun.

Please contact **Marcia** at marcia@autotimeomaha.com to donate auction items or drop them off at the office.
Tickets are being sold online (stpaulslutheranchurch.ticket.qtego.net/tickets/list) and in the church commons.

Council Highlights

SUBMITTED THIS MONTH BY SUSIE STIEREN

The Council was very busy in January with a regular monthly meeting as well as the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting.

The following items of business were conducted at the council meeting on Jan. 14th:

- Review of finances for 2018 and the proposed 2019 Budget
- Review of reports from all ministry areas
- Discussion and preparation for the Semi-Annual Meeting
- Discussion and vote to approve cost of living increases for all salaried staff
- Approval for the allocation of Mardi Gras funds to Faith Formation (Children, Youth, and Family) Ministries
- The council has also read and discussed the first part of the book "A Purpose Driven Church". We will continue with Part 2 in February.

At the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 20th, the following items should be noted:

- Copies of the St. Paul's 2018 Annual Report were distributed. Additional copies are available for those who were unable to attend.
- Nominating Committee Members Scott Custard, Andrea Parsons, and Stephanie Wilson were elected to serve with pastor Paul and Jared Collins to select members willing to run for Church Council in June.
- Arno and Betty Neben and Doug and Kim Rothgeb were elected to represent St. Paul's at the Synod Assembly in June.
- Pastor Paul gave a report
- Jim Larson updated us on the progress of the FLC basement renovation
- Scott Custard gave a presenta-

St. Paul's Council

Susie Stieren, *President*

Jared Collins, *Vice President*

Tom Wilson, *Treasurer*

Joel Christensen, *Secretary*

Dan Abendroth

Don Anderson

Jeff Hohenstein

tion about the new Sheepdog Committee overseeing our safety and security policies

- Tom Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report for 2018, and Dennis Stieren presented the 2019 Budget. Copies of both are available for those who were unable to attend. The budget was approved by ballot vote.
- Dennis Stieren presented information about the Shelby Membership System.

Thank you to all who were in attendance at the Semi-Annual Meeting!



THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

Presents

Holy Spirit Mass

Free Concert (no ticket required)

Saturday, March 2, 2019 — 8:00 pm

Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 North 40th Street



The National Lutheran Choir presents an encore performance of a choral - orchestral work *Holy Spirit Mass* on a tour of the Midwest from February 28–March 3, 2019. This stirring new masterwork, by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen received its world premiere at the National Shrine in Washington D.C. on October 22 of 2017 and in subsequent performances in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Written to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and celebrating 50 years of fruitful dialog between Roman Catholic and Lutheran leaders, the work brings together the Mass ordinary texts with meditations from Martin Luther on "the Spirit's work," calling on all God's people to live and work together in hope. This stunning work was praised by *The New York Times* as "...extremely well made, and rapturously received," and was selected for live broadcast by Classical Minnesota Public Radio during the Saint Paul premiere. Under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, the 60-voice National Lutheran Choir seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature. To learn more about the Choir, visit NLCA.com and connect on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube @NLChoir and Instagram @nationallutheranchoir.

Pastor Paul's Movie, Media & Book Reviews



"Bumblebee" is currently in the theaters and is rated PG-13. I have suffered through many a transformer movie and the only reason Jane, Malia and I went to this was that "Mary Poppins" was sold out. Well, this was a blessing in disguise and even my twelve-year-old grand-daughter got into it. This was a very fun and well done movie, with taking on bullying, prejudice, cliques, loss and grief and family relationships. This film surpassed my expectations and after you watch we should talk. ★★★★★



"Aquaman" is currently in the theaters and is rated PG-13. Someone described this film as "Thor" underwater. Well, I liked the Thor movies and this wasn't half bad. I was pleasantly surprised by the balance between special effects and acting. However, this movie is not deep (pun intended), but it was fun to watch. There are some very positive ideas about leadership, responsibility and commitment. After you watch this film we can talk. ★★



"The Passage" is a television series broadcast on Monday Nights on Fox and for mature audiences. I wasn't sure if I wanted another zombie, walking-dead-meets-vampires show. However, once I started watching, I was hooked. The story is intriguing, the characters are engaging and the action keeps one focused. The hero is a 10-year old girl who is shepherded by a former seal who happens to have lost his own daughter who was 10 years old as well. The government wants to use the girl for experiments and so, begins the chase. I was moved by several parts of this story. What angered me was how, once again, human beings find ways despite good intentions to destroy that which is good. I won't give away the ending, but I know that after you watch this show, you might want to chat. ★★★★★



COMMUNITYMEALS

Want to be a part of this new monthly meal ministry?
Consider volunteering for one or all of the shifts. Teams are forming now.

Contact Maia Young @ maiayoung@icloud.com

Our next meal is February 23



Everything I Know CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

and increasing the congregation's digital presence were set.

Movement towards Cross+Gen ministry could not happen without getting others to buy in. Staff started visiting groups within the congregation to share a vision for all ages being connected to learn, to care for each other, and to live out faith beyond the church walls. Council and the children's ministry team were invited to read Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear by David Anderson and Paul Hill to provide a similar language for ministry. If a group met at church, the vision for Cross+Gen ministry was shared. When training for vacation Bible school, Sunday school, or Wednesday programs happened, the vision was incorporated into training. Teachers learned to mold Sunday school lessons around Rich Melheim's FAITH5 principles, a tool which equips people to have faith conversations at home and includes: share, read, talk, pray, and bless. Meetings occasionally began with a FAITH5 devotion. When families were gathered for Milestones Ministry classes, the importance of parents being the

key ingredients in their child's faith journey was added to the lesson. As Milestones were celebrated in worship, the congregation was reminded that this vision of ministry helped to keep the promises made at baptism.

Staff knew that people were catching the model of ministry when they started hearing appreciation for the approach. It made sense to Sunday school teachers. Further evidence showed parents attending Milestone classes regu-

larly with their children. Validation from different generations alike brought hope into the mix. Staff knew that the approach would need continual experimentation. The outcome would be an even better chocolate chip cookie, or model of ministry.

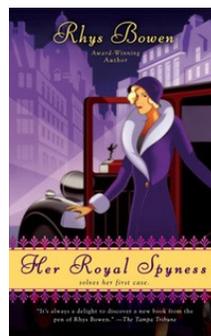
TO BE CONTINUED

Emily's chapter "Everything I Know About Ministry I Learned in the Kitchen" will continue in the March issue of The Connection.

From the St. Paul's Library

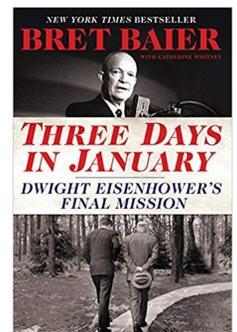
St. Paul's Book Club— A Good Read

Her Royal Spyness by Rhys Bowen is the February selection for the St. Paul's Book Club. An easy read and an intriguing 'who done it', will awaken your curiosity the further you get into this novel. She is in line for the throne, has to keep up appearances, has an unlikely request from Her Royal Majesty, is broke but . . . Well, you get the idea—it is a fun read, available at both the public library and St. Paul's library.



coffee or tea and a snack and relax with friends from the church and community. Feel free to bring a friend.

If you want to plan on joining us in March, the date is **March 10th**, **same time**, **same place**, but different book. March's book is *Three Days in January* by



Brett Baier. This book is also available in St. Paul's library and the public library. It discusses the transition from the Eisenhower to Kennedy presidency as well as traditions and transfer of administration. An interesting perspective on that era, the Cuban Missile crisis and the transition into the "Age of Camelot" . . . or not!



The Word of the Lord

"We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth."

(John 1:45)

In the Old Testament, God spoke to his people through prophets—men specially called to speak God's Word to his people. The New Testament makes it

clear that such prophets, whether chastising or comforting, testified to Israel's final redemption and ultimate hope: Jesus the Messiah.

Please join us for the next All Church Bible study series Word of the Lord "See Jesus in the Prophets" by Nancy Guthrie. This ten-session study dives into the challenging prophetic books of Isaiah through Malachi with the aim of understanding not only what God had to say to his people through these prophets in their own day, but also what he has to say to his people today. Readers discover that we struggle with the same sins, we're subject to the same judgment, and we await the same Savior. This new 10-week bible study will be divided into two, 5-week ses-

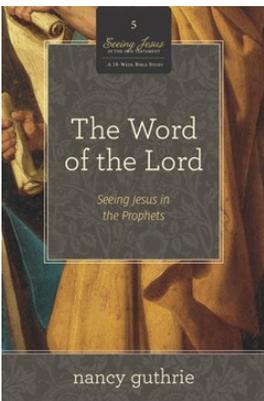
sions. **Session 1 will begin on March 7th through April 4th** and session 2 will begin April 25th through May 23rd. Each session will be from **6:30-8:15 pm**. A study guide book is available for \$10.00. The book is recommended but not required. An information table with specifics about the study, registration for the class and books for purchase will be available in the commons starting **February 16th**. Prayerfully consider joining this All Church Adult Bible Study to share fellowship and grow in your faith. For additional questions, please contact Colleen Christensen at crchrist51@gmail.com

2019 Scholarship Information

The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Endowment Board will again have scholarships available for the 2019/2020 school year.

These scholarships are available for active members attending a University/College and/or technical school and have never received funds from the Endowment Board. An active member is defined by regular worship attendance, serving within the ministries of the congregation, and regular contributions. The scholarship recipients will need to be enrolled full time.

The applications will be available in the church office during January 2019 and need to be submitted to the church office by **Friday, March 1st, 2019**.



The St. Paul's

CONNEC TION

February 2019

Volume 2, Issue 2

*The St. Paul's Connection
is a publication of*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13271 Millard Avenue
Omaha, NE 68137**

402-895-3366

Publication deadline is the 21st of the month. Articles/photos/suggestions may be submitted to Lynda Nicholson at Sower@splcomaha.org

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Calendar of Events

February, 2019

Sharing Christ's message to transform all generations

ST. PAUL'S EVENTS

Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	11
Church Staff Meetings	9:30 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
Facility Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	5
Faith Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Thu.	14
Faith in Action Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	5
Finance Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Thur.	7
Grace Circle	6:30 p.m. Mon.	25
Hope Circle	1:00 p.m. Thur.	21
Library in the Commons	8:00 a.m. Sun.	10
Library Team Meeting	9:30 a.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Love Circle	11:30 a.m. Wed.	20
Memorial Committee Meeting	1:30 p.m. Mon.	18
Mission Quilters	9:00 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
Monday Night Quilters	6:30 p.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
MOPS	9:00 a.m. Tue.	5, 19

MEMBER CARE

Cards in the Commons	12:30 p.m. Tue.	12, 26
Community Meal	11:30 a.m. Sat.	23
Exercise Class	8:15 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
	8:15 a.m. Fri.	1, 8, 15, 22
Health Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	4
Home Communion at Millard Manor	11:00 a.m. Thu.	7
Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
	9:00 a.m. Thu.	7, 14, 21, 28

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

2 Yr. Old & Parent Class	9:30 a.m. Sun.	24
4 & 5 Yr. Old Prayer Class	9:30 a.m. Sun.	10
Baptism Class	9:30 a.m. Sun.	19
Bible Study Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	19
Confirmation Class	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Cross & Heart Kids	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
G.I.F.T.	9:30 a.m. Sun.	3

Peer Ministry Retreat	11:30 a.m. Sun.	24
Spirit	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	11:00 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
Thursday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Thu.	7, 14, 21, 28
Thursday Morning Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Thu.	7, 14, 21, 28
Thursday Evening Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Thu.	7, 14
Wednesday Morning Book Club	10:00 a.m. Wed.	13

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir for Christ Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Worship Team Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. Sat.	2, 9, 16, 23
Worship Team Rehearsal	8:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

"Church Chat" Deadline	9:00 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
"Connection" Deadline	12:00 p.m. Thu.	21

WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Worship Service	6:30 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Saturday Evening Worship Service	5:30 p.m. Sat.	2, 9, 16, 23
Sunday Worship Service	8:30 a.m. Sun.	3, 10, 17, 24
	10:30 a.m. Sun.	3, 10, 17, 24

Worship Servants for February, 2019

February 2—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Sean Simmons
Communion—Carolyn Badtke,
Doug Rothgeb, Kristi McKamy
Greeter—Boy Scouts
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Doug Rothgeb
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Gary Norenberg, Boy Scouts

February 3—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Madison Querry
Canter— Kristin Ronnenkamp
Communion—Doug Rothgeb, Cory Juma,
Ginny Janis, Ina Averman
Greeter—Boy Scouts
Hospitality-Marvin & Corinne Wastell
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Patrick Runge
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl
Bill Averman, Boy Scouts

February 3—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Volunteers Needed
Communion—Judy Petersen,
Jeremy Grantham, Doug Rothgeb
Maia Young, Stephanie Martin,
Jay & Sue Schroeder, Judy Gray
Greeter—Boy Scouts
Hospitality-Maia & Valerie Young
Prayers—Volunteers Needed
Reader-Jan Wilson
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Gary McDonald, Boy Scouts

February 9—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler
Greeter—Dale & Donna Pickering
Prayers-Eunice Wacker
Reader-Carolyn Badtke
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Dennis Verdick, Bill Jaquith

February 10—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer
Cantor Allen Darrell
Greeter—Cal & Anna Mae Wamre
Hospitality—Steve & Nancy Steil
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Karen Hansen
Video—Renate Witt
Audio—Arno Neben
Usher—John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger
Bill Averman

February 10—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Volunteer Needed
Greeter—4 & 5 Yr. Olds
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Cory Juma
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Jay Schroeder, Cory Juma,
Scott Custard, Gary McDonald

February 16—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Katie McGraw,
Communion—Pat Whitham,
Marie Witthoft, Jim MacDonald
Greeter—Sid Rames
Prayers-Marie Witthoft
Reader-Bev Steinbaugh
Video—Jeanette Swope
Audio—Jayson Swope
Usher—Bill Jaquith, Todd Whitham

February 17—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer
Canter—Patrick Runge
Communion—Sue Kuehl, Karen Hansen,
Chelsey Schommer, Donna Snowdon,
Greeter—Patrick Runge, Sally Runge
Hospitality-Cal & Anna Mae Wamre
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Sally Runge
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl
Bill Averman

February 17—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Volunteers Needed
Communion—Jane Coen, Jan Wilson,
Maia Young, Kathryn Gannon,
Ardis McDonald, Leslie Nelson
Fred & Suzie Sagedal
Greeter—Jay & Sue Schroeder,
Sharla Fitzgerald, Leslie Nelson
Hospitality-Donna & Ted Luedke
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Gary McDonald
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—John Keim, Jeff Hohenstein,
Keith Simmons, Jay Schroeder

February 23—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler
Greeter—Pat Whitham
Prayers—Eunice Wacker
Reader—Vicky Marquardt
Video—Tammy Bauman
Audio—Willie Bauman
Usher—Dennis Verdick, Gary Norenberg

February 24—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Madison Querry
Cantor-April Taggs
Greeter—Ina Averman, Nancy Steil
Hospitality—Mary Holland
Prayers—Volunteer Needed
Reader-John vonDohren
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bryan Kreun
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl,
Bill Averman

February 24—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Tori Karloff
Greeter—Tim & Jennifer Collins
Cathy Bourne, Donna Lesley
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers—Steve & Christine Karloff
Reader-Jennifer Collins
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Jay Schroeder, John Bourne,
Brock Flowers, Scott Custard

If you are unable to serve on the date you are scheduled, please find your substitute and then notify the church office at 402-895-3366.