

ST PAUL LUTHERAN

NEWSLETTER



January 2024

www.stpaulsanford.org

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New Year's Resolutions

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps”
(Proverbs 16:9)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)

One year ends; another begins. New Year's is a time of joy and excitement and anticipation. We all have exciting plans for what we want to do in 2024: a fun trip with family and friends; a celebration for a significant milestone; high school or college graduation; promotion. We don't know what the year will hold, but the fun part of this time of year is that it is filled with limitless possibilities!

One of the ways that we like to ring in the New Year is by making “New Year's Resolutions,” asserting what we want to do differently this year compared to last year. “This year, I'm going to walk a mile every day.” “I'm going to read two books every week.” “I'm going to eat healthy.” Resolutions can be helpful. However, how long do most resolutions last before being broken? The exercise routine breaks down after a week when the cold catches up to you. The reading plan falls apart the moment your favorite show returns from its hiatus. The new diet dissolves the first time someone gives you a plate of cookies. “The heart of man plans his way,” we read in Proverbs, “but the LORD establishes his steps.” New Year's Resolutions can be helpful, but we always need to remember that the course

of our lives is in God's hands. As James writes, "You do not know what tomorrow will bring... Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" (4:14-15).

A blessing of New Year's Resolutions, however, is that they get us thinking about what we value, what is important to us. Is your health important? Your mental stimulation? Your family? Whatever is important to you, that is what you prioritize. So I encourage you to think about your faith: how important is your faith to you? What can you do to grow in your faith, in your knowledge of our Lord and Savior? How can you become closer to God in 2024? Perhaps it's in worship attendance: gathering with God's people on a more regular basis. Perhaps it's in your personal devotional life: reading the Bible or a devotional book every morning or evening. Perhaps it's in service: volunteering in ways that will help the poor and hungry, showing them the love of Jesus with your actions. Or perhaps it is in generosity: giving to the church, or to organizations that further the spread of the Gospel or provide relief for those in need.

Whatever it is, resolve to draw closer to God. Pray that He will increase your faith. And trust that He will establish your steps on His path.

St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

"You must understand this, my beloved: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak" (James 1:19a)

We in Stephen Ministry are striving to create a safe, non-judgemental, caring visit that will allow for a compassionate walk with Jesus to a healing outcome of a personal situation.

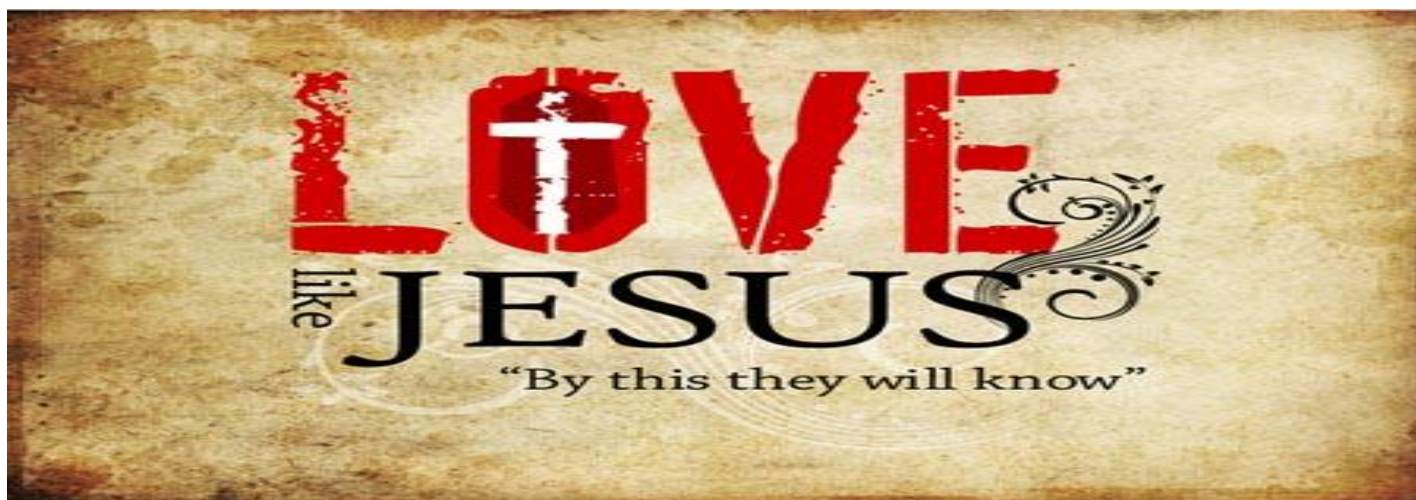
Your Stephen Minister will be actively listening to your thoughts, fears, and feelings of anxiety as you explain your situation to better understand the challenges you are facing and validate those feelings.

Throughout the bible, God listens to His people. He hears our prayers, praise, sorrow, grief, request and complaints. He hears the words in our hearts and minds that we speak and don't speak, and responds! He sent His Son, Jesus, to share our suffering and to guide us to a new life in Him. As Stephen Ministers, we are trained to put aside our personal concerns and focus on the other person's needs. We actively listen to the situation the other person is facing and walk with Jesus to a satisfactory outcome. Jesus is listening, we are listening, let us help.

"Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear"
Isaiah 65:24



Confidentiality is the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe, or speak with Pastor.....also, be sure to visit stephenministries.org to learn more.



“Despite the hardships we experience and the sin we face, God’s work submerges us in a pool of joy; through our Baptism, He daily refreshes us, strengthening our bonds to Him and to each other. Yes, we Christians are connected more deeply than participation in any march or gathering can offer. By God’s grace, we have become family. We share a home and a future.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*
Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679



**Save the dates for Life Week 2024!
Join us January 14 - 20, 2024 for Life
Week. Each themed day of Life
Week explores a distinct aspect of
life ministry through local activities,
online educational events, and
interviews.**

**For more information about Life
Week 2024, scan the QR code or
visit lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2024/. Questions? Email
lifeweek2024@lutheransforlife.org**



Wild Game Dinner-January 19th @ 6pm
Featuring Guest Speaker: Doug Roberts “The Deer Professor” of ConQuest Scents/Farms



Thank you!
♡

Thank you to all who helped with work around the church in 2023 ☺

Thank you to Randy Engblade, Mike Schweigert, Don Retzloff for the craftsmanship of the 3 crosses that will go on display 2/11/24.

Thank you to Ladies Aid for the many things they take on around the church and community. ☺

Thank you to the congregation for the kind Christmas Gift.

Sincerely, Don Retzloff & Mark Burns

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on the web: www.stpaulsanford.org

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

SMART PHONE USERS: There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

The Lutheran Witness is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit www.cph.org/witness to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

Lutheran Service Book - EBook Edition at enews@cph.org **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

www.facebook.com/thelcms

www.twitter.com/thelcms

www.youtube.com/thelcms

www.lcms.org/socialmedia

KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: **ALL** garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door.
RECYCLING: A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... **THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY!** We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 10:00am beginning in February.

New Year sewing will begin February 7th and be every Wednesday at 9am at the Sunday School.

Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President

Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin
817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or
Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at stpaul Luther@tds.net, calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

DEADLINES

Newsletters	20 th (monthly)
Bulletins	Wednesday's
by Noon	

Voter's Meeting is 1/14 @ 11am.

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month

Ladies' Bible Study: 4th Saturday of the Month

Euchre Night: 3rd Saturday of Month 7pm

LifeLight Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm

Confirmation Classes: on Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.

Youth Movie Night-



Saturday, January

13th at 6pm

Pizza/Popcorn/Campfire S'mores for movie discussion. ☺ "

January 28th, 1pm Youth Group outing to the **Live Oak Café**, Midland where we will be brainstorming youth activities. All youth welcome☺

Interested in joining the **Youth Ministry Board** and focusing on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's

youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study

and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

Wild Game Dinner-January 19th 6pm. Featuring "The Deer Professor" Dave Roberts of ConQuest Farms/Scents

"BECAUSE WE CARE"

Prayer Request: If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687. **Those** with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: esocidnator01@gmail.com.

Or stpauldeacon@tds.net if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

Our florist is, **HANNAH'S FLOWERS**, in Midland. She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please continue to return the vases back to the church to help keep the price lower. All other florist prices were higher. You will continue to make your flower payment to the church. Any questions, please talk with Carolyn. Thank you,

Carolyn 631-

3953

Altar Guild representative for January is Kathy Engblade-989.631.6447



To our families with small children: Relax!

You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary

so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor. If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “stpaulrev”, or the Pastor's phone #, or ask Pastor. The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

If you are interested in private Communion ...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Action Team Dollars: St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to

provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHOICE DOLLARS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I'M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN JANUARY 24, APRIL 2024, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2025. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2023 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2024. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



St. Paul Coffee Mugs are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see Linda Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

LWML 2024 Michigan District Convention-June 28-30, 2024 at Amway, Grand Rapids

LWML Prayer Day/Spring Rally 2024 at St Paul, Sanford. Date to be determined. For more LWML information, Please contact Diana Kausch.

Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry. There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1) weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry*

Current needs are: Mustard, Ketchup, and Pancake Syrup.

Pictorial directory- Please check with Linda, Margie, Ruth or Kathy to help retrieve yours from the office. 😊

Has your contact info changed? If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or stpaul Lutheran@tds.net and

provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

BlackTop Project-We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer*

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Public Relations 10am Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Ruth Draves Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Elders' Meeting	Stephen Ministry Training 10am Trey Templeman	Band Rehearsal 4pm Deno O'Connor
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 9:30am Bible Class 11am Lindsay Ranck Johnny Sasse Jr.	Richard Harris	Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Andrew Grubaugh	Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm Vicki Barnard Deirdre Holsinger	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm	Stephen Ministry Training 10am Pamela Melchi	Men's Breakfast 8am Band Rehearsal 4pm Movie Night 6pm Jace Burns Ronald Cummings
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 9:30am Voters' Meeting 11am		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Wade O'Dell	Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Trustee Meeting 6pm Kirstin Eshleman Tiffany Smith	Stephen Ministry Training 10am Wild Game Dinner 6pm Kim Hill	Band Rehearsal 4pm Game Night 7pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 9:30am Bible Class 11am Bill Draves		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Mark Sprenger	Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm Amy Finney	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Youth Ministry Board Meeting 6pm	Stephen Ministry Training 10am	Women's Bible Study 9am Band Rehearsal 4pm
28	29	30	31			
Worship 9:30am Bible Class 11am Youth meeting 1pm @ Live Oak Cafe		Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm Jesse Brand	Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm Mason Novak			

