



# Good News

## Connecting People to Jesus

### Please pray:

- For the Synod's 35 districts, that they might have the resources and wisdom to effectively reach out to their communities.
- For all children, that they would be brought to the saving waters of Baptism and raised in the love, nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- For the aged, that they would be godly examples to the young as they are patient in their tribulations, joyful in their hope, firm in their faith and humble in all they say and do.

### Inside this issue:

Angel on your shoulder	2
Thank You From Compassionate	3
Family Ministry	4
Houston Experience	5
Take Heart, Take Action	5
Youth News	6
Calendar	7

### Good News

January 2018

### Vision for 2018 *by Pastor Gaertner*

God works through the Word of God at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our heavenly Father creates us to be His people in this place as the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to call, gather, and enlighten us. All this happens through God's Word at work in our life-changing relationships with God, with each other, and with our neighbors. At St. Paul we are connecting people to Jesus, to each other, and opportunities to serve our neighbor.

We encourage you to examine your walk with Jesus and prayerfully consider which area you need to most grow in this year. Then, we ask that you and your family to make a commitment to let St. Paul help you hit these targets for your spiritual life.

#### Targets for 2018

##### Connecting to Jesus: 3 Bible Studies

St. Paul families commit to attend Bible study 3 times/month, averaging 75% attendance over the next year.

The congregation must provide high-quality Bible classes for the whole family. This requires us to recruit, train, and equip leaders with the tools necessary to create a place where God works through the Word of God, where life-change occurs.

##### Connecting to Each Other: 3 Family Nights

St. Paul families commit to spend at least 15 minutes, 3 times/week (at dinner, watching a movie, reading a book, etc.) talking about the mission they trust God is calling them to join through devotion, discussion, and prayer.

The congregation must provide devotional materials, Bible studies, and prayer support for families. We will provide opportunities and encourage families to share stories of their discussions and prayers.

##### Connecting to the Community: 3 Acts of Service

St. Paul families commit to participate in at least 3 acts of service in 2018, including one in their neighborhood, in their community, and for the world.

The congregation will provide instructions for neighborhood action teams, at least 6 project opportunities for the community, and at least 2 servant trips and several in-gathering of items to be distributed around the world.

##### Sharing God's Love: 3 Invitations

St. Paul families will brainstorm 3 people/families whom they feel God is calling them to pray for and invite to a fellowship event,



worship service, or connection activity throughout the year.

The congregation will provide at least 4 outreach events for members to invite others. We will encourage families to share success stories and provide opportunities for accountability. Guests will be invited to return through a personal connection by members.

#### Declarations by St. Paul for 2018

I believe my heavenly Father has made me for a purpose, in His image, to look and act like Him.

I believe I am called to bring comfort through Jesus, because He is my hope.

I believe the Holy Spirit dwells in me, through my baptism, so I can bring His life-changing promises into my home and my community.

I believe that as a child of God I trust my church and I provide a healing place for those who are living in darkness, assaulted by Satan, and battered by the storms of life.

#### Because of this...

I will view my children as a gift from God. God has called me to share this good news and trust

*Continued on page 3*

## ANGEL ON YOUR SHOULDER *by Tim Hurst*

There is a cartoon device, so common as to be a cliché, which involves a hapless individual (usually a man) with a beautiful angel perched on one shoulder, and a mischievous devil with horns and pitchfork on the other. They both have something to say to the man, such as:

Devil: "Go ahead. What harm could it do?"

Angel: "You know better. Do the right thing."

or

Angel: "It's your duty. Do the right thing."

Devil: "What's in it for you? Forget about it."

Both of these voices speak to us many times a day; as we work and as we play; as we deal with strangers, family and friends; in trivial incidents and events of great importance to our lives. Sometimes we listen to one voice - sometimes to the other. Who are these voices?

Perhaps the angel on our shoulder is the still, small voice of God, calling us to listen in spite of competing voices who desire our attention and obedience. Perhaps it is the remembered voice of our parents or other mentors and teachers who taught us how to be civilized. Something outside of our own will seeks to guide our life hour by hour, selecting the proper path toward the destination that God intends for us. This angel comforts and strengthens us when we have problems in our lives.

The devil on our shoulder shows us the easy way, the pleasant way, the comfortable way toward our own heart's



desire. He dismisses our prudent fears and ignores adverse consequences. "It's always someone else's fault," he says. "You have a right to your way. Responsibility is for others to exercise." His is the voice of the crowd that forms the Popular culture, the voice of the old Adam within us. He tells us that we can be our own God, and decide for ourselves what is good and what is evil. Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-13.

Rather than abstract ideas, we humans like everyday, concrete examples. So God gave Moses 10 commandments to guide the Jewish people. They are still valid for our 21st-century society. All around us we see the consequences of violation of the commandments against stealing, killing, adultery, coveting. How can we live comfortably in a society where these commandments are ignored or not enforced? These rules have been codified into the seven deadly sins that children once had to memorize; Greed, Lust, Hate, Envy, Pride, Gluttony, and Sloth. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy and throughout history, every society has set forth specific punishments for each.

Rules and regulations, if followed and enforced, can keep our life within proper bounds. But, for the most part, they are negative. It is difficult to legislate positive impulses toward

positive actions. Rules and regulations can teach us, but do not often inspire us. Even when we refrain from sinful actions, it is difficult to avoid sinful imaginations, thoughts or attitudes. Before speaking of human transgressions, the Ten Commandments first point us to a higher power outside ourselves, a God who is to be revered and obeyed. Jesus told us, "The greatest commandment is to love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."

All of the hundreds of rules for Jewish life are based on obedience to God and respect for His authority. For guidance, we need to listen to the angel on our shoulder - the voice of God selecting good objectives for our energy and talents. We gain nothing by worshiping rules and rituals; that leads to the self-righteousness that Jesus condemns in the Pharisees. Despite our best efforts, our actions and thoughts keep dragging us toward a self-centered sinful condition. We can only cling to Jesus, who not only shows us the Way, but takes our inevitable lapses as His burden, and extends the forgiveness of God and the renewal of our innocence.

Thus, our salvation does not lie in enumerating and categorizing our many sins and resolving to remedy our activities by an act of our will. We make peace with God by appealing to his strength and holiness, so much beyond our own. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, He will help us to brush the devil off our shoulder, or at least muzzle him, so that we can hear the voice of God speaking clearly - continually guiding our actions and forgiving our inevitable mistakes.

**"...our salvation  
does not lie in  
enumerating and  
categorizing our  
many sins..."**

## Christmas Basket Thank You from the Compassionate Care Team

Our sincerest thanks to all of the volunteers that helped successfully deliver Christmas Baskets with food for the body and soul to **49 families in need** in our community.

- Thank you to the volunteers who called all the families to assess their needs and share the good news of Jesus' love.
- Thank you to all those who donated food and funds for the baskets.
- Thank you to all those who donated wrapped gifts for the children.
- Thank you to the generous person who donated handmade
- Thank you to the generous family that donated pies for all the families.
- Thank you to all those who volunteered to sort and pack food for the baskets.
- Thank you to all the volunteers behind the scenes help-

ing to count items, update the bulletin, print maps, make boxes, coordinate all the Girl Scout elves, sign in volunteers, buy books and turkeys and enroll our event for funding as a Thrivent Action team.

- Thank you to all the drivers who delivered the baskets to families all across our community.

And special thanks also to members of our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran in Pinckney, for their support of donated items and volunteer time.

**Of course, all thanks be to our God who so awesomely blesses our church family that we can forward His blessings to others and continue to connect people to Jesus.**

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mathew 25:40

*From the Stewardship and Evangelism Team at Trinity Lutheran Church Pinckney*

We would like to express what a pleasure it has been working with St. Paul during the last three Basket programs. Being a small church for the moment, we are not able to impact as much on our own and usually send donations to Love INC, so last year when our teams were deciding where to extend our stewardship and outreach, we chose St. Paul. Getting to add our donations to yours, help sort, package, and deliver baskets has been a wonderful experience over just bringing the donations and dropping them off. Bonus points for new friends. The fact that St. Paul was able to expand their donations this Christmas was really exciting and we are looking forward to working together on future projects.

Blessings in your New Year.



## Vision for 2018 *Continued*

He will use them to change the world.

I view my spouse as a gift from God who has changed my life and is my partner in service to others.

I view my elders as a gift from God who shared Jesus with me and brought me to where I am today.

I view my kitchen table, my house, and my backyard as a mission opportunity in my neighborhood. God has given me these gifts where I can invite neighbors for dinner, let my children play with others, and help my neighbors without expecting anything in return.

I view my time, money, attitude and life as a gift to be used by

Jesus' in His kingdom building work.

I view my church as the base-camp where I am strengthened, equipped, and sent by Jesus into the world.

I view every person as someone loved by God and in need of a life-changing relationship with Jesus.



## New Sunday School Program for preschool- grade 6

Starting January 14, we will start an new Sunday School curriculum. It will begin with an opening and introduction to the Bible story, like we have been doing. Following the opening, we will divide into three groups: Preschool, Kin-

dergarten-2nd grade, and Grades 3-6.

Students will explore VBS-type workshops to dive deep into Bible stories. Options include: Art, Bible Skills and Games, Computer Lab, Cooking, Creative Drama, Music, Science, and

Video. Each Bible story will be studied for 3 weeks before moving on to the next story.



## Family Ministry

by Miriam Yakimow

### I am a C (IMAC) 4th, 5th, 6th grade Youth group

#### January Event

We will either go sledding (depends on snow) or have a paint night with games at church. Watch for details!



## Cross+generational Baptismal Remembrance Event

#### Sunday, January 7

During the Education Hour, we will come together to remind ourselves that living in our baptisms is a lifelong journey. As part of this Faith Milestone, we will honor all of those who were baptized in 2017 with a short presentation and reception at the beginning of our

time together. Following this presentation, we will reflect on baptism with a teaching and discussion time for all ages. Groups will have the opportunity to grow in faith through conversations centered around baptismal living. There will also be stations to explore/learn more about baptism, baptismal

remembrance, and a baptism related craft.



## Sunday School Teacher Meeting

We will be meeting on Sunday, January 7, following the second service at 12:15 to

review the new Sunday school curriculum. Light lunch will be provided.

## Family Connect

On Sunday, February 4, during the Education Hour, a new quarterly class for parents of kids from birth—grade 6. Parents of teens are also welcome

to attend. We will explore teaching faith at home by looking at a Biblical foundation of teaching the faith, resources, and discussion.

This class is designed to grow faith conversations in the home. Class participants will help set the topics for our discussion

## Makes Sense *by Paul Wills, Vice President – Marketing*

Do not pass this opportunity to combine good-sense investment of your savings with good stewardship. Your investment with the Church Extension Fund makes building loans pos-

sible for LCMS churches and schools. This month, CEF is offering very attractive rates on all of its investments for individuals and organizations. Grow your savings and simultaneously

help build the fund that helps build its ministry facilities. Call 800.242.3944 or visit [www.micef.org](http://www.micef.org) for information



## Compassionate Care

Bringing Hope to the Table is a partnership between Kroger, Gleaners and Daisy's Food Pantry.

How this works is: We will have two times. One on Saturday, January 27 from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and on Sunday, January 28, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

We will greet people as they enter the Kroger store at Chilson Crossing and ask them to do some shopping for Daisy's Food Pantry. As they leave the store, we will gather the food they have purchased and return it to church. This event has become a major food source for our pantry and has allowed

us to expand our services to the community. There are a variety of tasks. Volunteer sign up will be available beginning Sunday, January 7. We will need store greeters, food transportation, and sorters back at church.

Join us, with your help we can make a big difference.



## Did Going to Houston Make a Difference? *by Mike Hausch*

Someone recently asked me, "Did traveling to Houston make a difference?" Let me answer that question by recapping the final hour of our work at Richard's home. We had worked at his home for several days, the last day he was able to work with us. His house was flooded with approximately 6 feet of water. A significant part of the water came with the release of water that was behind an earthen dam that was showing compromise.

We had a productive day of work moving several large items and removing cupboards and the drywall behind them that had been ruined. We had begun to pick up tools to leave, and Pastor Gaertner suggested that we pray together before we departed. He then prayed for Richard, his family and the reconstruction that would soon begin. At the conclusion of the prayer, Richard announced that he wasn't a hugger, but he just could not let us leave without giving each of us a hug, a

very emotional hug.

We continued picking up our tools, and Richard asked us if we could gather in a circle again. He wanted to pray for us. His words of thankfulness and blessing were wonderful. Yes, it did make a difference. Special thanks to Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas and Trinity Klein Lutheran Church, Klein, Texas for making our partnership with Richard possible.

## Theological Conference - Take Heart, Take Action

Everywhere we go, we go as a witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to be a witness? How can my witness persuade someone to believe? How can I be a witness to people

who really don't seem to care about church or the faith? *Take Heart, Take Action* is a theological conference for laypeople and church workers, and the featured speakers will share practical advice and insight into

our calling as witnesses of the Gospel.

The event is on Saturday, February 24, 2018, - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E St Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917.





## LAC

(7th and 8th graders and those in Confirmation instruction)

A trip to an Indoor Waterpark is our activity Saturday, January 20. We will meet at church at

10:30 am and return by 4:00pm. The cost is \$20.00 and includes admission and lunch. We need to plan transportation, so the sign-up deadline is

Tuesday, January 16 at 5:00 pm. Sign up by contacting Mike Hausch (Mike@stpaulhamburg.com or 810-923-8166).

## Senior High

The Senior High students will go bowling, Sunday, January 21. We will meet and have lunch together after the 11:00 am worship service and then go bowling. The cost is \$12, which includes lunch, two games of

bowling, and shoe rental. The sign-up deadline is Friday, January 19, 5:00 pm. Sign up by contacting Mike Hausch (Mike@stpaulhamburg.com or 810-923-8166).



# Youth News

by Mike Hausch

## Confirmation Retreat

Attention Confirmation Students and parents!

The Winter Confirmation Retreat is January 12-14, 2018, at Somerset Beach Campground. At this retreat, we will cover Holy Baptism

and "An Introduction to the Divine Service: Worshiping with Angels and Archangels." I invite you, the St. Paul church family, and especially the prayer Partners of our confirmands to keep these confirmands, their parents and their instructors in your prayers.

A "What to Bring" list has been sent out through email.

## Service Project/Servant Event trips for 2018.

We will have the opportunity to serve our neighbor with two events this summer.

Camp Restore: Detroit

This servant trip will take place July 8-14, 2018, in partnership with Camp Restore, Detroit, hosted at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan. Registration cost will be \$50 total,

with the remainder coming from the church budget and Thrivent Choice dollars. This event is open to the newly confirmed and students in high school and recent graduates.

Appalachia Habitat for Humanity Service Project

This servant trip will take place August 5-11. We travel to Robbins, Tennessee, and partner with

Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for families in need. Registration cost will be \$50 total; the remainder will be through the church budget and Thrivent Choice dollars. This event is open to students who have completed the 9th – 12th grade. Registration materials for both of these events will be available in mid-January.

# January 2018

## St. Paul Special Events

## Daily Readings

1/1	No Women's Bible Study
1/1	No Quilters
1/4 9:00am	Hymn Selection
1/7 9:45am	Cross-Gen Baptism Study
1/7 12:15pm	Sunday School Teachers mtg
1/8 thru 1/12	Houston Rebuild
1/9 7:00pm	Church Council
1/11 6:30pm	Bucrek Bible study resumes
1/12 thru 1/14	Confirmation Retreat
1/16 1:00pm-6:45pm	Blood Drive
1/21 11:00am	VBS Sunday
1/21 12:00pm-4pm	Senior High Bowling
1/27 10:00am-6:00	Kroger Bringing Hope
1/28 12:00pm-6:00	Kroger Bringing Hope
1/28 12:00pm	Voters Meeting
1/28 6:30pm	Confirmation Class

1/1	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
1/2	Isaiah 61:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
1/3	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
1/4	Isaiah 63:15-65:7	Luke 2:41-52
1/5	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
1/6	Isaiah 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
1/7	Ezekiel 1: 1-14, 22-28	Romans 1:1-17
1/8	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	Romans 1:18-32
1/9	Ezekiel 3:12-27	Romans 2:1-16
1/10	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32	Romans 2:17-29
1/11	Ezekiel 33:1-20	Romans 3:1-18
1/12	Ezekiel 34:1-24	Romans 3:19-31
1/13	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Romans 4:1-25
1/14	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14	Romans 5:1-21
1/15	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23
1/16	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Romans 7:1-20
1/17	Ezekiel 39:1-10, 17-29	Romans 7:21-8:17
1/18	Ezekiel 40:1-4, 43:1-12	Romans 8:18-39
1/19	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29	Romans 9:1-18
1/20	Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33
1/21	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21
1/22	Joel 2:1-17	Romans 11:1-24
1/23	Joel 2:18-32	Romans 11:25-12:13
1/24	Joel 3:1-21	Romans 12:14-13
1/25	Zechariah 1:1-21	Romans 14:1-23
1/26	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Romans 15:1-13
1/27	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
1/28	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
1/29	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18
1/30	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Timothy 2:1-26
1/31	Zechariah 10:1-11:3	2 Timothy 3:1-17

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday

- 7:30am Fresh Brew Bible Study
- 8:30am Divine Service
- 9:45am Education Hour
- 11:00am Divine Service & Kids' Connection
- 5:00pm Tough Issues

- 1:30pm Knitting Group
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

### Thursday

- 11:00am Knitting Group
- 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study

### Monday

- 9:00am Quilters
- 11:00am Women's Bible Study

### Saturday

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study
- 9:00am Altar Preparation
- 10:30am AA/Alanon
- 11:00am Knitting (downstairs)

### Tuesday

- 9:00am Old Timers





St. Paul Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 490  
Hamburg, MI 48139  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Worship Times

#### Sunday

**8:30 am** Traditional Divine Service

**9:45 am** Christian Education Hour for all ages

**10:45 am** Fellowship Time

**11:00 am** Blended Divine Service

**11:00 am** Kids Connection for preschool-2nd grade after the Children's Message

#### Monday (During the Summer)

**7:00 pm** Traditional Divine Service

Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner, Pastor  
TheRevEv@gmail.com

Michael Hausch, DCE  
mike@stpaulhamburg.com

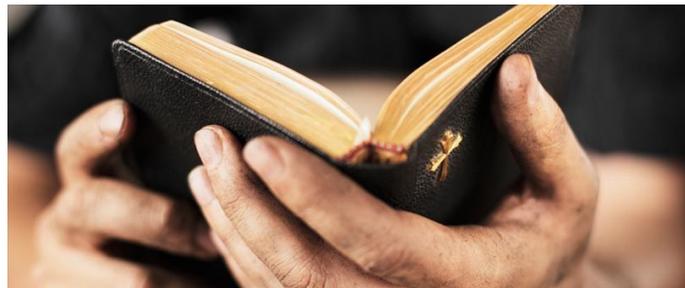
Miriam Yakimow  
miriam@stpaulhamburg.com

Phone: 810-231-1033  
Fax: 810-231-1016  
stpaul@stpaulhamburg.com  
www.stpaulhamburg.com  
Facebook.com/stpaulhamburg



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hamburg, MI  
Permit No. 53

«The Van Yorx Household»  
«37519 Serenity Ave»  
«Zephyr Hills», «FL» «33541»



### Great Man Day

Guardian Lutheran Church will be hosting this event on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 9:00am to 3:00pm This day is designed to encourage you as a faithful man of God. Four sessions will be led by our guests for the day from Family of God, Detroit, Pastor Jim Hill and Vicar Tyler Cronkright. Lunch is included and served at 12:30pm. Dress is casual to accommodate gym/fellowship time. Guardian is located at 24544 Cherry Hill, Dearborn, MI 48124. Rsvp to [PastorRamthun@guardianlutheran.org](mailto:PastorRamthun@guardianlutheran.org)

You are encouraged to bring friends

Session Topics based on the book "Life Together"  
by DietrichBonhoeffer