

UNITY

Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Ann Arbor

Happy Valentine's Day

By Pastor Gary Bender

Happy Valentine's Day...a few days late. (Why do I always seem to be late for holidays?) Did you know that Valentine's Day is (was?) extra special this year?

Valentine's Day is a day set aside to let those special people in your life know that they are loved. That you see them as special people and care about them.

This year Valentine's Day fell on Ash Wednesday (or vice versa). And I think that is special.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. During Lent we travel once again to the cross of our Savior Jesus and remember what He did to take away our sin and make eternal life a reality for those who have faith in Him. The cross is God's valentine to us. In the cross He tells us He loves us, we are special to Him, and He cares about us.

The cross is the heart and center of our Christian faith. If Jesus had not suffered and died on the

cross, we would still be in our sin without hope of eternal life. But He did come. He did die for our sins. In Him we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God loves us. Thanks be to God! Happy Valentine's Day.

The cross is the heart and center of our faith! It should also be the heart and center of our lives as Christian people, as Children of God.

Our Lenten theme for this year is **"The Cross in Our Lives."** During this season, we will be exploring many of the ways the message of the cross touches our lives.

Christ died once for all. The cross was a one-time event that saved us. But the effects of the cross reach out from that one event all the way to today, all the way to our own lives as we live today. From birth to death and beyond; the cross speaks, the cross guides, the cross influences us as we face the challenges and uncertainties of life. We live under the cross. We live with the cross. We live

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Happy Valentine's Day... *cont'd from cover*



because of the cross. It is a part of every day. The cross **is** in our life.

Each weekend (Saturdays at 6:30PM, Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45 AM) and each Wednesday (12:10 and 7:00 PM) between now and Easter we will look at another way the cross is in our life. Join with us this Lent as we explore "The Cross in Our Lives." Scan the QR code for access to resources for your Lenten devotions!

Wednesday Lenten Worship 12:10pm & 7:00pm
February 14 - March 13 Downtown Campus

Join us for Lenten Suppers, Wednesdays at 5:45pm in Fellowship Hall

Holy Week Worship at St. Paul

Palm Sunday Weekend (March 23/24):

Saturday 6:30pm Downtown

Sunday 8:30am Downtown & 10:45am* School

Maundy Thursday (March 28):

7:00pm* Downtown

Good Friday (March 29):

12:30pm & 7:00pm Downtown

Easter Vigil (March 30):

6:30pm* Downtown

Easter Sunday (March 31):

7:00am* & 9:00am* Downtown

11:00am* School

*Holy Communion

St. Paul Downtown: 420 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor
St. Paul School: 495 Earhart Rd, Ann Arbor

Lenten
Devotion
Resources
Scan
Here!



Celebrating the Success of Discipleship Hour

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry

Here at St. Paul, we value discipleship (helping others follow Jesus) very highly. One of the ways we live this out is through gathering around God's Word and growing together in faith and love. In September of 2023, we launched a rebranded version of our Christian education hour called "Discipleship Hour". Because we adjusted our Sunday morning worship schedule, we now have enough time between our services to be able to offer adult Bible studies led by our pastors at both locations! Coffee from the Common Cup and donuts from Washtenaw Dairy were also recent additions.

A total of 136 adults engaged in Discipleship Hour at least once in the fall of 2023 with an average weekly attendance of 52 (for both of our locations combined). A total of 59 kids (under 18) engaged in Discipleship Hour at least once in



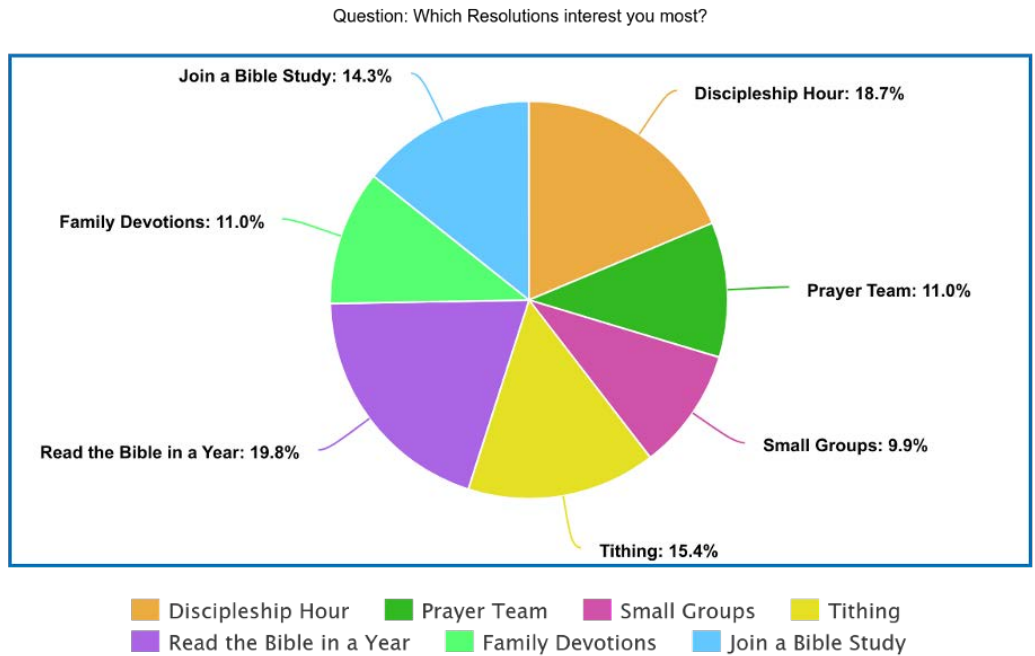
the fall of 2023 with an average weekly attendance of 33 (again for both locations combined). These

numbers are double what they were in the fall of 2022! It's been very exciting to see so many new faces

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Discipleship Hour... *cont'd from pg. 2*

in Sunday morning Bible study. The adults began walking through the book of Hebrews and are continuing to do so through the winter. The same material is covered at both locations for both adults and children making it easy for families to bounce back and forth between our 2 locations. You won't feel lost if you miss a week. Just jump back in whenever you can! In January, we polled members of our church to ask which New Year's Resolutions in the area of Spiritual Discipleship were the most interesting or doable and many people expressed an interest in joining a Bible Study or committing to regularly being part of Discipleship Hour. If you haven't been in a while, or at all, we would love to have you join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am.



meta-chart.com

Visual Faith Ministry Event: Prayer 101

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry

Visual Faith Ministry is a learning community offering creative tools for arranging your life for spiritual transformation as directed by the Holy Spirit. They share faith-keeping and story-telling tools, projects and practices. Visual Faith Ministry focuses on all forms of visual prayer, Bible Journaling, and FaithArt with prayer as the umbrella overall. Their tools and resources are designed for personal, family, and neighborhood faith formation practices. We are excited to welcome Connie Denninger, co-founder of Visual Faith Ministry, to St. Paul in March to guide us through some Visual Prayer practices to enrich our prayer lives.

You are invited to join us on **Saturday March 16th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm** (doors open at 8:30) at St. Paul Lutheran School (495 Earhart Road). Cost is \$5 per person. Ages 12 and up are welcome. Childcare and

brunch will be provided. *Many thanks to the generous funding assistance for this event from our Special Gifts Committee with funds provided from the St. Paul Endowment.* This event is open to anyone, so please feel free to bring a friend! We've extended invitations to churches in and around Ann Arbor, so we are excited to welcome friends from other churches, some of whom are Visual Faith Coaches. We are also exploring the possibility of starting a group at St. Paul that meets regularly to work on Visual Faith practices and projects together. You do not have to be overly artistic or crafty to be part of this. I know I'm not overly gifted in that area and that's okay. I still get a lot out of what Visual Faith has to offer! If you've never heard of Visual Faith until reading this article, but you're curious to know more, joining

us for this event is a great next step for you. Just come with a willingness to try something new!

Scan the QR code below to register or visit our website under the "News & Events" section. Contact Lexie Brown with any questions at lbrown@stpaulannarbor.org.

Visual Faith®
Visual Prayer 101
Connecting Hearts and Minds to Jesus

Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Event facilitated by:
Connie Denninger and the Visual Faith® Ministry Team

St. Paul Lutheran School
495 Earhart Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan

\$5 per person
Students - 12 and up welcome
Childcare and brunch provided
Questions? Contact Lexie Brown
lbrown@stpaulannarbor.org

www.tinyurl.com/visualprayer101

Hey, Pastor: Why Are We Using Incense?

By Pastor Aaron Roggow

“Let my prayer rise before you as incense...”

Each night before the kids go to bed our family has a moment of Evening Prayer, and we begin with these words from Psalm 141, with the response “...the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.” We don’t often burn actual incense in our home, but the image is clear. The prayers we pray, our time with Him, rises up to the Lord as a sweet scent before Him.

The use of incense in the modern church seems to be a mysterious practice. I’ve been asked over the years questions ranging from, “Why don’t we use incense in worship?” to “Why would we ever use incense in worship?” and “Is it okay if I use incense in personal devotions?” So, to answer a few questions (including when/why we would use incense at St. Paul) here’s a short history of the Biblical image and practical use of incense in the worship and prayer life of God’s people.

Incense and The Tabernacle

God’s direction to Israel concerning the burning of incense begins in Exodus 30:

“Make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense...Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law—before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law—where I will meet with you...Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come.”

In addition to this, frankincense was burned daily to accompany the grain offerings and showbread (Leviticus 2, 24), and incense was used by priests in supplication before the altar for the burnt offering (Numbers 16; Deuteronomy 33). Finally, God mandated the use of incense on the Day of Atonement when the high priest would sprinkle blood in the Most Holy Place. As he entered the space, “[t]he cloud of incense screened the mercy seat and protected the priest from the lethal danger of visual intrusion on God’s presence.” (Kleinig. Hebrews, 343)

God’s direction of Israel’s use of incense was multifaceted. Incense was used to visibly reflect the prayers of the people and to show a “visible and sensuous connection between heaven and earth.” (Manual on the Liturgy, 279) It created an atmosphere of worship that reflected the temple of God in the heavenly realms. (Hebrews chs.



8-9) The daily lighting of the altar of incense in the Tabernacle highlighted the distinction between the stench of our sin and the sweet smell that the daily sacrifices gave to cover that sin scent. And “The sweet smell of the incense identified [the high priest] with God and associated him with God’s gracious loving kindness” for His people. (Hebrews, 451)

Incense in the Early Church

The earliest Christian description of the use of incense is found in the Book of Revelation. Revelation 8 describes how incense in God’s presence accompanies the prayers of His people. The use of incense in Christian worship became commonplace beginning in the fourth century. (Davies. A Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship, 197) Since then, incense has been regularly used as a way of highlighting both the presence of God in the midst of His people and the prayers of the people ascending before Him. Often when the Gospel reading was read, the Gospel procession was led into the midst of the people by candles and incense. (The Study of Liturgy, 231-

Since then, incense has been regularly used as a way of highlighting both the presence of God in midst of His people and the prayers of the people ascending before Him.

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Why Incense?... *cont'd from pg. 4*

232) This practice, which continues in some churches today, recognizes that as the Good News of Jesus is read, "The clouds of incense show cleansing and purification (Numbers 16), covering our sin with the sweet robe of Christ's righteousness." (Manual on the Liturgy, 279)

In the Lutheran Church, incense has primarily been used in the Epiphany season, during the Magnificat at Vespers, and in connection with the service of Evening Prayer. As mentioned earlier, "The use of incense is appropriate as Psalm 141 is sung" in Evening Prayer (LSB Altar Book, 338) Traditionally, incense is placed on the altar with the emphasis of incense being a biblical symbol for Christian prayer. This incense "may also be brought from the altar into the midst of the congregation" as more Psalms are sung, allowing the congregation to be further connected to the image of the "prayers of the faithful ascending from earth to heaven." (Maschke. Gathered Guests, 293-294; 398)

Incense at St. Paul in the Easter Vigil

The use of incense in the worship of God's people has a long standing tradition, and has been continued in the church especially in Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches. Last year at the Easter Vigil service St. Paul introduced the use of incense. The Easter Vigil is an intentionally multisensory service where all of our senses are engaged around the death and resurrection of Jesus for us. (If you haven't checked this service out yet, I invite you to attend on Easter Eve this year). In the Easter Vigil the Word of the Lord is read, the means of grace are prominently emphasized, and heaven and earth meet in a beautiful union. The opening words of Psalm 141, "Let my prayer rise before you as incense..." are also sung as the incense on the altar is lit

from the newly prepared paschal candle. Highlighted by scent, taste, sight, sound, and touch, the entire service is centered on the embodied experience of God's people who find the source of their faith and hope in the one who has died and risen again.

This year, we'll once again use (hypo-allergenic) incense in the Easter Vigil service. This unique and particular use of incense at St. Paul is hopefully an opportunity for you to encounter a holistic worship experience, drawing you to gather your prayers with others who through scent and sight pray:

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever. Amen. (LSB, 247)



Easter Vigil

6:30pm • Saturday, March 30th
with Holy Communion

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Downtown Campus
420 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor

Spring New Member Class Begins March 10th!



new member classes begin march 10th!

PATHWAY
at St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ann Arbor

scan here to find out more!



The best way to learn more about St. Paul Lutheran Church & School is to take part in our Pathway Class. It is a 9 week class that meets on Sunday evenings with the pastors and other church leaders. We will talk about what faith in Jesus looks like, return to some foundational basics of God's Word, and introduce you to what St. Paul is all about. There is no pressure to become a member after taking the class, but the class is a perfect way to learn more about St. Paul, meet other new members, and dive into God's Word. Childcare is provided. Register using the QR code.

Details: Sunday Nights for 9 weeks, beginning March 10 - May 19 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM at our School Campus (495 Earhart Rd) in the Fine Arts Room. We will not meet: Easter (3/31), Mother's Day (5/12).

SPS Alumni Spotlight: Elise Snapper (Metzger)



Hello, I'm Elise Snapper (Metzger). I spent 7 years working in the field of Cardiac Rehabilitation, aiding individuals in recovery from cardiac events. After a break to raise my 2 children, I am excited to take the position of Director of Admissions at St. Paul School, eager to build connections with families.

I attended St. Paul School starting in half-day Kindergarten in January of 1993, and I graduated from 8th grade in June of 2001.

My fondest memories of attending St. Paul School include the friendships that were established and have continued into adulthood, and a shared journey of raising our children. I also cherished participating in athletic teams and orchestra, all of which contributed to building a strong faith foundation that has greatly influenced my life.

While I had multiple impactful teachers at St. Paul, my most influential teacher was my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Schmidt. Mrs. Schmidt had an immense passion for teaching, and her love of children was evident in all areas of her teaching. With a gentle yet firm approach, she guided children, enabling them to succeed in her classroom and grow in their faith.

As a student at St. Paul, I enjoyed playing on the volleyball and basketball teams, participating in the orchestra and choir, and interacting with friends during recess and in the classrooms. I thrived in the small school atmosphere where I could engage in various activities both in and out of the classroom, fostering friendships across grade levels.

Attending St. Paul Lutheran School provided me with a solid foundation in my faith and a clear sense of my identity as a Christian. Along with strong academic classes and supportive and loving teachers, this gave me the confidence to question and understand the world through the lens of being loved and chosen by God and be successful in my studies. This faith foundation, strong friendships, athletic involvement, and supportive classes and teachers at St. Paul equipped me with tools for my

future success and achievements.

What I am most grateful for is the friendships and connections I formed at St. Paul, as well as the solid foundation of faith that was established, offering guidance throughout my entire life.

Looking back, I feel that increasing our extracurricular offerings could have enhanced my experience so I love that St. Paul has continued to add to its after school programs by bringing in different areas of interest in art, sports, and creative writing. These classes have introduced a broader range of activities, which has allowed St. Paul to reach a wider array of students and interests.

Over the upcoming 5 to 10 years, I hope to witness St. Paul School grow in enrollment and retention, with the possibility of maintaining a waitlist. I also look forward to observing ongoing enhancements to the school through new additions and expansion projects, all the while fostering an environment that builds strong faith and student connections. I believe this commitment to nurturing these connections will play a pivotal role in molding our students into thriving, accomplished adults.



Connected: National Lutheran Schools Week 2024

Celebrating Faith & Community

By Elise Snapper, Director of Admissions

The week of January 21st-27th marked a special occasion for Lutheran schools nationwide – it was National Lutheran Schools Week! This annual event is a time for schools to come together and celebrate the profound impact they have on their students and communities by sharing the love of Jesus.

The heart of this celebration lies in the opportunity for students to reflect on and appreciate the blessings they bring to their communities. This year's national theme, "Connected," drew inspiration from the scripture found in John 15:1-5. Throughout the week, students participated in special dress days and engaging



activities, all centered around the theme. The aim was to foster a deeper understanding of God's love and

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Connected... *cont'd from pg. 6*

inspire students to share that love with others.

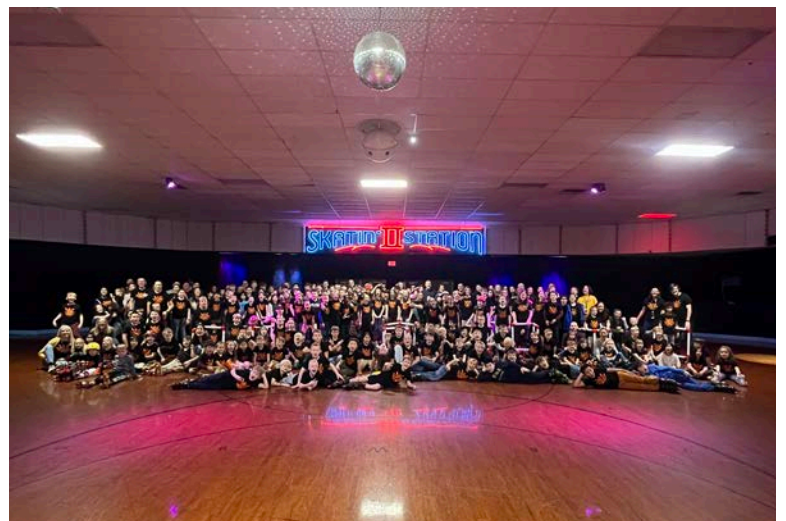
One of the week's highlights was the school community's collective effort to give back. Students and staff worked together to create care bags for the homeless, crafting blankets and collecting essential items. This compassionate initiative demonstrated the spirit of generosity within the school and served as a tangible expression of God's love for reaching out to those in need



ful for the congregation's continued commitment and involvement. Through this collaborative effort, the school can instill strong values, create a sense of community, and foster a deeper connection with faith in the hearts of its students.

The culmination of the week was a roller-skating field trip for K-8th grade students, providing a joyful and memorable experience for everyone involved. As the week concluded, the sense of community, connection, and shared faith lingered, leaving a lasting impact on students, educators, and families alike.

The week's success and the positive impact it had on the students and community would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the St. Paul congregation. Our school is immensely thank-



Preschool Winter Fun!

By Julie Ostrom, Preschool 3 Year Old Lead Teacher

The preschoolers have enjoyed the snowy winter we have had, both inside and outside! We learned about how God made animals to survive the cold, winter animal habitats, icy scenes and learning about what we do in the snow! Ms. Pam had a snowball fight in the Movement room and they built snowmen with the equipment. We played with snow and ice, went skating inside, and had Teddy bear games/activities. We have SNOW much fun in Preschool!

In March, we are looking forward to our Preschool Family Night, "Love Like Jesus."



God at Work: SPS Auction is Right Around the Corner!



2024 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL AUCTION: GOD AT WORK

DINNER • SILENT AUCTION • LIVE AUCTION

APRIL 13TH, 2024 • 5-10PM
ANGEL FOOD CATERING
BELLEVILLE, MI

\$65/person • Discount for SPAA staff

TUITION ASSISTANCE DOOR PRIZE
PROVIDED BY THE BRIAN ALTEVOGT FARM BUREAU AGENCY



AUCTION WEBSITE / TICKETS

St. Paul School is gearing up to host its annual auction on April 13th, 2024. Proceeds from this event will continue to go toward the construction of a new playground. SPAA's playground is 34 years old, and the proposed preschool expansion requires some of the current playground space. These factors make it an ideal time to build a new, safe playground in the available green space behind the school. This substantial investment will require the support of our church and school communities, beginning with the upcoming school auction. There are many ways you can support this event:

1. Donate an item/skill to this event (i.e. photography session, batch of famous cookies, art, etc)

2. Attend the auction. Purchase tickets by scanning the QR code provided, or go to the event website at: onecau.se/godatwork2024

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ACTS Has Been Active!

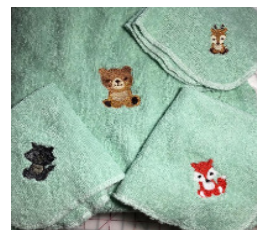
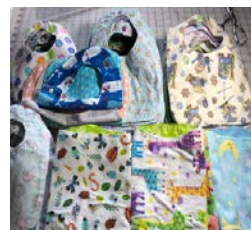
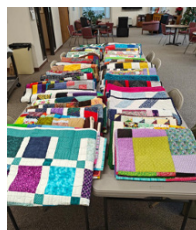
ACTS (Actively Caring Through Sharing/Sewing) has been active throughout 2023! ACTS is a group of members who like to sew and share what they make.

In 2023, our ACTS group stitched the following:

- The VA Hospital received **37 hats and 27 scarves**.
- Luke Clinic received **152 burp cloths, 363 bibs, 45 Pack-N-Play sheets, 36 car seat canopies, 1 quilt, 21 receiving blankets, wash cloths and a bath towel**.
- Sequoia Place, Ann Arbor, received **60 quilts** for its residents the week before Christmas.

All of these items were stitched by our ten members! We have all levels of stitchers. If you have an interest in sewing, please consider joining our group the **second Saturday of the month in the Fine Arts room** at the school. A

sewing machine and basic sewing supplies are all you need. ACTS will supply the patterns and material (and assistance if needed). Luke Clinic is an ongoing yearly project as are quilts. We will also be sewing more prayer pillows this year. Need additional information? Please contact Clara Twork at cjtwork53@gmail.com.



Mission Update from the Paper Peace Corps



Recently a box of Christian materials was mailed to Pastor Moses and his church in India. This is part of our "Paper Peace Corps" ministry. St. Paul Ann Arbor supports three churches abroad as part of this ministry. These churches are in India (Pastor Moses), Africa (Pastor Ekon) and the Philippines (Pastor Maglanque).

A letter just arrived from the Philippines where Pastor Maglanque is the missionary. His daughter, 23 years old, is also involved in this ministry. She writes,

"Thank you for sending many different spiritual books and references. I have learned many things from all the books you sent. Please help me to pray that I can have more books and references as

my father for our more study guide. I appreciate your great help to my father. May our Heavenly Father bless you always. Thank you."

- Cathy Joy"

Pastor Maglanque also requested a few books. The list of books and references range from between \$25-\$40.

Would you like to support our "Paper Peace Corps", Pastor Maglanque's request and churches around the world?

Please contact **Ruth Schmude at 734-483-7483** and leave a message, thank you!



Youth Ministry Update

By Tyler Seehafer, Director of Youth Ministry & Media

Middle School Youth

Hey Everyone! We are mid way through the school year and going strong! We have had some great events with our students and we have a few more scheduled so there is still time to get your students plugged in!

Confirmation Camp



We had an awesome time at confirmation camp! We had a great group of 8th grade students who enjoyed the beauty of Camp Arcadia along with great speakers, worship, and fellowship with other students from all the state. It was a great time for our students to be challenged in their faith and process how God is a part of their every day life.

Faith, Fun & Fellowship!



We have 3 more Faith, Fun, and Fellowship events scheduled and would love for your student who is in 6-8th grade to come join us on Mar 13th, Apr 10th, and May 15th at the school from 4:00 – 5:30pm. These events consist of faith-based group builders, fellowship between students in our church, and a little bit of fun as well.

Concordia Jr. High Youth Gathering - canceled

I regret to inform everyone that Concordia had to cancel their youth gathering this February, but we are hoping that we can attend it next year!

District Jr. High Youth Gathering (Summer 2024)

We are excited to be planning to attend the Michigan District Jr. High Youth Gathering! Mark your calendars for **July 30th - August 1st**. This gathering is a great opportunity for our students to travel to Frankenmuth, be

around 100's of other middle school students and spend 3 days being challenged and growing in their faith. We will have more details to come as more info is released!

High School Youth



What an awesome year in our high school ministry so far! We have had over 30 different students take part in various youth group events. We also have a great group of young adults getting to know our students to help support them in their faith walks. The only down side this year is our winter retreat at Camp Lutherhaven had to be canceled due to a severe winter storm.

High School Youth Group (Sundays, 6-8pm)

Many of you may know, but it is always great to get a reminder that we gather weekly at the youth house downtown (500 W. Liberty) with our high school students around food, fellowship, and Bible study. We have students from 13 different high schools who have all taken part in our Sunday night youth group so there is a good chance your kids go to school with at least one of the students in our ministry. We continue to invite our high schoolers to come Sunday nights. They can bring a friend or two if that helps them for more comfortable. It is a laid-back setting where we have time to hang out and eat some pizza before we jump into a game or activity and finish the night with discussion based Bible study and sharing our highs and lows from the week. Come check us out!

Camp Restore - Summer Service Trip

We are planning to serve with Camp Restore Detroit this July with our high school students. We are excited

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Youth Update... *cont'd from pg. 10*

to partner with them to help restore and revitalize Detroit! Camp Restore Detroit will provide our team with opportunities to restore hope with the community in Detroit. Campers have found joining the community in service is rewarding in many ways. Camp Restore has a three-fold outreach: Human Care, Environmental, and Construction. What makes Camp Restore Detroit special is their partnership with our community. We never want to go into a community thinking we have the answer, but instead partner with communities and build long-lasting relationships.

Camp Arcadia Teen Retreats

The Alpha and Omega Teen Retreats are special weeks at Camp Arcadia. In the words of Alpha Retreat dean Travis Hartjen, campers arrive as "strangers on Sunday, but leave as family by Friday." The rhythmic programming of Teen Retreats aims to allow campers to bond together over the simple pleasures at Camp Arcadia while giving opportunities to grow spiritually.



Alpha Teen Retreat (June 11-17)

8th – 10th grade

Omega Teen Retreat (June 18-24)

10th – Graduated Seniors

For more information or to register visit the Camp Arcadia website at: www.camp-arcadia.com

For more info about our middle or high school youth ministry please contact Tyler at tseahfer@stpaulannarbor.org.

Get to Know Our Family Life Intern: Molly Breitenbach!



We want to give a warm welcome to our new Family Life Intern, Molly Breitenbach. Molly will be serving in various ministries throughout the church to prepare her for full-time ministry. As you see Molly please introduce yourself and encourage her. She will be with us through May. Welcome Molly!

Where are you from?

I am from Adrian, Michigan

Where was your home congregation growing up?

St. Johns Lutheran Church in Adrian

What college do you attend?

Concordia University Ann Arbor

What are you currently studying?

Family Life Ministry

Why did you choose to go into church ministry?

My faith has always been a huge part of my life and I had amazing ministry influences and mentors. I want to be able to be that person for other people and encourage them in their faith.

Who was one of your biggest faith influences and why?

My biggest faith influences were my grandparents on

my dad's side because even though we didn't see them very often when we visited, we always continued to go to church with them. They have always been great Christian people and have always celebrated my and my brother's baptismal birthdays by sending us a card with a scriptural influence.

What are you looking forward to the most in going into ministry?

I always loved going to events and retreats as a student, so I am excited about planning and leading these events for other students. I also am looking forward to building relationships within the church community and the whole community around me.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I am starting a paid internship at Journey Lutheran Church in Oxford, MI. This internship will hopefully turn into a call position if all goes well with the internship.

What are some of your interests and hobbies?

As a broke college student, I love to window shop and browse online shops. I like reading mystery books and Christian/Mental Health books. My friends and I like to have movie nights as well and just hang out with each other.

Do you have any hidden talents or fun facts?

I love cooking but am not great at baking. I also used to play the Ukulele for about 5 years.

Stephen Ministers and Mental Health Professionals: What's the Difference?

By Cherise Callahan

Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised laypeople in our congregation who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing life challenges. Stephen Ministers listen, understand, accept, and pray with their care receivers.

One of the key distinctions between Stephen Ministers and mental health professionals is that it's the mental health professional's role to try and help clients resolve their problems, while Stephen ministers are there to be present and supportive rather than to solve their care receiver's issues.

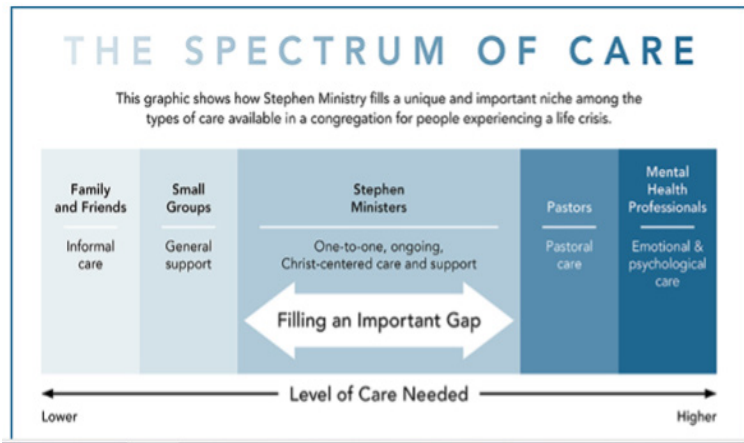
Additionally, although there are Christian counselors, traditional therapy is usually not spiritually based. Spiritual concerns may come up in a traditional therapeutic context, but they're typically not the focus from that perspective. The spiritual care that Stephen Ministers offer is unique and can be a very healing, God-sent blessing for care receivers.



St. Paul has 12 Stephen Ministers (see group picture) available to provide this Christ-centered personal care for any of our adult members or members of our community. Last year we served a total of 12 care receivers.



Back row: Lexie Brown, Carolyn Weber, Brian Hoppe, Greg Marshall, John Burch, Jane Burch
 Front row: Karen Baker, Sandy Klaus, Cherise Callahan, Peggy Glahn, Brenda Marshall
 Not pictured: Ken Bachman



Need a Stephen Minister? Speak with any of the ones pictured above or contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: Karen Baker (734) 730-8842, Jane Burch (734) 277-5315, or Cherise Callahan (734) 935-8775.

God at Work Auction... *cont'd from pg. 8*

3. Donate financially toward the auction. Donations of all amounts help us reach our goal of providing our students with a new, exciting, and safe playground for many years to come.

Please contact the Auction Committee at auction@stpaulannarbor.org with any questions. We hope to see you in April!

NEED CHILDCARE FOR AUCTION NIGHT?

Childcare during the auction will be available for ages 5+ at St. Paul School from 4:30pm - 10pm. The fee is \$15/child with a maximum of \$30/family, and includes a pizza dinner and a snack. Childcare will be provided by the Concordia University volleyball team, with Wendy Vredeveld as the site supervisor for the evening.



AUCTION WEBSITE / TICKETS

Note: Scan the QR for childcare registration & ticket purchasing

To learn more about the ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School visit our website at: www.stpaulannarbor.org

If you would like to submit an article or news item for any of the St. Paul communications please contact Natalie Nesbitt, Media Outreach Coordinator at nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org

