St. Paul Lutheran Church and School



Monthly Newsletter "Equip, Support, Serve and Witness Where God Calls Us!"

JANUARY 2023



Church Office: 248-541-0613 & School Office: 248-546-6555



St. Paul Lutheran Pastor Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski

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JANUARY SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Baby Bottle Boomerang Big Bash Game Info (Superbowl LVII) <u>School Notes</u> Kindergarten Roundup Preschool Information Night



From Vicar Zachary Staehr

God in an Age of Atheism by S. Paul Schilling (1969): Book Review

I would also like to share a note of caution: if you feel inspired to pick up and read this book, then note that a discerning mind is needed while you read this book. This book is dense in nature, and the responses by the author do not always share the LCMS understanding of Christianity on any given topic. To combat this shortcoming, I will examine the atheistic thought so that you may know what outsiders say about Christianity. Further, I have developed a biblical basis for some of the findings by the author.

Atheistic Thought

(Not all are represented here, but I have given a basic overview) There is not only one atheistic thought process out there, but I have noticed that most, if not all, atheistic understandings have a humanistic background. For example, an atheist may say that God is defined as the perfected good qualities of man which he cannot accomplish himself. The atheist may then define God's love for man as "man's own self-love deified" (p.23). Despite these concerning estimations of who God is, the atheist's most dangerous view is that of truth. Since an atheist may say that God is assumed to have certain perfected qualities in the imagination of men, then they conclude that the real atheist is the person who denies that man can know divine truth (p.24). Hence, personal truths become the greater form of truth. The result is the abolition of absolute truth. Morals are thrown out the window to make way for the individual. Moreover, atheistic thought generally would agree that science actually opposes religion because it leaves no room for faith when it explains nature. You may come across an atheistic thought which also believes Christianity was concocted to suppress the and exploit the lower class by the upper class. Overall, the atheistic thought is developing the idea that man is by nature good and can become a Superman if all other suppressions are overcome which includes faith in God.

The Response

The Christian perspective of man does not include that man is by nature good. Indeed, "we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean" (taken from the common form of confession in DS I-II), and, "I a poor miserable sinner confess..." (taken from the common form of confession in DS III, V). Therefore, our own perspective of man is fundamentally different from the atheist. We believe that the only good we have comes from God, but the atheist would believe that death should not occur if God is real and good. In response, we confess with the words of Scripture "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23). We too confess against the atheist that God is real and provides for us, "In Him, we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). God is creator and remains timeless, like when He spoke to Moses telling him His name, "I am who I am". God describes in these words, who He is. His very existence, His will is to be our deliverer and our only source of salvation. It is who He is to redeem His people and save them from sin, death, and the devil who lay claim on our souls. Truly, as Jesus must be right in John 15:5 when He spoke, "Apart from God we can do nothing". Apart from God there is no life. There is no nature. There is no world. There is nothing.

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Vicar Zachary Staehr

Next, "God is love" (1 John 4:9). He is not love as a result of our own deified self-love, for any love which we may show especially in self-love - can be skewed in imperfect. The model of love for the Christian is the surpassing love of God disclosed to us in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the deepest form of God's love for us "in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). God should not be described as impersonal or far off. Instead, He is with you wherever you go (Matt 28:20). God has chosen to establish His Name (Deut 16:6) on you in Baptism (Matt. 28:19). Therefore, your life is considered the light of the world in which you share the Gospel with anyone who will listen. Your body is also a temple of the Lord (1 Cor. 6:19). Therefore, it is your duty to glorify God in your body.

All these things will proclaim to the atheist that God is real, and it will drive out doubt from you also. So consider your Baptism when God placed His Name on you and declared that He will be with you always. Consider also, as a result, that your body is now a temple for the Lord to dwell. Finally, consider yourself to be the light of the world where you love your neighbor as yourself and thus share your faith by sharing the love that God has given to you.

"See what love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him." - 1 John 3:1

MORE MINISTRY



Annual Big Game Bash Plans are being made and we hope you plan to watch the game with us

LVII

on **February 12th** in the church lounge. Come watch the Big Game on the Big Screen while enjoying some food and some great fellowship. Game kickoff will be determined. Watch the Sunday News & Notes for updates. We will have a sign up at the Welcome Center so we can approximate how many people will be coming. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Brewer, (586) 822-8619.

The Installation of New Officers and Board Members will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2023 during each of the services.

New 2023 Phone Directory/ Member Files-Changes Needed:

Any Address/Phone #'s or email changes are needed for yourself or any member in your family. This

needs to be in the church office by January 30. If you are not using your landline number anymore and are using a cell number as a main line, please let the office know so this can be printed in the directory. Also, we noticed we don't have certain email address in our system or directory! We don't want you to miss anything that we send out! If you get a chance, simply send us an email at <u>prodway@stpaulroyal</u> <u>oak.org</u> and we'll get you updated" Thank you.



Monthly Bible Readings-January 2023



SEASON	DATE	FESTIVAL	FIRST READING	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
	Jan. 1 2023	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22–27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
	or	First Sunday a. Christ- mas	Isaiah 63:7–14	Psalm 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Matt. 2:13–23
EPIPHANY	Jan. 6	The Epiphany of	Isaiah 60:1–6	Psalm 72:	Eph. 3:1–12	Matt. 2:1–12
	Jan. 8	The Baptism of Our Lord / First S. a. the Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1–9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1–11	Matt. 3:13–17
	Jan. 15	Second S. a. the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1–7	Psalm 40:1–11	1 Cor. 1:1–9	John 1:29–42a
	Jan. 22	Third S. a. the Epipha- ny	Isaiah 9:1–4	Psalm 27:1–9 (10–14)	1 Cor. 1:10–18	Matt. 4:12–25
	Jan. 29	Fourth S. a. the Epiph- any	Micah 6:1–8	Psalm 15	1 Cor. 1:18–31	Matt. 5:1–12

"Equip, Support, Serve and Witness Where God Calls Us!"

The Masthead



Baby Bottle Boomerang is Back! We will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 22, 2023 by kicking off our Baby Bottle Boomerang (BBB) to benefit Care Net Pregnancy Centers of Berkley | Detroit. The bottles Should be returned by February 12 in office. A

playpen with empty bottles will be in the Narthex Jan. 22. Please leave your name and a contact number on clipboard, so we can keep track of who takes a bottle. You may fill it with spare change but paper money and checks are great, too! Make checks out to *CareNet Berkley/Detroit*. Questions? Contact Lee Anne Millinger, 248-417-9526 for questions.

SERVING THE LORD IN AFRICA



Prayers for our Missionaries Continue praying for and contributing thru our door collections to help our missionaries Rev. Gary and Mrs. Schulte serving the LCMS in West and Central Africa. As the Area Director for West & Central Africa, Gary supervises, facilitates and

provides vision for the work the LCMS does in assisting its four West African partner churches (Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Togo) and nine mission field locations (the young churches of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Gambia, the two Congos and Burundi) in missionary pastoral training, church planting and doing mercy work. Stephanie serves as regional coordinator for mercy medical work. In this role, she envisions, facilitates and coordinates Community Health Education (CHE) initiatives and the deployment of mercy Medical Teams (MMTs) to these parts of Africa. January 29 we will have a door collection to help support them.

HELP Un-Decorate With Us! We need extra hands to help un-decorate the church from the holidays. Meet us at 12:30 p.m. on January 8 to help out. Thank you.

Need A Prayer! There is a group of individuals at St. Paul called Prayer Warriors, who are ready to pray for you! Please feel welcome to submit your prayer request to Chris Steiber via text/call 248-515-1983 or email <u>christinemsteiber@gmail.com</u>. All prayer requests will be kept confidential. For public prayer in worship, please contact the church office.

Woman of the Year Voting—Each year, the Council of Lutheran Women honors women throughout the greater Detroit area who have been selected as their church or organizations 'Woman of the Year'. These women exemplify service to our Lord in His church and in the community. Voting is open to all women of the congregation. The woman you select for this honor should be a volunteer who cheerfully and willingly serves her Lord. Voting for the Woman of the Year will be located at the Welcome Center coming soon. A special luncheon and recognition off campus will be given in honor for her in March along with other area Women of the Year. Watch in News & Notes for tickets to go on sale to attend the luncheon or contact Colleen Olsen at (248) 288-0769 for questions.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast—Once a month men of our congregation get together on the third Saturday of each month to enjoy great fellowship, breakfast and share in devotions and a Bible study. We will meet Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 a.m. in the church lounge. Bring a friend or neighbor. Plan to come and meet other new friends and enjoy a meal and a morning of camaraderie.



BIBLE CLASSES

(resume week of Jan 4 & 8)

-	Trans	-
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-63/8	211	~
	21	
	5	

Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 am

Sunday Class	w/Pastor Andrzejewski (lounge) Sr. High Bible Study (school)
Sunday School	Youth and Adult (school)
Weekday Bible Class	ses
Mondays 9:00am	Women's Bible Class (lounge)

Mondays 9:00am	Women's Bible Class (lounge)
Wednesdays 10:00am	w/Pastor Andrzejewski, (lounge)
Thursdays 8:00am	Men's Breakfast at the Avenue
	Restaurant (Woodward, N of 13 mi)
3rd Saturday, 7:30am	Men's Monthly Breakfast Study,
-	(lounge)

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

* God Can Do It: We Can Help" The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

Begin the New Year with Us One Service January 1, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Happy New Year!

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

SCHOOL MINISTRY



St. Paul Lutheran School

100+ Years of God's Grace

Our Mission

"Equip, Support, Serve and Witness Where God Calls Us!"

Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.



Mr. Chris Francik, Principal

BLESSINGS!

Kappy New Year

As the year 2022 ends and 2023 begins, I pray that each of you sees the work of our Triune God in your life. Through the ups and downs of the previous year, God's Word and presence reign supreme.

No matter what the previous year has brought Jesus' promise "to be with us always" from Matthew 28 remains steadfast. I am thankful that my family and I have been embraced by St. Paul, and I have the opportunity each day to be united with St. Paul students and staff in the truth of God's love, justice, and compassion for all people. I invite you to ponder the words we pray each school day at the end of lunch. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endures forever."



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP— Mark your calendars. Kindergarten Round Up will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 19 for all parents who may be interested in sending their children to our kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Miranda Lorence will share details of our program, tuition costs, and the curriculum materials used in our school. Health requirements will also be discussed. St. Paul offers a full day kindergarten program from 8:15 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT will be at the Royal Oak Farmers Market on January 23 at 7:00 p.m. Look for the St. Paul Display. Contact the Christie Sipila thru the school office if you have any questions.

<u>SCHOOL CLOSINGS</u>: Please watch your local TV broadcast for school closing notices. We follow the Royal Oak School District. If they are closed for weather conditions, we will be closed also. St. Paul will be listed under School Closings on your local stations. Don't forget to sign up to receive text messages in the school office.

<u>CHURCH MEMBER SCHOOL FAMILIES</u>: Reminder to please record your attendance at church services as 50% church attendance is the minimum to receive member tuition. <u>IN-PERSON</u> services: Please make it a point to fill out the regular attendance card or use the kiosk at church. With <u>ONLINE SERVICES</u>: Just listen, record the date, and fill out the form at http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org/attendance. Questions can be emailed to boe@stpaulroyaloak.org.

JANUARY CALENDAR:

January 4 -Classes Resume January 16 -MLK Day (No School) January 19 -Kindergarten Roundup (6:00PM) January 20 -Records Day (School Dismissed at Noon) January 20 -End of Quarter January 23 -Preschool Information Day (7:00pm) at Farmers Market January 24 -PTL Meeting (6:30PM)

DIRECTORY & Church NOTES

DIRECTORY

St. Paul Lutheran 202 E. Fifth Street Royal Oak, MI 48067

> Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski (cell) 734-644-0059 revjski@stpaulroyaloak.org

Church Office 248-541-0613

School Office 248-546-6555

Church Fax 248-541-6965

School Fax 248-546-8096

Church E-Mail: prodway@stpaulroyaloak.org

School E-Mail: slutheranscho113880@comcast.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulroyaloak

> Website: www.stpaulroyaloak.org

(Please contact Steven Carpenter at *scarpenter@stpaulroyaloak.org* to request a communication, print publication or new web project for the website. Submit your news, story, recap, event, or photo and it'll be considered for publication.)

OFFICIAL ACTS

Member Changes Baptism: Mia Marie Brandt 12-17-2022

Address Changes Mail Returned: Kathy Conger

<u>G1775 GIVEN</u>

GIFTS—You may donate to the church by giving a memorial or honorarium by using the card located in the lobby. This is a two part card, one to go with the gift to the church and the other to be mailed to the family. Contact the church office, 248-541-0613 for any questions.



NOTE 8975

Thank you so much to all of those who contributed time and talents to the School's Christmas Shoppe. St. Paul is blessed to have so many talented artists. Thank you also to those that volunteered their time setting up and those that helped the day of the sale. The PTL wishes you a very blessed Christmas!

Short-term Child Care Volunteer Needed We have a need to help a single mother in our community about to have her second baby in mid-January. She has no one in her corner here... family, friends, etc; and thus no one to help watch her 14 month old while she is in labor and delivery. She will need help with the transition of the two children in the first week or two she's home. She is located in Royal Oak. Please call Taylor if you can help at 248-890-4148.

"Blessed For Life" is Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for January 22, 2023.



Church Boards

Board of Education Board of Elders Board of Evangelism Board of Stewardship Board of Trustees Women's Guild Board of Youth Communications & Technology Fund Operating Music Ministry

Homebound Bill Fortner Margaret Kuhlmann Donna McMinn Irma Pope Charlette/Ralph Schroeder Jeanette Till Kathleen Ulrich Missionaries

Rev. Gary & Stephanie Schulte (Africa)

Prayers for Military

Eric Banker Mark Bowdich Paul Bowdich Matthew Canfield Sam Eskew Brandon Newton Brendan Sharp Hayden Sharp Joe VanDamme Tirzah VanDamme Jason Zuniga Gabrielle Zuniga



The Masthead



If we've missed listing your birthday, please contact the church office 248-541-0613

1 Danielle Workman

- 2 Lauren Banker
- 3 Erik Olsen
- 4 Ephraim Simon (Newton) Ezra Simon (Newton)
- 6 Emily Valdes
- 7 Brian Louwers
- 8 Aaron Brandt Dawn Heins
- 9 Jenelle Jackson
- 11 Zandra Baker Charlette Schroeder
- **12 Richard Peludat**
- 13 Paul Brown
- 14 Al Manteuffel Amber Martini
- 17 Martha Smyth

18 Andrea Keeble Michelle Ohngren Jason Roche

- **19 Henry Eising**
- 22 Kaylee Guilmette Laura Newell
- 24 Sara Jarvey
- 25 Susie Wlotkowski
- 26 Bill Tokar Marilyn Tripp
- 27 Susan Cuddington Maya Rummel Tyler Zenk
- 28 DeAnna Falls Gianna Falls Alice Jackson Joan Pittman
- 30 Trevor Guilmette Hope Malczynski
- 31 Beverly Limbaugh Esther Simon (Newton)



To You!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 AM One Worship c NO Bible Cl, SS, YCC New Years Day	2 Christmas Break School & Church Closed	3 9:00 AM Trustees Christmas Break School Closed	4 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class School Resumes	5 8:00 A M Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 6:00 PM Praise Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bells Practice	6	7
8:15AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible CI (adult, sr. high), SS, YCC 11:00 AM Worship c 12:30 PM Church Undecorating	9 9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC 7:00 PM All Boards 7:00 PM Elders Mtg	10 3:00 PM MLT Mtg (conf. rm)	11 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class	12 8:00 A M Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 9:00 A M-11:30 A M PS/K Family Devotion-Gym 1:00 PM Finance Mtg 6:00 PM Praise Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bells Practice	13	14
 8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl (adult, sr. high), SS, YCC 11:00 AM Worship Installation of Church Officers & Board Members 	16 9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC 7:00 PM Council Mtg MLK Day No School	17	18 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class	19 8:00 A M Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 6:00 PM Kindergarten Roundup 6:00 PM Praise Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bells Practice	20 12:00 PM School Dismissed- Records Day	21 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast, lounge
22 8:15AM Worship 9:45AM Bible Cl (adult, sr. high),SS, YCC 11:00 AM Worship c Guest Pastor-Rev. Dave Davis Baby Bottle Boomerrang Kick-off Sanctity Sunday	23 9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC 7:00 PM Pre-School Information Nite - Farmers Mkt	24 6:30 PM PTL Meeting	25 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class	26 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 6:00 PM Praise Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bells Practice	27	28
29 8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl (adult, sr. high), SS, YCC 11:00 AM Worship c	30 9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC	31	4 5 11 1 18 1	Dec 2022 1 T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 2 13 14 15 16 17 9 20 21 22 23 24 5 27 28 29 30 31	Feb 2023 S M T W T 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28	3 4 10 11 17 18