

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2-6)

These are the Apostle Paul's beginning words in his letter to the church in Philippi. Paul loves the church there because they love God. In turn, they let the light of Christ shine through their love for one another, for the world around them, and, yes, for Paul as well.

Today, as I write this letter to you, my sisters and brothers in faith, I am reminded of the love that you have shown in our St. Paul family, this community and indeed the world in this last year.

Our St. Paul family grows stronger when we welcome new people and families to participate in the life and ministry of this congregation. This year we welcomed new sisters and brothers in Christ through the waters of baptism, through the Rite of Confirmation, through transfer from other ELCA congregations or other faith traditions. Our challenge is to see how we can involve these new people in the life and ministry here at St. Paul.

Our work in the community continues to grow. The work that God does in our community through ministries such as the AMEN Food Pantry and Second Chance is very important; but they are not the only ministries that we do outside the church walls. St. Paul's members are involved in almost every service organization in La Grange. We are involved in many businesses—large, small, and in between—and at every level of formal education. This is not to pat ourselves on the back, but to give thanks for God giving us the opportunities to make a difference and show God's love in our community.

Our relationship with our sister congregation, Emanuel Lutheran in Collique, Peru continues to strengthen. In 2018, Patty and David Ehler went to Peru to spend time with Emanuel and we will be hearing from them about their trip in January. Our WOW kids and Sunday School kids made Christmas Ornaments which were sent to the kids at Emanuel—children reaching out to children. Our relationship with Emanuel is very important to us and them in that it reminds us that, though we speak different languages and live on different continents, we worship the same God. We look forward to more opportunities to grow in faith together.

I am also reminded of the love you have shown to me this past year as well. With the Christmas season having passed, I thank everyone for the many gifts and cards I received, but even more than that, I give thanks for you sharing your lives with me and allowing me to share my life with you. It is in those shared relationships that the light of Christ shines most brightly.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Candy

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**ANNUAL MEAL/MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 27**  
**after the 10:00 a.m. Praise service**

The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with the annual meeting starting at 11:45 a.m.

All reports to be included in the Annual Report should be in the office no later than January 8.

Every Sunday, we have an opportunity to adorn the altar with flowers, and all live plants and flowers are appropriate for doing so. But why do we bother? Why do we make altar flowers a vital part of our worship environment?

First, we adorn the worship space to make it more beautiful, more worthy of God's presence among us. We use flowers to enliven and brighten the altar area, to fill it with fragrance and beauty, so that we are awed and our minds are quieted for worship. Even more significantly, flowers and green plants remind us that God, in all seasons of the year, continues to provide for us, feeding our bodies and nourishing our spirits with the abundance and beauty of creation.

Second, flowers are the most ephemeral part of the beauty of God's creation: gorgeous in their color, their design, their fragrance, and yet fleeting, just as life is precious and fleeting. When we use cut flowers, we are especially offering a sacrifice, for their life is already spent, even as Jesus spent his last breaths on the cross as a sacrifice for us. So we offer our glorious, but soon-to-fade flowers back to God our Redeemer to decorate our worship space on Sunday mornings.

Third, with cut flowers and living plants we bring something of the natural world into our worship space, to remind us of our responsibility toward the greater creation outside our church. They are a sign of the entire created order of which we are a part and to which we owe a great measure of stewardship and care after we leave the worship space. We want to inspire and motivate ourselves, through empowerment by the Spirit, so that we will serve others and the world when we leave the sanctuary after worship.

There are many Sundays available in 2019 when no one has yet made a commitment to provide altar flowers. If you are interested in this part of our ministry, please sign up on the Altar Flowers List on the bulletin board in the hallway. Simply put your name beside the date; but remember to call/email Melinda to let her know what you would like printed in the bulletin. Then you can go to your florist and order what you wish to be delivered to the church, or you can purchase plants and bring them to the church before worship on Saturday (church is usually unlocked by 4:15 p.m.). A single plant or arrangement can be used, or two arrangements, as you wish, but the plants should be live plants or cut flowers, not silk or plastic arrangements, please.

THANKS FOR helping us enhance our worship space with your gift of flowers for St. Paul's Congregation!

## Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

St. Paul's offers electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to St. Paul's bank account.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. You can go online, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org) and click "Donate Now" to sign up or contact Melinda in the church office.



Thank You, Thank You, Annazell and A. C. von Minden for years of serving on St. Paul's Altar Guild. The two of you have provided a wonderful point of light by preparing Holy Communion for worship services and serving the Lord and this congregation. We will miss you, but know the two of you will continue serving in other areas of St. Paul.

God bless,  
St. Paul Altar Guild Members

Our next Altar Guild meeting is Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 4 p.m. in the Friendship Room. We are always ready to welcome new members to the Guild! Can't make the meeting? That's ok! Melinda emails a schedule beforehand, so members sign up for the services they want, then the empty spaces are filled at the meeting. **Would you like to serve the Lord and St. Paul?** Is so, contact the church office.

# January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Sarah Ehler
3	Caitlin Morgan, Tyler Schmidt
4	Matt Jaster, Brantley Koehl, Patti Weber
5	Wallace Hobratschk
6	Aiden Halpain, Sherry Huebel, David Stancik
7	Ali Huebel
8	Hayley Saunders, Cole Stork
9	Morgan Johnson, Tammy Kutac, Camille Stancik
11	Nick Dokos, Charlotte Hagemann
12	Gail Cook, Danette Coufal, Glenn Davis, Leon Heintschel, Amber Loehr
13	Justin Anders, Elaine Halpain, Audra Spann
14	Mark Brown, Alex Schielack, Henry Weber
15	Amanda Drab
16	Rhonda Koether
17	Marilyn Gest
18	Brian Fowler, Todd Keilers, Gary Piwetz, Cindy Schwertner
19	Tara Childs, Amalia Woolf
20	Andrew Arlund
21	Darby Fitzpatrick, Estella Lueders, Michelle Martin, Edwin Votaw
22	Sydney Fritsch
23	Patrick Raborn, Deanna Toddy
24	Max Karger, Todd Oehlke
25	Ruth Hensel
26	Charles Rau, Brad Schielack, Laurie Stork
27	Jeremy Brown, Kloe Kutac, Grace Robilio
28	Leroy Bennetsen, Daniel Pietsch
29	Alex Toensing
30	Laurie Boehm, Mark Davis, Kate Fitzpatrick, An'na Loehr, Claude Mertz
31	Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Blake Harbers

John & Bonnie Pineda	January 8	19 years
Leroy & Carolyn Bennetsen	January 13	42 years
Wallace & Verlene Hobratschk	January 21	58 years
Bert & Jackie Gest	January 26	6 years
David & Mary Ann Butler	January 27	57 years
Bill & Marlene Schneider	January 27	40 years

## Saint Paul Organizations & Groups

*If your group has a special event planned, let us know by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Any of these organizations and groups would be pleased to have you become a part of their ministry and activities.*

**Afternoon Circle** meets the first Tues., **Feb. 5**, 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Fishers of Men** will hold their Meiners Ranch Retreat in January.

**Friends In Faith** meet Mon., **Jan. 7, 7 p.m.**, at the home of Kathy Toensing, 115 Rolling Hill Drive.

**Lutheran World Relief Quilters** meet the third Tuesday, **Jan. 15**, at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All help is welcome!!

**Hand-Quilting!! The Monday Morning Quilters** meet at 8 a.m. each Monday in January in the Quilting Room. We invite any quilter to join us at anytime. All quilting proceeds go to Lutheran World Relief!

**The Cut-Ups** will meet Wednesday, **Jan. 9** at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We iron fabric, cut fabric and assemble squares into kits for sewing quilt tops!! We need your help!!

**The Altar Guild** meets quarterly. They meet again Tuesday, **Feb. 12, 4 p.m.** in the Friendship Room.

**Second Chance Volunteer Schedule:**  
January 15-21, February 26-March 4, April 9-15,  
June 4-10, July 23-29, September 10-16,  
October 22-28, December 10-16

**AMEN Volunteer Schedule:**  
January 3, March 11 & 14, May 30,  
September 5, November 18, 21, & 25

Christ in our Home devotionals for January-March are on the Narthex counter.

	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Jan 5 &amp; 6</b>		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Barbara Greenwood	Brian Adams Family Dudley & Cyndi Piland
Lectors	Bonnie Sladek	Madi Adams
Altar Guild	Tom & Diana Glynn	Janet Coronado
Flowers		
<b>Jan 12 &amp; 13</b>		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Rhonda Koether	Anita Barnett Diane Berger Frank & Sandra Teykl
Lectors	Bonnie Sladek	Praise band
Altar Guild	Hertha Kruse/Myrtle Friemel	Tanya Psencik
Flowers		Cindy Schwertner
<b>Jan 19 &amp; 20</b>		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Don Koether	Delores Bayer Faye Bresan Ginger Muesse Carolyn Buchanek
Lectors	Bonnie or Don	Atlan Citzler
Altar Guild	Dennis & Nancy Zbranek	Velrie Prause
Flowers		Hobratschk
<b>Jan 26 &amp; 27</b>		<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Jackie Skelton	Don & Joyce Steinmann David & Patty Ehler
Lectors		Praise band
Altar Guild	Liz Tannler	Liz Tannler
Flowers		Annette Citzler

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	31 8:00 AM Quilters	1 2:00 PM Afternoon Circle	2 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	3 1:00 PM AMEN	4	5 5:00 PM Worship	6 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	7 8:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Friends in Faith	8 2:30 PM Care Inn Communion 3:15 PM Jeff Place Communion 4:00 PM Mon Hill Communion	9 8:00 AM Cut-Ups 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Agape/Wolf Pack 7:00 PM Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	10 5:00 PM Worship	11 5:00 PM Worship	12 5:00 PM Worship
13 9:00 AM Praise Worship w/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School	14 8:00 AM Quilters	15 8:00 AM Tacky Tuesday 9:00 AM 2nd Chance	16 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 9:00 AM 2nd Chance 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM LYOWednesday 7:00 PM Choir	17 9:00 AM 2nd Chance	18 9:00 AM 2nd Chance Fishers of Men Retreat	19 Scouts Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM 2nd Chance 5:00 PM Worship Fishers of Men Retreat	20 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 5:30 PM Table Church in Fellowship Hall Fishers of Men Retreat	21 8:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM 2nd Chance	22 6:00 PM Council Mtg	23 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Agape/Wolf Pack 7:00 PM Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	24 5:00 PM Worship	25 5:00 PM Worship	26 5:00 PM Worship
27 10:00 AM Praise Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meal & Meeting 6:30 PM LYOW Meeting	28 8:00 AM Quilters	29	30 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM LYOWednesday 7:00 PM Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	31	1 5:00 PM Worship	2 5:00 PM Worship							