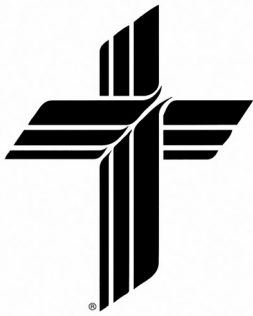


January 2020



THE MESSENGER

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
816 9TH STREET
CLAY CENTER KS 67432

"A Place of Grace
and a
Source of Hope!"
... for 131 years!!

Lasting Power

ESV 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2Co 12:9 ESV)

A few years ago, watching the lift off of the space shuttle, I was shocked to hear one of the astronauts report that his engines were at 104% of power. Wow! How did he do that I wondered? It sounded like a bad idea at the time! Running at 104% of power seems to be asking for trouble! I later learned that that what the astronaut meant was 104% of *maximum continuous power*! The shuttle's engines were designed to give a little extra, for a short time, to get the space craft to the upper atmosphere and into orbit.

Now that it is after Christmas maybe you feel like the engine on the space shuttle, like you've been giving 104% of maximum continuous power! It has been a busy season, and likely you have been doing a lot of extra shopping, running and visiting. Perhaps it's not just the Christmas season that has you running extra hard. There are plenty of reasons in our daily life to give 104%, or more! I saw recently that more than 40% of Americans work an extra job. Having young children keeps us running too! Sports and school activities keep us on the go as well. Extra responsibilities at work are an added reason to "give it our all." Ill family members keep us busy and the list could go on and on. What is keeping you so busy these days?

When the shuttle reaches a certain altitude, the astronauts throttle the engines back. They know if you run the engines above maximum continuous power for too long bad things can happen. No one wants to see an engine fail! Our firemen and EMS providers work 24-hour shifts. They are at the station so they can respond immediately to an emergency. They may be awake and working all of those 24 hours. But they can't do that forever! And we can't be running above maximum continuous power forever either. Our Lord call us to rest in Him. He calls us to rest on the Sabbath Day. He promises, ***ESV Isaiah 30:15a For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."*** The Lord call us to rest and let Him give us the strength and energy for life!

JANUARY Events:

- Holy Communion—
Saturday-Sunday, Jan.
4 & 5, 18 & 19.
- Women's Bible Study,
Jan. 7 & 21, 9:30 AM
& 6:30 PM
- Men's Bible Study, Jan.
13, 7:00 PM
- Friendship Circle,
Jan.28, 7:00PM
- **Parish Planning Re-
treat—Unified Boards
and Officers, January
11, 9:00 AM**

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We may be run down, tired and weak, but He is strong. In His grace we find rest, refreshment and strength to carry on with the life He has given to us. We find refreshment in His Word as we read it at home, as we hear it proclaimed on Sunday morning and as we receive His sacraments. Trusting in Him, we find it is really His power at work in us. His power is sufficient for all of our needs. The power of the Almighty God never runs out, and we don't need to worry about engine failure either! His power is eternal, and is His gift to us at Christmas and all year through!

In the power of Christ, with you,

Pastor Paul Tessaro



Kansas District Life Conference

"The Right to Life and the Christian Witness in the Public Square"

Please join us on **January 22, 2020** at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church from **9:00-3:00**

There is no cost for this event. A lunch will be provided by the St. John's Lutheran LWML, with a freewill offering. **Please register by Jan. 15** by contacting Rev. Durance at 785-747-2407 or pr.matthew.durance@gmail.com.

St. John's is located at 901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka

Registration opens at 9:00



An all Boards and Officers retreat is scheduled for January 11, 2020!

All members of all boards should attend this important event.

We will be making action plans for 2020 and beyond.

This group will also make a 2020 schedule of church events.

Meeting at the Church to begin at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be provided.

During this season of cold and inclement weather, please use caution in attending and traveling to worship services. This is a "Place of Grace" —we always welcome worshippers, but also understand if some need to remain at home to be safe. **Our radio broadcast is on at 9:30 AM on Sunday's on KCLY Radio for those who are unable to venture out.** Tune in to KCLY for weather related updates to the church schedule.

REMINDER:

There are open dates for **Radio Broadcast Ministry for 2020.**

Please check the book in the Narthex for an open date that you might like to sponsor—In celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of someone or something special in your life to give thanks to God!

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Gary Willmann | 22 - Michael Brown |
| 3 - Clyde Wollenberg | LyLena Estabine |
| 5 - Timothy Burger | Barb Huffles |
| 6 - Roger Peters | Kim Robinson |
| 7 - June Campbell | Dorothy Parry |
| 8— Dakota Button | Brock Ferguson |
| 9 - Autumn Cannizzo | 23 - Mackenzie Blacketer |
| Troy Nodine | Joshua Holte |
| 10 - Sara Smith | Rita Siebold |
| 11 - Aaron Davies | 24 - Jenna Beaver |
| Mark Erickson | Rebecca Johnson |
| Diana Kuck | 25 - Kirsten Dieckmann |
| Heather Osthoff | Mary Greenlee |
| 12 - Kardell Anderson | Peggy Pera |
| Zane Anderson | 26 - Axel Siebold |
| Evelyn Novak | 27 - Isaiah Melton |
| 13 - Jeannine Anderson | Janae Wohler |
| Brad Dieckmann | 29 - Pam Fajen |
| Malinda Easterberg | Kristina Williams |
| Katelyn Lehman | 30 - Kade Jermark |
| 14 - Curtis Damman | Berklee Nolte |
| Jon Lehman | Haley Pederson |
| 15— Ethan Tromp | Timothy Pera |
| 16 - Mylo Colton | 31 - Bev Lang |
| Jason Griffiths | Mason McDonald |
| Cory Willmann | Tanya Watters |
| 17 - Arleta Rohe | Allison Urban |
| 18 - Gary Quillin | |
| Annette Smith | |
| Janet Thurlow | |
| 19 - Kiehana Mann | |
| Jaspen Patenaude | |
| Lisa Urban | |
| 20 - Loyd Patterson | |
| 21 - Marie Franson | |
| Nola Schmale | |



Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 - Warren & Shirley Fritz, 1956
- 2 - Brett & Jordan Langvardt, 2010
- 5 - Tom & Terri Roth, 1990
- 6 - Roger & Carma Leonard, 1972
- 8 - Danny & Julia Mesalles, 2005
- 15 - Joe & Sandra McCurry, 1999
- 18 - Eric & Kim Bushell, 2014
- Don & Phyllis Fritz, 1959
- 21 - Larry & Kayla Ernsting, 1967
- 23 - Pat & Bobbie Cyre, 1982
- 24 - Robert & Sharil Carlson, 1959
- 31 - Thomas & Deneice Harley, 2009

Women's Bible Study

Jan. 7 & 21

9:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Bible Study



Will continue "in the Life of Joseph".
Please join us.

January 8—

Midweek classes resumes,
regular session

OFFICIAL ACTS

[Since last newsletter]

Funeral: Norman Wendte
Wayne Wright

Scripture Readings for January

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 5	Second S. after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalm 119:97-104	Eph. 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52
Jan. 12	First Sunday after Epiphany	Is. 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1-11	Matt. 3:13-17
Jan. 19	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Is. 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Cor. 1:1-19	John 1:29-42a
Jan. 26	Third S. after Epiphany	Is. 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14)	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4:12-25

A Life of Service

Scripture Reading:

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

Whatever our position or status in life we are called to share God's love in acts of service to all people. *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mark 12:31) is a command that reaches out to everyone. Paul exhorts His readers, *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"* (Galatians 6:10).

Lydia was one believer who lived out Paul's admonition: *"Practice hospitality."* Luke writes that, when Paul and those traveling with him gathered outside the city gate, Lydia was one listening. She *"was a worshiper of God [and] the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."* She responded first by being baptized along with the members of her household and then immediately inviting all the missionaries to *"come and stay at [her] house"* (Acts 16:11-15). What a model of hospitality, sharing, and serving this early Christian steward is!

We may find it easy to write a check, a somewhat simple way to show kindness for another, but how willing are we to open up our homes and lives to those who spend their lives in service to God's Kingdom? The writer to the Hebrews gives us a list of ways to serve others: *"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering"* (Hebrews 13:1-3). A life of service brings joy to those serving and those being served and to the heart of God as well.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You want me to love all people. Place in me a loving and serving heart. Encourage me to roll up my sleeves, get involved, and be in service to others. Amen.



What is "The Epiphany of Our Lord"? The word "epiphany" (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from the Greek word meaning "manifestation." Jesus was made known to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

Why do we celebrate Epiphany? Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6. Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus' life. For example, we remember Jesus' Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



The Lighthouse had a wonderful year! We wanted to say a huge **THANK YOU** for your support throughout the year. Your generous giving has allowed the Lighthouse to bless and assist approximately 250 families! This has been in the form of food, clothing, household items, and monetary assistance with rent, medical and utilities. We hope our help is a stepping stone to each individual. May we all continue in His service and reach out to others in Love.

THANK YOU



THANK YOU!

to everyone who contributed to our Christmas worship services.

Thanks to those who provided a **Poinsettia** for our Christmas worship—the church was beautiful and festive!

You may pick up your plant following the worship service on January 5.

All plants will be disposed of after that service.

**Community Church Camp, P.O. Box 118, Clay Center, Ks. 67432
Dec. 2019 Update**

With the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fast approaching, we wish to acknowledge that the success of the Community Church Camp Committee's in getting students to summer church camps has NOT been because of us but because the Lord has spoken to hearts of so many supporters. Here is a year end report, We have about \$17,000 on hand from fundraisers. This is about half of the anticipated need for next years students. Over the years we have funded nearly 500 students to a church camp of their choice and we have no doubt that the numbers will continue to grown. The committee members are the lucky ones for we get to see and hear the results of the effort. Keep us in mind with any year end giving. We love you, and so does your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ !!!

Friendship Circle

thanks all who helped, attended, and supported the Soup Supper and Bake Sale.

The efforts of many in our congregation help to make the supper and sale a success.

Thank you very much
and God bless you all!



*Dear Members of St. Paul,
Thank you for your donation to support Lead-aChild.
Christmas is all about sharing the good news of a Savior who came to save us from sin, death, and the devil. Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ with many children around the world.
Blessings,*

Dr. Phil
Dr. Philip Frusti
Executive Director
LeadaChild



A Message from Kansas District President Rev. Justin Panzer

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in this Advent season!

Since I assumed the office of district president last summer, I've been splitting my time between the district office and Faith, Abilene, where I serve as pastor. After much prayerful consideration and counsel with my family and the district staff, I've decided it would be best if I served as Kansas District president in a full-time capacity. The duties and responsibilities of this office demand my full-time attention and devotion.

I am anticipating my final Sunday at Faith, Abilene to be January 12, 2020.

I have striven over these past 4+ months to serve both the Kansas District and Faith well. It's time for both me and my family to begin a new chapter in our lives and for the wonderful saints of God at Faith, whom I have had the privilege to serve for the past 16+ years, to begin the process of calling a new shepherd whom God Himself already knows. My prayers are that He will grant them a faithful shepherd soon!

As a lifelong Kansan, I want to see the LCMS Kansas District do well. After all, we have the truth of Jesus Christ to proclaim (2 Corinthians 5:20), to teach (John 14:6), and to share (1 Peter 2:9)! I look forward to giving my full attention and effort to the mission we all share in the LCMS Kansas District.

Please know that my prayers are with you in your everyday vocations as the baptized children of God. Thank you also for your continued prayers for me, for my family, and for our district staff in our common work together (Philippians 1:5).

I leave you with these words of St. Paul from 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

In Christ,

Rev. Justin Panzer

President, LCMS Kansas District

Office Phone: 785-357-4441



JANUARY 2020

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

“Existing in God’s Love and forgiveness, St. Paul proclaims the gospel of Christ, helps people grow in faith, and nurtures lives of worship and service”

816 9th Street,
Clay Center, Kansas 67432
785-632-5301 spluther@sbcglobal.net
www.claycenterlutheran.com

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3	4 Worship Service with Holy Communion, 6:30 PM
5 Holy Communion, 9:00 AM Christian Education, 10:15—11:00 AM Deaf Ministry in Topeka, 3:00	6	7 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM	8 Senior Meal, 8:30 AM Weekday & Confirmation, 6:15-7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, 6:30 PM LYF Meeting, 6:30 PM	9	10	11 Worship Service, 6:30 PM All Boards and Officers Retreat, 9:00 AM
12 Worship Service at 9:00 AM Christian Education, 10:15—11:00 AM	13 Men’s Bible Study, 7:00 PM	14	15 Weekday & Confirmation, 6:15-7:30 PM	16	17	18 Worship Service with Holy Communion, 6:30 PM
19 Holy Communion 9:00 AM Christian Education, 10:15—11:00 AM Deaf Ministry in Topeka, 3:00	20 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM	22 Weekday & Confirmation, 6:15-7:30 PM	23	24	25 Worship Service, 6:30 PM
26 Worship Service at 9:00 AM Christian Education, 10:15—11:00 AM Apollo, 5:30 PM	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor’s Pre-Lent Conference </div>	28 Friendship Circle, 7:00	29 Weekday & Confirmation, 6:15-7:30 PM	30	31	

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Preschool News

It has been a wonderful and busy first semester in the Preschool! We want to take this time to again thank the congregation and Preschool board for all of your donations of supplies, prayers for our families, and support of our fundraising efforts during this fall semester. The Preschool is a beautiful ministry of our church and we appreciate all that you do to help keep it running smoothly.

During the last four months we have enjoyed making new friends and renewing old friendships in our preschool classes. Kindness and compassion for others are a daily focus in all we say and do. One of our favorite scriptures that we use in the 3-Day class is Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another". We have also been learning about various Bible stories and working hard on writing our names, learning our colors, shapes, letters, and sounds.

We are looking forward to the beginning of 2020 and pray that the new year will bring many blessings for our students and their families, as well as all members of our congregation here at St. Paul. If you ever have free moment and would like to stop in and enjoy these beautiful little people, we encourage you drop in anytime! Happy New Year, to each and every one of you!

Praying and Playing,

Becky, Rita, Shanna, and Susan

