

# The Visitor

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen,  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon,  
Associate Pastor

Mrs. Richard C.  
Nordmeyer,  
Interim Principal

Rev. David Baker,  
Missionary to Mongolia

Mary Weber, LCPC,  
Family Counselor

February/  
March  
2023



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

#changinglives

### Worship & Bible Study Opportunities

#### Traditional Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm @ the Downtown Church  
located at 348 E. Merchant St., Kankakee, IL

Sunday 8:30 am @ the School

located 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL

#### Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

#### Adult & Youth Bible Class:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School

Classes for Adults & 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School

Classes for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Church & School Office: 815-932-0312

#### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church Website: [www.stpaulslutheran.net](http://www.stpaulslutheran.net)

Next Newsletter Deadline March 15<sup>th</sup>



### SPECIAL DATES

- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Transfiguration of our Lord, February 19
- Presidents Day, February 20
- Ash Wednesday, February 22
- World Day of Prayer, March 3
- Daylight Savings Time begins, March 12
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- First Day of Spring, March 20



Wednesdays 7:00 pm -  
Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29  
Downtown



Don't forget to spring ahead  
on March 12th!!

### PTL's ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION & PORK CHOP DINNER....

will be **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Auction items will be on display starting February 25<sup>th</sup>. The silent auction will begin online March 3<sup>rd</sup> and run through 7:00 pm on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Some of the great auction features available will include text notifications when you've been outbid and the option to set up auto-bidding.



The Iroquois Pork Producers will be providing and grilling the scrumptious pork chops again and the kitchen will be open from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm for dine in and take out. We will also be offering a drive through option between 11:30 am and 4:00 pm. There will be numerous live auction items between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm so everyone is encouraged to come in and check out the fun!

Just a friendly reminder that all auction donations are due by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to provide teaching supplies and to replace the outdated smartboards in the classrooms.

Tickets will go on sale February 7<sup>th</sup> and be available for purchase until February 26<sup>th</sup> in the school office or between Sunday church services. We are looking forward to another successful event thanks to your support!



## The Call to Repentance

*Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32)*

Are you too healthy to see a doctor?

Few people are. Most people will see a doctor for an occasional checkup even if they feel fine. You never know what illnesses certain tests will spot that we can overlook.

On the other hand, there are always those "tough guys" who won't see a doctor until they have one foot in the grave. They say they don't have time to go in for an appointment. (I'm guilty of that myself.) Eventually, that kind of attitude will come back to hurt you.

The same is true when we approach God's Word. God's Law shows us our sin in a way that can be painful. We would rather focus on something else and just live our lives for ourselves. Yet, over time our little sins turn into bigger sins and sin, when full grown, turns into death, not just physical death, but eternal death.

That's why we need the call to repentance, every day, but especially in this season of Lent. Did you know that Ash Wednesday is February 22nd this year? It will be upon us soon after you receive this newsletter. Easter is April 9th, an early date, but not as early as it could be.



As we approach Lent, I want to challenge you to use this Lenten season as a time to repent, pray, fast and prepare - - Not just for our Easter celebration but for the coming of our King that could be at any moment. We have Christian freedom to celebrate Lent as we choose but I hope you will consider attending our Wednesday Lenten Services. They will have different sermons than we have on Sunday and our lenten dinners mean that you won't have to worry about a meal that evening.

Come join us as we worship in the season of Lent. Join us as we gather for a fun time of fellowship and for a time of renewed spiritual growth!

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Karl Koeppen



## Why We Do What We Do In Worship: The Collect of the Day

Like all aspects of Lutheran worship, the practice of the Collect of the Day is rooted in the practice of the ancient church. Although church fathers such as Justin Martyr (c. AD 100 – c. AD 165) do not comment on the practice in their writings on early Christian worship, the ancient character of the collects is not in dispute. During 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, many other orders of worship flourished such as the Roman, Gallican, and Greek rites. The terse and formal nature of the collects indicates they arose from the Roman rite. The Roman nature of the collects indicates they arose during the transition from Greek to Latin in the city of Rome around the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.

The original purpose of the collect is found in its name – to collect the prayers of the people into a brief and meaningful prayer. Originally, the time before the Collect of the Day was a time of silent prayer. During the time of silent prayer, the congregation would kneel for prayer before being invited by the pastor to stand when he said, “Let us pray...” But as the time of silence before the collect became shorter and shorter, the original purpose of the collect as a summation of the silent prayers of the people was forgotten. Now the Salutation and Collect of the Day are now back to back in the Divine Service.

All collects adhere to a singular structure. The structure of the collect is: address, rationale, petition, benefit, and termination. Just note, collects are not rigidly bound to this structure. They may omit one or two of the parts of the collect depending on the purpose of the prayer.

The explanation of the parts of a collect:

1. The collect begins with an address to God that is often simple as “O Lord” or “O God,” though frequently one or more adjectives such as “merciful” or “almighty” can appear. The address is most often addressed to God the Father. In the season of Advent, three of the four prayers are directed directly to God the Son. Collects are rarely addressed to God the Holy Spirit as the Spirit’s work is already invoked by the Salutation, “The Lord be with you,” and by the act of prayer itself. We pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 1:8; 16:27, 2 Cor. 1:20, Heb. 13:15, 1 Pet. 2:5; 4:11, Jude 25)
2. Then follows the rationale. This part of the collect describes some attribute of God that service as the basis of the petition. This part often begins with “who.”
3. The petition is the heart and substance of the collect in that this is where the actual request is made.
4. Frequently, but not always, the benefit follows directly from the petition, stating the desired

purpose of the petition. This part often begins with “that.”

5. The collect concludes with the termination. While collects in other locations of the Divine Service may end with the brief, “through Jesus Christ, our Lord,” the Collect of the Day always includes the full termination. Because most collects are addressed directly to God the Father, the termination is usually, “through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God now and forever. Amen.” However, Collects of the Day addressed direct to God the Son are indicated when the Father is included in the termination, “For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit...”

Example – The collect for Pentecost Evening/Monday:

**Address:** O God,

**Rationale:** who gave Your Holy Spirit to the apostles,

**Petition:** grant us the same Spirit

**Benefit:** that we may live in faith and abide in peace,

**Termination:** through Jesus Christ...

The terseness and formality of the collects may be off putting to some. However, these written prayers were carefully crafted according to a set form. Many have been in use for well over 1500 years. The point of these prayers is to teach us how to pray directly and succinctly to God. These prayers take seriously Jesus admonition in the Sermon on the Mount, “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (Matt. 6:7) These prayers do not drone on and on but get to the very heart of the purpose of prayer.

In the festival season from Christmas to Pentecost, the collects highlight the theme of various festivals or are drawn from the readings. The Collect of the Day forms the point of singular focus as we prepare to hear the message from the Scriptures, the hymns, and sermon. Often during the season after Pentecost, the collects do not have a thematic connection and are simple requests for God’s grace and for us to hear God’s Word. During regular time, these collects help teach us how to pray in a simple and yet powerful way. Continual practice in this method helps us to form our own collects for private devotional use This method is to be used along

with other ways to organize our prayers.

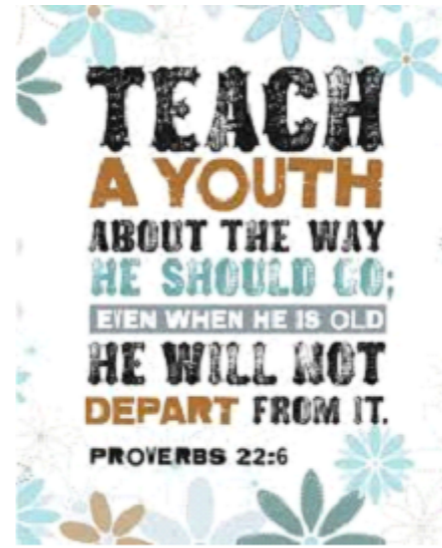
The form is also flexible and isn't meant to be rigidly adhered to. In many collects the rationale and/or benefit are missing. All parts of the collect are drawn from the Scriptures and show us a model of prayer that Christians have been using for over 1500 years. This practice connects us with the great cloud of witnesses from all times and places. (Heb. 12:1-2) The collects are a great treasury of prayer for the church. As we go into the Epiphany, Lent, and Easter seasons, listen to the themes of the collect reflected in the readings. They will tune your ears into the theme of the readings. And in general, may our all prayers focus our minds on Christ and His work for us. Everything in the Divine Service helps us to keep our eyes on Jesus and His gracious and saving work for us.

When we come to church, we are a part of something way bigger than ourselves. We are connected to the practice and life of the church from all ages. Christ has knit us into One Holy Communion of Saints. The various parts of worship connect us with those who have gone before us in the faith. May we look to their example as ones through whom God used to bring the message of the Gospel to us in the present. May we have that grand vision of the church that we will see on the Last Day when all who believe from all times and all place are gathered around the throne of the Lamb. We have but a brief stewardship of God's Church on this side of eternity. We have a role in bringing God's Word to the next generation as generations past have done for us. (Ps. 78:5-7) And so come to church, pray, and sing along with all the saints from ages past, present, and future of the glories of our good and gracious God.

*In Christ, Pastor Drinnon*



Source: Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services



### YOUTH NIGHTS

All 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Youth Nights. The youth will be meeting from **6 pm to 8 pm** on the following Sundays - **February 12<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Bringing God's Word to life in a fun and interactive way!

### VBS - SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School will be **Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. The theme and registration information will be announced at a later date so stay tuned!

### TRIVIA NIGHT 2023

Do you like trivia? Do you need a night out with adults? Do you know lots of Disney songs, movie quotes, or current events? Can you figure out the birds' eye view of famous world landmarks? Are you good at Trivond clues? Are you a fount of useful (or useless), general knowledge? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Trivia Night 2023 is for you.

On **Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm** at the St. Paul's School Gym, the Youth of St. Paul's and their families are hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser to help offset the costs of the next LCMS National Youth Gathering. There will be 10 rounds of trivia, plus extra fun games. Prizes will be awarded to the winning table. Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks (please be responsible if you choose to bring alcohol). Small snacks and drinks will also be available to purchase.

Trivia Night tickets are \$100 per table - with a minimum of 4 people and a maximum of 8 - or \$15 per person. Find people to play with you and sign up as a table, or simply sign up to play and we will be put you on a team with other friends from church or school. Sign-up by contacting Sarah Cherry at 815-651-6864 or sarahcherry30@yahoo.com.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### “FIRST THINGS FIRST”

*When: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 pm*

*Location: School Workroom*

*Teacher: Pastor David Bottorff*

Looking for an opportunity to pray with fellow Christians? Come to the school workroom from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month. Members of St. Paul's and guests are welcome to pray prayers of praise to God, and How shall I respond to God's Word?, and Where do I go from here? Prayers are based on a couple of read Scriptures and a couple of sung hymns for a particular topic. In 2022 we prayed on: Earthly Events Cause Heavenly Consequences, Wisdom, Honoring God, Dedicating Ourselves to God, among others. We also prayed prayers of thanksgiving and our prayers for others. You are welcome to come and listen to others pray with and for you and others until you feel comfortable praying out loud. **We will pray together again on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> & March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS

*When: Every Tuesday at 9:30 am*

*Location: Fellowship Hall*

*Teacher: Roy Cordes*

How much do you know about the work of the Holy Spirit? How much do you want to know about the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is a part of the true Triune God, joining the Father and the Son with equal power and the same attributes. Many people have their opinion of what the Holy Spirit can do and does. It is important that we learn about the Holy Spirit by studying, "WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT? Join us for an hour each week, enjoy the Bible study, enjoy the Christian fellowship and enjoy the coffee and hot tea that is provided. You may join at any time - just use the alley entrance at our downtown church.



### MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

We will meet again **Sat., February 25<sup>th</sup> & Sat., March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am** in the Riverside Hospital Cafeteria. Join us as we study God's Word.

### “GOSPEL OF MARK” BIBLE STUDY

*When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 6-8 pm*

*Location: Resource Room*

*Teacher: Pastor Drinnon*

Mark's gospel is traditionally symbolized with a lion – recounting the first verses of the gospel, “The voice of one crying aloud in the wilderness.” Although the Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the gospels, its message is just as significant as the other three. In Mark, we see Christ coming to inaugurate the Kingdom of God through the preaching and teaching of who He is – the One who will be the ransom for many. So join us to dig deeper into Scripture and to grow in knowledge, faith, and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. **We will meet again on February 9<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>.** We will be livestreaming this Bible study going forward.. The link will be available on the *St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School Community Group* Facebook page.



### FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us as we begin Lent with a special Family Sunday School on **February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am** between the church services. Everyone is invited!

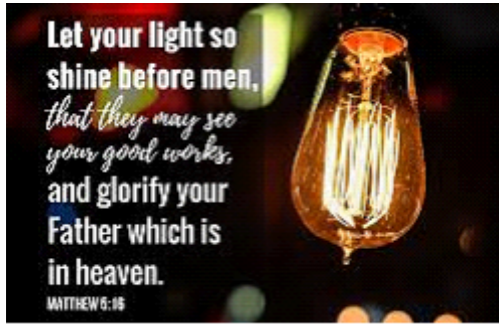


### FELLOWSHIP DINNER

We are all part of the family here at St. Paul's, but in this day and age, we often don't know much about each other. One way to overcome this is to join in the Fellowship Dinners. We visit a different restaurant each month and share a great couple of hours eating and getting to know each other better. No special commitment--you come when you are able. Anyone who has come at least once will tell you how much fun we have. The next fellowship dinners will be **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Monical's in Bourbonnais** and **March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Oliver's in Bradley**. If you would like to join us and have not come before, please call Nancy Eden, 248-842-2837, just as a heads up. We look forward to seeing you!

### LENTEN DINNERS

**Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and our midweek Lenten dinners will begin the following Wednesday, March 1st.** Skip cooking and join us for fellowship and good food! Meals are served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church prior to our midweek services, which begin at 7:00 p.m. Watch weekend bulletins and Tiger Tracks for specific meal information.



**PROJECT COMPASSION /  
GABRIEL'S CALLERS**

Project Compassion Visitors & Gabriel's Callers will have their quarterly meeting at Chicago Dough on **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** Would you consider joining? Our only agenda is to share God's love and to care for the well-being of our members, especially our shut-ins, those grieving, or anyone with special needs. We meet quarterly, at which time we have devotions and prayer and we share our ministry over a meal. Don't worry about whether or not you have the skills; we will train you. Please contact Pastor Drinnon at [rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net) with questions or join us on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE  
NATIONS WITH LWML IN  
MILWAUKEE — June 22-25, 2023**

Convention registration opened January 9<sup>th</sup>. This year, registration will be entirely online. Read all the details in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or on the LWML website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

**LWML UPDATE**

We are filled with gratitude and joy as we announce that God has worked through your generosity and stewardship to surpass our mission goal. The Mite offerings you have shared since 2021 now total \$2,154,511 - exceeding our goal by nearly \$5,000 and five months ahead of schedule!!

When you give to LWML, you are pouring God's mercy and message into the lives of others across the globe. No matter their age, or how near or far, God knows the needs of every single person. *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).*

We continue to praise God for His provision and for your generosity in stewarding the gifts you have been given. Thank you for coming alongside LWML as together we proclaim Christ, support missions, equip women, and serve others! If you would like to see the various ministries the 2021-2023 Mission Grants are supporting, go to our website at [www.lwml.org/mission-grants](http://www.lwml.org/mission-grants).



**HOMELESS MINISTRY**

The LORD has blessed the ministry to the homeless who stay in our old school six nights a week. A Bible study was being conducted for a half hour on Thursday evenings, but we had to adjust to fire code regulations that determined the number of people that were homeless and the volunteers put too many people in the building at one time due to ratios of people per square footage. As God reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11 *"I know the plans I have for you . . ."* I am able to be with the homeless on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for a total of four hours per week! We meet in Fellowship Hall from 7 am to 9 am (warming centers like the library open at 9). Bible study is conducted from 7-8 am and from 8-9 am we engage in fellowship, or private conversations, spiritual discussions etc. Participants are welcome to stay until 9 am, but they may also leave after Bible study is done. Their choice is usually made

depending on the outside temperature. After starting on Thursdays, and due to increased attendance the decision was made to make it Tuesday & Thursday. We call it, "Warming Up in God's Word."

The congregational support for this ministry is certainly appreciated. As of January 15<sup>th</sup> monetary donations have been \$2,330. Translated to \$10 MacDonald's gift cards, we will be able to distribute them every other week to provide 233 meals. In order to provide meals at this same pace to the end of April, we would supply the homeless with 440 meals so we are over half way there. Questions about donations, the Bible study, and fellowship hour may be addressed to Roy W. Cordes (815-304-5002).

The following has been shared with the homeless:

*When someone is broken, don't try to fix them. YOU CAN'T.*

*When someone is hurting, don't attempt to take away their pain. YOU CAN'T.*

*Instead love them by walking beside them in the hurt. YOU CAN!*

*Because sometimes what people need is simply to know THEY ARE NOT ALONE!*

~ Roy W. Cordes



**ST. PAUL'S 2023-2024  
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

Share this with your friends and family - enrollment is now open to everyone! St. Paul's has a great school, excellent staff and a strong commitment to provide academic excellence in a safe, Christian environment. We have been blessed with increasing enrollment and our classes have been filling quickly so don't delay!

**FINANCIAL AID PROCEDURES**

If you are applying for financial aid for the 2023-2024 school year, there are **TWO** places you must apply. The first is with Empower Illinois at [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org) and the second is through FACTS at [online.factsmgt.com/signin/4HP07](http://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4HP07).

**Empower Illinois registration opened Jan 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** and is a two-part process. It is important to get step one done as soon as possible. **FACTS opens Feb 1st**. Getting your financial aid requests in early is imperative as funds are available on a first come, first serve basis.

**SAVE THE DATE!  
DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE  
COMING SOON!**

Dads, shine your shoes and practice your moves! Girls, find your twirliest dress! On **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, the PTL will be hosting the



annual Daddy-Daughter Dance at the Bourbonnais campus. The theme will be announced soon so watch the weekly announcements for more details.

**SCORE RECYCLING CONTEST**



The SCORE program, sponsored by Belson and other area businesses, **will conclude on April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Helping us earn money for the school is easy. All you need to do is mention St. Paul's when you drop off your cans at Belson's. You earn cash for the cans, St. Paul's earns points for the pounds. At the end, St. Paul's will receive an amount for every point scored. The schools with the top scores will win additional cash and prizes. *We are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 27 schools. Keep those cans coming over the next couple of months and let's finish strong!* If you would like to drop your cans off at the school, please call the school office.



**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION  
RECEPTION: "YOU MEAN THE  
WORLD TO US!"**

Our volunteers mean the world to us! Parish Fellowship is hosting a Volunteer Recognition Reception for all of our amazing St. Paul's Church volunteers on **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm** in the school cafeteria. If you are a volunteer, you should have already received or be receiving soon an invitation to this event. However, with so many volunteers at St. Paul's, it is possible we have missed a few people. If you have not received an invitation, we still want you to join us! We have set up a Sign Up Genius page to RSVP so we know how much food to have. *Please RSVP by February 12<sup>th</sup> by going to the St. Paul's website ([www.stpaulslutheran.net](http://www.stpaulslutheran.net)) where there is a link to the Sign Up Genius page.* We look forward to celebrating you and your service to our Lord and St. Paul's!

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Flower Chart for 2023 is now up at the Bourbonnais campus. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of someone or some special occasion, please sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. When you sign up for flowers please include your phone number next to your name. Thank you!

The cost is \$25.00 for one vase or \$50.00 for two. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Checks or cash payments may be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Koeppen at 932-1545 or [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net).

**The 2022 financial statements are now available for pick-up in Fellowship Hall or at the school, depending on which service you frequent. The envelopes are organized alphabetically by last name. If you cannot find yours, please contact Christie at 932-0312. Thank you for your generosity!**

**DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP**

**STATISTICS**

Baptized . . . . .	1803
Communicant . . . . .	1334
Communing . . . . .	477
Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship (as of the end of the month): Month . . . . .	272
Year-to-date . . . . .	248

**YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES**

**(through December)**

**Thankofferings**

Receipts (Envelopes, Plate, Sunday School  
+ Electronic): \$385,128.55  
Budgeted Amount: \$455,858.55  
% of Need: **84%**

**Building Fund**

Receipts(Envelopes+Electronic):  
\$80,181.92  
Budgeted Amount: \$82,500.08  
% of need: **97%**

**2023 GIVING ENVELOPES**

All of the remaining 2023 giving envelopes are now available for pick-up from the Bourbonnais campus. Thank you for supporting St. Paul’s ministries!

**NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?**

If you would rather receive St. Paul’s bi-monthly newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to Christie at [crahn@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:crahn@stpaulslutheran.net) or call the church office at 932-0312. The newsletter is also posted on St. Paul’s website at [stpaulslutheran.net](http://stpaulslutheran.net).

**BAKER BULLETIN**

The latest Baker Bulletin is enclosed and posted in the entryway at the school. Rev. David Baker and his family are doing missionary work across the globe and love to share their stories. Please note that because of the nature of their ministry, we cannot post the bulletin online.