

THE TROY LUTHERAN



More Than Conquerors

BY REV. ALBERT COLLVER

As we leave 2020 behind and enter 2021, many of us are wondering if this coming year will be better than this past year. The entire world is waiting with anticipation to see how 2021 develops. There is much hope that the Covid-19 vaccines will prove effective and help the world to return to normalcy. People have suffered illness, loss of wages, disruption of social lives, separation from family, and even death this past year due to the pandemic. Many people are tired of hearing about the pandemic just like they are tired of hearing 2020.

No doubt this has been a challenging year for all of us, and we hope and pray for a better 2021. Our church has been affected by this past year as well with many challenges due to the pandemic. Yet, we are a people of hope -- no hope in the way the world has hope but hope because of the promises our God has made to us.

The Epistle reading for New Year's Eve is from Romans 8. This is the famous chapter by Saint Paul where he tells us that the Lord works all things for good. In the particular reading for New Year's Eve from Romans 8:37, Paul tells us that we are "more than conquerors" through him who loved us. No matter what this world throws at us, the Lord promises that we will conquer through him. Saint Paul goes on to say how nothing can separate us from the love of God -- not death, not life, not powers, not governments, not trials and tribulations, not sicknesses, not a pandemic, nothing!

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Because we are loved by God and because he will work all things for our God, no matter what 2021 brings upon us individually or as a congregation, we know that we shall be more than conquerors because of Christ Jesus. Because we are promised to conquer the world, we have hope for this coming year.

Pastor

School News

We had so much fun celebrating the Christmas season !



OUR MISSION

" Born anew in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel, Saint Paul' s Lutheran Congregation learns, lives and shares the living Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Weekly Woship
Saturday at 6pm
Sunday at 9am



Classroom Highlight

By: Mrs. Krissy Reese

Greetings from 3 year old preschool.

We have so much to share with you. The very first day of school was odd to say the least. Everyone came in scared and excited, including Mrs. Reese. The world as we know it is a lot different than years past. Washing our hands and sanitizing everything even more than usual. We also had to wear masks. I will tell you the truth, I was anxious about how 3 year olds would handle the situation. Let me be the first to tell you they are doing FANTASTIC! To them it is just life as usual. They all forget they have them on when we get to snack time. They are proud of their masks and can't wait to show me when they have a new one.

Since the first day of the school year, we have been learning. We have learned how to sit for circle/calendar time. We are still learning about raising our hands to talk. We are learning about months and days of the week while also counting. We started our year with shapes and colors. We had fun every week dressing in the color of the week. I am proud of how far these little ones have come in just a few short months. We are currently working on our numbers. We are at the number 5 and that number is a whole hand. Their energy and excitement for life is very powerful.

We also have Jesus Time every day. We started the year learning about Creation. We even made a book of the six days of Creation, and they got to read them to each other. We have also been working on learning the Lord's Prayer or the Big Prayer as they like to call it. It's such a blessing to hear their little voices saying the Lord's Prayer. We have learned about Noah, Moses, Joseph, Naomi and Ruth, David and of course we are on the birth of baby Jesus the whole month of December. What a joy to talk about the bible and watch them soak it up.

We love to sing and dance as well. Everything is better when you learn it to a song. (Especially since Music is my other subject) We have learned about all our body parts being made by God. Head, shoulders, knees and toes is our favorite song! We sing it at all speeds. They love to sing it fast of course. It is also fun to watch. Currently, we are learning Away in a Manger. I love little voices singing about our Savior and his birth.

God has richly blessed me with these little ones and I know He will continue to watch over and bless them as well. Thanks for taking a look into our Preschool 3's class this month. We definitely have fun learning and making joyful noises to our Lord.



Strategic Plan for Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church – 2021

Version: .1; Modification date: 2020-12-30

Background

The leadership of Saint Paul’s (the Church Council and Pastor) began to discuss planning for the future of Saint Paul’s. Congregation members were invited to the first meeting held on December 29th. Congregation members also are invited to another planning meeting at 6:30 PM on January 7th. Some preliminary findings are listed below. Your feedback and comments are welcome.

Organization of Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church: Voters’ Assembly, Pastor, Church Council (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and the chairs of the board). The boards are the Board of Elders, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Christian Day School and Early Childhood Center, the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Stewardship and Finance, the Board of Evangelism. (From Saint Paul’s Constitution.)

Mission Statement: “Born anew in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel, Saint Paul’s Lutheran Congregation learns, lives and shares the living Gospel of Jesus Christ.” (From Saint Paul’s Constitution.)

Mission Priorities: To Worship, To Witness, To Nurture, To Be Good Stewards, To Be of Service, To Be In Fellowship One With Another. (From Saint Paul’s Constitution.)

SWOT analysis (or SWOT matrix) is a strategic planning technique used to help a church identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to its ministry.. SWOT assumes that strengths and weaknesses are frequently internal, while opportunities and threats are more commonly external.

- Strengths: characteristics of the church that give it an advantage over others.
- Weaknesses: characteristics that place the church at a disadvantage relative to others.
- Opportunities: elements in the environment that the church could use to its advantage.
- Threats: elements in the environment that could cause trouble for the church.

SWOT ANALYSIS



Saint Paul's SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- Only Christian School in Troy
- Location
- Facility
- Financial Support (strength of the 150 giving units)
- Combo Day school / Preschool / Daycare
- Younger Leadership (Good mixture of ages)
- Dedication of Leadership
- God is above all the other strengths
- Strong preaching / teaching of God's Word
- Pastor
- Musical Talent

Weaknesses:

- No Called / Rostered Teachers
- Need to Expand Giving Units (Shrinking of income sources over past few years)
- Too Inwardly Focused
- Discussion Concerning School Future
- Poor job communicating what the school does and accomplishes
- Debt
- Fatigue of Members
- Lack of Older Adult Ministry
- Recruiting Children into Day School
- Retention of Children in Day School
- Communication (Mass Communication, Email Lists)

Opportunities:

- COVID Reopening Plan
- Increase Sunday School
- Youth Group
- LWML Service
- Make Facilities More Available to the Community (underutilized parsonage, gym, etc.)
- *Community Integration
- Marketing
- Expand the Musical Offerings
- Expand liberal arts
- Have Called Teachers
- College Age / Young Adult
- Increase Church Attendance
- Reconcile Hard Feelings in Church
- Older Adult Ministry
- Diversify Resources (Bitcoin / Gold / Other Currencies, etc.)

Threats:

- Lack of Reserve Funds (Cash Position)
- COVID
- Uncertainty about the future
- Government Actions – Restrictions / Inflation
- Internal Apathy
- Morality of Today
- Daycare Business Model of the Future
- Resource Value

LWML

By Valerie Meyer

In Christ, we are his. Joy in Jesus for his miraculous gift.

The LWML Lutheran Women in Mission in-gathering from the Christmas Party of gloves and hats, shoes, socks and a jacket were donated to Making a Difference mission. Making a Difference serves the homeless in the Metro East. Please see the website for more opportunities to participate and donation drop-off sites. <https://www.becausetheymatter.com/>

The canned goods collected were placed in the local blessing box to aid families in Troy. The blessing boxes around town are to aid those that have an immediate need that may not be available from the food bank. It is based on the Free Little Libraries that have been found around the United States. Please see this article about how the idea of need-one-take-one/ have-one-give-one concept has been expanded to provide human care <https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/blessing-box.html>. There is a blessing box on Sr. Airman Bradley Smith Road. The box is cared for by the Bethel Baptist Church. Please do not place expired canned foods or items in the box and only non-perishable items. If the box is full, do not leave items outside the box. Complete guidelines for using/contributing to the box are posted in the box. Other than those guidelines, consider visiting the box and giving as you are able.

Next LWML meeting will be January 25th at 7:00 pm in the Gymnasium. Pastor Collver will be speaking about the missions in Haiti. The activity for the evening will be to make Evangelism Bracelets that will be distributed to the School and Sunday School Children. (And any adults that are interested.) Anyone is welcome to attend and participate (this includes men!)

This month, David Meyer received an alumni magazine from his alma mater, the University of Nebraska. The cover story was about the efforts the University is taking to prevent young adult suicide on the campus. In conjunction with those efforts, LWML Grant #14 for the 2019-2021 biennium is Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln. This grant will help with the renovation of the University Lutheran Chapel, where anyone can go to be loved, to be healed with the help of Christian counselors, and to receive hope through Word and Sacrament. For more information, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-14 . Check out all of the LWML Lutheran Women in Mission Grants on the website:<https://www.lwml.org/mission-grant>

Shut -Ins

Lila Goedelman
St. Paul's Senior Community
1021 West E Street, Rm 2055 B
Belleville, IL 62220

Barbara Wright
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 112
Troy, IL 62294

Lois Rodenbaugh
714 Troy Rd.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Virginia Niebruegge
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 319
Troy, IL 62294

Fran Hosto
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 112
Troy, IL 62294

LaVerne Boeshans
123 W. Throp St.
Troy, IL 62294

Shirley Schnoeker
300 South Station Road, Apt. 8303
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Beulah Jones
% Pam Morgan (daughter)
6872 Loyet Rd
Collinsville, IL 62234

Please consider sending our
shut-ins a card.





Grief Support Group

BEGINNING IN JANUARY

For anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one

The program will be based on the Concordia Publishing House book *Hope When Your Heart Breaks* available at the first meeting for \$15.99. Arrangements can be made for anyone unable to afford the book.

Meetings will be held at the church following COVID-19 safety precautions. Please call the church office at 618-667-6681 by January 8 if you would like to participate or would like more information.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaultroyil/>



<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsTroyIL>



<https://www.saintpaulstroy.org>

Special Service

Please join us Wednesday January 6th at 7pm as we celebrate Epiphany.

Strategic Planning Meeting

Would you like to have a voice in the direction of your church? Please join Church Council on Thursday January 7th at 6:30 pm in the gymnasium for a Strategic Planning Meeting. If you would like to know more please contact Alan Kilzer at 667-8263.

Annual Voters Meeting

Please plan to attend the annual Voters meeting on January 17th at 10:30am in the church sanctuary.



Usher Schedule for January 2021
Saturday 5:00 PM Service Sunday 9:00 AM Service

01/02/2021: Kevin Campe
01/03/2021: Mark Leitschuh
Sam Italiano Jim Kesterson
Randy Jones Tony Sipes
Fred Patterson

01/09/2021: Seth Schaefer
01/10/2021: Tim Wittenberg
Sam Italiano Dave Thomas
Kyle Sipes Jacob Doyle
Steve Doyle

01/16/2021: Seth Schaefer
01/17/2021: Dave Thomas
Sam Italiano Darrell Wittenberg
Kevin Campe Tony Sipes
Alex Engelbrecht

01/23/2021: Seth Schaefer
01/24/2021: Fred Patterson
Sam Italiano Mark Leitschuh
Randy Jones Jim Kesterson
Darrell Wittenberg

01/30/2021: Seth Schaefer
01/31/2021: Tim Wittenberg
Sam Italiano Jacob Doyle
Kevin Campe Steve Doyle
Alex Engelbrecht

Musician Schedule

January 2 Elizabeth Meschke (organ)
January 3 Elizabeth Meschke (organ)
January 9 Jen Engelbrecht (piano)
January 10 Jen Engelbrecht (piano)
January 16 Tim Wittenberg (piano)
January 17 Tim Wittenberg (piano)
January 23 Elizabeth Meschke (organ)
January 24 Elizabeth Meschke (organ)
January 30 Cayla Wilderman (organ)
January 31 Claudia Loethen (organ)