

2018 ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP TIMES



THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT
DEC 2,9,16,23 - 9:00 AM WORSHIP
CHOIR SINGS SUN, DEC. 9 & 23

MONDAY, DEC.24 - 6:30 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
SS CHILDREN & CHOIR SING

TUESDAY, DEC.25 - 9:00 AM
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
CHOIR SINGS

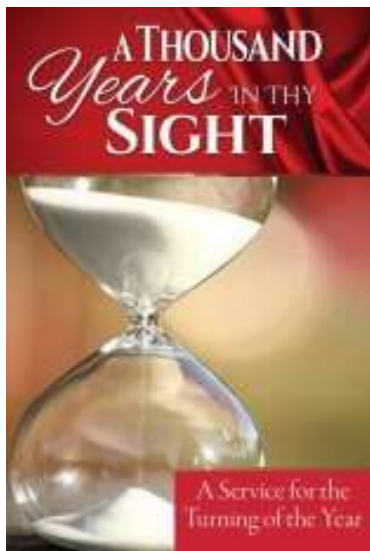
THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
9:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP
6:30 PM (HOLY COMMUNION)

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP: "A Thousand Years in Thy Sight"

~ A Service For the Turning of the Year (with Holy Communion)

Join us Monday, December 31, 2018 (6:30 pm) for New Year's Eve Worship under the theme, "A Thousand Years In Thy Sight." This service will celebrate God's gift of time and the blessings he brings us through it. Acknowledge together God's gift of seconds, minutes, hours, days, years, decades, centuries, millennia, and eternity. Holy Communion is offered in this service to strengthen and comfort us in faith, enjoying His real presence as we enter into the New Year together, *together in Christ!*



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A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: "Time for a 180"

In her new book, "My 180: Loving God More," author Angie Molkenntin, brings you along on a 180-day spiritual journey--a search for scriptural motivation to love God completely. For 180 days Angie committed to a more active prayer life, regular study of the Bible, and constant watchfulness for role models God placed around her.

"So 'My 180' is not really a book about me," Angie explains, "It's about God working through me...and the people I meet or observe along the way." (pp.8-9)

Angie's book is a fascinating window into "rediscovering, rekindling, guarding, and keeping" (p.11) a living, loving relationship with God and how that intersects with all the people God brings into your life. She's a married mother of three who describes how just about everything she and her husband were doing revolved around the kids, and that their relationship was kind of on autopilot as they focused on family life and activities. "It's possible for a relationship with God to be put on autopilot too...I know God will always be there, and I have every intention to spend time with him once I get through this busy day, week, month. It's a dangerous slippery slope." (p.10 emphasis mine) "So here's what I did in 'My 180'"

- † Every day for 180 days, I prayed to God, asking, "God, help me to love you more. Help me to better understand what it means to love you. And help me to notice other people who are good examples of those who love you."
- † Committed to daily journaling.
- † Every week I studied what the Bible says about loving God
- † Checked in regularly with an accountability partner.



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NPH editor, Pastor Christopher Doerr writes, "God answered Angie's prayers, as he promises to. He blessed her use of his Word and her daily meditation on it, as he promises to. God brought her back to the true foundations of human love for him: repentance, Baptism, focusing more on the Word than on her own feelings, and, at the heart of it all, "love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). She invites you to read all about her experiment in her beautiful book, "My 180: Loving God More."

My 180: Loving God More isn't just a play-by-play of what happened to her, though she does tell her story well. It's also an encouraging handbook to try her experiment yourself. Your members can strive as she strove to drink more deeply from that "spring" of the "highest doctrines." The proper pursuit of greater love for God *always* leads us back to better knowing his love for us. An incomprehensible height, for sure."

You can learn more about this new book at www.nph.net. (Available in hardcover or e-book for \$15.99).

It's a great book for the New Year--and remember--for Christians, the new Christian church-year starts already on Sunday, December 2, with a the beginning of the Advent season! A time to think of renewal in your faith, setting some spiritual goals and new possibilities!



Pastor Bill Finn

BECOME A MEMBER OF ST PAUL



Keys to Life

A spiritual and personal study to grow closer to God through...

- Four key words and
- Six key questions about Christianity

Pace yourself. Take just a few keys at a time (*ie. the four key words*), then see if you want to keep going. Or, study all ten key words and questions in a row). **Schedule your Keys to Life start with Pastor Finn Today!**



ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS & notes

Continued...

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The December collection for the pantry is Sunday, December 9, 2018 Needed items include: Chunky soups, Hamburger, tuna and chicken helpers, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, boxed and canned potatoes, all crackers, cookies, and personal care and household cleaning products. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our pantry and Merry Christmas to all from all of us at the WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry!! Questions about donations may be directed to: **WELS AVFP Communicator, Cindy Wundrow, Ph.920-419-1946.**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st - Kimberly Swinford | 20th - Carla Quinn |
| 8 th - Billy Finn | 21st - Sandra Meyer |
| Barbara Roesler | 23rd - Susan Byrum |
| 9th - Terry Byrum | 24th - David Herzfeldt |
| 15th-Darnel Laabs | Bart Roloff |
| 16th- Nicole Thompson | Bret Roloff |
| 16th- Viona Voeks | 25th - Benjamin Grossman |
| 17th- Arden Kloehn | 26th - Donald Fischer |
| 19th- Elaine Schuelke | 29th - Madeline Dougherty |
| | Sara Harrmann |



ST PAUL CHURCH APP--DOWNLOAD IT FREE TODAY!!

St. Paul - Dale

Finalweb Books & Reference

Everyone



Compatible on all devices
Search for "stpauldale" in app store

Features include:

- Daily devotion podcasts; Sunday Sermon podcast & video
- Church news, calendar, bulletin, weather cancellations
- Links to Facebook, St Paul Livestream dashboard, WELS Q&A, Time of Grace, WhataboutJesus.com, our church website, & much more!
- Electronic giving feature
- Handy evangelism tool to share with a friend too!



ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS & notes

Continued...

→ **FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP-SUNDAY, DEC 2nd**
The Women's Fellowship group is serving snacks & refreshments after worship in connection with Pastor & Bonnie Finn's Germany slide show presentation. Listen as they tell about their trip to visit the Luther Lands (& their son Billy stationed at Spangdahlem AFB, Germany). **Come join the fun!!**

→ **HOLY BAPTISM--We rejoice with Christ & Mareah Foate** in the gift of an infant son "Gunner Joseph Foate" (Born 10/12/18). The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be administered by Pastor Finn on Sunday, December 30th (*The Sunday after Christmas!*) Praise God the Holy Spirit for his power at work in the miracle of Holy Baptism! And may God bless and keep this little one in his tender-loving care until this special day arrives and he is re-born into God's eternal kingdom of grace!



→ **QUILT ON DISPLAY:** The family of former St Paul Pastor Frank Reier (1918-1931, *Died 1957*) donated the quilt that members of St. Paul gave to Pastor Frank & Rose Reier when they left here after receiving a divine call to serve at Immanuel, Waupaca in 1931. The present church was built during Pastor Reier's service. You may see the quilt down in the fellowship hall. Member names are embroidered into it--it's really quite nice!

→ **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY TOPIC:**
 The Sunday morning Adult Bible study group just finished a three session Bible study based on the movie, "*To the Ends of the Earth.*" A new topic starts Sunday, Dec.9,16--"**MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS.**" A two-week sampling of the Advent & Christmas Sermons of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (**NOTE:** NO Bible Study Sun, Dec.23).




ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS & notes...

→ **THANKS--TO GOD BE THE GLORY!** Members gave \$5,253.00 in special offerings and memorials over and above regular giving for our "Special Projects Fund" that is paying for our chancel painting project (Starts in the new year).

→ **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Jan-Sept = 62** (2017 = 64).
 2016 = 68; 2015 = 69; 2014 = 72;
SS Attendance: 11 attending (PreK-Gr.2 = 8; Gr.3-5= 3)
Teen Bible Class: 10-18 attending
Adult Bible Class: 8-12

→ **HOSPITALIZED:** Don Fisher is still recovering from head trauma and is in our prayers. We also keep praying for Dan Scheibe (Hospice care at Living Tree, Greenville, *Alzheimers*).

→ **POINSETTIAS ORDERS:** *Forms are included with this newsletter for ordering poinsettias (Purchase your plant and deliver to church by Sat, Dec.22).* o far, we've Simply purchase a flower at a nearby store and then indicate if you are donating it loving memory of a loved one, or to the glory of the newborn King!



→ **2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The St. Paul Finance Committee reports that your 2019 giving envelopes will be available in the month of December. They can be picked up in the entryway at church. If a box doesn't appear with your name on it, please let Pastor Finn know.



A Limited supply of FREE DVD copies of the WELS Evangelism Movie, "*To the Ends of the Earth*" are still available at church. Experience the story of Acts chapter 16 and the impact the Gospel had on lost souls then, and remember that it is still *the Good News we have to share with lost souls in our time!* Thank God for the Gospel in your life and be inspired share your faith with others too! Get your copy today!

FVL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION - NOV 2018

FVL MISSION: *Partners with families and Federation churches, providing students with a Christ-centered education preparing teens for lives of service and for eternity.*

SCHOOL NEWS

- Current enrollment stands at 651 students, as compared to 618 at this time last year.
- 8th Grade Welcome Night took place October 29 with nearly 400 students and parents attending.
- Thirty-eight students attended the *Focus on Ministry* trip to Martin Luther College.
- About 450 worshipers celebrated Dedication for the *Let the Children Come* building expansion effort on October 14. The special worship service was followed by self-guided tours.
- Student Council served breakfast to over 200 veterans and their families on Veterans Day. Our guest pastor was Rev. Leon Ehlert; our guest military speaker was retired Lt. Col. Keith Krueger.
- Nearly 100 students enjoyed tours and a chance to meet our school mascot at the *Fox Fun 2nd Grade Tour*.
- 8th Grade Scheduling Nights are set for November 14 & 19. Families who can't attend either night can contact FVL Guidance Department for an appointment.
- The FVL Choirs invite all to their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.

STAFFING NEWS:

- The Board of Regents is preparing to extend a science call as well as calls to fill the needs related to the retirement of FVL called workers: Mr. Dave Voss, Miss Jane Polley, and Mrs. Donna King. Mr. Robert Fischer is also retiring but his replacement Mr. Jeff Loberger is already in place.
- Mr. Ben Priebe, FVL's Enrollment Director, is deliberating a call to serve as an Admissions team member at Martin Luther College. Mr. Adam Frey has received a call to serve at St. Croix Lutheran H.S. Please remember these men in your prayers.
- Mr. Benjamin Rusch has joined our maintenance staff as a second shift custodian.

COCURRICULARS:

- Over 700 elementary school children attended our fall play, *The Election*. Three public performances of this humorous satire were held.
- The FVL Choraliers participated in the WELS Choralfest at Minnesota Valley Lutheran HS.
- Over thirty athletes received all-conference honors this fall season. Special honors went to Liz Santos as *Conference Golfer of the Year* and Dylan Blum as *Conference Offensive Player of the Year*.
- The Fox Folk Marionettes will be sharing the story of Jesus' birth at the Apple Creek YMCA on Saturday, December 1 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. as well as at St. Paul-Green Bay on December 8 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
- The winter sports season is now underway. Check FVL's online calendar for dates & times.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- Thanks to all who helped FVL reach the \$1M goal for financing the *Let the Children Come* building expansion earlier this fall. The remainder of the building debt is being financed through low-interest tax-exempt bonds over the next twenty years. Work has already begun on meeting our first payment of \$475K by October 2019.
- Congregational support is 3.6% ahead of last year. Over \$260K of the Federation church commitment of \$983K has been given.
- SCRIP sales for September were \$139K. Total sales for the year equal \$657K.
- October's annual Friends Dinner featured the presentation of the Heart of the Servant Awards. The Leaders of the Past Award went to Dr. Kenneth Johnson; the Called Worker Award went to Mr. Jimmy Groth; and the Leaders of Today Award was presented to the Hon. Harold Froehlich.
- The 15th annual *FoxFest Dinner Auction* will be held this spring at Liberty Hall on April 5. All tickets will be sold in advance. The theme is "Kentucky Derby." Watch for more info to come.

~ With you, serving Jesus – Principal Steve Granberg



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