



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
508 North Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

### December 2017-January 2018



## Advent 2017

Each year we observe Advent to usher in the Christmas celebration of Christ's birth. As we do, we find that Advent embodies various emotions and feelings. Yes, Advent brings expectation in the awaiting for Christ as the Babe of Bethlehem. We also wait for Him to come to us in Word and Sacrament. Ultimately we wait for His return on the Last Day. All of this gives us reason for **JOY, GREAT JOY!**

This year in our mid-week Advent Worship we focus on some of these songs of JOY. Below you will find the schedule.

#### Wednesday, December 6

"Savior of the Nations, Come"  
John 1:1-14

#### Wednesday, December 13

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"  
Psalm 24:7-10

#### Wednesday, December 20

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Isaiah 7:10-14

All of our Wednesday services are at 9:30 a.m. (followed by coffee time) and again at 7:30 p.m. (preceded by a pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m.).



## AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION



As part of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of The Reformation, a very interesting discussion was held October 30 on the campus of Concordia University in River Forest, IL. The discussion centered on the Reformation and its effects throughout history to the present day. The discussion was a rare event covering the three main streams of current theology, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Evangelical.

President Matthew Harrison of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod represented the Lutheran view of The Reformation. Cardinal Blasé Cupich, Archbishop of the Chicago Archdiocese spoke for the Roman Catholic viewpoint. The Rev. Dr. Philip Ryken, President of Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL covered the modern Evangelical perspective. This hour long interdenominational discussion proved to be quite insightful.

Concordia University has provided a recording of this live streamed event on its website at the following address:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/1463756/events/4448793/videos/165285943>

It is there for anyone to view at anytime.



## \$250.53

\$250.53! Granted, that's not a huge amount of money, but it is a nice little sum. That's the amount of money that many of you have contributed to our treasury through the AmazonSmile.org charitable division. Each time

you make a purchase, regardless of amount, Amazon makes a donation to the charity of your choice at the rate of 0.5% of your purchase. Granted, it is not much; however those small donations do add up,

When you do your Christmas Shopping online go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select St. Paul as your charity and you can help make that \$250.53 even bigger.



## A FOND FAREWELL



On Sunday, November 5, our congregation bid farewell to good friends, Dan and Sandy Williams and their service dog, Bandit.

Dan came to us in early February as a guest organist one Sunday. That Sunday led to another, which led to another. Eventually Dan played organ for our services a total of nine months. Dan is a professional musician who was

unemployed at the time and was quite happy to uplift our people in their worship with his vast musical skill and talent. God's people at St. Paul not only appreciated Dan as a superb organist, but also appreciated Dan, Sandy, and Bandit as friends. The congregation also appreciated Dan's unique arrangements for offertories in which he "rocked" the piano.

Dan recently accepted a position as a full time music director at the St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic parish in Teutopolis, IL, making November 5 his final Sunday with us, The congregation presented the Williams with the gift of a wall clock for their new home. We wish Dan, Sandy, and Bandit the richest of God's Blessings.



## Questions Have You Got A Question?

Perhaps, there is a question, or two, maybe more that you would love to know the answer to, but have never found it. Perhaps it is question about the Bible, about the faith, or about our Christian way of life. Perhaps it is a question you would like to ask God Himself.

Beginning Sunday, January 7, we will have a discussion on any question you might have. There are no limits. Really! Any question is fair game. We will do this in the 9:00 to 9:30 a. m. time slot in the church fellowship hall by the large screen monitor. Use the form below to submit your question. Put it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

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My Question is: \_\_\_\_\_

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**No names please – Keep it anonymous.**

**The only bad question is  
one that is not asked.**



Happy Thanksgiving! We think about our blessings, and know they are too numerous to count. We give thanks to the Lord because He is good! Thank you to everyone for contributing to the food baskets and pantry. Sunday School will not meet Sunday Nov. 26.

Merry Christmas to everyone! Our traditional children's program will be Sunday Dec. 17th starting at noon. Come for church, stay for fellowship and breakfast, and enjoy the message from the children proclaiming God's Word. All practices will be during Sunday School time, 9-9:40 am (12/3, 12/10, 12/17). It is **EXTREMELY** important that we have everyone there each week in December. We would welcome friends, cousins, grandchildren, neighbors, anyone is welcome to attend Sunday School and be part of the program. As always Sunday School will not be in session during the winter break (Dec. 24th & Dec. 31st).

Our attendance has been extremely low. Please prayerfully consider talking with friends, neighbors, and relatives to bring them to Sunday School. We had planned many activities this year, but unfortunately have not had the attendance to complete them. We look forward to sharing a new year with everyone! See you Sun. Jan. 7th.





ocial



inistry

Sunday School and Social Ministry are joining forces again this year to stock the food shelves and assist with the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. "Take a card and bring the item next Sunday" cards are located on the pantry door in the southwest corner of the parish hall. Food baskets are always getting delivered so please keep taking the cards. A meal only lasts for a few hours then you are hungry again. That is why the pantry is always running low. Gift cards and cash donations are welcome and are used to purchase perishable items, i.e. a \$15 gift card from Aldi's can buy milk, eggs, bread and ground beef. Those who are in need are always very grateful. This is done on your behalf and in the name of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ!



We'd love to see you in worship. If for some reason you cannot make it, you may join in the service in our live streaming at 9:45 a.m. at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/live-broadcast>

You can join us in worship on your phone, tablet, or mobile device? Go to your App store and get the free "O Player Lite" app. Install the app. Click the Network button at the bottom of the page. Hit the button labeled "Play URL." Type in St. Paul's unique code: <http://73.74.44.102:5700> that should bring the service to you live.

Our recorded worship services are archived at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/recorded-service>



Asleep  
In  
Jesus

+ Jack C. Swan +



Jack C. Swan (age 76) of our congregation entered eternity on Monday, October 30. Jack, who has served as an elder of our congregation up until his passing was a faithful member many years.

Jack was preceded in passing by his wife Peggy. He is survived by a son, James; and daughters Penny and Jackie along with eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Jack has been active in the Thornton Community, having served as Village Fire Chief for a number of years and as Thornton Mayor for twenty years.

Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian Burial from St. Paul's altar on November 3, 2017.

"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

+ Henry R. "Bob" Mugg +



Bob Mugg, (age 78) who frequently attended worship services at our congregation, entered eternity on November 7.

Bob is survived by his daughter Laurie (Steven) Michels of our congregation; his daughter Janice (Edward) Abel; his granddaughter Christine; and his great granddaughter, Amelia Abel. We extend our deepest sympathy to these, Bob's family members and to his friends and neighbors.

Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian Burial on November 13.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, no pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

### Marilyn H. Lawrence



Marilyn H. Lawrence (age 89) of our Congregation entered eternity on Friday, August 25 in Texas City, Texas where she had been residing with her daughter for the last several years. Through the years, Marilyn has been a faithful member at St. Paul.



Marilyn's son, Thomas S. Lawrence (age 66) entered eternity on Saturday, September 30 also in Texas City, Texas. Pastor Wahl officiated at a double Memorial Service for Marilyn and Tom on October 30, 2017.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Lawrence family at this time of grief and sorrow and rejoice with them in the blessed promises in the resurrection as Jesus Christ returns.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25



In worship the congregation experiences its Lord most intimately. Here it lives in nearest proximity to its Groom in a heavenly life on earth, an earthly life in heaven. Worship is the most beautiful flower of earthly life. Just like land in the middle of an ocean, the Word and the Sacraments stand in the inner life and worship of the congregation. You have one week behind you, a new week lies in front of you. Between these two weeks is the day of Communion Sunday. You desire to draw near to God with the congregation. What do you, whether you are a shepherd or a sheep, have to do first? You do what all religions say is necessary for the soul: you cleanse it like feet that have become dirty from the activity of daily life. In other words, you prepare yourself for worship by confessing your sins and receiving absolution. Being cleansed from sin, you enter into the joys of the particular festival day or Sunday. But the worshiper finds that earth still has other burdens and sorrows, both present and future. Life, death, and eternity, with all of their bitter fruits and consequences, threaten you as you journey to the heavenly kingdom. Worries burden you and keep burdening you. But no longer does sin torture you, no longer do you fear evil, no longer do you sigh longingly, but joyful confidence fills your soul. You sit beneath the face of the Lord. In the sermon you begin to experience the blessed communion of the saints who rejoice in the Lord. The worshiping congregation experiences itself as the Bride of the Lord, rich not only in and through Him but also in and through one another. The congregation, in its fullness, thinks of the special needs and miseries upon the earth, delights in all good things, and goes before the altar of the Lord with intercessions, petitions, and prayers. All worshipers are blessed and approach the throne of blessing knowing they are worthy. The worshipers realize that the Church is one unit both here and everywhere. Pilgrims are one in their prayers and are cleansed with all of the blessed saints in heaven.

—J. K. Wilhelm Loehe

# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

September - May

## ADULT BIBLE CLASS

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Harold Wahl, Pastor  
508 N. Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476  
Voice & Fax (708) 877-6564

www.splcms.org  
www.facebook.com/splcms  
office@splcms.org  
pastor@splcms.org

Church Office Hours  
9 to Noon Monday thru Friday.

Bulletin Deadline  
Thursday by 10 a.m.

Contact the church office to submit  
personal testimonials about what God  
has done for you. Or original art that is  
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

## CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

**Chairman** Bill Sommer  
**Vice Chairman** David Bloom  
**Recording Sec.** Tracy Middleton  
**Financial Sec.** Robert Brandy  
**Treasurer** Chris Carr  
**Elder** Ed Hoeksema  
Steven Michels  
Henry Sella  
Brian Wiltjer  
Jerry Wiltjer  
**Trustee** Dean Bloom  
Earl Bloom  
Jerry Smith

### Stewardship

**Evangelism** Debi Brandy  
**Social Ministry** Norma Allen  
Sandy Budde  
**S. S. Super.** Kathy Dejonowski  
**Asnt. Super.** Dana Krieger

**Adult Director**  
**Youth Director**

## December

6 Hunter Riordan	19 Margaret Loitz
13 Dana Tatgenhorst	21 Joshua Hurson
15 Tara Schultz	23 Jeffrey Paris
Judy Swazes	Karen Young
16 Jillian Krencjarz	26 Dorothy Van Mynen
Bill Sommer	30 Chris Baker
17 Robert JaBaay	31 Shawn Conway
18 Kristen Krencjarz	



## January

2 Tracy Middleton	19 Cassandra Michels
Janice Schultz	Marcia Parker
3 Steven Nowicki	21 Ross Shadley
4 Carrie Pearson	22 Shirley Kipley
6 Garrett Kolosh	23 Micci Orth
8 Donna Pfeifer	25 Rich Fowler
14 Diane Akers	Dominique Sella
15 Alice JaBaay	28 Jill Kipley
18 Tom Gibson	29 Lisa Durkin
Jennifer Lovett	Paulette Maurer
Henry Sella	

## The plant of peace

For most of us the mention of mistletoe probably brings kissing to mind. But that practice wasn't the first involving mistletoe.

Two thousand years before Christ, the ancient Celtic people living in Gaul considered mistletoe to be sacred and medicinal. Druids, the priests of the Celtic tribes, used it in religious ceremonies held in tree groves where mistletoe was found.

In ancient Scandinavia, enemies, who met by chance beneath mistletoe, laid down their weapons and held a truce until the next day. This practice eventually led to the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe, the "plant of peace."

The use of mistletoe has continued throughout the centuries during the Christmas season as a decoration and as a symbol of fun and joy. But its early religious roots and peacemaking qualities are even more significant.

# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 6:30pm Advent Pot-Luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>10</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 6:30pm Advent Pot-Luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 12:00pm S.S. Christmas Program	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 6:30pm Advent Pot-Luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45am Worship Service 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 9:45am Christmas Day Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>14</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			