

Christ's Calling Card

**Message from Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you happen to work with a computer, you know how much help they are. In most cases they save us a lot of time. This is, however, contingent upon the data going into the computer being correct. Many of us have heard “Garbage In Garbage Out”. Our human minds have been compared to computers. In fact, the human mind is far more complex than the most advanced computer ever designed. Do you realize the average person has 10,000 separate thoughts a day? Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Beware of what you set your mind on because that is surely what you will become.” Betty Sachelli said, “Two thoughts cannot occupy the mind at the same time, so the choice is ours whether or not our thoughts will be constructive or destructive.” Proverbs 23:7a KJV says “For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

As we embark on a New Year, we often take stock of changes we may want to make. My encouragement is let's start with our minds. Romans 12:2...Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.” This scripture encourages us to read and spend time in the Bible. Familiarity with the Word and Bible memorization allows us to have a treasure stored in our hearts and minds, our personal computers. This kind of exercise helps us to turn from negative thinking: self-pity, blaming, unforgiveness, and a host of other harmful pathways. In Philippians 4:8-9 we are encouraged by the Apostle Paul, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about how the Word can work in the computer of your mind:

Someone tells you some gossip, what are you going to do with it? Let's test it against this scripture. Is it true or how about is it lovely? No, then don't think about it and don't repeat it! Paul gives us two catch all categories: Is it excellent or praise-

or praiseworthy? If you will apply these questions, then Paul finishes in verse 9 with “the God of peace will be with you.”

We all need to analyze the input we allow in our minds. It comes from a broad range of areas: the music we listen to, the movies we watch, radio and podcasts, TV, books, conversations and the list goes on...

Do you want to change your mind? You can. God has put the possibility within your grasp. You don't have to stay the way you are.

Lay hold of Jesus by faith. Walk with him. Talk with him. Learn of him. Hold on and don't let go.

Then you will find it easy to “think on these things.” Do that and your life will never be the same!

In His Service,

Karen

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The sale of new and gently Christmas decorations this past November was a great success. We plan on making this an annual event, spearheaded by Lori Brueggen. To that end, as you are taking your decorations down this year, perhaps take the time to determine if you have any you would be willing to donate to the cause. If you are anything like the Bever household, we have added decorations along the way, and now have an abundance of decorations that haven't seen the light of day for years!! So, as you look through your decorations and feel you can part with some, put them in a bag or box and drop them off at the office.

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

As you plan your summer of 2025, don't forget about Sugar Creek Bible Camp. We have placed brochures in the narthex which will help you plan a time for the kids or the entire family. Don't forget, St. Paul's will pay half of the camping fee.

Synod Authorized Minister Contract Renewal

Members of the church council met with Bishop Malpica along with Karen to discuss the renewal of the SAM contract. SAM's are only authorized by a Bishop, and may only serve one year, with a contract then having to be renewed. We are pleased to announce the Bishop and council supported, wholeheartedly the renewal of Karen's contract.

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 22, several members gathered to do some old fashioned Christmas caroling at a number of homes.

This picture was taken on the deck at Anita Steinke's home.

The folks in the front row are the easiest to identify: Justin Arndt, Barb Bever, Karen Sparling, and Greg Bever.

The remainder of carolers were:

Kirstin Arndt, Linus Arndt, Daphne Arndt, Miranda Arndt, Pam Brandau, Steve Brandau, Joel Arndt, Lori Arndt, Addison Arndt & friend Macii, Emily Bever, Pat Von Haden, and Jerry Von Haden.

Suffice to say, "a good time was had by all"!



Christmas Program 2025 SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS



The Sunday school children provided us with the story of the birth of Jesus in song and scripture. They are pictured here in full costume as they re-enact that special night in Bethlehem.

Many thanks to Justin and Kirstin Arndt for directing the program. Thanks as well to our Sunday school teachers, Greg Bever, Miranda Arndt, and Ava Gruen. And thanks to Barb Ornes for being our costume director!



QUILTING NEWS 2025

The quilting group have completed 10 quilts for LWR and several baby quilts. Lori Brueggen has generously applied for Thrivent grants to supply us with sheets for backs and batting for middles. We are in need of tops. If you would like to sew quilt tops for LWR, we could use the help. It is simple, straight sewing. Nothing fancy required. There is material available on the stage area of the basement or you can use remnants that you have. Contact Louise Buchholz (608/435-6435) or Arlis Ballwahn (608/435-6406) for information.

BOWLING PARTY

We have extended an invitation to the youth of the congregation, ages 4-22, to join for a bowling party at the Hooter Bowl, in Hustler, on Sunday, January 5. In addition to the laughter we are sure to share bowling, we will have pizza and refreshments throughout the afternoon.

We have reserved lanes at Noon so we will leave church shortly after the end of service. Parents are also welcome to attend and bowl. Please let Nalani know, this week, if you plan to attend.

Text: 608-387-2311 or 608-435-6647

Email: wiltonchurch@gmail.com or nalanib@gmail.com

Step Replacement

Our goal continues to place the stair project out for bids in the early spring. The site survey has been completed and HSR is working on having a project estimate in our hands by the annual meeting.

Lutheran Social Services

We received word in early December that an individual had made a tremendous commitment to Lutheran Social Services. If any congregation exceeded their 2023 donation by 10% in 2024, the 2024 donation would be matched, up to ONE MILLION DOLLARS. Council chose to increase our 2024 donation from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00

Amazing Grays



The "Amazing Grays" met on Friday, December 6 for an afternoon of fellowship. We started with a luncheon of soup (4 kinds), sandwiches, and Christmas cookies. Lori Brueggen made and donated the cookies. They were great!!

After spending time just visiting and catching up on the local news, the fun really started. Karen and Nalani had wrapped candy in plastic wrap and turned it into a fairly sized ball. You had to wear oven mittens while trying to unwrap the candy while another person was shaking dice. Then the folks played charades. A good deal of laughter along with some good natured cheating (Jerry & Lee).



When the SONG of the angels is stilled,
When the STAR in the sky is gone,
When the KINGS and the princes are home,
When the SHEPHERDS are back with their flocks,
The work of CHRISTMAS begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people,
To make music in the hearts.

Power Lift Chair Update

While we had hoped to have the lift chair installed by Christmas, we hit a snag in determining whether the entry door could, in fact, be considered in the calculation of the number of exits from the building. The difference between ingress and egress might seem obvious: *ingress* refers to an entrance, and *egress* refers to an exit. And generally that's true. Of course, it's very common for many access points to be used for both *ingress* and *egress*—you come in the same door you go out. But in architecture and site planning, it's often important to differentiate the two for many different reasons, such as accessibility, safety, and proper traffic flow.

Luckily the calculations of the stairway with the lift installed met the standard and the doorway may be counted as a point of egress. We are hopeful the lift will be installed before the end of January. Thank you for your patience.

YOUR CHURCH AND YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS

Please circle all activities you are willing to participate in.

WORSHIP

Reader Communion Assistant Greeter Altar Guild

MUSIC

Play Instrument Vocal solo/small group Choir

EVANGELISM

Transportation to Worship New Member Friend Visit Homebound

EDUCATION

Teach Sunday School or VBS Bible Study Leader

MISCELLANEOUS

Church Council Finance Committee Worship Committee

Property Committee Stewardship Committee Education Committee

W-ELCA Prayer Chain Quilts

Birthday Sunday Cake Birthday Sunday set-up

Unable to commit time/talent at this time, but will attend services as I/we are able and pray for St. Paul's Mission.

OTHER (Write in) _____

Name: _____

Please return this survey at your earliest convenience.

*Washburn
Helhof*

Christ's Calling Card
St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 129
Wilton WI 54670-0129

January 2025

January 19 Noisy Offering
Cake & Coffee

January 26 ANNUAL MEETING
11:30 am

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Jennifer Gruen Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18	6 Spencer Arndt	7	8 Lori Arndt Addison Arndt Braxton Holthaus Confirmation	9	10	11
12 Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	13	14 Vanessa Anderson	15 Sarah Culpitt Confirmation	16	17 Kari Radke	18 Gina Rae
19 Ann McKelvey Kevin Buchholz Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	20	21 Kelly Reuter	22 Kurt Radke Mia Anderson Confirmation	23 Anna Radke	24 Thadyn Conner	25
26 Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	27 Barb & John Ornes	28	29 Confirmation	30	31	1

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February 2025

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:15 AM

March 2025

February 2 Blood Drive
7:00-11:30 AM

February 16 Noisy Offering
Cake & Coffee

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	3	4	5 Stacey Brandau Confirmation	6	7	8
9 Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	10	11	12 Anita Steinke Wayne Schindler Confirmation	13	14 Scott Niedfeldt	15
16 Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	17	18	19 Confirmation	20	21 Lana Ross Daphne Arndt	22 Tyler Brandau
23 Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	24	25	26 Confirmation	27	28 Karen Arzt Jerry Von Haden	1

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