



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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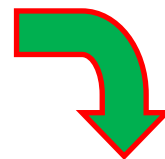


O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Advent Concert 12/11 _____ 6:30 pm
Grade School Christmas 12/19 __ 4:00 pm
Sunday School Christmas 12/22 _ 9:30 am
Christmas Eve 12/24 _____ 6:30 pm
Christmas Day 12/25 _____ 9:30 am
Christmas One 12/29 _____ 9:30 am
New Year's Eve 12/31 _____ 6:30 pm

(NO 6:30 pm Thursday Service on 12/19 or 12/26)

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Advent Interviews & Christmas Conversations

If you could go back in time and meet anyone in Bible history, who would it be?

As December rolls around, our thoughts immediately go to the first Christmas, and the Advent events leading up to the night of Christ's birth. Perhaps our minds drift back to the Old Testament promises, and we'd ask:

Isaiah, "What was it like to receive promises like ... The virgin will be with Child ... Unto us a Son is given ... His name will be Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace?"

Micah, "Did you think of going to Bethlehem and waiting for the birth of the Messiah, since you knew where he would be born?"

How amazing would it be to go back and meet the people of that first Christmas, and ask:

Joseph, "How exactly did that conversation go when Mary told you she was pregnant?" ... "How did you know it was an angel talking to you in your dream?"

Mary, "How did it feel to place the Son of God in an animal feeding trough?" ... "What was it like to raise a perfect child?" Or,

The Shepherds, "What exactly did the Glory of the Lord look like?" ... "How did people react later that night when you told them that the Messiah had been born?"

While we may have questions we'd like to ask people in the Bible, it's important to remember that God has given us everything we need in the Bible. He may not answer every question we have, but in his Word, he does answer every

question we need answered for our salvation.

"Who is the baby in the manger?" – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He's our brother and our God.

"Why did he come?" – To rescue us from sin and the guilt and death that comes along with it.

"What did he do?" – He lived lowly and perfectly the life we couldn't. He died humbly on that cross to accomplish the work of our redemption. He rose triumphantly on the third day. He came to earth ... to earn heaven for us!

No, we can't go back in time to interview, Isaiah, Joseph and Mary or the shepherds. But because God the Father sent God the Son ... and because God the Holy Spirit has

worked faith in our hearts through the message of the Bible ... we'll meet all of them. Christmas means our joy will be meeting our God face-to-face, and our joy will also include meeting once again all our Christian loved ones of Christmases past.

In the meantime, as we worship this Advent and Christmas season, we have something even better than an interview of the people of the Bible. We get to have a conversation with the Author of the Bible, who also happens to be the Author of our Salvation and the Perfector of our Faith. More importantly, in his Word he points us to the Gift in the manger and speaks to us from his heart, **"I want you now and forever!"**

May Christ supply you with a blessed Advent and celebration of his birth this Christmas!

Pastor Marshall



Church Council Meeting (November 19)

Pastor began with a Bible Study on a Hero of Faith – Noah (His Life and Faith).

In attendance: Ken Trossen, Rich Winkler, Dave Hintz, Don Kolander, Rory Vircks, Ruben Villa & Pastor.

Minutes: MMSP to accept the minutes of the October 22 meeting as published in the October Newsletter.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marshall

Baptisms (2):

Claire Marie Nemeth 10/27/2024 / Thomas Allen Brewster 10/27/2024

Wedding (1):

Tony Nieskes & Dawn Vallone 11/15/2024

Average attendance November (148) and total communed (223) continues to increase each month.

Principal's Report: Principal Kolander

The school board was visited by Brett Baade, who led a discussion on the WELS Southside schools association. The annual Fall Festival was held on Friday, November 15. Work began on the Christmas Eve service. Cudahy School District may soon send us a person to work with students who need help in reading and math. MMSP to give the school board permission to investigate the feasibility of St. Paul's Lutheran School becoming a member of the WELS Southside Schools Association.

Financial Report: Written report from Jim Nygaard

See p.6 for a full report.

Outreach Report: Rory Vircks

We divided the city of Cudahy into half. Every year everyone in Cudahy will get one mailing from St. Paul's. Half will get a Christmas mailing and the other half will get an Easter mailing. We will rotate them.

Discipleship Report: Rich Winkler

Holiday Feast is scheduled before the Advent Concert on Wednesday, 12/11 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Rich and Ken will work on the Lenten suppers to secure Thrivent funds and set up a schedule of Member support.

Properties Report: Dave Hintz

A report showing 17 open projects to be completed on a priority basis. The Properties Group continues to work on these open projects and they could use all the help you are willing to give. The church kitchen project is complete. Next work weekend Dec. 7, 2024 8:00 am to Noon.

New Business:

Under provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the "Ministers of the Gospel" listed below may have a portion of their compensation designated as a parsonage allowance. The amount indicated shall be the designated parsonage allowance for the year 2025 and all future years unless otherwise provided. Should any of the workers listed be provided with a home, they shall have the rent-free use of the home for the year 2025 and all future years unless otherwise provided. Tammy Smukowski \$28,000 / Kathy Freudenwald \$15,000 / Kelly Ubl \$18,000 / Rebecca Hengst \$11,000 / Will Roepke \$11,000 / Don Kolander \$10,400 / Pastor Marshall \$24,000, NOTE: These are not amounts of compensation toward salaries, but a number for tax purposes that can be used as a deduction.

Next Church Council Meeting, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Recorded by Ken Trossen, adjourned at 7:30 pm.

St. Paul's Lutheran School Notes & News, December 2024

Christmas Eve Service

The faculty and students have begun to prepare for the annual Children's Christmas service. The service will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 4:00 PM. The theme of the service is *Joy Has Dawned*. We will be reminded of the joy that is ours as Christians now that Jesus has come into the world.



Wisconsin Lutheran HS Connection

➡ The 7th grade students from St. Paul's visited WISCO on Tuesday, November 19. They attended the morning chapel service, took a tour of the campus, and heard various presentations from students and staff. The day provided an opportunity to learn more about a continued Christian education at the secondary level.

➡ Mr. Brian Gottschalk was at our school on Friday, November 15 to lead our morning chapel service. His message focused on our yearly theme of *Be Still and Know!*

➡ Representatives from WISCO will visit our school in December to spread some Christmas cheer. Each year WLHS provides each student with a small Christmas gift from the high school!

Fall Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 Fall Family Festival. The festival provided a night filled with fun, food and fellowship. In addition, more than \$750 was raised in support of our educational programs.



Veterans Day Letters

Early this month, students in the 5th-8th grades wrote letters of appreciation to veteran members of the congregation. Students used their afternoon

grammar, usage, and mechanics (G.U.M.) time to reach out and thank our veterans for their service and for protecting American freedoms, especially our freedom to worship freely and to partake in Christian education. Students have already been treated to a number of heartfelt responses providing valuable insight on how truly blessed we are in America, the importance of service to a higher calling, and the importance of staying connected to our Savior and church no matter where your life path takes you. Writing to our veterans this year has



not only helped our young Christians see the importance of sharing Christ's love and the value of using their writing skills for real, purposeful communication, but has more importantly helped strengthen the bond between generations of Christians and let our veterans know that we here at St. Paul's School are truly grateful for all they have done.

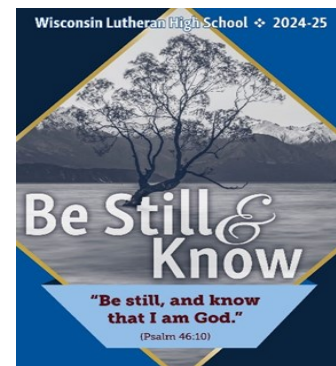
December Calendar

Thursday, December 19

Children's Christmas Service – 4:00 PM

Friday, December 20

Christmas Break Begins – 11:45 AM Dismissal



New Bible Class: January 5 / 6

Apologetics: Defending the Faith **Video Series**

Sundays at 8:30 am in Church/
Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

This 6-lesson Apologetics (defending the Christian faith) Bible Study is to help Christians respectfully engage in conversation with skeptics of the Christian faith. We aren't trying to argue anybody into faith. The Holy Spirit does that. And the last thing we want to do is leave the impression we have it all figured out. Our goal is to think clearly so that we will then speak clearly. Apologetics is a ministry of caring. Plan now to attend.

Men's Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the 4 Gospels, but it also stresses Jesus as a man of action and authority. Which makes it also the most exciting account of Christ's life! Come and join the guys for breakfast, and feed both your body and your soul.

Mark's Gospel

Men's Breakfast 6:15 am
First & Third Tuesdays
The Gospel of Mark
Landmark by the Lake Restaurant
4671 S. Lake Dr. Cudahy)

WELS Area Christmas Concerts

The Lutheran Choral

♫ 12/1 1:00pm Held at Salem Lutheran Church
6840 N. 107th Street

Wisconsin Lutheran High School

♫ 12/5 7:00pm Christmas Chamber Ensemble Concert
♫ 12/8 3:00pm Winter Band Concert
♫ 12/15 7:00pm Sacred Christmas Choral Concert

Wisconsin Lutheran College

♫ 12/6 7:30pm Christmas Festival Choral Concert
♫ 12/7 7:30pm Christmas Festival Choral Concert
♫ 12/8 2:30pm Christmas Festival Choral Concert

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

♫ 12/8 3:00pm Seminary Christmas Concert
♫ 12/8 7:00pm Seminary Christmas Concert



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merging for Mission Program

All 7 of the southside congregations (Zion / St. Paul's / St. Lucas / Resurrection / Messiah / St. John's Howell Ave. / Centennial) want to move forward and get an idea of what this might look like so we can be better stewards of our God-given gifts.

Property ... *Dave Hintz, Jake Nygaard, Rich Winkler*

Finance ... *Rory Vircks, Mike Retherford*

Human Resource ... *Gail Kolosovsky, Stefanie Kelly, LuAnn Gaertner,*

School ... *Will Roepke, Heidi McMurphy Kathy Fruedenwald*

Historical ... *Rebecca Roepke, Holly Paarfusser*

Governance ... *Ken Malsack, Ken Trossen*

Ministry ... *Jim Nygaard, Tierney Vircks, Rachel Nygaard*

M-4-M Questions

Currently, each of these committees have begun to meet together and are in the process of gathering information from each of the 7 congregations. The names of the St. Paul's representatives are listed to the left.

**Contact Ruben Villa: 414.429.5802
lando2k9@gmail.com**

As we work through this, may our prayer be

To Always Come Back to the Mission of:

- 1) **Sharing** the news about a Savior with those who don't know him, and
- 2) **Strengthening** the faith of those who already know him as their Savior.



Financial Picture

Monthly:Expenses.....Income
November.....\$ 60,728.00.....\$ 107,121.00

Monthly Basics

Outreach	\$ 2,350.
2 Payrolls each month	\$35,000.
Health Insurance.....	\$ 6,000.
Pension.....	\$ 3,000.
Property Insurance.....	\$ 2,100
Technology	\$ 1,800.
Utilities.....	\$ 3,750.
	\$ 52,000.

Notes on November's Expenses:

Additional expenses of \$11,000 for New Furnace/ AC for Church Offices. (Replaces 30+ yr old one.)

Notes on November's Income

Additional income of \$78,000 from School Choice.

Our November Offerings of \$29,091.00 didn't reach the monthly amount needed to stay on budget, which is \$35,000 from the Blue Bags and E-Giving.

May the Lord lead us to respond with grateful hearts for the ministry opportunities he's given to us to do in his name until he returns on the Final Day.

During the 2024-2025 school year, we will be receiving a School Choice check for \$78,000 in Sept. / Nov. / Feb and May. Like previous years, we'll be depositing some, about \$30,000, into savings from each check to help cover our financial commitments over the next 12 months.

HOLIDAY FEAST

Enjoy the cooking of some of our most talented chefs! A special dinner will be prepared and served. Bring your favorite cookies or your famous cake to share!

Wednesday, Dec. 11 4:30-6:30pm



After dinner, feast on the Word of God, presented by choirs, readers, hand bells and carols. O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Special Communion & Meal

Members remain seated every other pew for this service with hymns, Scripture, a sermon, and Communion, followed by a delicious Meal in the Fellowship Hall. The next upcoming Special Communion Services are:

December 12 at 11:00 am

January (No Service)

February 13 at 11:00 am

December Ushers (Thursdays, Sundays, & Special Services)

December 1	December 5	December 8	December 11	December 12	December 15
Duane Rickaby Kurt Nygaard Rob & Robert McMurphy	Rory & Tierney Vircks	Darold Borree Jim Ziemann Diane Richter Scott Wranovosky	Duane Rickaby Kurt Nygaard Rob & Robert McMurphy	Tierney Vircks Stefanie Kelly	Jim & Lucas Nygaard Adler Henn Jerry Doherty Luke Ubl

December Ushers (Thursdays, Sundays, & Special Services)

December 19	December 22	December 24	December 25	December 29	December 31
Rob & Robert McMurphy Luke Ubl Conor Ubl Diane Richter	Ruben & Emma Villa Will Roepke Conor Ubl	Ruben & Emma Villa Will Roepke Conor Ubl	Jim & Lucas Nygaard Adler Henn Ruben & Emma Villa	Darold Borree Jim Ziemann Diane Richter Scott Wranovosky	Duane Rickaby Kurt Nygaard Rory & Tierney Vircks

December Greeters (Sundays 9:30 am)

December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22
Dave & Tammy Smukowski	Charlie & Ruth Price Jeff & Kim Nordby	Kathy Hahn Michelle Helgeson	Kim & Carol Eisenberg Rich & Sharon Winkler

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bible Class 8:30 am Sunday School 8:30 am Worship / Comm 9:30am Fellowship 10:30 am	2 Confirmation Class 4:30 pm Bible Class 6:30 pm	3 Men's Bible Study 6:15 am	4  Holiday Feast 4:30-6:00 pm Advent Christmas Concert 6:30 pm	5 Choir Practice 5:15 pm Worship 6:30 pm	6 	7 Properties Team 8:00 am-Noon
8 Sunday School 8:30 am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:30 am	9 Confirmation Class 4:30 pm	10 School Board Meeting 6:00 pm		12 Special Communion 11:00 am Worship/Comm 6:30 pm	13	14 Sunday School Practice 9:30-10:30 am
15 Sunday School 8:30 am Worship / Comm 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Comfort Quilters 1:00pm	16 Confirmation Class 4:30 pm	17 Men's Bible Study 6:15 am	18	19 K4-2 Christmas Caroling Grade School Christmas Worship 4:00 pm		21 Sunday School Practice 9:30-10:30 am
22 Sunday School 8:30 am Sunday School Christmas Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am	23 	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:30 pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 9:30 am	26	27	28
		No School—Christmas Break - December 23-January 3				
29 Worship 9:30 am	30 	31 New Year's Eve Candlelight Worship 6:30 pm	 <i>December, a time of celebration</i>			