



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

December 2021 Newsletter

Seeking to proclaim Christ and Him crucified to more people more often.

office: 920-922-1080 www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S !!!!

Has the mad scramble begun? Get the house ready ... lights ... tree ... Advent wreath ... assorted decorations! Get the calendar straight ... Christmas parties ... Christmas concerts ... friends to visit ... presents to buy! Get the food ready ... there are cookies to make ... chocolates to dip ... meals to plan, purchase, and prepare! Get work squared away ... there is end of the year stuff to finalize ... long weekends to get work done by ... long weekends to recover from when you return! It can be exhausting.

As all of this hits mailboxes at church, it's still Thanksgiving. The beginning of Advent is the Sunday after that event. Maybe the ancients as they prepped the church calendar were on to something. Before the joy of Christmas, in and amongst all the hustle and bustle of these days, church offers us a place to hit the brakes, press the pause button, revel in the real reason for it all, to prepare for the birth of Jesus not with more busyness, shopping, and greed but quietly wrapped in God's Word.

This year, the new worship planning materials that have come out with the New Hymnal focus us in on a theme throughout the season leading up to Christmas: *When the Lord Comes Near*. "Advent" is the Latin Word for "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into the world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all His power and glory with His angelic army in tow. He will be coming as judge at the end of time.

The themes for each Sunday are then:

When the Lord Comes Near, ...

Advent 1: He Humbles Himself.

Advent 2: He Humbles His People.

Advent 3: He Humbles His enemies.

Advent 4: He Lifts up the Humbled.

Advent can be a crazy busy time. The mad scramble for ... well, I think it's supposed to be the mad scramble for the coming of the celebration of the birth of our Savior, but maybe that has gotten lost in all the trimmings somewhere. This year, let us use these four weeks to see how events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about His second coming. Wrapped in the Word, let us see how the Lord Himself prepares us so that we can hold our heads high *When the Lord Comes Near*.

A few changes, for the holidays & beyond

Starting at Thanksgiving, we begin *passing the plate* in worship once again. It's been a while so perhaps a few reminders are in order.

- The usher will hand the plate to the first person in the pew. Even if you give electronically, please take it and pass it to the others sitting in your pew so that it can make its way down to the other side. Others may have offerings or pew cards to place in the plate.
- If you are the only one in the pew, place your offering or pew card in the plate and hand it back to the usher. If you already gave electronically and are the only one in the pew, simply wave off the plate and the usher will move to the next pew.
- Please do not feel self-conscious as the plate comes around. Plenty of people give electronically and the assumption should you not put anything in is that you give in this way.

As we begin to collect an offering in worship, it also affords us the opportunity to use *pew cards* to collect information from visitors who are with us and to register for the Lord's Supper when we offer it. This is new to all of us here at St. Paul's. *Visitor cards* are there for those who are visiting. The information gathered will allow us to "follow-up" with visitors in the hopes that we can share more about our Savior and our church with them. Communion Registration has been happening for some time already. The

sheet at the Narthex podium has been back for a while now the Communion Card simply moves that process to the pew. You do not need to sign both the narthex sheet and the pew card, one or the other will do. If you fill out a pew card, simply drop it in the plate as it comes around. Our offering counters will sort them out and give them to the Church Secretary each week.

Speaking of offerings, A number of our special offerings come to a close as December dawns. *We hit our mark, actually exceeded it for new hymnals.* The number is currently 354. We will wait another week or two before placing the order should any other gifts be given or if anyone wants a hymnal for themselves and then we will order the new books. *Gifts for Seminary couples* need to be in by November 28th as well so we can get them to the couples by Christmas. We also gathered funds as usual *for families in need* this holiday season. Those baskets will remain out through our weekend services on December 4th & 5th. At that time, we give a portion to the police benevolent society and keep a portion to help out member families throughout the coming year. Finally, we put out *commitment cards for mortgage reduction* over the next three years in mailboxes last month. Please fill those cards out and return them as soon as possible either to the office or put them in the offering plate.

December Worship Opportunities

12-4	8:00am	Church Decorating
12-7	6:00pm	Advent by Candlelight
12-10	7:00pm	Joyful Witness Concert
12-11	2:00pm	Joyful Witness Concert
12-12	9:00am	Preschool Christmas Service
12-19	4:00pm	Children's Christmas Service
<i>Sunday School on break until January 9th</i>		
12-21	6:30pm	Worship at the Cross (Christmas Edition)
12-24	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
12-24	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
12-25	9:00am	Christmas Day Festival Service
12-31	6:30pm	New Year's Eve Service & Communion

Budgetary Update

As of October 31, 2021

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Current	\$638,671.46	\$563,603.59	\$75,067.87
Mission	\$45,322.40	\$51,144.90	-\$5,822.50
Improvement	\$6,513.94	\$5,000.00	+\$1,513.94
Mortgage	\$90,067.75	\$109,737.90	-\$19,670.15
Expenses	\$555,775.43	\$619,748.49	-\$63,973.06
	Balance 9/31	Balance 10/31	
Church Mortgage	\$1,390,337.03	\$1,363,650.76	

Parsonage Mortgage \$56,838.82 \$56,102.21

Monthly payment for the church mortgage is \$10,973.79

Monthly payment of the parsonage mortgage is \$363.86



By day not year ... nobody needs to know the year 😊

Alexander Kemnitz	12/1	Asher Ciske	12/18
Parker Wendt	12/2	Porter Schumacher	12/18
Amanda Tadych	12/2	Michelle Lamb	12/18
Chelsea Weinke	12/2	Emelia Schoonover	12/19
Megan Weinke	12/2	Savannah Wood	12/19
Paul Christie	12/2	Travis Bortner	12/19
Ari Kuechler	12/3	Holly Christie	12/20
Tara Wendt	12/4	Brittany Linzmeyer	12/21
Shirley Rost	12/4	Tim Tackett	12/21
Austen Grassel	12/6	Pam Vanderboom	12/21
Kristina Patterson	12/7	Ryan Mikle	12/22
Wayne Jahns	12/7	Gwen North	12/22
Eric Meyer	12/8	Dina Leichtfuss	12/23
Korey Krupp	12/8	David Hass	12/23
Lori Marschall	12/8	Cody Emerich	12/24
Joyce Erke	12/8	Matthew Miller	12/24
Logan Schneider	12/9	Kristine Mittelstadt	12/24
Hunter Jorgensen	12/10	Tensley Reitz	12/25
Ashley Kemnitz	12/10	Bria Reinke	12/25
Peter Jerman	12/11	Linda Mathwig	12/25
Paula Hass	12/11	Onalee Surian	12/26
Emma Fisher	12/12	Emily Wilhelms	12/26
Emily Balson	12/12	Meliza Lane	12/26
Michael Johnson	12/13	Perry Welch	12/26
Steven Ashley	12/14	Jeff Krug	12/27
Zach Frank	12/15	Steve Herzberg	12/28
Lisa Jerman	12/15	Trinity McNicholas	12/29
Victoria Rushing	12/15	Gary Priebe	12/29
Mary Kaiser	12/15	Emmitt Slattery	12/30
Paige Smith	12/16	Owen Slattery	12/30
Mark Roedl	12/16	Cheryl Wunder	12/30
Sarah Gieschen	12/17	Kim Geisthardt	12/30
Dave Babler	12/17	Liliana Robinet	12/31
Debbie Krause	12/17	Laura Tillman	12/31
Paul Metzger	12/17	David Jeffers	12/31
		Bob England	12/31

My times are in your hands; Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. (Ps 31:15-16)

A fun birthday activity. Find your baptism certificate and recall the day when you were born into the family of God.

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ! He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price. Do I need earth's treasures many? I

*have one worth more than any That brought me salvation
free, Lasting to eternity!*