



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

St. Paul's Lutheran Church December 2023 Newsletter

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

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

More than a Feeling!

If you're a fan of the 70s and 80s perhaps the rock ballad tones of Boston float to mind as you read the title of this article. While there isn't much of a connection between Boston and Advent or Christmas, "More than a Feeling" as a song was meant to express how music was able to help the musician cope with the loss of those who had come and gone in life over the years. I wonder if that's how the world views Christmas sometimes. Just a time for nostalgia and recalling the Christmases of old, trimming trees, and giving gifts, ultimately a time for remembering the past and coping with the realities of life. Christmas is about getting all those feelings.

Now before you call me Scrooge and stop reading altogether. Those aren't bad things and I do hope you have some of those Christmas traditions. I even hope you get "all the feels" this holiday season. Advent and Christmas, however, are about so much more than that.

They are about real history! It's about a real couple Joseph and Mary who got some really strange news from the angel Gabriel. Mary would become pregnant in an entirely unnatural way. The Holy Spirit would miraculously place the Word, the Son, Jesus Christ in her womb. The uncontainable God would be contained therein. It's the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise made in the garden as God prepares to crush the serpent's head. It's about victory, real victory for you and me because our salvation, our life, our forgiveness has stepped onto the pages of human history. Yes, we are saved.

No wonder the church for centuries has joined in the advent cry, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!" No wonder at Christmas we burst into song with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2:14)"

Every Christmas season I end up watching a few minutes at least of the old Christmas cartoons. Frosty the snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and the like, have a way of bringing back the days of my youth and all that Christmas meant for me back then. Ah, but then nothing says Christmas, like church. Nothing gets the real meaning of Christmas dancing around in my head like the age-old story of the Bible. Nothing reminds me like the living and enduring Word of God that Christmas is about more than a feeling. It's about the rock-solid facts of our forgiveness. The eternal hope that is ours because God took on flesh for us.

*Ponder again what glory then
The Lord will give you for your earthly sadness.
The angel host can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.*

*The world may hold her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To Him hold fast until at last
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.*

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is #342

Advent by Candlelight – December 5th

Our Women In God's Service (WInGS) Group is putting on its annual Advent by Candlelight event for all women of the congregation. It starts at 6:15 pm on December 5th with snacks and fellowship. ½ hour of games will follow at 6:30 pm and the Advent by Candlelight presentation starts around 7:00 pm. As one member and regular attendee put it, "It's always just so wonderful and a special way to prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth." *Sign up by the Martin Luther Room if you plan on attending so the ladies can prepare the fellowship hall accordingly.*

December Calendar of Events

Events at St. Paul's are italicized

- Dec. 2 – *Christmas Tree Decorating at 8:30 AM*
- Dec. 2 – WLA Winter Band Concert at 4:00 PM
- Dec. 3 – MLC Christmas Concert at 7:30 PM
- Dec. 4 – MLC Christmas Concert at 4 PM
- Dec. 6 – *Advent by Candlelight by WInGS at 6:30 PM*
- Dec. 10 – Wis. Luth. Sem. Christmas 3 PM & 7 PM
- Dec. 15 – *Joyful Witness Christmas Concert at 7 PM*
- Dec. 16 – *Joyful Witness Christmas Concert at 2 PM*
- Dec. 17 – *Children's Christmas Service at 4 PM*
- Dec. 19 – WLA Christmas Concert at 7 PM
- Dec. 20 – WLA Christmas Concert at 1 PM
- Dec. 21 - January 2 – Christmas Break (SPLS & WLA)
- Dec. 24 (4 PM & 6 PM) – *Christmas Eve Worship*
- Dec. 25 (9 AM) – *Christmas Day Worship*
- Dec. 31 (6:30 PM) – *New Year's Eve Worship*

Livestreams are available for almost everything these days. Most of the concerts above can be found on streaming sites for various institutions.

- St. Paul's at stpaulslutherannfdl.com/streams
- Winnebago Lutheran Academy at youtube.com/c/WLATV/
- Martin Luther College at mlc-wels.edu/streams/
- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at livestream.com/WLSLive



Want other opportunities for concerts and music? Almost every Area Lutheran High School and our two synodically funded high schools Luther Preparatory School (lps.wels.net) and Michigan Lutheran Seminary (mlsem.org) offer Christmas Concerts and Livestream them as well. Visit their websites and load up on the Christmas joy.

Matching Opportunity through year's end

A matching opportunity for the deficit reduction fund will match dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 through the end of 2023. Special offering envelopes are available in the narthex on the information centers but any envelope marked deficit reduction will do. Members, please record your offering envelope # to include your gift in your yearly giving totals. \$7, 020 has been given to date. The actual deficit heading into the year's end is about \$80,000.

HAPPY Birthday

By day not year ... that can be your own personal secret.

Cindy Kumbier-Borgers	12/1	Asher Ciske	12/18
Alexander Kemnitz	12/1	Porter Schumacher	12/18
Parker Wendt	12/2	Michelle Lamb	12/18
Amanda Tadych	12/2	Savannah Wood	12/19
Chelsea Weinke	12/2	Travis Bortner	12/19
Megan Weinke	12/2	Konar Brown	12/20
Paul Christie	12/2	Holly Christie	12/20
Joseph Haines IV	12/2	Abby Mose	12/21
Ari Kuechler	12/3	Brittany Linzmeyer	12/21
Tara Wendt	12/4	Tim Tackett	12/21
Shirley Rost	12/4	Pam Vanderboom	12/21
Austen Grassel	12/6	Evan Boehning	12/22
Wayne Jahns	12/7	Zekiel Bonney	12/22
Eric Meyer	12/8	Ryan Mickle	12/22
Korey Krupp	12/8	Gwen North	12/22
Lori Marschall	12/8	Dina Leichtfuss	12/23
Logan Schneider	12/9	David Hass	12/23
Hunter Jorgensen	12/10	Cody Emerich	12/24
Ashley Kemnitz	12/10	Matthew Miller	12/24
Peter Jerman	12/11	Kristine Mittelstadt	12/24
Paula Hass	12/11	Tensley Reitz	12/25
Emma Fisher	12/12	Bria Reinke	12/25
Emily Balson	12/12	Linda Mathwig	12/25
Michael Johnson	12/13	Onalee Surian	12/26
Steven Ashley	12/14	Meliza Lane	12/26
Kristi Utsch	12/15	Perry Welch	12/26
Zach Frank	12/15	Trinity McNicholas	12/29
Lisa Jerman	12/15	Gary Priebe	12/29
Victoria Rushing	12/15	Emmitt Slattery	12/30
Mary Kaiser	12/15	Owen Slattery	12/30
Paige Smith	12/16	Cheryl Wunder	12/30
Mark Roedl	12/16	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

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

