

Christmas News and Notes

December 23 - 31, 2023

12/23	Sat.	6:30 PM	WORSHIP [#7]
12/24	Sun.	9:00 AM	WORSHIP [#8/9] <i>No Bible Class or Sunday School (back in Jan.)</i>
		4:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
		6:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
12/25	Mon.	9:00 AM	CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WORSHIP No Catechism Class, Choir or Chimes Practice SPLS & WLA on Christmas Break - Jan. 2
12/27	Wed.		Adult Bible Class on Break until Jan. 10
12/29	Fri.	10:30 AM	Lutheran Home Service (Pastor Ehlert)
12/30	Sat.	6:30 PM	WORSHIP [#10]
12/31	Sun.	9:00 AM	WORSHIP [#11/1]
		6:30 PM	New Year's Eve WORSHIP with Communion

Divine Call News

Last week, our Principal, Mr. Aaron Hartwig was issued the Divine Call to serve as a 6th grade teacher and math instructor at Grace Lutheran School in Oshkosh. He asks sincerely for your advice and your prayers during the upcoming days as he deliberates where he can best serve in Christ's Kingdom.

Preschool Aide Needed in the New Year

We are very grateful for the past few months of service provided by Mrs. Lauren Graumann, who served quite capably as our Preschool Aide. Mrs. Graumann will need to discontinue her role as aide when we resume classes in January, so we will need to fill the preschool aide position with a new candidate ASAP. Preschool is full of joy and energy! The youngest members of our student body really can be some of the most rewarding to work with as they are just beginning to learn and socialize. It is a joy to watch the little lights turn on in their minds as they discover all they can do. If you are interested in serving in Mrs. Schoenbach's classroom with her 16 three and four-year-olds, please let Mr. Hartwig, or the office, know.

Office Hours can vary over Christmas Break

Pastors are certainly still around but visitation and day-to-day activity does pull them out of the office quite regularly. Our staff also enjoys a little rest and relaxation not to mention some time with family as the building quiets for a week. Please call in to make sure someone is around before wasting the gas between now and January 2.

Gifts and Memorials of Poinsettias this Christmas Season

Mark & Bonnie Wiener	In Memory of Robert & LaVerne Zemke; Francis, Dorothy & David Wiener
Paul, Jacqueline & Holly Christie	In Praise to God for our salvation
Amy Boehning & Christian Boehning	In Memory of Quinn Boehning
Pam, Jena, Jake & Amber Rupert	In Memory of Todd Rupert
Robert & Tanya Wilkens	In Memory of Vicki Schumacher
Gary Schumacher	In Memory of Vicki Schumacher
Charla Murtha, Surian Family	In Memory of Scott Murtha
Jim Laudolff	In Memory of Betty Laudolff
Todd & Katie Fischer	In Memory of Our Parents
David, Tyler & Carly Babler	In Memory of Trisha Babler
Don & Kathy Thurow	In Memory of Ed & Alila Kionka; Paul & Loretta Thurow
Larry Schultz	
Robert Kresal	In Memory of Laurie L. Kresal
Bob Boehning, Sherri & Pat Linzmeyer	In Memory of Sandy Kitz
Scott & Angela Boehning	
Carol Boehning & Children	In Memory of Ron Boehning
Bob Boehning, Carol Boehning	In Memory of Quinn Boehning
Patricia Brennand	In Memory of Michael Brennand
Rachael & Glenn Sweet	In Memory of Rosemarie Thompson
Don & Beverly Buerger	In Memory of Carl & Helen Roberts; Al & Dolores Buerger
Lori Fink & Jonathon Fink	In Memory of Robert & Edith Hinn George &
Sharon Tomczyk	In Memory of Gene & Allen Schwichtenberg
Jeff White & Family	In Memory of Jerry White; Engman & Mabel Gilbertson

Anna Reitz Family

Donna Kollmann

Bob & Becky Grace

Kemnitz Families

Diane Becker

Matthew Riederer,

Mark & Cherie Deibert

Merwin Family In Memory of Grandma Geno & Grandpa Ray Gary

Peterson In Memory of Russell, Audrey, Jeff & David Peterson

Dennis Abraham Family

Gary, Gail & Matt Miller

In Memory of Terry Reitz

In Memory of Frank Kollmann

In Memory of Melvin & Hazel Beaster;
Nathan Grace

In Memory of our Dearly Departed Kemnitz'

In Memory of Jim & LeMoine Marcoe

In Memory of Rachel Riederer

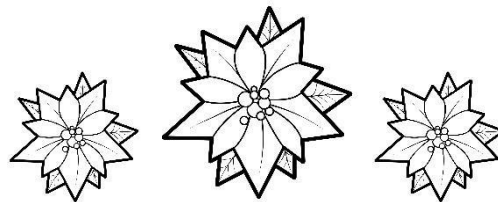
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Huck;

Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Abraham;

Sharlyn Lueck; Terri Timblin

In Memory of Marcella Briester;

Eugene, Bill & Waren Miller



Over the years many explanations have been given for the use of this plant at Christmas. It is said that in the 17th Century Franciscan Monks began carrying the plant in Christmas processions. Around the same time, the Mexican legend of Pepita and the “Flowers of the Holy Night” began, forever tying the red and green shrub to Christmas folklore and giving Christmas its popular color pattern.

Others say that the shape of the poinsettia flower symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem, with the red leaves of the poinsettia symbolizing the blood of Christ.

Still others pragmatically point to the fact that it is a pretty flower that blooms around Christmas time. Regardless, they sure make the worship space look beautiful and we are truly thankful for the generous donations of poinsettias this Christmas.

If you did donate a plant and would like to take it home after our Christmas Day service feel free to do so. We do have a listing of donations and sizes given in the sacristy. Ask a pastor if you need to refresh what sizes or quantities you gave.

School & Sunday School Mission Offering

The School & Sunday School Mission Offering for the first semester goes to the Military Services Committee (MSC). MSC provides face-to-face ministry to WELS military personnel serving at installations in the United States and in Europe and resources for those serving elsewhere. So far \$1,025.94 has been collected.

New Matching Opportunity

The window for our matching opportunity is closing soon. Any gift made to the deficit reduction fund before the New Year is matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. Envelopes are available in the narthex information centers. \$14,425 has been matched to date.

Offerings

We offer a variety of options to support the work of the Gospel:

- Place your gift in the offering baskets here at church in worship.
- Send your gift to St. Paul's at 1010 Adams Ave., NFDL, 54937.
- Place your gift in the birdhouse post near the office entrance.
- Scan the QR Code to go to our giving site or visit www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com/offerings
- Use Automatic withdrawal from checking. Sign-up sheets are available on our website or across from the office. Contact the office to set it up.
- Use "Vanco Mobile" found in your phone's app store. Search for "North Fond du Lac, WI" and choose St. Paul's. The Church account is for offerings. The School Account is for tuition.



Last Week's Offerings

God's people presented the following gifts to their Lord: Current - \$12,619.75; Missions - \$1,026.50; Improvement - \$49; Mortgage - \$2,723; Children's Christmas Service - \$942.34; Christmas Envelopes - \$105; New Year's Envelopes - \$5; Preschool Tuition - \$436.50; Extended Care - \$509.25; Deficit Reduction - \$650 [matched]; Worship at the Cross - \$20 (Electronic funds included in these gifts - \$5,369.75; all offerings totaled \$19,111.84; Weekly Budgeted Target \$18,960). 189 people attended weekend services (78, 37, 74 [livestream - 51]). 420 attended the Children's Christmas Service [livestream - 69].

Current Fund Deficit \$148,783

Deficit Reduction \$63,252 (+\$14,425)

Current Fund Checking \$44,560.29

Current Fund Savings \$171,749.14

Deficit reduction subtracted from the Current Fund Deficit gives the current total behind.

Annual Voter's Meeting January 14th after service with Installation of Officers at 10:15 am.