

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, School, & Preschool (WELS)

922-1080 (office phone) 1010 Adams Ave., North Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Pastor Thomas Behnke, 948-1384 (cell), 922-1718 (h)

Pastor Michael Kampman, 238-5777

Website: www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

WLA Principal David Schroeder: 921-4930

WELS Christian Family Counseling: 800-282-0561

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving: 920-740-5899

Principal Aaron Hartwig, 7-8

Joseph Loescher, 5-6

Kristin Kampman, 3-4

Rebecca Miller, 1-2

Dawn Hinn, Kindergarten

Abby Loescher, Preschool

Worship: Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:30pm and Sundays at 9:00am

Online services and materials can be found weekly at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

December 17/19/20, 2020

Advent 4

Order of Service: Service Folder

Sermon: Luke 1:26-38

It's Not Impossible with God

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. For a virgin to have a baby | 2. For that baby to be a King |
| 3. For that King to rule forever | 4. For us to be the reason it all happened! |

Welcome to St. Paul's! Christmas blessings to you!

- **Seating:** Please sit on the end of the pew where the blue tape is located. If you are only 1 or 2 people, please sit in a shorter pew. **Please observe safe spacing.**
- **We have a t-coil hearing loop system** for those with hearing aids. We also have headsets to use without hearing aids. An usher can help if you have questions.
- **Service folders** are on stands near the sanctuary doors. These folders contain the entire service. *Please take it and the bulletin home with you.* Large print copies are available on the information center.
- Parents, please feel free to use the **child training room** to calm or feed small children.
- **Restrooms** are to the right as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Your offering** may be placed in baskets on stands near the door.
- After the service, please visit outside. Thank you!

Ushers this weekend are teams 4 (C. Hintz) and 6 (R. Wilhelms). Next weekend (Dec. 26/27) teams 7 (M. Hintz) and 9 (J. Laudolff) will usher. We appreciate their service to the Lord and all of us.

God's Word this week: We have many hopes and dreams in this world. Some even seem to have honorable motives. The Lord, though, steps in and outshines our plans with the miraculous. He sends his Son to earth in a miraculous way to set up an eternal kingdom. Then in an equally wondrous way, he draws us into that kingdom through the gospel and establishes our place in it.

December 17 - 27, 2020

12/17	Thu	6:30pm	Worship with Comm. (Madilynn Emerich Baptism)
12/19	Sat	6:30pm	Worship with Communion
12/20	Sun	9:00am	Worship with Communion
		10:00am	Bible Study
		10:00am	Bible Information Class
		1:00pm	Student Christmas Service (view online)
		5:00pm	Student Christmas Service (view online)
12/21	Mon	6:10pm	Confirmation Class
12/23	Wed	6:30pm	Worship at the Cross
12/24	Thu	2:00pm	<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i>
		4:00pm	<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i>
		6:00pm	<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i>
12/25	Fri	9:00am	<i>Christmas Day Worship</i>
12/26	Sat	6:30pm	Worship
12/27	Sun	9:00am	Worship

Other worship opportunities:

- Online at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com (Recorded services are available anytime or livestream it at 9:00am Sundays.)
- WELS Sunday radio: AM1450 (FDL) and AM1280 (Appleton) at 8:00am; AM1430 (Beaver Dam) at 9:30am.
- WELS Sunday TV: *Time of Grace* on Green Bay NBC-26 at 6:30am and Milwaukee CBS-58 at 10:30am.

Worship attendance: Members and guests can sign up to attend worship at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com or call 922-1080. If you forget to sign up, please come anyway, but please do sign up for our special services at Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Christmas Cards: Christian Christmas cards are available in the library at cost as a service to members. You can pay on the honor system.

Baptism: During our Thursday service we will rejoice with Cody and Amanda (Bechler) Emerich as their little girl, *Madilynn Jo Emerich*, receives the blessing of new life in Christ through Spirit-created faith in Holy Baptism. This is Cody and Amanda's first child. May God bless them richly as they raise Madilynn in the "training and instruction of the Lord."

Divine Call: *Pastor Alex Groth*, serving Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Cincinnati, Ohio, is currently considering our call to serve here as associate pastor. Please keep him in your prayers.

Stewardship Moment: "Methods for receiving an offering are an adiaphoron, a matter of Christian freedom. We are free to use weekly envelopes, pledge cards for a three-year special offering, or a wooden chest in the church entry. Methods will vary; the motivation will not." (*Stewardship: What I Do with what God Gave Me*, Rev. Arno Wolgramm, NPH, p. 142)

Offerings: If you are not yet attending because of the pandemic, here are options for sharing Christ's good news with your offering:

- Send it to St. Paul's Lutheran, 1010 Adams Ave., NFDL, 54937.
- Drop it off in the lock box post near the office/school entrance.
- Use Vanco electronic options, including your smart phone. Go to your phone's app store under "Giving Plus." Thank you!

Face coverings: The Lord directs us to obey earthly authorities unless they require that we disobey God's commands (Rom. 13:1-5; Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 2:13-17). Please wear a mask while inside the building. Please also remember that some do not wear masks because of age or medical exemptions.

Christmas Services will be Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24th) at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00pm and Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25th) at 9:00am. A New Year's Eve service will be at 6:30pm on Dec. 31st with the Lord's Supper. **Registration will be important for these special services.** Please do so online or by calling the office: 922-1080. **If you change your mind about attending, please "un-register" so that others may attend.**

WLA Cancellations: The following events have been cancelled: *In-person* Dec. 5th Band Concert and Dec. 21st & 22nd Christmas Concerts. Also, WLA Let's Celebrate, Jan. 31st, has been cancelled.

Envelopes for 2021 are available on the tables across from the mailboxes. Please don't use them until 2021. This is an excellent time to evaluate what portion of what God gives us we will return to him in thanksgiving for our Savior. *You may also pick up envelopes during school hours.*

Our St. Paul's Lutheran elementary school students will have Christmas services this Sunday (Dec. 20th) at 1:00 and 5:00pm. In-person attendance is by invitation. You can stream the services from our website: www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com.

Secretary Position: Beginning soon as our new church & school secretary is Amy Surian. Amy is the wife of Tony and mother of Onalee, a 2nd grader in our school. We warmly welcome her and wish her God's blessings as she serves her Lord and us all!

Communion: As we receive bread and wine, the Savior also gives us his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our faith. It is also an expression of the unity of faith we enjoy based on our agreement with all of the Lord's teachings. Members of the WELS and ELS are invited to commune. For the time being, the Lord's Supper is at the end of the service. Please feel free to be dismissed either before communion begins or any-time after communing. Ushers will have you come forward seven at a time. Please stand where the blue tape is on the step.

Last week's gifts: Current Fund-\$11,881.31; Missions-\$355; Improvement Fund-\$160; Mortgage Fund-\$3,343; Christmas-\$120; St. Paul's Student Aid-\$50; Preschool Service-\$58 (Electronic funds included in these gifts total \$3,145.24). **Memorials:** Two poinsettias have been given by Dennis & Marilyn Abraham in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Huck, Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Abraham, Joann Albrecht, and Sharlyn Lueck. Jeff & Pam Eckert gave a gift to the Mortgage Fund in memory of David Wiener. Jeff & Darla White and family gave a gift to the Current Fund in memory of Jeff's father, Jerry White, grandparents, Engman & Mabel Gilbertson, and aunt, Marge Gilbertson.

"The Word was living before the world was created. He was living with God, because he was God....He created everything, and there wasn't one single thing created that he didn't create. He was the source of life; and his life was the source of light people need." (John 1:1,3,4; *New Testament in Everyday American English*, Prof. Julian Anderson, ELS)

2 Samuel 7:8-13

Tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "'The LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him -- ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.