

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 3/5/6, 2020

Advent 2

Order of Service: Service Folder

Sermon: Mark 1:4,5; Matthew 3:7-10

John the Baptist Prepared People for the Savior

By showing us the need

By calling for a change of heart

Welcome to St. Paul's!

- **Seating:** Please sit on the end of the pew where the blue tape is located. If you have a larger group, please sit in a longer pew. **For the benefit of all, please observe proper spacing.**
- **A t-coil hearing loop system** for those with hearing aids is available. 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 prints are available on the info 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 14 (D. Babler) and 16 (B. Bruss). Next weekend (Dec. 12/13) teams 1 (D. Schumacher) and 3 (M. Peachy) will usher. Schedules for ushering during 2021 will be distributed soon. Thank you to all who help!

God's Word this week: God doesn't leave us to struggle on our own in this world but prepares us for the final great event—Jesus' return at the end. He sends his messengers to point out the reality of sin and its consequences so we don't drift into complacency. He sends his good news of salvation in Christ and connects us with him in baptism. What a change that creates in our focus for living!

December 3 - 13, 2020

12/03	Thu	6:30pm	Worship with Communion
12/05	Sat	6:30pm	Worship with Communion
12/06	Sun	9:00am	Worship with Communion
		10:00am	Bible Study
		10:00am	Bible Information Class
12/07	Mon	6:10pm	Confirmation Class
12/08	Tue	6:00pm	Advent by Candlelight
12/09	Wed	8:45am	Bible Study
		6:00pm	Board of Christian Education
12/10	Thu	6:30pm	Worship
12/12	Sat	6:30pm	Worship
12/13	Sun	9:00am	Worship
		10:00am	Bible Study
		10:00am	Bible Information Class

Other worship opportunities:

- Online at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com (Recorded services are available anytime or live stream at 9:00am Sundays.)
- WELS Sunday radio: AM1450 and AM1280 - 8:00am; AM1430 - 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. We will continue the following worship schedule for the present: Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:30pm and Sundays at 9:00am.

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

Divine Call: God in His grace and wisdom led the voters gathered last Sunday to extend a call to *Pastor Alexander Groth*, currently serving Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School as associate pastor in Cincinnati, OH. His wife *Carrie* currently teaches within the school. We keep them in our prayers as they deliberate where God will use them best in service to His kingdom. Pastor Groth is okay with people calling him as he considers this call to St. Paul's. His phone number is (414) 403-9339.

Bible Study for students of all ages is Wednesday at 8:45am and Sunday at 10:00am in the church. We are learning about the times, people, and places of the Bible that will help God's wonderful "Book of books" come alive as we read it at home. We meet in the church where there is plenty of space. Everyone is welcome.

Stewardship Moment: "We brought nothing with us on the day of our birth. Likewise, we will take nothing with us on the day of our death....A rental truck filled with personal belongings is never part of our funeral procession. Paul restates the obvious in the Scriptures when he writes, 'We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it' (1 Timothy 6:7). (*Stewardship: What I Do with what God Gave Me*, A. Wolffgramm, NPH, p. 79)

Offerings: If you are not yet attending because of the pandemic, here are some options for sharing the gospel 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 entrance.
- Use Vanco electronic options, including your smart phone. Go to your phone's app store under "Giving Plus."

Advent by Candlelight: The women of WInGS invite all confirmed women of the congregation to join us for Advent by Candlelight **this Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 6:00pm**. The program is *Silent Night, Holy Night*, a study of popular Christmas carols. This year the entire event will be held in the church. Doors will open at 5:45pm and the program will start at 6:00. This has been an unsettling year, but more than ever we wish to take time to reflect on the real reason for the Christmas season. Church seating rules will apply and masks are required. We hope you can join us this Tuesday!

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Poinsettias: This year our plant supplier had to place an order more than a month ago to ensure plants were available. The church has purchased a few, but if you would like to bring your own poinsettias to share with us for Advent and Christmas, please feel free to do so!

Face coverings: The Lord directs us to obey authorities unless they demand 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. New Year's Eve service will be at 6:30pm with the Lord's Supper. Registration will be important for these special services. Please do so online or by calling the office: 922-1080.

Last week's gifts: Current Fund-\$6,239.15; Missions-\$795; Improvement Fund-\$35; Mortgage Fund-\$579; Thanksgiving-\$6,487; WLA Tuition Assistance-\$150; St. Paul's Student Aid-\$50; A/V Ministry-\$20; Organ/Piano-\$820; Gym Improvement-\$50; Food for Families Free will-\$1,522 (Electronic funds included in these gifts total \$1,371.29). **Memorials:** to the Current Fund in memory of Harold Gilbertson from friends of his sister, Janet White; to the A/V Ministry Fund in memory of Gerald Adams from Sharon Adams; **Flowers:** from Sue & Bernard Hagen in thanksgiving to God on their 50th wedding anniversary on December 5th (and a gift to the Organ Fund as well). We thank and congratulate them!

Communion: As we receive bread and wine the Savior also gives us his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and to fortify 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 safety's sake, the Lord's Supper is at the end of the service. Please feel free to be dismissed either before communion begins or anytime after communing. Ushers will have you come forward seven at a time. Please stand where the blue tape is on the step in front of you.

*"You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees."
(Psalm 119:68)*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, ...say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

2 Peter 3:8-14

With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Mark 1:2-8

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" - ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."