

December 2020 Newsletter

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School, & Preschool
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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Worship Schedule Information!



For enhanced safety, the Church Council has determined that we will continue our weekly worship schedule through the month of December on Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:30pm and Sundays at 9:00am (except when holiday services supersede). We will evaluate this again at the next Council meeting. If you have any input, please speak with a councilman. Thank you!

Christmas and New Year's Worship

Using current worship numbers and evaluating past worship habits as best as possible, we will have Christmas services as follows:

- Christmas Eve:** 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00pm
Christmas Day: 9:00am
New Year's Eve: 6:30pm with Communion

We will be asked to **sign up** for these services so we may maintain safe distancing. We may do so online or by calling the office. Services will be recorded and/or streamed.

While we may have to make accommodations for a different kind of Christmas this year in our churches and homes, we all know that this season is not about us and our feelings. It is about our dear Savior and his caring, selfless actions for us sinners. This timeless truth helps us act not like spoiled children who demand things, but rather as humble servants and grateful heirs of the completely undeserved gift of eternal life!



Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart,
Made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.

(Christian Worship 38 v. 13)

Other Christmas Services

The Lutheran Elementary School Christmas services this year will have the students divided into smaller groups. Those attending are by invitation only. The preschool service is also for students and their family members. We look forward to returning to normalcy, God willing, in the future!

Advent by Candlelight

The women of WInGS invite all confirmed women of the congregation to join us for Advent by Candlelight on **Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:00pm**. The program is *Silent Night, Holy Night*, a study of popular Christmas carols. There are some modifications -- *the entire event will be held in the church*. No food will be served this year. Doors will open at 5:45pm and the program itself will start at 6:00. This has been a crazy, unsettling year, but we still wish to take time and reflect on the true, beautiful reason for the Christmas season. Church seating rules will apply and masks are required. We hope you can join us!



Financial Update

	<u>2020 Current</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Mortgage</u>
Feb	-\$12,431	-\$1,041	+\$6,348
Apr	+\$15,663	-\$ 433	+\$4,987
May	+\$18,334	+\$ 822	+\$3,206
Jun	+\$ 8,433	+\$1,914	+\$ 774
Jul	-\$ 515	+\$1,071	-\$1,040
Aug	-\$ 4,003	+\$1,956	+\$9,979
Sep	-\$15,678	+\$1,170	+\$8,594
Oct	-\$20,670	+\$ 648	+\$4,558

By God's grace, from January through October we have underspent our Current Fund budget by \$27,208.

Resources from the WELS

(Please visit www.wels.net)

Family Devotions: WELS Commission on Discipleship offers devotions for the entire family to use. The devotions coincide with the previous Sunday's Bible readings. Each devotion is complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken.

Marriage Moments: Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. Marriage Moments are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly e-mail.

WELS Women's Ministry: The new December devotion series from Women's Ministry is designed to help you stay refreshed in the Word and focused on Christ. Written by your sisters in Christ, these daily devotions will bring you Biblical encouragement and insights. Sign up to receive these devotions in your e-mail, and feel free to forward and share them with others everywhere. Built on Scripture, these devotions will give different perspectives of Christmas from many different women in the account of Christ's birth. Stop for just a moment to receive the peace and strength that only God's Word can bring.

WELS Giving: WELS Christian giving counselors continue to be available during this pandemic to assist WELS members with will planning, gifts of appreciated assets (e.g., securities), and other special gifts that provide a tax-wise way to support loved ones and WELS ministry efforts. There is no cost or obligation, and their assistance can be given via phone, web conference, or in person, depending on the comfort level of the individuals being served. Go online for more information or call (920) 740-5899.

WELS Men: With the holidays quickly approaching and the uncertainty surrounding each of us every day due to the pandemic, joining the WELSMen could be a new way of strengthening your faith and networking with other men who share the same visions and goals. If interested,

please check out our website: welsmen.com for more information. Merry Christmas!

Farewell Blessings

Pastor Tom and Karen Behnke wish you a very fond farewell as we begin our retirement in January. We are grateful for your kindness, love, and support over the past 34 ½ years and thank you for the opportunity God gave us to share his saving Word with so many precious souls here. For the time being, at least, we will continue to live in the area. We look forward to the end of the pandemic when we may be able to do a little traveling (especially around our beautiful state) and hopefully some volunteer work, as health permits and God sees fit, in areas that may interest us.

May the Lord bless you always as you continue to work together, alongside your teachers, pastors, and very capable and faithful elected leaders with a sense of urgency to share the good news of salvation with our community and area. To all of you we say, "Good bye" -- which really means, "God be with you!"

~~Glory to God in the
highest, and on
earth peace, good will
toward men.~~

~~Luke 2:14~~

A Very Blessed Christmas to All!

Your called workers wish all of our fellow members and their families a very blessed and joyful Christmas this year! We have been through very much together over the past nine or ten months -- but we have been through it together with the gracious Lord at our sides! We have also said many prayers for one another. We appreciate your support and the many kind words and expressions of love we have received. Especially we thank the Lord for the opportunity he gives us to serve him and his people with the gospel. With the angels we say together: "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!*"