Saint Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School – Bremen, IN

The Epistle December 2021

 From Pastor Wonnacott’s keyboard:

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**Church Office Hours**:

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

**Sunday Schedule**:

Sunday School: 8:30 am

Worship: 9:30 am

**Pastor**:

Rev. Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours:

M, W, TH & F

8:30 – 11:30 am

574-301-9291

**Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ’s Birth**

**Advent–Christmas series**

Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14); “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6); and “From you O Bethlehem shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that, in fact, the entire Old Testament prophesies about Him - “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27, emphasis added). “For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away” (2 Corinthians 3:14, emphasis added). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me” (John 5:39, emphasis added). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh. As the hymn puts it,

For deep in prophets’ sacred page,

And grand in poets’ winged word,

Slowly in type, from age to age

The nations saw their coming Lord. (LSB 810:2)

The various “types” in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The Advent sermons in this series focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. The Christmas sermon then focuses on how the narrative of Jesus’ birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification (Romans 4:25). All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation on Him who is the Word made flesh!

**December 1st at 6pm *Midweek Advent Dinner 1***

We will be having a chili supper provided by the board of Public Relations and we ask that you bring a dessert to share. The free will offering is for our Youth to go to the National Youth Gathering next year.

December 1st at 7pm *Midweek of Advent 1*

The burning bush foretells the time when the Son of God would descend to this world and take on our human nature in order to deliver us from our enemies.

Sermon: “Old Testament Christmas” Exodus 3:1-14

**December 8th at 6pm *Midweek Advent Dinner 2***

We will be having a ham dinner provided by Parish Fellowship and we ask that you bring a dessert to share. The free will offering is for our Youth to go to the National Youth Gathering next year.

December 8th at 7pm Midweek of Advent 2

The Son of God, who once dwelt among His people in a tent made of animal skins, has made His eternal dwelling place among us in our human skin in order to bring us back to life with God.

Sermon: “The Lord Sets Up His Tent Among Us” Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

**December 15th at 7pm *Children’s Christmas Service***

PTL will serve refreshments following the service.

**December 22nd at 7pm *Midweek Advent Three***

For with the Lord, the last shall be first, and the humble shall be exalted. Gideon’s small and weak army would defeat Israel’s enemies “as one man.” This wonderfully prefigures how the one man Jesus would defeat our enemies through weakness. Though the infant Jesus did not appear to be a threat to sin, death, and the devil, hidden beneath His lowliness and humility was the very presence and power of God to destroy them.

 Sermon: “You Shall Defeat Them as One Man” Judges 6:11–24; (7:2–9)

**December 24th at 7pm *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

The children of the church will participate in this service.

December 25th at 9:30am *Christmas Day*

The true story of Jesus’ birth reveals and foretells the reconciliation of God and man and the fulfillment of history in His incarnation and death and resurrection.

Sermon: “The Living Nativity” Isaiah 9:2–7

**December 31st at 7pm *New Year’s Eve Service with Holy Communion***

Pastor Fiechtner will lead us in worship this night.

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY EPISTLE IS DECEMBER 2OTH!!!*** Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

**Liturgical Corner**

**Worship Component:** Old Testament Reading

**Scriptural Basis:** Luke 4:17-21

**Meaning:** The Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament. We read it and meditate on it just as Christ Himself did.

**Application for Daily Living:** Always read the Old Testament in the light of what we know about God from the New Testament.

**Worship Component:** Psalm or Gradual

**Scriptural Basis:** Eph. 5:19, Psalm 89:1

**Meaning:** *Gradual* comes from a Latin word that means *step*. Historically, music may have been used as a transition to the next reading. We respond to hearing God’s Word by singing God’s Word. Psalms echo the Old Testament reading and anticipate the Gospel for the Day. Graduals also highlight the season of the church year. Many of the psalms were written to be sung responsively, and so we often follow this ancient practice.

**Application for Daily Living:** Every Christian should seek to know the link between the testaments. Antiphons [an-tə-fən] are sung responses that contextualize the psalms and help keep them in your mind throughout the week.

**Worship Component:** Epistle

**Scriptural Basis:** Acts 2:42, Eph. 4:11, 2 Tim. 3:16-17

**Meaning:** Acts 2 says that the early church was devoted to the teachings of the Apostles, and so is the church today by regular public reading of their letters.

**Application for Daily Living:** The weekly readings make great texts for further study and prayer.

**Worship Component:** Verse

**Scriptural Basis:** John 6:68

**Meaning:** Because we are about to hear the very words and deeds of Christ, the congregation acknowledges the Lord’s presence in their midst through His Gospel by standing and singing *Alleluia*, which means *Praise the Lord*.

**Application for Daily Living:** Praise the Lord, for He alone has the words of eternal life. When tempted, remember to trust Christ above all things.

**Worship Component:** Gospel

**Scriptural Basis:** John 6:63, John 20:30-31

**Meaning:** The third reading of the day comes from the life and teachings of Christ. It establishes the theme for the day and is usually noticeable in the prayers, sermon, and other parts of the service that are “proper” or specific to this particular Sunday.

**Application for Daily Living:** Discuss the readings with your family around the dinner table.

**Worship Component:** Hymn of the Day

**Scriptural Basis:** Col. 3:16, Psalm 78:4

**Meaning:** The only Lutheran addition to the historic Mass, this hymn is usually doctrinal in nature, teaching the theme of the day by placing it on our lips.

**Application for Daily Living:** Daily prayers life is enriched by meditation upon hymn verses.

**Worship Component:** Sermon

**Scriptural Basis:** 1 Cor. 1:23, 2 Tim. 4:1-2

**Meaning:** As the prophets, apostles and even Jesus Himself did, the pastor speaks on behalf of God, bringing His Word to shepherd His people.

**Application for Daily Living:** Further exploration of the sermon text during the week makes a great Bible study.

**Worship Component:** Creed

**Scriptural Basis:** 1 Tim. 6:12, Matt. 10:32-33, Rom. 10:9-10

**Meaning:** Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith just preached. The creeds signify our allegiance to Christian doctrine and unites us with over 2,000 years of Christian history.

**Application for Daily Living:** Repetition of the creed equips us for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.

**Worship Component:** Prayer of the Church

**Scriptural Basis:** 1 Tim. 2:1-6, James 5:16

**Meaning:** As baptized children of God, we have a responsibility to pray not only for ourselves, but for the world. As instructed by the Word, we pray that earthly rulers would keep the peace that we might worship God in quietude.

**Application for Daily Living:** The wide variety of needs prayed for in this prayer is a good model for our daily prayers.

**Worship Component:** Offering/Offertory

**Scriptural Basis:** Psalms 116:12-14, 17-19

**Meaning:** We receive so many bountiful gifts from God that we are glad to give back to Him. Psalm 116 teaches that the highest offering is to simply receive in faith the cup of salvation, especially as we look forward to the Lord’s Supper.

**Application for Daily Living:** Our offerings can life our daily work out of the routine if we see it as opportunity to earn gifts to return to God.

**Board Briefs:**

**YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES**

**Upcoming Events**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Youth in Grades 4 through 8 are encouraged to participate in this year's Christmas Eve Service. Practices will be on the following Sundays after the church service (we will start at 10:45 or 11:15 depending on the Sunday) and last approximately an hour:

* December 5
* December 12
* December 19

We also may hold an additional practice before the Service itself on December 24th. Please join us as the Youth share the great news of the Christ Child’s birth.

**National Youth Gathering (July 2022)**

Looking back over the last few months, we are so thankful for the support from the congregation for our 6 Youth and 3 Adult Leaders planning to attend the Youth Gathering next summer. First, your continued prayers are appreciated as these Youth continue their walk with our Lord. Secondly, thank you for your support financially through the Car Wash (August), Rent-A-Youth (November), and Family Christmas Pictures (November). Please look for additional opportunities to support the Youth in the weeks and months ahead, as we will make announcements through the Sunday bulletins, on the Youth bulletin board, and through other channels.

If there are any questions related to the Youth Group, please contact Andy Wildauer

 at (801) 707-3399.

**Board of Parish Fellowship**

**Euchre Parties** is on December 10th. Join us in the Bethany Room and bring a friend and a snack to share! Be prepared to have FUN!!!!

**Men’s Group** – Basketball is on December 5th & 19th from 3 to 5pm

**Board of Public Relations**

Greeters are needed! There is a sign-up list on the check-it-out board. We ask the greeters to meet the people outside at the overhang, weather permitting.



**SGO Funds Needed!**

Our school year is off to a good start and eight families have received a SGO scholarship to assist with tuition costs. Another three families are anticipated to participate. That means that we are in need of donations in our SGO fund!

Donating to the SGO does not just benefit our school families! It benefits you, the donor! You may claim a 50% tax credit for your donation, and your donation is also tax-deductible, as the Lutheran SGO is a 501C- 3 charity. Our school account in the Lutheran SGO depends entirely on donations; it is not government subsidized.

Additional information can be found at LutheranSGO.org and from the school office.

Thank you for your donation!



**Postings from Preschool**

The students learned about the Israelites in the desert and how God delivered them.  The Beginners studied patterns and numbers 1-5. The PreK class studied the letters K, D,  and F.

Everyone cut vegetables and stirred the soup on Stone Soup Day - we were thankful for their families who attended that event. God's blessings to all as we celebrate Thanksgiving and look forward to our Savior's birth!

**Amazon Smile Reminder**

**Attention Amazon shoppers:**  Choose Amazon Smile and designate St. Paul's as the charitable recipient on your account.  Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to our church and school.  With Christmas shopping on the horizon, now is a good time to set this up if you haven't already.  Please note this doesn't cost you anything, but is a charitable donation made by Amazon. Thanks for supporting St. Paul's through this program.

**Mission of the Month**

In 2021 our Sunday school continues to send $75.00 each month to a mission.

**December Mission of the Month: Bethesda Lutheran Communities**

On January 10, 2022 Bethesda will officially change its name to **AbleLight** but its mission will remain the same -- to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

For over 100 years, Bethesda has worked tirelessly to educate, advocate for and empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bethesda is dedicated to helping those they support become active members of their community so that they can live their lives to the fullest.

For more information, go to <http://www.bethesdalc.org>.

**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US**

One of the changes brought about due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak was using an "offering box" in the narthex of the church in front of the water fountains instead of passing an offering plate during the worship service. Please remember to give back to the Lord from the many blessings He gives us by placing your offering in the offering box or "e-tithing" by having a weekly deposit to St Paul's from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

**Newsletter article – December 2021**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, Consolation to His Mother Helvia, 11.3)

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he ahs plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it’s a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, Love of Wealth, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches… the more eagerly he desires them” (The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters… You cannot serve God and Money” (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician’s diagnosis and a physician’s remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as the man healed dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved and trusted Him above all things.

In essence, He says, “Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have no fully feared, loved and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live on.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God towards us. And God’s great mercy, grace and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy and love toward us is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us. So, we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it.: our family, society and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

**December’s Devotion – “All I Want…”**

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given .... Isaiah 9:6a*

Every year my parents used to ask, "Well, son, what do you want for Christmas this year?"

And since this was in the days before eBay, in the years before "Black Fridays" and "Cyber Mondays," in the era before people camped out for days in front of a store to get an "early-bird special," I have to confess, I didn't always get what I wanted. That's because there were years when my request was a bit big for the family budget. There were times when what I wanted simply couldn't be found, and there was a time or two when my parents thought my requests weren't very sensible.

During those years I didn't get what I wanted.

Does that sound familiar to you? Have you experienced those times when you were given socks instead of a sled, or underwear instead of that new flat-screen television?

I guess you haven't always gotten what you wanted either.

Well, there are two ways to change that. The first way is the easiest way: stop depending on others to give you what you want, and get it for yourself. According to a nationwide survey done in Canada, 37 percent of the people consulted said they were going to spend almost as much on themselves as they did their spouse or their children.

Giving gifts to yourself is one way to be sure you're going to get what you want for Christmas.

But there is a second way: don't stop the Holy Spirit from giving you the Savior that you need.

Yes, I am fully aware that most of us already know the Savior, and that's a wonderful thing. It is quite possible He has been with us from before we can remember. For that we should be most grateful.

But I still maintain, this year you need a Savior. More than anything else on your wish list, you are going to need a Savior. You see 2013 is going to be a year which is different than any year which has gone before. No, I'm not a prophet. I simply believe that as we grow older, as circumstances around us change, we do too.

And in whatever circumstance we find ourselves, we will need our Savior. We will need His forgiveness; we will need His peace; we will need the hope He alone can give. And we will need all of these things differently than we ever did before.

So, I don't know what you want this year for Christmas, and I don't know if you're going to get it. But we at Lutheran Hour Ministries sure pray you get what you need: the fellowship, the friendship, the salvation won by our Savior.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, create in us new hearts so that we may want what we need: Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is Your good news of great joy for all of us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Taken from Lutheran Hour Ministries - this Daily Devotion was written by Pastor Ken Klaus

**Please save the following date for PTL fundraiser.**

January 11, 2022 all day at La Parilla Caliente Mexican Restaurant at

119 W. Plymouth St. Bremen will be donating 30% of sales to the school.

**Thank you to those who participated in the Hacienda fundraiser!!**

**Christmas Card List for Some of Our Seniors 2021**

1. Rita Stanifer Miller’s Merry Manor, 635 Oakhill Ave.,

 Room North 11, Plymouth, IN 46563

2. Patsy Schlemmer & Mel Jones 303 East Maple St., Bremen, IN 46506

3. Diana Rodgers 103 N. Center St., Apt. 203, Bremen, IN 46506

4. Mildred Bollenbacher 1633 W. Grant St., Bremen, IN 46506

5. Bo Weldy 903 N. Center St., Bremen, IN 46506

6. Linda Allen 500 S. Montgomery St., Apt. 114, Bremen, IN 46506

7. Goldie Buckner 612 S. Washington St., Bremen, IN 46506

8. Phyllis Brown Autumn Trace Senior Community #110, 2560 W.

 Lake Ave., Plymouth, IN 46563

9. Carol Seegers Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Ave.

 Elkhart, IN 46517 Room: 519

10. Jerry & Linda Smith 934 West Andrews Court, South Bend, IN 46614

11. Helen Olsen 2018 Lilac Road, Plymouth, IN 46563

12. Leo Sahlhoff Miller’s Merry Manor, 1630 S. County Farm Road, Room 49, Warsaw, IN 46580

13. Harold Nettrour 1584 Miami Road, Bremen, IN 46506

14. James & Lillian Salyer 24550 Riley Road, North Liberty, IN 46554

15. Tom & Dorothy Walter 6237 Plymouth-Goshen Trail, Bremen. IN 46506

16. Mary Kaser 500 South Montgomery St, Apt. #203, Bremen, IN

 46506

***Pilgrim’s Progress***

During the month of November, we finished our study of Pilgrim’s Progress. We learned so much along with Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. Christian and Hopeful were prepared for the final leg of their journey by the Shepherds, who were Pastors, on the Delectable Mountains. In this lesson we talked about the qualities of Pastors like the Shepherds named Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere. Even with their guidance, Christian and Hopeful were fooled by the Flatterer and forgot about the instructions given to them. When we are trapped in sin, we must confess it, and cry out to God for help, and He frees us like He did the Pilgrims. They learned from their mistakes by remembering the Shepherds’ warning about the Enchanted Ground. They stay awake by discussing how God has worked in their lives. They have learned through their journey to trust in Jesus to forgive their sin and depend on the righteousness of Christ, not themselves. The pilgrims arrive at the Celestial City. We were reminded with Christian in this last chapter that Jesus conquered death for us at the Cross, that His grace is sufficient for all our sins, and that God’s promises are true!

**Sunday School Classes for the Winter Quarter**

**December 5- February 20, 2022**

**Pre-K -Grade 1**  Nazareth Room

This class will be using material from the Faith Weavers Curriculum. Wendy Coxey will be teaching

**Grade 2-5** Grade 2-3 Classroom

This class will be using material from Christ Light Curriculum. Jeannette Rettinger will be teaching

**Grades 6-8** 6-8 Grades Classroom

Our curriculum for this class will be the Study of 1st and 2nd Peter and taught by Barb Middaugh

**High School** Principals Office

Topic to be determined.

**Adult Class I** Bethany Room

“What Does God Expect of His People” will be a Bible study led by Pastor Rohde. It is a most treasured gift that we are forgiven of all our sins and given the gift of eternal life in heaven through the death and resurrection of Christ. But now what? As we are saved through faith in Christ, what is it that Bod expects of us? Through this Bible study we will search out God’s will for our lives.

**Adult Class II**  Jerusalem Room

Dave Burcham will continue with the Study of Hebrews.

The Board of Christian Education Thanks all of the teachers that have given of themselves to teach this last quarter.

Starting on December 5 Children's Bulletins will be available to youth ages 2-8. These special bulletins will follow the lectionary and keep children engaged during the worship service. Ask the ushers for the children's bulletin.

The Board of Christian Education would like every member to read the Bible in one year. Every month in the Epistle we will publish a daily reading. This reading schedule is in accordance with Martin Luther’s suggestion: “But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided into lections, let this be preserved in the ears of the church.” We hope that you find this daily lectionary reading be inspirational to you.

**Read the Bible in a Year – Readings for December**

**December**

1 Luke 1:46-55 2 Psalm 1

 Revelations 1-2 Revelations 3-5

**3 Psalm 2 4 Psalm 3**

 **Revelations 6-8 Revelation 9-11**

5 Psalm 4 6 Psalm 5

 Revelation 12-14 Revelation 15-17

**7 Psalm 6 8 Psalm 7**

**Revelation 18-20 Revelation 21-22**

9 Psalm 8 10 Psalm 9

 Isaiah 1-3 Isaiah 4-6

**11 Psalm 10 12 Psalm 11**

 **Isaiah 7-9 Isaiah 10-12**

13 Psalm 12 14 Psalm 13

 Isaiah 13-15 Isaiah 16-18

**15 Psalm 14 16 Psalm 15**

 **Isaiah 19-21 Isaiah 22-24**

17 Psalm 16 18 Psalm 17

 Isaiah 25-57 Isaiah 28-30

**19 Psalm 18 20 Psalm 19**

 **Isaiah 31-33 Isaiah 34-36**

21 Psalm 20 22 Psalm 21

 Isaiah 37-39 Isaiah 40-42

**23 Psalm 22 24 Psalm 23**

 **Isaiah 43-45 Isaiah 46-48**

25 Psalm 24 26 Psalm 25

 Isaiah 49-51 Isaiah 52-54

**27 Psalm 26 28 Psalm 27**

 **Isaiah 55-57 Isaiah 58-60**

29 Psalm 28 30 Psalm 29

 Isaiah 61-63 Isaiah 64-66

**31 Luke 1:46-55**

 **Mark 1**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 2021

ANNIVERSARIES

10 Larry & Beth Enders 28 Brad & Ada Sahlhoff

12 Tom & Dorothy Walter 31 Wayne & Tara Andrews

 Anthony & Katherine Barts Tony & Melonie Venable

BIRTHDAYS

1 Doug Aurand 24 Traci Pulliam

 Hanna Smeltzer

2 Penny Holderman 26 Katherine Goze

 Robb Jones Matthew Ringle

 Dorothy Sahlhoff

5 Sara Sahlhoff 27 Patty Bowen

8 Karen Matthew Rhonda Owens

 Ethan Tjernagel

10 Annette Knepper

 John Stayton 28 Eric Miller

 Eric Smeltzer

13 Kandice Ernsperger

 Joe Ervin 29 Katie Lynch

 Christie Wonnacott

 Christina Wright 31 Larry Britt

 Alexia Cannon

14 Grace Barts Tom Walter

 Noah Youngman Candace Wright

15 Tammy Britt

 Mark Cope



16 Anthony Barts

 Noelle Cannon

 Kelly Lee

17 Steve Fox

18 Conner Barts

19 Jayden Potoczky

 Brittany Sahlhoff

 Elaine Young

20 Wyatt Wildauer

21 Emiliano Mejia

23 Dawn Schmeltz

St.Paul'sLutheran Women's Missionary League

*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,*

*and equip women to honor God by serving others.* Adopted 2021

!!! ***ON THE CALENDER*** !!!

DECEMBER1**: short informational meeting before Advent service: 6:20-6:40 p.m.**

DECEMBER 12: We will prepare “Cheer Tins” for our home-bound members.

**NEEDED: 18 INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED ITEMS**

**Bring to the Church kitchen, Sunday December 12!**

FEBRUARY 7, 2022 MONDAY 7:00 P.M.

**Program: Bible Study** - “When I am Weak, He is Strong”

Fill “Goodie Boxes for College Students”

Hostesses: Shirley Lakins, Elaine Young

Eyeglass Ministry - MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).

Adult & Children's Glasses; Non-prescription Sunglasses; Reading Glasses; Bifocals

(ANY STYLE FRAME, BUT IN GOOD CONDITION).

Wherever MOST teams distribute used eyeglasses, the Gospel is also shared.

The collection box – *for glasses you no longer need* – is located beneath the 'Bulletin Table.'

*Psalm 100:2a* “Serve the Lord with Gladness” *LWML* *motto*

**St. Paul's 176th LITURGICAL YEAR** ✝ **December** **1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**

*Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives*

**9:30 a.m.** - \*Communion **7:00 P.M. MIDWEEK**

**December 5**  2nd Sunday of Advent **December 1** 1st Advent Wednesday

**December 12\*** 3rd Sunday of Advent **December 8** 2nd Advent Wednesday

**December 19** 4th Sunday of Advent **December 15** 3rd Advent Wednesday

 **December 24** FRIDAY **Christmas EVE**

**9:30 a.m. Saturday December 25th\* CHRISTMAS DAY w/Communion**

**December 26\*** 1st Sunday after Christmas **December 31\*** New Year’s Eve

*December Minor Festivals*:***2*1** St. Thomas, Apostle ● **26** St. Stephen, Church’s First Martyr ● **27** St. John, Evangelist & Apostle ● **28** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Of Our Lord ● *Commemorations:* ● **4** John of Damascus Theologian & Hymnwriter 675-749 ●

* **6** Nicholas Of Martyr Pastor ● **7** Ambrose Of Milan Pastor & Hymnwriter c. 340-397 ● **13** Lucia Martyr **● 17** Daniel The Prophet & The Three Young Men ● **19** Adam & Eve ● **20** Katherine Von Bora Luther ● **29** David

The color of Adventide is *violet*, signifying royalty (Jesus our King), sorrow over sin, and repentance. ● The banner, Come, O Come, Emmanuel: is from Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”* *Immanuel* means “*God with us*.” A ‘flame’ is added each Sunday to mark the weeks until we observe Christ’s birth, when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14 ● The Advent Wreath: has three purple (because the altar cloth is *violet*)and one rose candle, which marks the 3rd week of Advent, *Gaudete* – meaning *rejoice*. Each Sunday in Advent, as we anticipate the Nativity celebration, a candle is lighted. They symbolize the time before the coming of Messiah, when prophecies of Him became “brighter and brighter” until He Himself appeared and declared, “*I am the light of the world.*” John 8:12 ● The Christmas season’s use of a Chrismon Tree and greenery (evergreen) points to His eternal, unchanging nature. A Chrismon is: gold and white Christ monograms, used to convey the majesty and glory of Christ; pointing to His titles and attributes -- King, Shepherd, Son of God, Savior. ● Following are descriptions of Chrismons that will appear on the tree: **Fish,Bread:** The fish is an ancient symbol for the Lord. “ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6:51 ● **Greek Cross, Rose:**  The Greek cross, Favored in Eastern Christendom, has 4 arms of equal length. ● The rose is a symbol of the Nativity, as the “rose of Sharon,” is believed to be a Messianic reference; and from: “the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose… They shall see the glory of the Lord.” Song of Solomon 2:1; Isaiah 35:1-2 **● Iota Chi with Daisies:** Greek letters I, X, are a monogram of **J**esus **C**hrist. Daisies, since the 25th century, are a symbol of innocence, pointing to the sinless nature of Jesus. ● **Sun, XP:** The Chi Rho is the first two Greek letters of our English word, Ch(X)r(P)ist. “But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.” Malachi 4:2 ● Because of pagan nature worship, a sun is not often used ion Christian art; but Malachi uses the “sun” for Christ, the Son of God, our righteousness, who alone brings spiritual healing. ● **IXOYC:** Greek for the word fish, it makes an acrostic, compromising the crees in belief: (Jesus) I, (Christ) X, (God’s), (Son) Y, (Savior) C. The fish symbol has represented our Lord since the 1st century; and is believed to have been a “password” used by Christians to identify themselves in times of persecution. ● **Open Bible:** Word of God, especially the Gospel. The word Bible is from Greek biblion, meaning little book; term Scripture from Greek graphein, meaning to write. The significance of its being open? At one time most people did not have access to, nor could they read, the language of Scripture. Praise the Lord, this is no longer true; we have the Scriptures to read in our own language; and we are blessed to own the hole Bible. ● **Tau Cross, Serpent:**  Tau is Greek letter T, the shape of this cross. Spoken by Jesus is a prophecy of how He would die: lifted up (on the cross), as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. John 3:14-15; Numbers 21:8-9 It may seem an odd symbol to celebrate the birth of little Lord Jesus, but it shows the inescapable truth that He came to die: “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lefted up.: John 3:15 ● **Eight-pointed Star:** a.k.a. Jacob’s Star “I see Him , but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Isreal…” Num. 24:17 ● **Greek Cross, Nika:** nika is Greek, meaning conquers. Jesus conquers the power of sin, death, and the devil, by means of His cross. “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Cor. 15:57 ● **Triquetra, Triangle:** ancient Trinity symbol. Triquetra is a continuous flowing, inter-weaved form compromised of three arcs, representing each Person of the Godhead is equally God. ● **Shepherd’s Crook, Alpha & Omega:** Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is Lord of all. John 10:14; Rev. 1:8 ● **Scroll:** Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah.

**Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”** Luke 2:10-11

**1846-2021** *175th Anniversary Committee News: the Committee has disbanded.*

We are asking for a volunteer to compile a 175th Commemorative Booklet.

A file containing minutes, services, programs, memorabilia has been saved,

so you will not be starting from “scratch.”

If interested, please contact Pastor Wonnacott. *Thank you.*