



*“Behold, I send My messenger  
before Your face,  
who will prepare Your way,  
the voice of one crying  
in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make His paths straight.”*

*Mark 1:2b-3*

**St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS  
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Bremen, Indiana 46506  
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stpaulsbremen.church**

## Second Sunday in Advent .....December 10, 2023

The Second Sunday in Advent has a theme of repentance to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. It also has a focus on God coming to restore His people. We pray that God would stir our hearts and prepare them in repentance for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. We're glad you're here with us in worship and fellowship this morning!

***The Lord's Supper*** is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.** Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church.

**In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."** We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

**The word *chrismon* comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram*.** Many of the symbols represent Christ and were used by early Christians 2,000 years ago. In those days, people were often illiterate, so symbols were used to communicate the key ideas of the Christian faith. In addition to using the symbols as chrismons, we also see them in our churches on stained glass, paraments, vestments, artwork and decor. **Chrismons are traditionally white and gold**, because white is the color for purity and gold symbolizes value, worth and God's majesty and glory. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

**Bell Choir** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**Opening Hymn 344** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

**C** Amen.

**Adult Choir** "Carols Around (And a Round)

*Dona nobis pacem is Latin for Grant us Peace*

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**Introit**

*Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

**P** Restore us, O God;

**C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

**C** **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

**P** You brought a vine out of Egypt;

**C** **it took deep root and filled the land.**

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** Restore us, O God;

**C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**Kyrie** ~ *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)*

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and His arm rules for Him;  
behold, His reward is with Him,  
and His recompense before Him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend His flock like a shepherd;  
He will gather the lambs in His arms;  
He will carry them in His bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*

**P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**C** **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

**P** Behold, your King is coming to you;

**C** **righteous and having salvation.**

**P** Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

### **Epistle**

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which

the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)*

*LSB 156*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Mark 1:1-8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
who will prepare Your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make His paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Nicene Creed**

**C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn 347** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

**Sermon Text**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

**Sermon** "A Joyful Homecoming"

1. Isaiah saw a day when his people would be not only far from home in Babylon but also seemingly \_\_\_\_\_.



2. Yet, remarkably, God was coming to restore them with a

\_\_\_\_\_ .

3. Like Judah, because of our sin, we're a long way from

\_\_\_\_\_ .

4. But God has come to us in Jesus Christ so that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ would bring us back to God.

In Jesus Christ, We Have a Joyful Heavenly Homecoming.

### Hymn 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

#### Prayers

#### ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

#### Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*(Psalm 136)*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the

very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy** (*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*) *LSB 161*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

# The Words of Our Lord

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13)

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Pax Domini** ~ *The Peace of the Lord* (John 20:19)

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei** ~ *Lamb of God* (John 1:29)

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Hymn 618** "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

**Hymn 627** "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

**Hymn 637** "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

**Hymn 633** "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

**Benediction** (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



## Closing Hymn 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**The flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God for the wedding anniversary of Larry and Beth Enders and for Christie Wonnacott's birthday.

**The flower chart for 2024 is up!** It is hanging in the Narthex next to the Altar Guild room. Please feel free to sign up if you'd like to place flowers on the altar.

**Poinsettias for Christmas:** if you'd like to provide a plant, you may bring it to the church by December 17 (mark it & you may take it home after Christmas morning). If you'd like to donate money towards plants, any amount is appreciated, and may be given to any altar attendant. Thank you.

**LWML will be packing "Cheer Boxes"** for St Paul's home-bound members today December 10th. We normally fill 12-15 boxes, and appreciate any baked goods, candies, or snack items. Please bring **1 1/2 to 2 dozen individually-wrapped** items to the church kitchen the morning of December 10th. They will be delivered by the carolers that evening. Thank you for the care and love you show to our shut ins.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Bible Study** will meet this Thursday, **Dec 14th**. We are on the parable of "The Unmerciful Servant" (Matthew 18:21-35).

**The Children's Christmas Service is December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** The children of our preschool and day school will participate in this service and share with us the birth of Jesus. Everyone is welcome!

**The Hospitality Group** will be making meals on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:00 am. We are in need of canned gravy, canned sweet potatoes, and individually wrapped treats such as brownies, cookies, etc. They can be placed on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

## Calendar of Events

### **TODAY ..... December 10th, 2023**

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am  
Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am  
Adult Basketball..... 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Congregation Christmas Carolling..... 4:00 pm  
No Bell or Adult Choir Practice.....

### **MON:**

### **TUES:**

### **WED:**

Men's Breakfast Bible Study ..... 6:30 am  
Assemble Hospitality Meals ..... 9:00 am  
Day School Chapel ..... 11:00 am  
Advent Dinner - Potluck ..... 6:00 pm  
Advent Service..... 7:00 pm

### **THURS:**

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 am  
Preschool Chapel ..... 9:30 am  
2nd Thursday Bible Study..... 6:00 pm

### **FRI:**

### **SAT:**

### **NEXT SUNDAY ..... December 17th, 2023**

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am  
Worship Service..... 9:30 am  
Bell Choir Practice ..... 5:00 pm  
Adult Choir Practice ..... 6:00 pm

**The new Portals of Prayer and Hope-full Living magazines for January-March 2024 are in the Narthex.**

### **Congregational Christmas Caroling – is today, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00**

**pm.** You are invited to come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord and to the shut-ins of our church and community. We will meet in the Bethany room at 4:00 pm to break up into groups and then go out and sing. At 6:00 pm we will return to the church for dinner and fellowship.

**Please bring a dessert to share at the meal. Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Come and share the Good News of Christmas!

**Christmas Day Service is Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am** with Holy Communion. Let us come together and celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus!

## **CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!**

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 AM. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates left to meet in 2023 are as follows: 12/13, 12/27  
*If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.*

**Midweek Advent Meal** on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-6:45 pm will be A **POTLUCK DINNER - PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE**. Parish Fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food, and then on the Word of God in the worship service at 7:00 pm.

**The Christmas parties for the residents at the Cardinal Houses will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup>**. More details to come. If you have any questions or want to participate, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

**Christmas Lunch for the Bremen Police Department will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon**. The food will be provided by an action team card from Thrivent. We need a few desserts, and we are also in need of Christmas cards for our men and women on the force. If you are willing to help, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

**Christmas Eve Services**. On this day we will have two services. The first is at the normal time of 9:30 am with Holy Communion. Our youth will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm. Join us!

**New Year's Eve Service is Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am.**  
**\*Please note that there is no 7:00 pm service.**

**Voters' Assembly Minutes** – Copies of the minutes from the Monday, November 27 Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. The minutes contain information about the church and school budget for 2024. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger.

**For those who would like to give their offerings to the Lord electronically**, there is a QR Code link posted next to the offering box in the Narthex

**The Board of Christian Ed. is in need** of individually wrapped candy to fill “goodie” bags for the Children’s Christmas Service. Donations may be placed in the designated box located in the Narthex by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your help!

**\* Special Note – There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Haiti Art will be available through Dec. 20th! Please see the table in the Narthex** if you would like to purchase a unique decoration for your home or for a Christmas gift. All proceeds will go to support the Lutheran school teachers in the Jeremie area. There are suggested donation prices listed with the artwork. If you have any questions, please see Terry or Janet Miller. Thank you for your love and generosity for God’s children in Haiti

**Tim and Brenda Jank, Directors of Camp Lutherhaven**, recently lost a son from long-term illness, and are also supporting a daughter through cancer treatments. If you would like to help them by purchasing gift cards for food or gas, suggestions are Subway, Half Acre Café, Pizza Depot, Whistle Stop Pizza, Walmart, Kroger, Visa, and Amazon. Cards can be sent to 1596 S. 150 W., Albion, IN, 46701. Prayers are appreciated while they go through this difficult time.

**PTL is hosting a few things to make your Christmas planning easier:**

- **Purchase your Christmas gift cards through SCRIP** and PTL receives commission to help support Youth ministries! Orders can be taken from the school office, Heidi Wildauer, or online at *raiseright.com*. Enrollment code: 9EF639F559681.
- **Cookie Exchange- December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm**. Bring 1-4 dozen cookies, bars, or fudge to share, with the recipe (optional), on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and swap cookies to make your Christmas baking a little easier. We ask that you only swap for the number of items that you brought. Sign-up is on the table in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Wildauer, Rebecca Mejia, or Jennifer Harman.



## SCHOOL CORNER

**Mark your calendars and invite family and friends for the Children's Christmas Service, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm.** The preschool and day school students are busy learning songs and speaking parts for this student-led service entitled "For Unto Us a Child is Born". A cookie reception will follow the service. Students should be in their classrooms by 6:40pm, that night, to prepare.

**We thank you, teachers, for ALL you do!** Please "do not grow weary in doing good" this hectic time of year. There is a lot going on practicing for the Christmas service and finishing report cards from the Second Quarter. **We see your hard work and hearts, and appreciate you!**

One of our teachers, Mark Wildauer, has been nominated for the Distinguished Elementary Teacher Award through the Lutheran Education Association. Mark is not only a dedicated teacher, but provides a lot of leadership and coaching with numerous sports in the community. Congratulations, Mark, on your nomination!

**We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.**

**December is your last chance to donate to the SGO and get a 2022 tax credit!** We continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so **please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at [www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate](http://www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate). Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

**We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.**

## YOUTH NEWS

**Christmas Eve Service:** Practice for our Christmas Eve Service continues today after the church service and will be on the following dates as well. It is important for Youth to attend each practice so we can plan properly for delivery of the Christmas Gospel on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th @7 pm):

- Sunday, December 10th
- Sunday, December 17th
- Sunday, December 24th (we may hold this practice in the evening before the service)

If you have questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

### NOTICE REGARDING VOTERS MEETINGS IN 2024

In the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 congregational voters meeting, a motion was made and approved to change the schedule for congregational voters' meetings in 2024. The change in schedule was made to give members a better opportunity to attend the voters meetings where there may have been schedule conflicts with other activities outside of St. Paul's or where the normal congregational voters meeting time of 7PM was a problem for members who cannot drive at night.

**The schedule for 2024 Congregational Voters' Meetings is as follows:**

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany room /Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 7PM in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 7PM in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

There will be a babysitting service available for families with young children who want to attend the Sunday voters meetings that will be held after worship service. Heidi Wildauer has agreed to organize this. If you have interest in using this service or in assisting in providing this service, please contact Heidi.

If you have questions regarding the congregational voters' meetings or schedules for them, please contact Dave Burcham.

**In addition to Our Regular Sunday Morning Services,  
You Are Invited To Our Extra Advent and Christmas Services**

Midweek Advent Dinners – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

*Midweek Advent Services – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm*

*Children's Christmas Service – Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm*

*Christmas Day Service – Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am*

*New Years' Eve Service – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am*

*No evening New Year's Eve Service*

**Servants for Today's Worship December 10, 2023**

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Austin Nielsen & Mark Wildauer

Acolyte: Gavin Hundt

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Bill Rogers

Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz

**Servants for Next Sunday's Worship December 17, 2023**

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Richard Sickman & Jim Mitchell

Acolyte: Karli & Kayli Miller

Elder: Dennis Sienicki

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt