

# St. Paul Epistle—December 2013

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### Our Mission is:

- To Know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- To Grow in faith through His Sacraments and Word, and
- To Go share His Gospel with love in our community and world.

## A Message from Pastor Jenks



### Food for Thought

It seems like the Christmas displays at the stores keep coming out earlier and earlier. Christmas promotions on the Internet and in the mail keep arriving sooner and sooner. Many times as Christians, we lament this extension of the Christmas “money-making” season. Christians become disillusioned by the commercial dimension of Christmas that consumes more and more calendar days. How do we respond to this trend which tends to make us blue?

Maybe we need to ponder whether the true spirit of Christmas should receive more focus than a day or two. Perhaps we should consider extending the season of our Savior’s celebration! God sends the greatest gift, His Son, our Savior. This is a gift that blesses us every day of life, as we experience true peace, love and joy through Jesus Christ.

Perhaps instead of allowing capitalistic cannibalism of the calendar, we ought to become more active in advocacy of the Christian Christmas message many more days than we usually do. The only thing that can counter the world is the Word. The only thing that can counter the world’s focus on dollars and cents is for God’s people to place the focus on the One whose birth came because of a census, used by the Father in His master plan for the coming of our Savior.

Maybe instead of keeping Christmas under wraps until December 24 and 25, we ought to release the message of the Savior earlier! Can we learn from the church that wrapped its front doors with bright paper, a pretty bow and a giant gift tag which said, “Please open before Christmas?” Will we wait until December 24 and 25 to speak of Jesus? Or will we start spreading the message sooner?

Pastor Jenks

## *Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, December 1*

*Holy Communion*

*10:00 a.m. (only one service)*

*Wednesday, December 4*

*7:00 p.m. Advent Service*

*Sunday, December 8*

*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*

*Wednesday, December 11*

*7:00 p.m. Advent Service*

*Sunday, December 15*

*Holy Communion*

*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*

*(Children's program 11:00  
a.m.)*



*Wednesday, December 18*

*7:00 p.m. Advent Service*

*Sunday, December 22*

*10:00 a.m. (only one service)*

*Tuesday, December 24*

*Christmas Eve*

*5:00 & 7:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, December 25*

*Christmas Day*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Sunday, December 29*

*10:00 a.m. (only one service)*

### **Christmas Service Worship Times**

**Christmas Eve worship** will be held at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – Remember how the angels broke the stillness of the night as they appeared to the shepherds to proclaim the joyful news of our Savior's birth? Come experience the wonder and glow of this special night as we carol by candlelight and as we hear the joyful story of the angels' announcement: "I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be for all the people—today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you!"

**Christmas Day communion service** will be held at 10:00 a.m. – What better way to begin Christmas Day than with a special celebration of our Savior's birth? Without Christ, there is no Christ-mas! Before you eat your Christmas feast, come to the Lord's table for the wondrous feast of His Supper. Come celebrate the good news: "You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

## Worship Time on December 1, 22 and December 29

On these December Sundays, because many of our members will be traveling and out of town for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, we will utilize our special holiday week-end schedule. There will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. on these three dates. There will be no education hour held on these Sundays. January 5 we return to our regular schedule.

## Wednesday Night Advent Worship Services

Wednesday nights in December -- December 4, 11 and 18 -- you are invited to worship with us at 7:00 p.m. as we take a break in the middle of each week to focus upon the "reason for the season." Advent evening services last approximately 45 minutes and offer a respite from this hectic time of year to hear the still small voice calling from the manger. "O come, let us adore Him."



**Invite a friend!**

**The Evangelism Committee encourages you** to please consider inviting someone to come with you to one of our services during the Advent season. Our church is decorated, we have suppers in the evenings, it is not formal, and our congregation is warm and welcoming. The Christmas message is one to share with friends, neighbors, family, believers and unbelievers.

## Time to Deck the Halls!

It's time to deck the halls! Please join us at **6 pm Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, to decorate the sanctuary for the advent season. We need tree branch fluffers and brave souls to climb the ladder and assemble the tree. We will be sorting the Chrismons, hanging banners, deco-

rating windows and hanging wreaths.

Many hands make light work and lots of fun. Come when you can!

Contact Gretchen Zitterich at 232-1765 with questions.



## Education News

**NEEDED:** Nursery volunteers for both the 8:30 service and 9:45 Sunday School hour. We cannot continue to rely on the same few people month after month. Please consider taking one hour a month. Our



Nursery  
Attendants

children and parents need you! Contact Cindy Baas for more information 233-9354 or [cjbaas@iastate.edu](mailto:cjbaas@iastate.edu).

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- Proverbs 22:6

## Tasty Italian Dinner Served by the Youth

Come enjoy some scrumptious spaghetti and yummy desserts on a special festive night. Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m., our youth who are planning to attend the next National Youth Gathering will serve up a delicious Italian dining experience for the Advent supper. A freewill offering will be gathered for the next National Youth Gathering, with all proceeds helping our 16+ youth who have indicated they will attend this special spiritual growth event.

Buon Appetito!

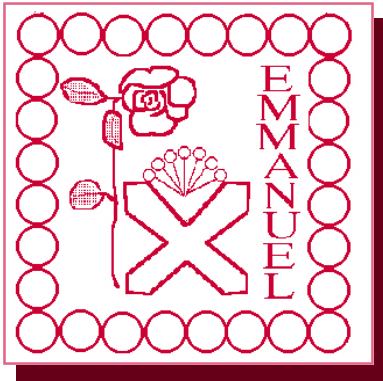


## Coordinator Needed for 2016 National Youth Gathering

An information coordinator for the National Youth Gathering is still needed! One does not need kids traveling to the youth gathering to help with this. It could be anyone, or a couple, who would be willing to help the youth and parents get ready for the 2016 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Contact Lowell Highby if you would like to help.



## Education News



2013 St. Paul Christmas Program  
**EMMANUEL, GOD WITH  
 US!**

**Important 2013 Sunday School  
 Children's Christmas  
 program dates/times:**

**1st PRACTICE:**

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 – 11:00  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> – High School)

**2nd PRACTICE:**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 – 11:00  
 (Pre School – High School) / PIZZA WILL  
 BE SERVED AT 11:00!

**PROGRAM/SERVICE: Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am service—please have your child(ren) at church by 9:45 as we will be doing one last quick run through before the program.**

If you know you will be out of town on December 15<sup>th</sup> and your child will be unable to participate in the program please notify me via email or text as we will be assigning final parts early in December.

Music will again be an important part of this year's program. We welcome the children to sing solos, duets, or be a part of our instrumental ensemble. Please let me know if they are interested in participating in the program in any of these ways.

God's Blessings,

*Brenda Dryer*

mcedcdirector@osage.net

641.420.3556



## LYF visits Lutherans For Life

Lutherans For Life welcomed youth from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, on Wednesday, November 13. Dr. Lamb gave an interactive presentation on "The Handiwork of God." One of the questions discussed was, "What has God done with His hands that gives value to human life?"

## Evangelism News

### Thank you!

We would like to thank David Lastine and Lowell Highby for their past work with the prior website. These two have generously given of their time and talents to enter information in the prior website. Due to their services, St. Paul has had a view to our church on the internet. Thank you so much.



### Thank you!

We would like to thank the people who were involved with the formation of the new website. Please thank Lowell Highby, Nicole Gebhart, Greg Buttery, Inez Smith and Lori Jenks. Our website designer was Katie Raymon.

If you have missed a church service or need information about times/dates of upcoming events, you can find this information at the St. Paul website.

**Go to [saintpaulames.org](http://saintpaulames.org).**

## Christmas Ornaments

The evangelism committee will continue selling the red, gold, and blue Christmas ornaments. They are \$8.00 for one or \$15.00 for 2. These ornaments have St. Paul Lutheran's church image on them. A table will be set up between services for display and sales. Proceeds will be used for outreach projects



## Caroling

St. Paul will again be going Christmas Caroling on December 18th. A sign up sheet will be posted. We will meet to carol at 5:30 pm and return to church to eat by 6:15. Please consider this tradition of making music to send thanks and worship for the birth of our Savior.

## New Member Sunday

Evangelism is happy to set the date for a new member Sunday as December 8th. We will be welcoming Lisa Henseler, Thomas & Lisa Wilson, Frank & Lora Martin, Dick & Linda Peterson, and Julie Gould and children at coffee hour between services. Please welcome our new members, and our visitors.

## Human Care

### HOPE Gift Market

A big thank you to all those who participated in the Hope Gift Market! Contributions are still coming in and we will have the amount received at the beginning of December. Anyone still wishing to participate can find a card in the back of the narthex and give to any Human Care Board member.



### December Conversational Dinner— Dec. 15th

In December we are going on the road to Hilton Coliseum to take in a Simon Estes Concert. The concert begins at 3:00 P.M. on December 15. Part of the price of your ticket (\$28.50) will be used to buy sleeping nets for children to help protect them from the spread of Malaria. It's a win-win situation, we get

to enjoy a great musical afternoon while helping children in need. After the concert we will gather at the Iowa Stater for a light supper / appetizer/ dessert..."Dutch treat". If you have not reserved your ticket, please contact Drue or Ellen Sander.

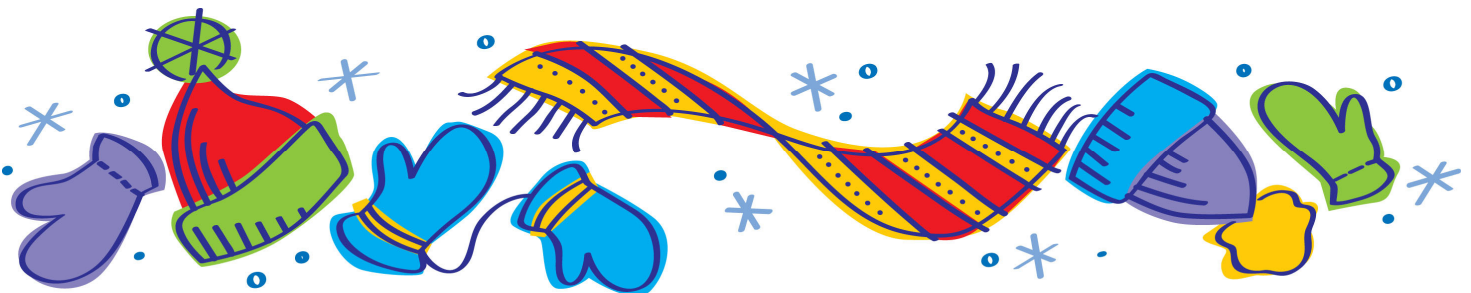
We will purchasing a

block of 30 tickets and are asking you to please bring a check to the concert and we will get the money to Dean, the church Treasurer. We are looking forward to an afternoon of "Hilton Magic".

Drue and Ellen Sander

[Druellen@hotmail.com](mailto:Druellen@hotmail.com)

**Are you warm enough? Many people are not.** You may bring hats, gloves and mittens for those in need and place them in the collection bin near the east entry doors.



## Women of St. Paul Family Service Circle Quilt Group

QUILTERS: Family Service will meet at noon on Thursday, December 12, for our Christmas potluck. Our activities will include JESUS (bingo) and preparing baskets for shut ins. Bring a wrapped ornament for use as a bingo prize. New faces are al-

ways welcome -- if interested in joining us, contact Marilyn Hagemoser at 232-2807.



## Angel Tree

Be sure to bring your gifts for the children on the Angel tree by Dec 8. Some of



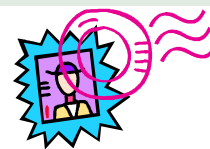
them are to be unwrapped, so take note of what it says on your slip. Thank you.

## Epiphany

Mark your calendar! We are planning an Epiphany Party for Jan 5. Watch the announcements and the bulletin board for details.



Please continue to save commemorative stamps for LWML. You may put them in the secretary mailbox.



## WANTED: Old Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges

**The next LWML convention will be in Des Moines, June 25-28, 2015.**

Over 3000 women gathered in Pittsburgh this year, and over 6000 attended in Peoria two years ago. We expect Des Moines to be one of the largest conventions in recent years. We are collecting old cell phones and ink cartridges for recycling to help defray the cost of hosting this convention. Did some-

one in your family get a new cell phone?? Please bring us your old cell phones (and charger). **What happens to your ink cartridges at your place of work?** Can you bring them and place them in the container in the fellowship hall?

We appreciate them all!



## December 2013 Service Roster

	<b>Dec 1 10:00</b>	<b>Dec 8 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 8 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 15 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 15 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 22 10:00</b>	<b>Dec 29 10:00</b>
Organist	LaDonna Osborn	Mary Nelson		Ellen Sander		Mary Nelson	Jocelyn Jenks
Elders	Chris Hand	Chris Hand	Greg Gebhart →				
Lectors	Phil Voge	Wayne Hagemoser	Larry Wiebel	Dennis Dobberke	Nicole Gebhart	Cindy Baas	Doug Litwiller
Acolytes	Mary Beth Coleman			Kaitlin Wegner	Kaitlyn Cook		Matthew Latuska
Ushers	Randy & Linda Naeve, John Murphy, Ron Juelfs	Randy & Linda Naeve, John Murphy, Ron Juelfs	Drue & Ellen Sander, Inez Smith, Steve Vollstedt →			Randy & Linda Naeve, John Murphy, Ron Juelfs	Drue & Ellen Sander, Inez Smith, Steve Vollstedt
Greeters	Paul & Adele Knop, Connie Buss	Paul & Adele Knop, Connie Buss	Bud & Thelma Voetberg, Steve & Carol Vollstedt →			Paul & Adele Knop, Connie Buss	Bud & Thelma Voetberg, Steve & Carol Vollstedt
Coffee Fellowship							
Altar Flowers				Poinsettias/ Al & Tanny Latuska		Poinsettias	Poinsettias
Offering Counters	Tom & Cindy Baas →			Tom & Judy Peter →			
8:30 am Nursery	Chaney Phipps (10:00 am)	Ryan Latuska		Stephanie Taylor		Chaney Phipps (10:00 am)	Katie Dryer (10:00 am)
9:45 am Nursery		Janelle Wegner		Sandy Townsend			
Altar Guild	Karen Griffin, Sandy Townsend	Gretchen Zitterich →					
Video Recorder	Mike Lindell →						
Collate Bulletins	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy						

## Advent/Christmas Services Roster

	<b>Wed, Dec 4 7:00 p.m. Advent I</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 11 7:00 p.m. Advent II</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 18 7:00 p.m. Advent III</b>	<b>Tues, Dec 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Tues, Dec 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day</b>
Organist	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson	Zach Heilman
Elder	Steve Johnson	Brad Tibben	Tom Henriksen	Tom Baas	Chris Hand	Tom Baas
Acolyte						Alex Highby
Lector	Ellen Sander	Jerry Schradle	Alberta Voge	Clare Tweedt	Reiny Friedrich	Claudia Biddle
Ushers	Drue & Ellen Sander, Mark & Janelle Swenson,	Jerry Schradle, John Murphy, Matt & Sandra Pflug	Tom & Cindy Baas, Phil & Alberta Voge	Clare Tweedt, Dennis West, Vic Schulz, Paul Knop	Bud & Thelma Voetberg, Nicole Thiede, Inez Smith	Dennis & Karen Griffin, Matt & Jana Weiss
Greeters	Doug & Jill Litwiller	Judy Peter & Elsie Baumann	Wanda & Dawn Schulte	Paul & Adele Knop	Maureen & Katie Friedrich	Tom & Beth Henriksen
Counters	Bob & Barbara Folkmann	Bob & Barbara Folkmann	Bob & Barbara Folkmann	Dennis & Karen Griffin	Dennis & Karen Griffin	Dennis & Karen Griffin
Collate bulletins	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy	Joyce Stoner & Julie Coy

