

# St. Paul Epistle—December 2014

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## A Letter from Your Pastor

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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.

Do you remember the Christmas hymn “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”? This hymn reminds us that the message of our Savior’s birth is a wondrous gift for us to share with all the earth. “Over the hills and everywhere.” Will you share the good news of Jesus Christ during this Advent season?

All around us there are people who do not know Jesus. In our communities there are people who do not believe that Christ is the Savior of the world. God has provided us with many special opportunities to share the reality of what Christmas means.

How can you do this? How can you “go tell it on the mountain”? Maybe when you talk to a friend about how busy you both are this month, you can discuss the “reason for the season” and why you are so busy—not just because you are baking and decorating, but because you are attending special Advent worship services that prepare for the coming of our Savior. How can you “go tell it on the mountain”? Maybe you can come bring an unchurched friend with you to the special services on December 7 that will feature The Bells of Christmas, or bring an unchurched friend to the Sunday School Christmas program at 11:00 service on December 14, or bring an unchurched friend to worship with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. How can you “go tell it on the mountain”? Maybe you can present a special gift to a coworker who does not believe in Christ, such as a Bible in which you write a personal note about why you want to share the greatest gift, the good news of our Savior. There are many other ways too. Pray to the Lord to lead and guide you.

Every year we sing the song “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” This year, may the Lord move us from singing to bringing, so that through the Holy Spirit’s power we may bring the good news of Jesus’ coming to all those around us who are in need of hearing it.

In Jesus,  
Pastor Jenks



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

*Wednesday, December 3*

*Advent I*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 7*

*Holy Communion with  
The Bells of Christmas*

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

*Wednesday, December 10*

*Advent II*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 14*

*8:30 (worship) &*

*11:00 a.m. (Sunday School*

*Christmas Program)*



*Wednesday, December 17*

*Advent III*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 21*

*Holy Communion*

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

*Wednesday, December 24*

*Christmas Eve*

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

*Thursday, December 25*

*Christmas Day*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Sunday, December 28*

*One Service Only*

*10:00 a.m.*



### **Christmas Worship Schedule**

#### **Christmas Service Worship Times**

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 24. 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. on December 25. 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 28 and January 4**

On these two Sundays, because a number of our members will be traveling and out of town over the seasonal holidays, we will utilize our special holiday week-end schedule. There will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. on December 28 and on January 4. There will be no education hour held on these two Sundays. January 11 we return to our regular schedule.



**Wednesday nights in December** -- December 3, 10 and 17 -- 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." Pause from all of your busy activities to contemplate what this special season of the year is all about – the coming of Christ our Savior. Each service will be preceded by a delicious supper served at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

## *Conversational Dinners*

On Saturday, December 13th at 5:30 pm, Carol and Keith Folkmann will host our "Naughty and Nice" Christmas Party. In keeping with our theme - the "Naughty" - we will enjoy tasty and tantalizing appetizers and sinfully delightful desserts and - the "Nice" - we will be caroling for some of our shut-ins and bringing adult gloves, scarves, and hats to support our church's mission of collecting these items for those who are in need of winter gear. More details will follow, but we wanted everyone to be aware of the change of date.



We would love to have new people at our party, there is no joining fee, no long term commitment, just a great opportunity to enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun. Contact Drue and Ellen Sander for more information at 515-292-3574 or [druellen@hotmail.com](mailto:druellen@hotmail.com).

Conversational Dinners want to thank Dean and Ardy, Al and Tanny, and Marilyn and Wayne for hosting our November dinners. From the feedback I have received, it sounds like everyone enjoyed the evening and it was a nice compliment to our Sunday service where we saluted our veterans. A very special thank you to Gretchen Zitterich, Bob Folkmann, and Clare Tweedt for taking the time to share their Freedom Flight experience with us. I would also like to thank our son, Aaron, who helped us out by putting the video together.

## **Christmas Ornaments**

The Youth will be 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 the National Youth Gathering.

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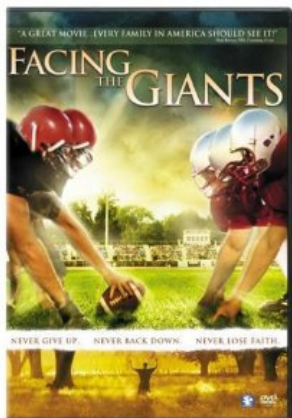
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# Education News

## HS2G Moving Forward

The High School Small Group (HS2G), which meets Sunday mornings during education hour in the youth room, have finished their study on “God’s Not Dead” and being able to stand up for their faith. We are currently working on a small study entitled “Whose Space is It? My Space!”, where we are discussing the Body of, Attitude towards, Life with, and Love of Christ. We are excited to announce our next study that will begin in January! We will be studying “Facing the Giants” (movie based). Facing the Giants Bible Study is driven by the characters, events, and circumstances in the movie Facing the Giants. Using movie themes and group interaction, this study will help group members conquer their fears, face their giants, and grow their faith.



In this study we will discuss the biblical concept of all your heart, mind, body, and soul—living wholehearted for the sake of Christ; examine their lives as they strive to trust God to do the impossible through them; know how to navigate feelings of defeat in their lives; and be challenged to surrender to God by loving Him more than anything else.

All high school youth are encouraged to attend!

**Reminder that the Sunday School Christmas Program is Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service.** Practices will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 and on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00. We really need all Sunday School age children to participate in this special program.



**Midweek: We are in need of one or two Midweek teachers for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades starting in January.** This is a great group of students who are excited about learning more



about God’s word. Please pray about answering this call. It’s a great opportunity to get to know our youth better and to share your faith. Contact Cindy Baas if you are willing to teach.

**Watch for the next edition of the SPY Newsletter.**



# Youth News

## “Gracie”, Comfort Dog from Lutheran Church Charities, visits



## Thanks for your support!

The participants for the 2016 National Youth Gathering would like to thank everyone that has ordered from our BRAX cup fundraiser and our Believe catalog sales! The proceeds from both of these fundraisers go directly to the youth that are planning on attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The Youth are busy preparing for this upcoming gathering and appreciate the support they receive from the Saint Paul family!

In Christ Alone – 2016 NYG Coordinators

## Attention All Youth!

In December we will participate in a few activities. The first one you must sign up for in advance. Our December LYF event will be attending the Cyclone Women's basketball Faith & Family Day on Sunday, December 7 at 1 pm. We will meet at the church and go as a group. The Youth Board will pay for your ticket to get in but you will need to provide money for any concessions you may want. Please sign up on the bulletin board by November 30 or contact the church office so we can be included in the group rate/seating. Our other December event will be going Christmas Caroling with Evangelism (date and time TBD). So watch the bulletin or announcements for more info.

# Human Care News

## Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Monthly Report

For the first three months of Fiscal Year 14-15, Good Neighbor has provided rent and/or utility assistance to 113 households. In the same three months, the agency has provided 1,360 Healthy Food vouchers to 340 households and distributed 66 gas vouchers. This is 100 more Healthy Food vouchers than what was distributed in June/July/August of 2013. The increase of assistance is thought to be because of the new location, which is more centralized to downtown Ames, and there is easier access to individuals needing assistance that must use Cyride for transportation.



## Snack for hungry kids



Please bring take home snacks for the school children for Christmas break. Let's fill the food pantry bin with granola bars, fruit snacks, pudding cups and anything else that can go into a back pack for children to take home. Many of these kids depend on school meals for their daily food. These will be taken to the school before winter break begins for distribution.



It is time to begin collecting clean, gently used winter coats, and new hats and gloves. Items will go to HOPE Ministries or the Bethesda clothing bank.

## Bethesda Food Pantry

**Sunday, December 21, is Bethesda Food Bank Sunday.** Please bring items and place in the tub in the east entryway. Cash donations are also welcome and allow the food pantry to buy what they need at a greatly reduced price. You may place your check in the offering plate as long as it is marked "Bethesda Food Pantry."



# Human Care News

## *Need Help?*

**Congregational Care Cards** are now available and have been placed in the pews. If you or someone you know from the congregation needs meals provided due to illness or surgery, or if someone needs a visit or transportation provided, please fill out the card in the pew rack, place it in the offering plate, and either an elder or Human Care Board member will take action to help out. Thank you!

**Below is a card you can fill out and mail to the church if you have not been able to pick one up here at church.**

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE CARD

Do you or someone you know need assistance (e.g. meals, rides, etc.)?  
Please place this card in the offering plate or give to an elder.

Name of person \_\_\_\_\_

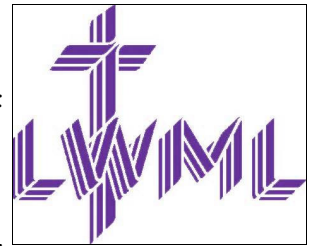
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

For how long of a duration? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of assistance needed/Any additional pertinent information?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LWML National Convention News



**Gift Giving Time!** Don't pass up this great opportunity to give yourself a gift to nourish your soul and attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML National Convention, June 25-28, 2015, in Des Moines. The convention is privileged to have many outstanding proclaimers, speakers, leaders and presenters to load us up with God's Word to share with others. The theme "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap" highlights 2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound in you, so that in all things, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." Call for Workers forms are due January 15, 2015. Check your district website <http://idwlcms.org/lwmlnews.php> or <http://www.lwml-ied.org/> for forms, latest updates and issues of the Host Committee Convention Newsletter Bountiful Blessings.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).*

## Stewardship News

### A Spirituality of Stewardship

Tithing is a spiritual action. In a materialistic age, it reminds us that Jesus is Lord of our lives. But it also is a spiritual offering to God. There is a reason that the offering is carried up to the altar as part of the church service. Spiritually we should offer ourselves up—our time, talent and treasure—during the offertory as well.

When stewardship is discussed in church, the three T's mentioned are Time, Talent, and Treasure. But often people hear just another talk about money. Stewardship is the offering of our entire selves to God. We have a choice: to live self-willed lives or Christ-centered lives. God gives us all our time, talents and treasure; we should give back to him the first fruits of these gifts.



What would it look like to give God 10% of our time? In a 24-hour day, that adds up to almost two and a half hours of time given directly to God. The time could be spent for mental prayer, spiritual reading, helping those in need, or volunteering for church responsibilities/activities. God does not just want our money – he wants our hearts. He wants us to show Him that we are in love with Him, and that He is in first place. Tithing of our treasure, apart from giving God our talent, and perhaps more valuable, our time, is empty, like the husband/father who gives his family lavish gifts but never spends time with them.

What amount of the day do you currently give to God in prayer? How do you show Him that you love Him above all things? What are some ways in which you might be able to share more of your gifts (talents) with the Church?

To find the answers to these questions, please ask God in prayer for His guidance!



## Women of St. Paul

### Family Service Meeting in December

**Family Service:** The Family Service Christmas party will be a potluck dinner at noon on Thursday, December 11th. This is open to anyone interested in attending. Guests: No need to bring anything as there is always plenty of food. Hope to see you there.



**Do you know what is going on in the Iowa West District of the LWML?** The LWML IWD eNews is sent to all women of the congregation who have email. If you do not have email, a copy is printed and placed on the LWML bulletin board at the east end of the fellowship hall. You may read it and replace it when you are finished.

### “Book to Know to Help You Grow”

Our next meeting will be January 8th at the home of Adele Knop to discuss “*A Winter Dream: A Novel*” By Richard Paul Evans

The Barnes and Noble description says: The #1 bestselling author of *The Christmas Box* and master of the holiday novel reimagines the biblical story of Joseph and the coat of many colors, presenting an inspiring modern story of family and forgiveness. Joseph Jacobson is the twelfth of thirteen siblings, all of whom are employed by their father’s successful Colorado advertising company. But underneath the success runs a poisonous undercurrent of jealousy; Joseph is his father’s favorite and the focus of his brothers’ envy and hatred. When the father seems ready to anoint Joseph as his heir, the brothers make their move, forcing Joseph from the company and his Denver home, severing his ties to his parents and ending his relationship with his soon-to-be fiancée. Alone and lonely, Joseph must start a new life. Joseph joins a Chicago advertising agency where his creativity helps him advance high up in the company. He also finds hope for a lasting love with April, a kind woman with a secret. However, all secrets hold consequences, and when Joseph learns the truth about April’s past, his world is again turned upside down. Finally, Joseph must confront his own difficult past in order to make his dreams for the future come true.



Date	Hostess	Book
January 8, 2015	Adele Knop	<i>A Winter Dream: A Novel</i> By Richard Paul Evans
April 16, 2015	Shirley Tice	<i>The Red Tent</i> By Anita Diamant

## December 2014 Service Roster

	<b>Dec 7 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 7 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 14 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 14 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 21 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 21 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 28 10:00 am</b>
Organist	Mary Nelson		Mary Nelson		Mary Nelson		LaDonna Osborn
Elders	Phil Voge	Paul Knop →					
Lectors	Dennis Dobberke	Lowell Highby	Dennis Dobberke	Children	Jerry Schradle	Lowell Highby	Jerry Schradle
Acolytes	Tracy Gillen	Jaden Ask			Abby Tibben	Isaac Harris	
Ushers	Pam & Harry Mundt, David Pietsch, Thomas Wilson	Shirley & Denny Tice, Nancy & Larry Wiebel →					Pam & Harry Mundt, David Pietsch, Thomas Wilson
Greeters	Elsie Bauman, Jerry Schradle, Joyce & Dennis Dobberke	Rita & Kevin Dougan, Tom & Beth Henriksen →					Elsie Bauman, Jerry Schradle, Joyce & Dennis Dobberke
Coffee Fellowship			Human Care Board				
Altar Flowers							
Offering Counters	Denny & Shirley Tice		Dennis & Karen Griffin				
Power Point	Judy Peter	Doug Litwiller →					
Sound Board	Tom Peter	Greg VanNostrand →					
Altar Guild	Sandy Townsend, Sharron Martin,	Connie Buss, Karen Griffin →					
Video Recorder	Mike Lindell →						
Collate Bulletins	Mark & Janelle Swenson →						

# Advent/Christmas Services Roster

	<b>Wed, Dec 3</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Advent I</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 10</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Advent II</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 17</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Advent III</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 24</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 24</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Thurs, Dec 25</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>
Organist	Mary Nelson	Ellen Sander	Ellen Sander	Mary Nelson	Mary Nelson	Zach Heilman
Elder	Jeff Cook	Phil Voge	Brad Tibben	Steve Johnson	Paul Knop	Tom Baas
Acolyte						Morgan Tupper
Lector	Paul Knop	Judy Peter	Tom Peter	Keith Folkmann	Tom Baas	Lowell Highby
Ushers	Clare Tweedt, Eric Phipps, Ron Juelfs, Thomas Wilson	Tom & Judy Peter, David Pietsch	Keith & Carol Folkmann, Ron Coy, Matt Weiss	Wayne & Marilyn Hagemoser, Dennis & Karen Griffin	Len Thiede, Vickie Roach, Greg & Ben Gebhart	Mark & Janelle Swenson, Becky Jackson, Donovan Jenks
Greeters	Doug & Jill Litwiller	Judy Peter & Elsie Baumann	Wanda & Dawn Schulte	Paul & Adele Knop	Maureen & Katie Friedrich	Tom & Beth Henriksen
Power point	John Murphy	Linda Naeve	Julie Coy	Cindy Baas	Connie Hand	Cindy Baas
Sound board	John Murphy	Greg VanNostrand	Tom Peter	Tom Baas	Chris Hand	Tom Baas
Counters	Dennis & Karen Griffin	→				
Collate bulletins				Mark & Janelle Swenson	Mark & Janelle Swenson	



Our Worship service on December 7 will feature many special songs by the Bells of St. Paul with some help from the Parish choir. Please join us for this special worship service, “The Bells of Christmas.”



*Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him*