

# St. Paul Epistle - December 2015

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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 Letter from Your Pastor

### 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 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*

*Wednesday, December 2*

*7:00 pm, Advent I*

*Sunday, December 6*

*Holy Communion*

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

*Wednesday, December 9*

*7:00 pm, Advent II*

*Sunday, December 13*

*8:30 Service of the Word*

*& 11:00 a.m. (Sunday  
School Christmas Program)*

*Wednesday, December 16*

*7:00 pm, Advent III*



*Sunday, December 20*

*Holy Communion*

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

*Thursday, December 24*

*Christmas Eve Services*

*5:00 & 7:00 pm*

*Friday, December 25*

*Christmas Day Service*

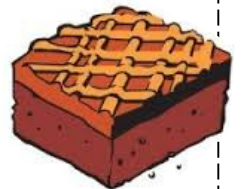
*10:00 am*

*Sunday, December 27*

*Only one service*

*10:00 a.m.*

**It's Soup and Sweets!** Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, is our annual SOUP & SWEETS supper at 6:00 p.m. with Advent service following at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up today to help out and to bring soup or sweets, etc. Please have food in the kitchen by 5:45 p.m. Thank you.



**Sunday, November 29 will be "Decorate for Christmas" at 1:30 pm** or whenever you can come and join in the fun. This is a special time of the year for all of us and what a great way to start out the season to take time to help prepare our hearts and the church area. The more that help, means more fun and less work then just a few can do. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.







## 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 27 and January 3

On these two Sundays, because many of our members will be traveling and out of town for Christmas and for New Year's, we will utilize our special holiday week-end schedule. There will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. on December 27 and on January 3. There will be no education hour held on these two Sundays. January 10 we return to our regular schedule.

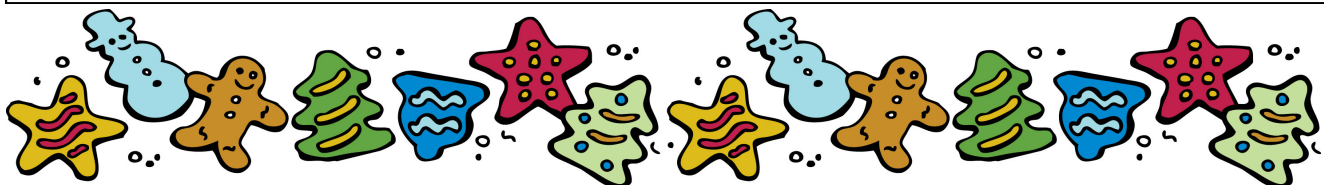


**Wednesday nights in December** -- December 2, 9 and 16 -- you are invited to worship with us at 7:00 p.m. as we take a break in the middle of each week to focus upon the "reason for the season." This year we focus our reflections on the songs of celebration of Zechariah, Mary, and the angels, as well as the church's song of joyful response. 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."

**We're Making a Joyful Noise....**the Bible speaks of choirs of angels and heavenly hosts caroling, proclaiming God's kingdom and the Bible also says "make a joyful noise". On December 12th, "Those joyful noise makers", the St. Paul Conversational Dinner participants, want to come and sing carols to you. If you would like us to stop by your home or apartment, please contact the St. Paul Office or Ellen Sander (292-3574 or [druellen@hotmail.com](mailto:druellen@hotmail.com)). We'll sing to you soon!



**"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"**





# Youth News

## Youth and Shut-ins Unite in Fellowship



On November 11 we had 17 youth decorate sugar cookies, and make cards and posters for a few of our member shut-ins. The youth were split into 5 groups and visited Ila, Marjorie, Cindy and Alice -four of our member shut-ins. It is an event that we hope to do again in order to visit other members we couldn't do this time. Below are a few thoughts and comments some of the youth wanted to share.....

-I loved it. When I do something good for someone you feel good inside too. Our person was so nice and the conversations we had were fun. (Jessie).

-I loved learning about all of their kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. Also learning about her history. (JoLyn).

-I had a great time meeting Ila, she was fun to talk to and to be around. (Hannah).

-I got to meet Marjorie. I really liked going to her house and spending time with her. She was excited to have us visit as she had chairs set up ready for us. We learned about her full (long) life. She enjoyed our cards and pictures and she said she'd love to have us back again sometime. I enjoyed the evening and hope we can visit her and others again. (Erin).

-My group visited Alice. She is a long time member of St. Paul. She has been involved in lots of things at church in the past and seems to miss it. She liked our cookies and cards and reading about things we do in the Epistle or watching the church services on DVDs people bring her. (Daniel).

-I could tell Ila really enjoyed the visit from the kids and us parents. You could see the joy in her eyes as she showed us her apartment and everything else her assisted living



place had to offer. We had a great visit learning about her and her family and having the kids share some things about themselves. It was a great experience for ALL of us. Kylie said she was a nice lady. When I told her when Pastor has us pray for her in church she'll know who Ila is and she thought that was neat. Clay enjoyed the popcorn and candy snacks we had while visiting her too. (The Taylors).



### Upcoming activities in 2016:

- Bowling at Perfect Games
- Ice Skating
- Movie Night

### Children's Christmas Service

All youth are invited and encouraged to participate in the Children's Christmas Service at the 11am service on December 13. This will be our December activity. More information is available from the Board of Education about practices and details.

### Attention High School Youth

Want to have a movie night and lock-in? Please let us know when and we will make plans for this fun fellowship activity! Or if you have other ideas please contact Carla Murphy or Thomas Wilson.



**Our Praise Team:**

Guitar - Steve Wilcken

Bass Guitar – Donovan Jenks

Flute – Ruth Schlotfeldt

Keyboard - Maureen Friedrich, Joan Ingwersen

Singers – Rita Dougan, Pat Thiede, Cindy Baas, Seana Wilcken,  
Denny Ingwersen, Thomas Wilson, Tom Baas, Kevin Dougan

Director– Joan Ingwersen

We are open to anyone who would like to join! All singers and instrumentalists welcome at any or all rehearsals.

**Our Parish Choir:** Director: Mary Nelson**Soprano**

Katie Friedrich  
Maureen Friedrich  
Judy Peter  
Sean Wilcken  
Gretchen Zitterich

**Alto**

Judi Charlson  
Michele Flynn  
Connie Hand  
Cheney Phipps  
Ellen Sander  
Shirley Tice  
Breanna Wetzler

**Tenor**

Jon Buss  
Kevin Dougan  
Bob Folkmann  
Wayne Hagemoser  
Randy Timm  
Kent Ziebell

**Bass**

Tom Baas  
Dave Charlson  
Reiny Friedrich  
Tom Peter  
Eric Phipps  
Bud Voetberg  
Steve Wilcken

**Our Bell Choir:**

Val Donnell, John Murphy, Judy Peter, Cheney Phipps, Eric Phipps, DeAnna Tibben, Brad Tibben, Jakob Tibben, Seana Wilcken, and Steve Wilcken. Director: Mary Nelson

**Our Instrumental Ensemble and Brass:**

Brad Tibben– Baritone  
DeAnna Tibben– French Horn  
Jakob Tibben– Trumpet  
Abby Tibben– Bass Clarinet  
Ben Gebhart– Saxophone  
Donovan Jenks– Clarinet  
Katie Barnes– Trombone  
Jon Buss– Trumpet  
Wayne Hagemoser– Trumpet  
Trenton Dougan– Base Clarinet

Levi Fisher– Trumpet  
Isaac Harris– Clarinet  
Erin Murphy– Flute  
Ryan Latuska– Clarinet  
Morgan Tupper– Flute  
Gillian Tupper– Trombone  
Jordan Vetter– Clarinet

Director: Wayne Hagemoser



Anyone interested in serving in this way is invited to speak with Mary Nelson or Wayne Hagemoser  
No age limits and no auditions required.



# Education News

**Mark Your Calendars....**

## **Sunday School Christmas Service Practice**

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> / 9:00 – 11:00 / Grades 2 – High School

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> / 9:00 – 11:00 / Grades 2 – High School  
10:00 – 11:00 / Preschool – Grade 1

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> / 9:45 – 10:45 / Grades 3 – High School to run through parts & music

**Service:** December 13<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 service

## **Another Successful Trunk-or-Treat!**

Thank you to everyone that helped with this year's Trunk-or-Treat! We had 12 amazing trunks on display for the roughly 60 kids and their families! A HUGE Thank you to all the Boards that participated: Stewardship, Human Care, Trustees, Youth, Evangelism, Women of Saint Paul, National Youth Gathering Participants, and the Preschool with 4 trunks!

Pat Thiede and Cindy Baas did an excellent job with the crafts and Judy Peters ran the games with such enthusiasm. All the kids had a great time and we are thankful that we had an awesome God-filled safe day for them! Thanks again and see you next year!





# Stewardship News

## Stewardship Thoughts for the Christmas Season: *(Excerpts by: Harry Verhiley)*

*The Christmas celebration is not only about the moment Jesus was born 2,000 years ago. It is also about the current moment and an invitation to invest ourselves in His kingdom. How we respond to that invitation to follow Him is how we prepare for our eternal life in heaven. Christmas invites each of us to invest our lives in the kingdom of God. All that we have in life comes from God and can assist us on our journey home to the Father.*

*Even as Christians who recognize God's generosity, we still experience struggles in accepting our stewardship responsibilities. Our thoughts and actions are not always focused on the birth of our Savior, rather, on all that needs to get done before December 25th.*

*The Advent message is a stewardship message - prepare for the fulfillment of the kingdom... straighten out your life... if we have, we should give. The birth of Christ is the moment of fulfillment that leads to another moment... His coming 2,000 years ago is more about our inevitable face-to-face meeting with Him and how we have prepared for that encounter. Do we lay-up for ourselves treasures in heaven investing in His ultimate kingdom, or do we invest in something else?*

*The Christmas message is a reminder from God to prepare for our eternal future. Throughout our life we will have many opportunities to invest our time, talent and treasure in the kingdom of God, even if it is a simple gift of time spent in prayer for others and in thanksgiving because He gave us the greatest gift of all... the gift of His Son.*

*No matter where we are in our earthly life or what we have to offer, the Christmas season is a time to draw closer to Him. We are all invited to worship the meek and humble baby, even if we are lowly shepherds in the fields, tending our flocks by night.*





# Human Care News

## CONVERSATIONAL DINNERS

December Conversational Dinner, December 12th....Are you ready for some Caroling??? But first a quick moment to Praise our November host couples, Dennis and Karen Griffin, Mark and Janelle Swenson, and Bud and Thelma Voetberg. Thank you for making it a delightful evening for everyone. Now back to the game.

According to our game plan, it is half time, meaning we are halfway through our CD year and we have a great one planned. It is the Battle of Nice vs Naughty!!! The Nice band takes the field at 5:30, caroling all the way, their formations will travel through Ames, leaving Christmas carols in their wake...After that the Naughty band will be waiting for us when we return, anticipating the delicious treats and goodies on the sideline. Now is the time to get your name on the roster, give us a call or e-mail if you ARE or ARE NOT planning to join us. See you on Saturday, December 12th.

The Human Care Board wishes to express their appreciation for all members of the congregation who supported the HOPE Gift Market. Your generosity shares the love of Jesus in so many wonderful ways!



If you were unable to attend the Market and would like to contribute, there are forms on the table in the narthex. Simply fill one out, attach your check, and place in the Human Care mailbox in the west cost room. ***Cut off for contributing to the Market is the last Sunday in November - November 29th.*** God's blessings to all of you, St. Paul Human Care Board

### *Coming in April*

"The Envelope Please"...That is the phrase that those who attended the November Conversational Dinners heard as we announced our April event. Would it be "the Murder Mystery Dinner" or Dinner and a Movie"? And The Winner Is.....Dinner and a Movie.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to vote for their favorite. More details will follow in the Spring.



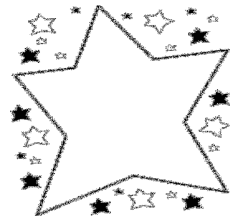
The Human Care Board is collecting warm hats and gloves, as well as socks, for needy men, women, and children. You may place your donations in the labeled bin in the east coat area. Thank you!







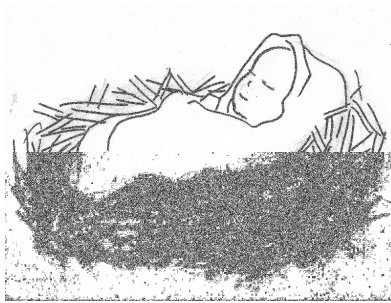
# St. Paul Lutheran Preschool December News



## Preschool Christmas Program

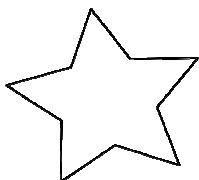
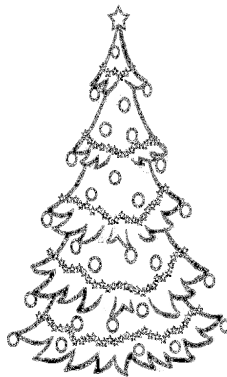
As we prepare for Christmas in preschool the children are excited to learn about the birth of Jesus. This year we present the 12th annual Christmas preschool program on Friday, December 11, at 6:30 PM. We invite you to come and enjoy this festive celebration. You will hear sweet little voices sharing the Christmas message; you will be able to see the Christmas story acted out; and you will be able to taste savory Christmas treats after the program.

*"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."  
Luke 2:11*



## Preschool Christmas Vacation

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool children will be on Christmas Break from Wednesday, December 23 to Sunday, January 3rd. Preschool Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th.



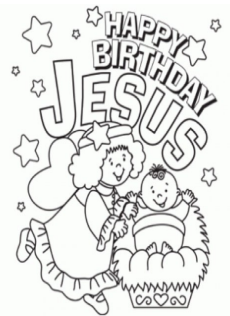
*"O, Star of wonder, star of night  
Star of royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light. "*

## Preschool Christmas Parties

Each preschool class will hold a Christmas party to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Parents are invited to come to the parties. Party times are as follows:

- The Monday/Thursday Lamb Class will hold its Christmas Party on Monday, December 21 from 10:30 -11:30 a.m.
- The Tuesday/Friday Lamb Class will hold its Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 22nd from 10:30—11:30 a.m.
- The Lion Class will hold its Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 22nd from 10:45—11:45 a.m.

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."  
Luke 2:14*



*St. Paul Lutheran Preschool thanks all the Thrivent Financial members who directed their Choice Dollars to the preschool.*

*Through your generous gifts St. Paul Lutheran Preschool shares the "good news" of Jesus to*

*preschool children and families each day of preschool.*





# Women of St. Paul

## Family Service Quilting Group

INTERESTING FACTS . . . from the quilt-ers:

In June, we sent 31 lap robes to Riverside South and 30 lap robes to Riverside North. In August, we delivered 16 lap robes to the Israel Hospice House -- that's a total of 77.

In May, we sent 3 quilts for veterans, and in October, we delivered 74 quilts to the Orphan Grain Train -- that's also a total of 77.

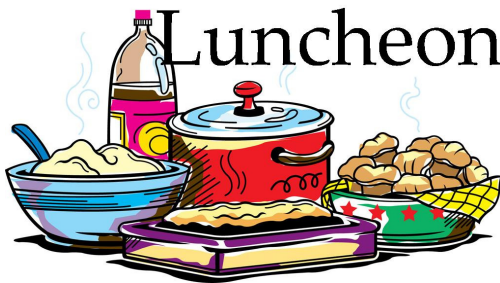
There was no planning to achieve his number. We just quilted until it was time to deliver the finished product, and yet we



reached a very Biblical number. Since 7 is considered a whole/complete number, it is fantastic to have 77 of each. How wonderful it is that God reveals himself through involvement and interaction in all areas of our life.

## FAMILY SERVICE POTLUCK:

### Christmas Luncheon



On December 10th at noon, Family Service will be hosting their Christmas potluck. All women of St. Paul are invited to attend. If you are able to make it, contact Irene Holthaus at 232-1771 or Geri Schulz at 382-2800 by December 7th. No need to bring any food -- it will be provided, but do bring a wrapped gift for a bingo prize (no more than \$5).



*Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him*



## Women of St. Paul

### LWML Mite Update:

National- (as of 10/31/15)

Mission Goal for 2015-2017 Biennium:  
\$2,000,000

Amount Received: \$476,124.61

For more information about  
the LWML visit the website at  
lwml.org.



### **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”**

Everyone is invited to join us. We will meet on Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at Pam Hagan's home at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Veritas Conflict* by Shaunti Feldhahn. Barnes and Noble describes this book: “Claire Rivers races to the mailbox to receive a letter of acceptance to Harvard University while a heavenly battle rages. In this fast-paced, suspenseful novel, the ageless war for the hearts and minds of students on our college campuses is revealed. Conflict between unseen evil and angelic forces reflects their battle for victorious living amidst confused messages. When Claire and her roommate encounter attacks on their faith, a deeper mystery -- involving Harvard's Christian heritage, the pull of money, and a dark plan for societal corruption -- unfolds around them. Will they succumb to temptation and destruction? What has become of Harvard's founding motto: Veritas, Christo et Ecclesiae -- "Truth for Christ and the Church"? Can Claire -- with other praying students and their parents -- counteract the forces of humanism and relativism ... and what will it cost them to do so?” WOW... sounds like a great book to curl up with on a cold winter night! At our April meeting we will be choosing books for the next year, so start compiling your list of suggestions.



Date	Hostess	Book
Feb 18, 2016 Thursday	Pam Hagen	<i>The Veritas Conflict</i> By Shaunti Feldhahn
April 14 2016 Thursday	Thelma Voetberg	<i>The Sign Painter</i> By Davis Bunn



## December 2015 Service Roster

	<b>Dec 6 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 6 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 13 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 13 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 20 8:30</b>	<b>Dec 20 11:00</b>	<b>Dec 27 10:00 One Service</b>
Organist	Mary Nelson		Ellen Sander		Mary Nelson		LaDonna Osborn
Elders	Greg Gebhart	Paul Knop →					
Lectors	Cindy Baas	Mallory Schon	Cindy Baas	Mallory Schon	Tom Baas	Mallory Schon	Tom Baas
Acolytes	Morgan Tupper	Katie Barnes			Hannah Fritz	Rori Olson	
Greeters	Tom & Cindy Baas, Wanda & Dawn Schulte	Keith & Carol Folkmann, Vickie Roach	Tom & Cindy Baas, Wanda & Dawn Schulte	Keith & Carol Folkmann, Vickie Roach	Tom & Cindy Baas, Wanda & Dawn Schulte	Keith & Carol Folkmann, Vickie Roach	Tom & Cindy Baas, Wanda & Dawn Schulte
Ushers	Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Tanny Latuska, Matthew Latuska	Wendy & Caleb Donavon, Nick Schieffer, Steve Vollstedt	Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Tanny Latuska, Matthew Latuska	Wendy & Caleb Donavon, Nick Schieffer, Steve Vollstedt	Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Tanny Latuska, Matthew Latuska	Wendy & Caleb Donavon, Nick Schieffer, Steve Vollstedt	Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Tanny Latuska, Matthew Latuska
Coffee Fellowship							No Coffee today
Coffee Time Greeter	Cindy Baas →						No Coffee today
Altar Flowers							
Offering Counters	Paul & Adele Knop →						
Power Point	Becky Jackson	Doug Litwiller	Becky Jackson	Linda Naeve	Becky Jackson	Linda Naeve	Becky Jackson
Sound Board	Charles Ellis	Greg Van Nostrand	Charles Ellis	Greg Van Nostrand	Charles Ellis	Greg Van Nostrand	Charles Ellis
Altar Guild	Pat Thiede, Karen Griffin,	Beth Henriksen, Judy Peter →					
Video Recorder	Mike Lindell →						
Collate Bulletins	Dean & Ardy Ulrichson →						



## A stylized illustration of a small shop. It features a white facade with a red and white striped awning over the entrance. The entrance has a blue door and a blue window. The shop is set on a grey base.

## A photograph of a wooden play structure with a slide and a swing set in a grassy yard, with a house in the background. The play structure is made of light-colored wood and has a dark roof. A blue slide is attached to the side. A swing set with two blue seats is also visible. The yard is green and grassy, and a house is in the background.

## *December 2015 Special Services Roster*

[illegible]