

DECEMBER 2016

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
610 15TH ST.
AMES, IA 50010
515-232-5838
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG

REV. TODD JENKS, PASTOR

LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914

A Letter from your Pastor

Joyful Anticipation for the Sunday School Christmas Program

I remember as a child how for weeks I eagerly awaited the special day when we Sunday School children would share the message of Jesus' birth at the Sunday School Christmas program. I looked forward to this event for the entire month. The anticipation built as the day grew closer and closer. Years have gone by and some parts of the tradition have changed (for instance, we no longer hold the Sunday School Christmas program on Christmas night). Yet one thing remains the same. I still look forward to this program with great joy. Do you?

Come experience the wonder of the birth of the Christ-child through the eyes of our children. The children of St. Paul will share the message of Jesus' birth in the special program which will be presented during the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 11.

You'll hear the message of our Savior's birth in a meaningful way through Scripture, narration, the nativity presentation—all presented directly from the hearts of the children of our church.

A 4-year-old girl, excited to get to Sunday School, eagerly opened the front door of her house on the Sunday morning of the Christmas program at her church. She was anxious to get on her way. Her father yelled at her, "Shut that door, will you? Were you born in a barn?" The daughter replied, "No, I wasn't, daddy, but baby Jesus was." She proceeded to tell her dad all about the birth of the Savior. Her father, who had not been attending church with his daughter and wife, started attending church that very day. The Sunday School Christmas program was his very first service. He was blessed to hear the message of Jesus shared by his daughter and by the other children.

Will you come experience that

blessing? Will you join us at our Christmas program? This event is not just for the children's parents, grandparents, and other relatives. The Sunday School Christmas program offers all of us a chance to see Jesus through the eyes of a child. The Scriptures say, "*From the mouths of children and infants you have ordained praise*" (Psalm 8:2). Come hear the children praise Jesus and see how your heart is touched! Come to the Sunday School Christmas program at 11 a.m. December 11!

Pastor Jenks



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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.

Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 4

Holy Communion

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



Sunday, December 18

Holy Communion

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Advent II

7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11

8:30 a.m. (Worship) &

11:00 a.m. (Sunday School Program)

Wednesday, December 14

Advent III

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

Only One Service

Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.



COME HAVE FUN DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 3rd there is Children's Christmas Program practice from 9:00 to 11:00. **We will be "Decorating for Christmas" starting at 10:00 and can work in the narthex and fellowship hall from 10:00 to noon. Then at 1:00 pm** or whenever you can come and join in the fun, we will be decorating the sanctuary and putting up the tree.

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. The more that help, means more fun and less work then just a few can do.

Wednesday Night Advent Worship Services

Wednesday nights – November 30; December 7 and 14 -- 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 contemplate the special gifts God gives us – Hope, Love, Peace and Life. 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.”



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." On this Sunday, December 25, there will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. and there will be no education hour held.



Worship Time on January 1

On this Sunday, because many of our members will be traveling and out of town, we will utilize our special holiday week-end schedule. There will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. on January 1. There will be no education hour held. January 8 we return to our regular schedule.

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool News

December 2016



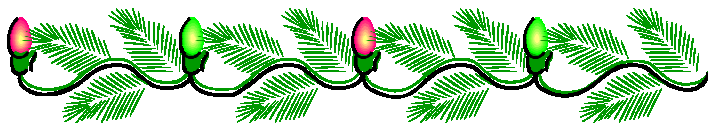
Preschool Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 18th the preschool is going to host 2 different preschool Christmas programs to accommodate the 63 preschoolers in our preschool. Program times are as follows:

3:30 pm—Tuesday/Friday Lamb Class and the Monday-Friday Lamb Class

5:00 pm –Monday/Thursday Lamb Class and the Lion Class

We invite everyone to come and join us as we celebrate the birthday of our Savior. At the end of the program each preschooler will receive a special treat bag to take home.



2016 Christmas Preschool Parties

December 19: Monday/Thursday Lamb Class Christmas Party 10:30-11:30 a.m.

December 20: Tuesday/Thursday Lamb Class & Monday –Friday Lamb Class 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Lion Class—10:45-11:45 a.m.

Preschoolers may bring hats, mittens, and scarves to give away to area children who need them.



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10

Christmas Ideas

1) Set out a child-friendly Nativity for play. 2) Buy Nativity cookie cutters to use for Christmas baking. 3) Make salt dough ornaments with Nativity themes. 4) Make a paper chain to count down the days until Jesus' birthday. 5) Make an Advent wreath.. Light it each night together and read the Bible. 6) Attend the Christmas Eve service. 7) Make an Advent calendar; insert papers with ways you can serve someone else that day. 8) Participate in an Angel Tree project. 9) When hanging Christmas lights, talk about Jesus being the light of the world. 10) Make a birthday cake for Jesus and sing Happy Birthday Jesus!

Human Care

Donations Needed this Month

December collection boxes need warm items. There is always a need for work gloves and stocking caps for all sizes. We need to collect underwear again, too. Just place in the box for HOPE and we will deliver.

Also don't forget the kids who will be home for school for a few days. Granola bars and fruit cups are great for them and they will go to Kate Mitchell.

Conversational Dinners, Saturday, December 10th.



Conversational Dinners In keeping with the theme "As Time Goes By" In December we will be "Caroling Merrily Along in the 80's". We will gather at our hosts home at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 10th, warm up our caroling voices, split up into two groups and set out to sing Christmas greetings to members of St. Paul. We will gather together after caroling for 80's era snacks and beverages. If you would like us to come and sing with joyful enthusiasm at your home or you know of someone who enjoy us stopping by to sing a few carols, please let us

know. If you are interested in being the host couple in December, please let us know as soon as possible.

We had a "Cruising Thru the 70's" good time in November. A very warm thank-you to Mark and Janelle Swenson and Maureen and Reiny Friedrich for hosting. A special thank you to Mark Swenson for helping the Swenson team win the battle of the 80's trivia. He knows his movies and sports.

Remember, Conversational Dinners are open to all adult members of St. Paul. No joining fee, no waiting list, just a good time and a chance to get to know your St. Paul "fellow disciples".

Contact
Drue or El-
len Sander
for more
information.



The winning team of the "70's Trivia" challenge



The 70's "most hip couple", Marilyn and Wayne Hagemoser.

Youth

Dates to remember:

Sat, December 3, 10 and 11: Christmas Program practices

Sun, December 11: Christmas Program @ 11am service

Wed, December 14: Advent Supper Fundraiser for NYG @ 5:45pm



REMINDER! There will NOT be an LYF event in December due to the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at the 11AM service! There will be Christmas Program practices on a few Saturdays before the program, so CHECK THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SECTION FOR PRACTICE TIMES!

2017 LYF events will resume in January and the youth will vote on their choice of activity during the November 16th LYF event! Look for upcoming announcements on the upcoming fun events!

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN 2019

The Board of Youth held an initial introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming 2019 National Youth Gathering on Sunday, November 13 after the first service. Interested youth and their parents discussed general details of the gathering including dates, travel options, possible highlights and fundraising events that will need to be planned! For the youth planning to attend the gathering, the first fundraising opportunity will occur DECEMBER 14, 2016, providing the last Wednesday Advent Supper. There will be an informational email coming out to parents about this fundraising event soon...

If you missed the informational meeting, but wish to receive the small packet of information that was handed out, please contact Carla Murphy. A NYG committee will need to be formed as soon as possible in order to get things organized! If there are any youth interested in attending, and you are a parent that is interested in becoming a leader, co-leader, chaperone or fundraising planner, please contact the Board of Youth as soon as possible!

Youth

“WRITTEN IN STONE” – Iowa District West Jr. Youth Gathering Highlights

On October 29-30, Iowa youth in grades 6-8 and their counselors experienced the Ten Commandments in music, drama, Bible study, hands-on activities, and worship. The Keynote Speaker for the weekend was Rev. Jonathan Connor, from Zion Lutheran Church in Manning. There were many other presenters, including Rev. Mark Gerken of IDW, Rev. Ricard Lally of Des Moines, Bonnie Kabrick, DCE from Spencer and Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, IDW President. AND everyone loved music and skits with Music Leaders Swen and Dean!

The theme verse for the Gathering was Hebrews 8:10 which says, “I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Participants learned that God’s Law is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It never changes! It lasts! It’s always good. It’s so good, that He wrote it upon our hearts so that we would never be without it. What a truly amazing gift!



St. Paul sponsored two 8th grade youth to attend. Below are some of their personal comments and reflections of the weekend.

“The youth gathering was a great experience, and I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot about the Lutheran faith. My favorite parts were the keynotes that we got to listen to. I found them to be not only informational, but fascinating and interesting. I met a lot of people there, and made at least one friend. I would recommend that everyone who can takes advantage of opportunities like this.” -Katie

“I had a memorable experience at the Jr Youth Gathering in Des Moines. I was able to see some friends that I have met at Camp Okobojo and hang out with them. I still met new people too. My favorite part of the trip was listening and singing with Swen and Dean! However, I really did enjoy the sectionals (the messages). They were very captivating, gave encouragement and were meaningful. I enjoyed EVERY minute of my time there and I wish I could go more than just once a year!” -Erin

Youth

On November 16, we had 18 youth and a few of our adult members team up to make cookies and cards to take to a few of our shut-ins. The youth had fun learning about these members and the members had a great time learning about our youth! Some youth also sang songs with the person they visited.



Education

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Important Children's Christmas Service Dates



Practices:

Saturday, December 3rd 9-11 (Kindergarten- High School)

Saturday, December 10th 9-10 (Kindergarten – High School)

10-11 (Preschool – High School)

Sunday, December 11th 9:45 – 10:45 (Kindergarten – High School)

Service:

Sunday, December 11th 11:00 service only

(Children are asked to bring a wrapped box with their offering enclosed)

WE WILL BE HAVING A CHILDREN'S BAND ENSEMBLE- PLEASE LET BRENDA DRYER (bsdryer@globalccs.net) KNOW IF YOUR CHILD PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PART OF THE SERVICE.

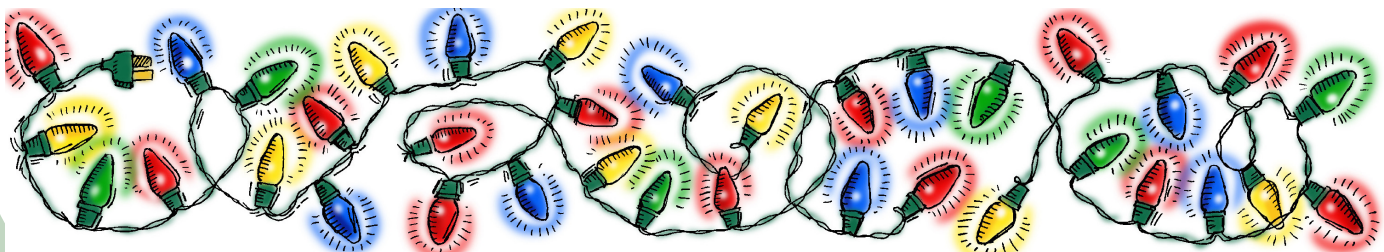


NO CLASS: There will not be Midweek or Sunday School the following dates: December 21, 25, 28; and January 1

Reminder that Christmas Program practice will be December 3 and 10 with the program itself on December 11 at 11:00 am.

We are looking for a substitute Sunday School teacher for the 7-8 grade to teach January - April.

Class may be taught by a team or single person.



Women's Ministry

LWML Mite Update:

National- (as of 10/31/16)



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

Amount Received: \$1,422,513.27

Amount Needed: \$ 577,486.73

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

Troop IA2016 of the American Heritage Girls with deep gratitude thanks the congregation of St Paul for supporting our Reformation Day Bake Sale. Funds from the \$851 raised will help buy supplies and fund activities such as the spring camp-out. The troop learned many wonderful things from this event from...."What is the Reformation?" to "The people at St. Paul are very friendly and kind." to "When working together a lot can happen." The American Heritage Girls really enjoyed getting to know the St. Paul's congregation.

The AHG troop IA2016 will be holding its first ceremony to present the badges earned thus far. It will be held at Cornerstone Church December 12 @ 5 pm. A potluck meal will be served.

FAMILY SERVICE ~ Family Service Christmas Luncheon:

Family Service Circle will be having a Christmas Luncheon on Thurs, Dec. 8th at 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to Irene Holthaus at 232-1771 by Dec. 5th.



Our next quilting date is January 12th from 10:15 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and will be a Thrivent Action Team Event. Wear your T-Shirt and bring a sack lunch.



"Book to Know to Help You Grow"

We will meet Feb 9, 7:00 pm, at the home of Adele Knop to discuss "Her Mother's Hope" by Francine Rivers. Everyone is invited to join us.

The Barnes & Noble synopsis follows: "Near the turn of the twentieth century, fiery Marta Schneider leaves Switzerland for a better life, determined to fulfill her mother's hope. Her formative journey takes her through Europe and eventually to Canada, where she meets handsome Niclas Waltert. But nothing has prepared her for the sacrifices she must make for marriage and motherhood as she travels to the Canadian wilderness and then to the dusty Central Valley of California to raise her family.

Marta's hope is to give her children a better life, but experience has taught her that only the strong survive. Her tough love is often misunderstood, especially by her oldest daughter, Hildemara Rose, who craves her mother's acceptance. Amid the drama of World War II, Hildie falls in love and begins a family of her own. But unexpected and tragic events force mother and daughter to face their own shortcomings and the ever-widening chasm that threatens to separate them forever."



| Date | Hostess | Book |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| Feb 9, 2017 | Adele Knop | "Her Mother's Hope" by Francine Rivers |
| April 27, 2017 | Shirley Tice | "Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café" by Max Lucado |

December 2016 Service Roster

| | Dec 4 8:30 | Dec 4 11:00 | Dec 11 8:30 | Dec 11 11:00 Children's Program | Dec 18 8:30 | Dec 18 11:00 | Dec 25 10:00 one ser- vice |
|---------------------|---|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Organist | LaDonna Osborn | | Ellen Sander | | Praise Team | | LaDonna Osborn |
| Elders | Reiny Friedrich | Greg Gebhart → | | | | | Reiny Friedrich |
| Lectors | Angela Fritz | Inez Smith | Angela Fritz | | Jeromy Fritz | Inez Smith | Jeromy Fritz |
| Acolytes | Emma Buttery | Rori Olson | | | Erin Murphy | Katie Barnes | Hannah Fritz |
| Greeters | Connie Buss, Wanda & Dawn Schulte | Connie Buss, Gretchen Zitterich → | | | | | Connie Buss, Wanda & Dawn Schulte |
| Ushers | Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Jeromy & Angela Fritz | Ron Coy, Steve Vollstedt, Inez Smith, Lori Jenks → | | | | | Dennis & Joyce Dobberke, Jeromy & Angela Fritz |
| Coffee Fellowship | | | | | | | No Coffee Fellowship today |
| Coffee Time Greeter | Dick Peterson → | | | | | | |
| Altar Flowers | | | Poinsettias | | Poinsettias | | Poinsettias |
| Offering Counters | Mark & Janelle Swenson → | | | | | | |
| Power Point | Stephanie Mandernach | Julie Coy | Stephanie Mandernach | Julie Coy | Stephanie Mandernach | Julie Coy | Stephanie Mandernach |
| Sound Board | Jordan Mandernach | Greg Van Nostrand | Jordan Mandernach | Greg Van Nostrand | Jordan Mandernach | Greg Van Nostrand | Jordan Mandernach |
| Altar Guild | Karen Griffin, Gretchen Zitterich, | Pat Thiede, Judy Peter → | | | | | |
| Video Recorder | Mike Lindell → | | | | | | |
| Collate Bulletins | Dick & Linda Peterson → | | | | | | |

December 2016 Special Service Roster

| | Dec. 7 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Advent II | Dec. 14 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Advent III | Dec. 24 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Christmas Eve | Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. Saturday Christmas Eve |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Organist | Ellen Sander | Ellen Sander | LaDonna Osborn | LaDonna Osborn |
| Elder | Matt Weiss | Mark Swenson | Paul Knop | Greg Gebhart |
| Acolyte | | | | |
| Lector | Cindy Baas | Wendy Donavon | Linda Peterson | Ron Juelfs |
| Ushers | Wayne & Marilyn Hagemoser, Steve & Marlene Johnson | Dean & Ardy Ulrichson, Jerry Schradle, John Murphy | Ron Coy, Lori Jenks, Drue & Ellen Sander | Tom & Judy Peter, Maureen & Reiny Friedrich |
| Greeters | Harry & Pam Mundt | Barbara Folkmann, Kris Ellis | Mark & Janelle Swenson | Tom & Beth Henriksen |
| Offering Counters | Mark & Janelle Swenson | Mark & Janelle Swenson | Mark & Janelle Swenson | Mark & Janelle Swenson |
| Power Point | Judy Peter | Becky Jackson | Julie Coy | Becky Jackson |
| Soundboard | Tom Peter | Charles Ellis | Greg VanNostrand | Charles Ellis |
| Collate bulletins | Dick & Linda Peterson | Dick & Linda Peterson | Dick & Linda Peterson | Dick & Linda Peterson |

Spotlight Correction: There was an error in the November Spotlight article on Bob Walker. The Walkers had three children, not two. His son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Laura, have no children yet and were married Oct. 2015. Emily was Bob and Marilyn's daughter who was born on July 5, 1975. She was born with spina bifida and was special needs. She died Nov. 4, 2009 of complications from pneumonia.

We apologize for the error.

