

DECEMBER 2020

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

610 15TH ST.

AMES, IA 50010

515-232-5838

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG

OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMES, IA

REV. DR. TODD JENKS, PASTOR

THOMAS WILSON, DIR. FAMILY LIFE

LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914

Letter from Pastor

Special Words from Your Pastor

Are you fearful because of the pandemic? Are you fearful of catching the coronavirus, or of dying from it if you catch it? Are you fearful that life will never get back to normal? Or are you fearful of something simple like running out of something essential, such as toilet paper? Yes, there has been another run on the TP at the store. Does this turbulent time that we live in have your life marked by fear? Then draw near and listen.

What are the very first words that the angel spoke to the shepherds when Jesus Christ was born? **FEAR NOT!** And the angel said to them, *"FEAR NOT, for behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy,*

which shall be for all people. For unto you has been born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

FEAR NOT!



My friends, God does not want you to live in fear. That's why the Father sent Jesus. God loves you and wants to take your fear from you. God reminds you of His love for you through what Jesus comes to do for you.

Fear not—unto you a Savior has been born—we do not need to fear punishment for our sin. Fear not—unto you a Savior has been born—we do not need to fear the end of life, for we will have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Fear not—unto you a Savior has been born—we do not need to fear the evil of this world and the opponents of God's Word, for they are defeated by the power of our Lord. Fear not! We do not need to fear anything in life, thanks to Jesus Christ!

May God bless all of you this month as you remember that Jesus comes so that your life can be filled with peace and faith, which God gives, rather than fear, which the world gives. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear" (1 John 4:18). God loves you and sends His Son to take your sin, and your fear. **FEAR NOT!**

In Christ, 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

Wednesday, December 2

Advent I

7:00 p.m. Worship at church

And

7:00 p.m. Live Stream

Sunday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Worship at church with Holy Communion

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

11:30-1:00 p.m. Walk up Communion

Wednesday, December 9

Advent II

7:00 p.m. Worship at church

And

7:00 p.m. Live Stream

Sunday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Worship at church

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

11:10 a.m. Live Stream

Bible study

Wednesday, December 16

Advent III

7:00 p.m. Worship at church

And

7:00 p.m. Live Stream



With Covid cases increasing, the worship schedule is tentative.

Please watch your emails from the church closely for any changes.

Sunday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Worship at church with Holy Communion

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

11:30-1:00 p.m. Walk up Communion

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Worship at church and Live Stream

5:00 p.m. Worship at church **ONLY IF NEEDED! (Tentative time— may change depending on sign-up) *If less than 80 people plan to attend, we will condense to one service at 7:00 p.m.*

Friday, December 25
Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Worship at church with Holy Communion

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

11:15-12:00 p.m. Walk up Communion

Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m. Worship at church

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream



A sincere "thank you" to our St. Paul family for all the thoughts and prayers while Phil was dealing with Covid. He is doing much better and is back to work. I feel blessed that I didn't get sick while caring for him. You are all a blessing to us!

Phil & Alberta Voge

If you are leaving town for the winter, please let the office know your winter address so we can send the Epistle and other mailings to you.



Poinsettias for the dedication to the glory and honor of our God and for the beautification of our sanctuary are available for the price of \$13.00 per plant.

The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 9th.

Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church with a notation that it is for a Poinsettia. **Please place your order form and check in the "Poinsettia box" in the west entryway. DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR PAYMENT WITH YOUR REGULAR OFFERING.**



Name _____

Quantity _____

Amount Paid _____

If you choose to deliver your plant to a shut-in, it may be picked up after the Christmas service. The remaining plants will again be used to decorate the sanctuary on the Sundays following Christmas.

Camp Okoboji still needs Thrivent Action Gift Cards for materials needed in the remodeling of the cabins. If you have not used your Thrivent Action



Cards for this year, would you consider using them for the camp? If you are able to apply, please call Loren Schultz at 712-269-4071 for the details to put on the application. If you need help with the application process, please contact your Thriven agent. Thank you.

Wellness Team

Keeping Christmas Eating Healthful

By Connie Buss, for St. Paul Wellness Team



Merry Christmas! This year, the holiday parties and gatherings will look quite different for many people. There may be fewer gatherings, smaller circles of friends/family, maybe social distancing, but I'd bet that food will almost always be part of the fun! There are many family favorites that will fill our homes with wonderful smells and tastes! Yet, we need to honor the Lord by taking care of our bodies. Consider 1 Corinthians 6:15: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?" So, again I remind you, to eat regularly and to eat a variety of healthy foods. Listen to your body...eat when you are hungry, eat slowly, chew deliberately, taste and enjoy all those special Christmas foods, stopping when you've had the right amount for you! Make this season a healthy one by taking care of yourself! Give yourself the gift of TLC—make realistic plans, don't overcommit, get enough rest and try to get in a walk. Bundle up, get outside if it is safe for you to do so, and get some fresh air!

Whatever the Christmas celebrations look like for you, remember to keep the main thing, the main thing...Jesus' birth!

A fun holiday bread...Cranberry Bread

2 cups flour

½ cup sugar (or use ¼ cup sugar and ¼ cup sugar substitute, like Stevia in the raw)

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

Juice and rind of 1 medium orange

2 teaspoons melted margarine or butter

Hot water

1 egg, beaten slightly with fork before stirring into batter

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup cranberries, halved or chopped coarsely

½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine cranberries, ¼ cup sugar. Set aside. Mix other dry ingredients (including remaining ¼ cup sugar or Stevia). Measure orange juice, grated rind and melted margarine. Add hot water to make 1 cup. Stir liquid into dry ingredients. Add egg, vanilla, cranberries and nuts, stirring to blend.

Cut aluminum foil to fit bottom of loaf pan. Spray pan with no stick spray. Add batter. Bake 1 hr or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool pan on rack for 10 minutes. Remove bread from pan. Store in airtight container or sealed bag when cool.





DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS 2020

As members of St Paul, we have had to make many prayerful decisions and adjustments to our worship services, meetings and gatherings. After several discussions and with the guidance of prayer, it has been decided there will also need to be changes to the process for decorating the sanctuary and narthex for Christmas. Rather than gather as a group for a decorating party, various individual members have been contacted to volunteer their time to come individually/alone to do the decorating, so we do not have to be concerned about trying to social distance.

There will definitely be changes to our process, but we will still make the facility festive for this most special season! Get ready to share the love of Christmas and the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior as we worship! (Those who worship at home via livestream will still be able to see the seasonal sanctuary from afar.) This is a special time of year for all of us. What a great way to start this joyous season by taking time to prepare our hearts and lift prayers, especially prayers for everyone for health and safety during this time of changes.

Education and Youth

Super Sub and Bake Sale – an NYG Fundraiser



Each year the participants of the NYG and their families take orders for sub sandwiches to be picked up on Super Bowl Sunday. And, on that Sunday we have a bake sale. With our COVID style life we have right now we still want to offer that same opportunity for those looking for some food for Super Bowl Sunday- February 7th, 2021.

As with our Chili and Soup Feed in December, we are taking pre-orders for foot long Sub Sandwiches, Meat and Cheese Trays, and Baked Goods! Pick up will be Sunday, February 7th, after worship service for those that attend in-person service, in the fellowship hall pick up for those that will come in for communion and then from 1:00 – 2:30 PM for drive through pick up.

The order form is included in the Epistle. If you have questions please feel free to contact Greg Gebhart or Thomas Wilson.



2022 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING SUPER SUB FUNDRAISER

Help the youth of St. Paul raise money for the trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston in 2022!
For only \$10 you can get a foot long sub!

Name: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

| Quantity (circle one): | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Please mark what you would like on each sub: | | | | |
| | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 |
| White Bread | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wheat Bread | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ham | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| American Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lettuce | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tomato | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pickle | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Meat and Cheese Tray: ___ Large (\$10) ___ Small (\$5)

Bake Sale: All bake sale items are ½ dozen or quart baggies for \$5.00

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Cookies Qty: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Cupcakes Qty: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Brownies Qty: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scotcheroos Qty: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail/Chex Mix Qty: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> "Seasoned" (Oyster) Crackers Qty: _____ |

Subs Total Due: \$10 X _____ = \$ _____
 Meat Cheese Trays Total Due: L \$10X _____ = \$ _____
 S \$5 X _____ = \$ _____
 Bake Sale Total Due: \$5 X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| _____ PAID |
| _____ Will pay at time of pick up |

ORDERS DUE: Sunday, January 31st, 2021
Mail, or drop orders off, to the church ATTN: Thomas Wilson

Education and Youth

LYF News to Note:

-No LYF in December.

-At this time we are unsure if we will have an LYF activity in January. Please watch for emails and notifications.

Thankfulness

On November 11 our LYF group was small but Thankful. We gathered for boxed Subway meals, devotions on gratitude and canvas painting. The board of youth are very proud how our participating youth are following our church safety protocols. They safely distance themselves, wait turns, remember not to share supplies (as odd as that is), and wear their masks. They are truly following Christ by being examples in caring for their fellow neighbors!



Evangelism

The best thing we can do this month is remember our neighbors near our homes and far away. Remember to check on those we don't see everyday with just a phone call or just a note in the mail or their mail box.

Remember our clothing collection for Orphan Grain Train and the school children. They will need warm hats and gloves even if they aren't in school. Remember the food pantry as supplies get smaller.

Remember to thank God for what you have and to ask Him to care for those around us.

Remember to share the real meaning for Christmas and wish everyone a "Merry Christmas".

Just a reminder, keep the items for the Orphan Grain Bins coming. Clothing is always welcome and also medical supplies, Bibles and school supplies. They keep a shelf of new school supplies for teachers. Sometimes you get more than you need or is the wrong type, they will use. Thank you for supporting this great mission project.

MONTHLY PRAYERS IN DECEMBER FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

As the world continues to grapple with the pandemic, the church continues sending missionaries into the world to share the hope of Christ. The LCMS has over 200 missionaries working around the globe. Before the pandemic's shutdown we listed a missionary in our announcement sheet to pray for each week. We are resuming the listing in the Epistle. These servants, away from home during these stressful times, covet our fervent prayers more than anything else. Learn more at www.lcms.org/missionarysupport.

Pray for **REV. CHARLES and CONNIE CORTRIGHT** as they serve in Riga. An update from Charles is having heart issues and must return to the US for special tests and treatment. PLEASE PRAY FOR "...our trip to the US, for the doctors as they care for me, and for God's gracious healing that we may return to our field of service. ...our missionaries here in Eurasia and throughout the world. ...for all the students we have been able to serve online in our various classes. May the Word given to them bless them in their faith and equip them to share that very Word ...those who support us and all our missionaries. We give thanks for the many individuals and churches who have given in our support. Your sacrificial gifts and prayers are what keep us in the field and sustain us in our service.

Pray for **STEVE AND NANCY COHEN** "We, at Apple of His Eye, covet your prayers for us. Pray we will be faithful to the calling God put before us, that we will be diligent to win the lost, that we will be good stewards and pray for our families." *Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.* -- Is. 59:1 Pray that Jewish people everywhere will hear the gospel of our Lord.

Pray **REV ROBERT AND KRISTI ROEGNER** LCMS Bible teachers to Israel in partnership with Apple of His Eye (RSO of LCMS). They were able to return to Tel Aviv in September and continue the work of teaching and sharing the gospel with the people of Israel. *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they might be saved.* -- Romans 10:1 Pray for their continued support and health and safety.

Pray for **KARL AND KELSEY GRULKE** They ask to pray: 1. For the leaders of Botswana as they wrestle with when and how to open their country to visitors. 2. For our coworkers in Botswana who are continuing translation work in our absence. Bakgalagari and Wayeyi people as the translation projects continue to move forward and we get closer to making God's Word come alive in these languages. 3. For peace as we remain uncertain of our return date to Botswana. 4. That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

Women's Ministry

LWML National 2019–2021 Mission Grant #16 — \$80,000 Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow

The need for well-trained leaders for our Lutheran schools is already great and increasing. To address the critical shortage of school administrators, the School Leadership Development Program (SLED) has been redesigned to better equip educators with the tools needed to lead Lutheran schools in the 21st century. God's children are well served and His kingdom is expanded with the help of knowledgeable educators. These grant funds will provide training to equip 30 qualified candidates for placement as administrators in LCMS schools who will directly impact thousands of students, helping them grow as disciples of Christ.



To address the critical shortage of school administrators, the School Leadership Development Project prepares leaders for tomorrow, seeking to strengthen and revitalize Lutheran schools with administrators trained to be vital and effective leaders so that God's children are well served, and His kingdom is expanded. It is critical that we identify and recruit Lutheran School administrators to provide leadership for schools where teachers integrate theology in their teaching, model the Christian life, apply Law and Gospel to disciple students and assist them in their faith development to attain the fullness of the promise of life in Christ.



See those HAPPY FACES!

OUR THRIVENT EVENT OF PUTTING SMILES ON GIRLS' FACES IS COMING TO A CLOSE, BUT YOU CAN STILL WORK ON THE REMAINING PACKETS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE UP TO BE SEWN. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR OWN DRESSES AND CONTINUE SEWING. WHEN FINISHED, TURN THEM IN TO THE ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFICE. This will be an ongoing project throughout December and the following year. Just contact Linda Peterson at 515-231-4730.



This is a dress made by one of our members.

WHEN: THROUGHOUT DEC. AND INTO NEXT YEAR
WHERE: IN YOUR OWN HOME

(Pick up packets with all the supplies in them from Linda Peterson while they last.) Then you can make your own pattern from the supplies within the packet. (Those of you that have sewing ability and want something to do at home can get the packet and the instructions and all the materials in the packet to sew at home free of charge and then return the finished dress to Linda. -- see Linda Peterson - **call her at 515-231-4730.**) The dress pattern and pocket is cut out for you. *The organization is asking for at least \$1.00 per dress for hand delivery of the dresses by their ambassadors.*

The Women's Ministries AND the Dress a Girl foundation thanks you!

Women's Ministry

LWML Mite Update: as of 10/31/20

2019-2021 National Mission goal: \$2,100,000.00

Amount Received: \$1,668,103.79

Amount Needed: \$431,896.21

We normally collect mites for missions on the 1st Sunday of each month. For more information about LWML go to www.lwml.org.

FAMILY SERVICE ~ Our quilters will not be meeting to quilt in December. You may continue to bring fabric and place it in the tub near the east doors. Thank you.



"Book to Know to Help You Grow"



January 14 at 3:00 pm we will discuss "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patti Callahan. Please note that we decided to meet in the afternoon during January and March. The exact format for our discussion has not been decided yet, but we will keep you posted by email. If you do not get the Book Club emails, but would like to receive them, just let the church office know.

"Becoming Mrs. Lewis", a Christy Award Winner: When poet and writer Joy Davidman began writing letters to C. S. Lewis—known as Jack—she was looking for spiritual answers, not love. Love, after all, wasn't holding together her crumbling marriage. Everything about New Yorker Joy seemed ill-matched for an Oxford don and the beloved writer of Narnia, yet their minds bonded over their letters. Embarking on the adventure of her life, Joy traveled from America to England and back again, facing heartbreak and poverty, discovering friendship and faith, and against all odds, finding a love that even the threat of death couldn't destroy.

In this masterful exploration of one of the greatest love stories of modern times, we meet a brilliant writer, a fiercely independent mother, and a passionate woman who changed the life of this respected author and inspired books that still enchant us and change us. Joy lived at a time when women weren't meant to have a voice—and yet her love for Jack gave them both voices they didn't know they had.

| Date | Location | Book |
|----------------------|----------|---|
| Jan 14, 2021, 3 pm | TBA | "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patti Callahan |
| March 11, 2021, 3 pm | TBA | "Saving Amelie" by Cathy Gohlke |
| May 13, 2021, 7 pm | TBA | "Bread of Angels" by Tessa Afshar |

American Heritage Girls



Tenderheart and Explorers Adventure Into the Prairie

by Anya Adcock

This fall AHG held a field trip to West Peterson Park and a service project at Doolittle Prairie. There the girls learned about native prairie plants and were able to collect and smell them. At Doolittle Prairie, the girls were able to pick seeds to be planted along roadsides and ditches, helping rain and runoff drainage and preserving the natural beauty of these plants. This also helps prevent them from dying out or going extinct. At West Peterson Park the girls explored varying natural habitats. They observed and listened to the natural sounds of the prairie habitat, the forest/woodland habitat, and the river habitat. Both of these activities will help the girls complete a Nature and Wildlife badge this fall.



PiPa Badge Workshop and Camp-In

by Kaylee McClure

On October 2 the Pioneers and Patriots had a camp-in at Camp Pine Lake. There they completed the majority of the Outdoor Cooking badge. Prior to the camp-in, the girls had to have the Fire Safety and Fire Building badge finished. At the camp-in they were in charge of building and maintaining the fire. They cooked a total of three meals and three desserts. Dinner was chicken, vegetables, and potato foil meals with breadsticks cooked over the fire. Breakfast was eggs cooked on homemade camp stoves made out of tin cans. Lunch was dutch oven macaroni and cheese and skillet "Tatcos" (tater tot nachos). Desserts included cherry and apple pudgie pies, foil s'more cones in the fire, and apple crisp in the dutch oven. The Pipas also ice dyed white face masks using the colors red and blue. First they laid the masks on cooling racks over a bucket. Then they placed the ice on top and added tie-dye powder. As the ice melted, it created a tie-dye effect. After letting them sit overnight, the girls rinsed out the remaining dye. During free time the girls went hiking, played gaga ball and carpet ball, and enjoyed the outdoors. The girls also played party games like mafia, and enjoyed talking and giggling.

Preschool News

There are SIX classes of preschoolers this year at St. Paul Lutheran Preschool!

Cub Class—2-year-olds (2 days/week)

Lamb Class—3-year-olds (2 days/week)

Lion Class—4-year-olds (3 or 4 days/week)

AM/Full Day Bear Class—3- and 4-year-olds (4 days/week)

PM Bear Class—3- and 4-year-olds (4 days/week)

Early Kindergarten (EK) - 5-year-olds (4 days/week)



Things look and feel a little different at preschool this year—masks are common in all the classrooms, as is washing our hands a lot, and social distancing as much as possible.

BUT we are so thankful that some things never change—our happy preschool smiles, attentive and loving parents and preschool staff, and the unlimited love of our wonderful Savior, JESUS!

All of the preschool classes spent time this fall observing and learning about leaves, fall, pumpkins, our names, and (of course!) how wonderfully we were created and how much God loves us!

Some of the classes learned about our 5 senses, farms and harvest, owls and bats, squirrels, and bees.

No matter the topic, St. Paul staff goes above and beyond to ensure each child learns, grows, and knows they are loved!



