



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

MINISTRIES

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

December 2020

Holy Communion - Part Three: Protocol

Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe. (Luther's Small Catechism)

Nothing we can do outwardly or physically will prepare us to receive Communion worthily. God makes us worthy by giving us a prepared, penitent and trusting heart.

But it's still true that our demeanor on the outside reflects the spirit of our heart on the inside. Jesus noted that what's in our heart comes to light in what we say ("For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" Matthew 12:34) and in what we do ("Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit" Matthew 12:33).

Receiving Holy Communion is not meant to be ritualistic or formalistic, but it is an awesome and wondrous experience, to be approached with devotion and respect.

Ladies and gentlemen, younger and older, let your reverence and devotion to God be evident in your demeanor and in your dress.

As you prepare at home for worship, how will you present yourself to your King? Will you reserve your nice clothes for worldly doings and schlump into God's presence with your appearance as an afterthought? When you come into church, reflect, meditate, pray. You are in a place for refreshment and spiritual renewal. Prepare to have your soul delightfully fed and the thirst of your spirit quenched.

Before the Liturgy of the Sacrament take some more time for personal preparation. As you commune, think about where you are standing — in the very presence of God! Contemplate the mystery of God's grace. Gaze upon the body and blood of Christ you are receiving. There is no better visual aid!

As you leave, you may wish to make the sign of the cross over your heart. In so doing you remember your baptism — and you recall that the only reason you are worthy to receive such a precious gift as the body and blood of Christ is because you have been washed in Baptism and welcomed into God's holy family.

When you return to your pew, offer a silent prayer of thanksgiving. Use your own words, or pray the following: "Lord God, heavenly Father, I thank you that you have refreshed me with this saving gift. I pray that through this sacrament you would strengthen me in faith toward you and in love toward all. Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen."

In the sacrament you have been refreshed and renewed and strengthened. Christ is in you, and you are in Christ. God will go with you. His angels will fight for you, as you go back into the world with its struggles, temptations, challenges and failures. The spiritual victories are yours in Christ.

In the sacrament God has sealed and delivered to you all the blessings of his salvation. Rejoice and give thanks. Depart in peace!

Pastor Matthew Holtz

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Worship Schedule

Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.; Midweek Advent services are held on Wednesdays at 3:45pm & 6:00pm.

Our 8am Sunday services are on facebook live and can also be heard on WNAM 1280 AM.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 12/2 | Midweek Advent 1 – Heralds of Christmas: Isaiah |
| 12/6, 12/7 | Second Sunday in Advent – Get ready! Repent! |
| 12/9 | Midweek Advent 2 – Heralds of Christmas: Micah |
| 12/13, 12/14 | Third Sunday in Advent – Get ready to rejoice |
| 12/16 | Midweek Advent 3 – Heralds of Christmas: John the Baptist |
| 12/20, 12/21 | Fourth Sunday in Advent – Get ready to receive the King |
| 12/24 | Christmas Eve – Lessons & Carols (Services at 4pm & 6pm; the children's service will be virtual and available on facebook and our website) |
| 12/25 | Christmas Day – The Superior Son (10am service) |
| 12/27, 12/28 | First Sunday after Christmas – The gift that brings peace |
| 12/31 | New Year's Eve – The gift of another year of grace (Service at 6pm) |

Official Acts

Forever with the Lord:

Archie Schabo departed this life on September 26th, 2020 at the age of 99 years, 7 months, and 28 days.

Duane Plamann departed this life on October 24th, 2020 at the age of 86 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Vivian Huth departed this life on October 25th, 2020 at the age of 92 years, 2 months, and 18 days.

William Henn departed this life on November 22nd, 2020 at the age of 95 years, 9 months, and 22 days.

Financials through Oct. 31st, 2020

| | Oct. | July – Oct. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$ 112,377 | \$ 624,663 |
| Expense | \$ 173,213 | \$ 692,776 |
| Behind / Ahead | \$ -60,836 | \$ -68,113 |

All bills are paid; all obligations are met.

Report Date 11/19/2020

| UPDATE ECC MORTGAGE-INVESTORS BANK | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Original Note Date | 4/10/2015 | Next Maturity Date | 10/20/2021 |
| 5 year locked interest (4.40%) | | | |
| Regular Payment for November 2020 | \$9,170 | P-\$8,790.47 | I-\$379.53 |
| Extra Payment on Principal For September 2020 | ----- | P-\$15,175.00 | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Starting Mortgage Value | 11/20/2015 | \$ 2,000,000.00 |
| Amount paid off of Principal as of | 11/19/2020 | \$ (1,923,797.27) |
| Mortgage value as of | 11/19/2020 | \$ 76,202.73 |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ECC Debt Retirement Effort directly to debt | \$ 1,628,262.16 |
| Money applied from normal monthly payment to debt | \$ 295,535.11 |
| Total Payments on Principal | 11/19/2020 \$ 1,923,797.27 |

Total interest saved over 20 years at 4.4% by ECC Debt Retirement Program

| ECC Debt Ret. | Int % | Interest Saved |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| \$ 1,628,262.16 | 4.4% | \$ 1,432,870.70 |

Early December 2020, after all of the anticipated restricted income comes in, we will pay off the mortgage for the ECC loan.

Dec gifts are already contributed and will be received by Nov 31, 2020 (Stocks and cooperate matching gifts)

ECC Loan Update & Exiting News!

As you know, we recently had a St. Paul family post a matching gift challenge to our congregation members focused on paying off the remaining \$120,000 of our ECC mortgage. This challenge offered a 100% match to all ECC debt reduction gifts received by December 31st, 2020, meaning if we collected \$60,000 in gifts, the challenge would match the remaining \$60,000 and allow us to completely pay off our remaining \$120,000 ECC mortgage.

Over the past few weeks of the challenge, we have received tremendous support from our congregation toward meeting our goal and now have some incredible news to share! **WE HAVE REACHED OUR \$60,000 MATCHING GOAL!!!!** This means with our gifts received along with the match challenge, we can completely pay off our ECC mortgage! \$0.00 remaining owed! What an incredible effort and blessing!

A look back at our loan... in 2016 the congregation invested in the vision for our ECC's future with a \$2,000,000 loan. Over the past four years, we have been blessed with amazing support from our congregation members, many times going above and beyond their normal weekly offerings to aid in our debt reduction efforts. Just prior to Christmas 2018 and due entirely to our member's additional gifts, our remaining mortgage amount was already down to \$621,890. Just short of two years later along with this final push and our congregation's continued commitment, we now have the funds to pay off our remaining bank debt and close our ECC mortgage by the end of November!

We do have a lot to be proud of throughout our entire congregation and ministries, but at the same time we have so much more to be thankful for. Upon hearing this news at our monthly November Church Council meeting, it was mentioned how fitting it is to be able to celebrate and be thankful for this great blessing as we are approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas. It truly is fitting and let us always remember to celebrate every single one of God's blessings he has and continues to provide to our St. Paul Lutheran Ministries family. Thank you to everyone for your prior and continued support and to God be the Glory!

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Council

School News

Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

Children's Christmas Eve Service: For the safety of our students and congregation members, it has been decided to hold our Children's Christmas Eve service VIRTUALLY this year. This service will be pre-recorded and available for all to watch on our Facebook page and website no later than 12/24.

Winter Sports: The LES Board met and voted to cancel all winter sports for the 2020-2021 school year. This was decided for the safety of our athletes due to COVID and the mask mandate.

WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry: So much has been cancelled this year, but you know what's NOT cancelled? Kindness, giving, and love toward our neighbor to name a few. ♥ St. Paul students are collecting food for the Apple Valley Food pantry as our Christmas gift to those in need. Each classroom has been assigned a category of non-perishable food items to bring in and place under their class trees. Join us in spreading love and kindness this December by bringing in your food donations to the bin in the church basement. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

LWMS

Missionary Children Ornament Tree - Look for the LWMS Missionary Children Christmas tree ornaments that will be displayed on a tree in the narthex during the month of December. Each ornament will contain the name of one of our Missionary's children and their current location for sending a Christmas and/or birthday card. Please take an ornament from the tree that you can put on your tree at home and use as a reminder to keep these young people in your prayers as they complete their education in the United States, far from their home and family. The back of the ornament will have contact information for one of the Missionary children which is current through the first week in January, 2021. Many of the children are at a different address for 1-2 months during the holidays. The child's name, their home country, birthdate, year in HS or college and address will all be included. If you plan to send a birthday card at a different time throughout the year we ask that you confirm the address with Joan Wolfgramm or Connie Frey. Thank you for your love for missionaries and their families!

A message from Pastor Aaron Goetzinger, Redemption Lutheran Church in Watertown, NY:

Redemption Church is nestled right between Watertown and Fort Drum, which is the home of the Army's most deployed division, the 10th Mountain. Since we're in a military community, our congregation seems to have a revolving door. People keep coming and going. As an example of the challenge this creates – during 2018 we hit a new high for membership, but we also braced for the impact of losing 17 people, nearly a third of our young congregation. But the Lord provided encouragement in that the average attendance still increased by 10 when compared to the figure in the same period just a year prior.

Our local community provides some unique challenges as well. Watertown is a typical northeastern small town. A slumping economy combined with spiritual apathy makes for slow growth. We've come to notice that old-school methods like mailed fliers seem to work better in Watertown, whereas social media seems to work better in Fort Drum.

This two-pronged approach has helped us hold events that draw people to Redemption's location. We hold two big events each year. In August we hold an art camp for kids. The past two years we've had to put a cap on the number of kids we enroll. The Saturday of Halloween we hold a Trunk or Treat. The second year we held it, the weather was rainy and hovering around 40 degrees. We moved Trunk or Treat into the empty pole barn on our property and still hosted about 200 children. People were triple-parked in our parking lot! When we're not holding events, we hold regular fellowship activities

like board game days to give people from our local and military communities a place to gather.

We have a robust online presence through our website and also through social media. We post sermons and videos promoting our church, and more important, the gospel of Jesus. Being able to project images and videos during Bible study aids in teaching. Being able to reach 4,000 people with a Facebook ad at a click of a button and for a marginal fee expands what we do. At the same time, I can't be lured into thinking that those are reasons for not leaving my desk, speaking to people, and telling them verbally about Jesus. The best method of all is for Redemption members to live Christian lives, forge relationships, and personally invite others to learn about Jesus at Redemption.

*Pastor Aaron Goetzinger
Redemption Lutheran Church, Watertown, NY*

Thrivent Choice – Thank you!

Thank you to all of our members who elected to direct their Thrivent Choice funds to St. Paul Lutheran Church, School, and ECC. Your gifts totaled \$12,052 for 2019. For eligibility or direction of gifts, please contact your Thrivent representative directly.

Police Lights of Christmas – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for donating hygiene items and giving monetary donations to the Police Lights of Christmas program. We brought in several totes full of personal hygiene products and snacks for our police force to hand out to those in need. Special thank you to Jacki Sievert and Pam Cherney for coordinating the \$15,000 scrip order that brought in \$590 to the St. Paul tuition assistance fund/scrip program. These scrip cards were purchased through St. Paul by the Police Lights of Christmas program and will also be handed out by officers during the Christmas season.

2021 Church Envelopes

Church offering envelopes for 2021 will be available December 6th. You will find them in your church mailboxes. Members with numbers 650 – 700 have been assigned a new number. Those unable to attend church are asked to call or email the office to arrange a pick up time (733-9061 or office@stpaulappeltonwi.com).

Sunshine Cookies (please note changes due to COVID):

It's Cookie Time! If you can bake and bring cookies for the shut-ins, please have them to the **church kitchen** by 8:30 am Monday, Dec 14 and mark the cookies as "Sunshine Cookies." That morning we will begin the process of packaging and distributing them to our shut-in members.

We will meet between 8:30 to 8:45am in the church basement to fill the plates. For those who volunteered to deliver cookies, you can pick up your plates and a list to those people to whom you are to deliver the cookies starting Monday after 11:00am on the school stage. If you arrive before 1:30, kitchen staff will normally still be there to open the gym door; however, if it is later, please go to the church office for entry instructions. Please pick them up as soon as possible. Thanks everyone!

A Christmas Bedtime Story



Hi kids! Do we have a treat for you this Christmas! Due to COVID-19, we know that you won't be able to do everything you'd like this year, so we made a special story that you can watch on your computer at home. It is called '**A Christmas Bedtime Story**'. It's the story of the first Christmas, when Jesus was born. It has 12 parts to it. You'll be able to watch a new story segment each day for 12 days. You'll hear from a lot of special people who were either involved with the first Christmas or with God's promise to send a Savior into the world. Some of those people will be Mary, Jesus' mother, and Joseph, his earthly father. You will also hear from prophets, the Magi, the Angel Gabriel, Mary's relative, Elizabeth, and some interesting people by the name of Simeon and Anna. You'll also hear from Adam and Eve. Our main story teller is Pastor Holtz. He will be with you all 12 days. The first day of our story will be available at our St. Paul website on **December 10**. Just click on the daily link and watch whenever it is convenient for you to do so.

Be sure to invite your dad and mom, and also your brothers and sisters, if you have some, to watch with you. Also, if you have friends that you think would enjoy watching the story of the first Christmas, please share our website link with them. If you need help doing that, ask dad or mom to help you.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas,
St. Paul Evangelism Committee

Join Women's Ministry in gifting for the ECC

You are invited to participate with Women's Ministry in gifting items for the ECC. WM tries to do this each year among our members and this year a suggestion was made to invite all of our congregation members to help.

Candy Schulz wrote, "Our list is a little more focused this year as we have had some challenges getting certain essential items." Listed here are items needed for the ECC:

1. Disposable vinyl exam gloves, (NO latex due to allergies), sizes Medium, Large, and X-Large. This is our #1 highest priority need.
2. Kleenex or other facial tissues
3. Paper towels (regular size or half sheet)
4. Regular strength bleach (5.25 - 6 % concentration sodium hypochlorite) - usually this is easier to find in generic brands vs. Clorox
5. 'ALL' Free & Clear liquid laundry detergent
6. Napkins
7. Paper plates (any size)
8. Clear contact paper
9. Velcro dots
10. 5 oz. Dixie cups
11. Plastic forks
12. Plastic spoons

They have quite a bit of dish soap, disinfecting wipes, Lysol disinfecting spray, and get hand soap through a commercial supplier with special dispensers.

A collection box will be located in the church basement. Please have your items to church by Dec. 31.

ECC Update

Welcome to the One-Year-Old Classroom! As we approach Thanksgiving, we have so many things to be thankful for even as we live in a world of chaos and uncertainty with the pandemic. "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3 We are so blessed to currently have nine one year olds enrolled at the ECC. They are an absolute delight but needless to say, busy! It has definitely been an adjustment for them as they transitioned from the infant room to the one-year-old room with having time off from Covid or summer months, new routines, and new teachers. The children are persevering and have grown so much physically, cognitively, spiritually, and emotionally!

There are many activities that happen in a one year olds day. Playtime is a valuable opportunity for the children to learn how to play with toys, how to play side by side or with each other, and how to share toys. There is also an outside playtime (weather permitting) where the children can explore riding small vehicles and playground equipment. Another important part of the day is art and sensory time. These activities vary and are based on a

certain theme for the week. Past themes include: fall—leaves, pumpkins and our current theme is Giving Thanks—families, homes and friendships. One of the most important times of the day is "Jesus Time". "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' " Matthew 19:14. This is when God's Word is taught through puppets, stories, and music. The children are like "little sponges" as they soak up God's lesson for the day! It would make your day to hear the little voices sing "God Loves Me." At a very young age, it is amazing to see the Lord's work in progress with these little minds! The children love books and want to be read to throughout the day. They love the snuggle time and will sit for a while to listen to the stories. Learning also occurs during meal time where manners, fine motor skills, and trying new foods with various textures are encouraged. Using a utensil and drinking from a sippy cup are introduced as some children are transitioning from a bottle. After lunch, the children are definitely ready for a nap where they will sleep typically 1 1/2- 2 hours.

We have a very busy and fulfilling day! There is nothing more special than a precious child from God! We are so blessed to have this opportunity to share God's Word and our day with them! *Ms. Linda & Ms. Lynn*

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and School Project Wish List

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Push Bars for Door | \$2,500 |
| 2. ECC Playgrounds | \$10,000+ |
| 3. School Classroom/Basement Center | ?? |
| 4. ECC Basement | ?? |
| 5. New Hymnals | \$10,000 |

Any donations (large or small) given toward these items is greatly appreciated. Some of these items/projects have been purchased/completed and we are looking for members to help in covering any part of the costs involved.

For a closer look at these items as well as giving options, including 'Easy Tithe', please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#). As always, THANK YOU for your support..

FVL NEWS

FVL Calls Update - The Regents called Mr. Ryan Kirchoff to serve in the English department. He would be replacing Mr. Matthew Foxen who is stepping into a new role as FVL's new Communications Director next July. Current faculty member Rev. Brad Krause is still deliberating his call to serve as pastor in Nampa, ID.

The FVL School Bands & the FVL Band will be performing a virtual concert. Enjoy the talents of our student musicians as they honor the Lord with their music. The concert will premiere on our FVL YouTube channel (or go to vflhs.org/concert) on December 1 at 7 PM.