

December 2016

Newsletter



St. Paul Lutheran Church



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

“A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” Isaiah 40:3

A few days after Halloween I was going into Walmart. Just as I got in the door, I noticed a group of employees putting up a very large Christmas tree. The next time I stopped the tree was up and fully decorated. Next to the tree, there was a sign that said, “42 shopping days left.” Do the math! That tree and sign were up a long way before Thanksgiving! One of my children made the comment, “Don’t people know that it’s too early to celebrate Christmas?”

When I was a kid, I remember being very anxious for Christmas to come. I remember going to church when Christmas was getting closer. I remember sitting down and wanting to hear Christmas music. Instead, we sang songs about things like repentance, the end times, and preparing the way of the Lord. I remembered wondering why the church wasn’t getting more with it and breaking out some Christmas cheer. Now, I find myself being the one trying to tell people to “Hold off! Wait! It’s not Christmas yet! We still need to have Advent!” Why? Why don’t we just follow the world around us and skip Advent altogether, or even Thanksgiving for that matter?

We understand that to have a full celebration of anything you have to properly prepare for it. A great amount of time is spent preparing for a joyful Christmas celebration. Our world around us wants to have an exciting Christmas. The difference is that they believe that the way to properly prepare for Christmas is by taking advantage of the time that is allowed by getting enough stuff. You can’t waste time taking a break from getting stuff to even give thanks at Thanksgiving. But the celebration that our world indulges in ends up being a letdown. It doesn’t satisfy.

John the Baptist comes to us during this Advent Season and tells us to “Prepare the way of the Lord!” That’s the message of the church as we approach Christmas. We don’t just start singing Christmas hymns as soon as the world around us tells us the number of shopping days is getting short. We realize that a truly joyful Christmas celebration requires preparation. If you try to start celebrating too soon, it can indeed take away from the celebration. We need to have Advent so that we can have a truly joyful Christmas celebration. We need to prepare for Christmas.

What are the preparations that John is talking about? John the Baptist is talking about taking stock of our lives. He is telling us to examine our hearts and minds based on God’s Law. John is telling us that Advent is a time of repentance. We see our sin. We see the brokenness that our sin has caused. We see how our harsh words have harmed those around us. We see how we have at times been taken in by the world around us and looked for joy and contentment by finding the right sale and having enough stuff. It is when we see our sinfulness that we are prepared for Christmas. We receive the joy that comes from knowing that our Savior Jesus came into the world to save sinners such as us. Christmas brings us great joy because we understand that Jesus was coming that He might suffer and die for our sins. He came that we might have forgiveness and life through faith in Him. What we are preparing to celebrate is very different from the world around us. We are preparing to celebrate God coming into the world to save His people.

In His service,
Pastor Daniel Olson

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Mission Statement

*"Proclaiming
the saving
grace of
Jesus Christ
to all."*

Sermon Texts and Themes:

December 1 & 4: Advent is a time of hope. Children wait for Christmas with hope. They hope that Christmas will be as joyful as they are anticipating. They hope for the right presents under the tree. We think of how the people of the Old Testament hoped for the Messiah that He might come and give them His salvation. We are reminded of the hope that the people of old had as we wait to celebrate Christmas and as we look for Jesus to return into this world. Our text for the 2nd Sunday in Advent is from Romans 15:4-13. The Apostle Paul talks about the hope that we have in Jesus and the difference that makes in our lives. The theme of the sermon will be “Overflowing with Hope.”

December 8 & 11: The text for the sermon on the 3rd Sunday in Advent is Matthew 11:2-15. The title of the sermon is “Great Expectations!” We see that John the Baptist had expectations for Christmas. The problem for John is that he is in prison as a result of Christmas. It does not appear that Jesus coming into the world has lived up to John’s expectations. We easily end up feeling that Christmas has not met our expectations. Jesus comes to us and reshapes our expectations. Jesus comes to us as a result of Christmas and surpasses any expectations that we could imagine.

December 15 & 18: The day school Christmas program will be on Thursday evening. The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday. We will hear the message of our Savior’s birth proclaimed to us in word and song by the children.

December 24: On Christmas Eve, we will gather together to celebrate the angels announcing to the shepherds that the Savior had been born. People of old had waited and waited for the Savior who had been promised all the way back in the Garden of Eden. It is on this night that we focus on the birth of Jesus as told to us in Luke 2:1-20. People want to gather with their families at Christmas. Those who live some distance away will make great efforts to be home with family. We see what a difference it makes for Mary and Joseph to have Jesus come into their home at Christmas. Christmas means that Jesus has come into this world that He might dwell in our homes.

December 25: Our Gospel reading on Christmas Day this year is from John 1:1-14, 15-18. Our theme: Incarnation. We are told in our Gospel reading that “...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” On Christmas Day, we celebrate that Jesus, God Himself, took on human flesh and blood that He might come and dwell with us. He took on human flesh and blood that He might take our place under the Law and accomplish our salvation.

December 31: It has been the tradition for Christians to gather together in worship on New Year’s Eve. While New Year’s Eve is not what we call a liturgical holiday, it is still appropriate for us to gather together as we prepare to turn the calendar to a New Year. The text for our sermon on New Year’s Eve will be our epistle reading from Romans 8:31-39. The Apostle Paul talks about how, through faith in Jesus, we are more than conquerors. Paul gives us the assurance that there is nothing in this world that can separate us from the love of God. He tells us that neither death nor life nor anything else can separate us from God’s love. It is the assurance of the victory that we have in Jesus that gives us the ability to enter the New Year with confidence.



St. Paul Lutheran School School News

“Christmas Jubilee”

St. Paul Lutheran School Christmas Program

December 15, 7:00 pm

Come join us as the children tell the story of Jesus’ birth through readings and songs.

The music students will also play pre-service music. We are blessed with a large number of music students this year. So please arrive a short at a reasonable time prior to the service to hear them.

Christmas Bingo

Please join the students for Christmas bingo on December 21. The day will begin with chapel at 8:15 am. Mrs. Philips will have her students play some pieces at the end of chapel. We will then head to the gym for bingo and refreshments.

4K Registration

4k registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. We offer a five day a week all day program with morning and afternoon busing available. St. Paul offers an outstanding Christian education. If you have any questions, you can contact Mrs. Cheslock at bcheslock@stpaullux.org or by calling the school office. St. Paul Lutheran School also participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program allows qualifying students to receive a voucher that covers all the costs of a child’s education here at St. Paul. If you have any questions on the WPCP, you should contact Pastor Olson at the school office.

Honor Roll Grades 3-8

The following students obtained honor roll status for the first quarter.

High Honors: Jane Olson, Rebekah Gregorich, Micah Gray, Connor Kilgore, Reagan Doell, Logan Kilgore

Honors: Sami Tremel, Dana Chervenka, Anna Olson, Shawna Shaw, Corinna Vanden Avond, Alex Wagner, Jacob Tremel, Jadelyn Kroll, Dylan Dahlke

Upcoming Dates:

Christmas Program	December 15
Christmas Bingo	December 21
Christmas Break	December 23-January 2

May God grant all of you a very blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

4K: It has been a busy month of learning in 4K! We have had fun reading stories about the first Thanksgiving and silly stories, songs and finger plays about turkeys! This class loves to be silly and I have enjoyed some great moments with them. In math we have been learning about patterns, number recognition, odd and even numbers, telling time on the hour and half hour, and simple addition problems! One of the highlights of calendar time is our clock time as we see if I "can fool them with a tricky time"... not only does this provide lots of giggles but it challenges them to work as a class while they dazzle me with what they know! Our Bible stories have been about Joseph and Moses. In these lessons we have explored just how much God loves His people and how He provides for all of their needs. As we concluded this month we have shared in class how God continues to bless us and take care of our needs. We began our "Passport to the World" program in 4K this month! In this program we begin by learning about the continents and then we travel to various countries around the globe. This has generated a lot of excitement as we learn about the various cultures, learn new languages, try new foods and more! There are many great things happening... feel free to check us out on Facebook as I put lots of pictures of what's happening!

5K: We are so thankful this month! We are thankful for our Veterans and singing praises to God. We are thankful for report cards and meeting with parents. We are thankful for field trips to Aissen's tree farm and fun thanksgiving festivities. We look forward to starting the Advent season and preparing for the birth of Christ. We will start working on the Christmas service and all the celebrations the month brings. We look forward to the celebration of our Savior's birth.

1st and 2nd grade: God has continued to bless 1st and 2nd Grade this month and we have had a great time learning and growing as a class. We spent a lot of time in the beginning of November learning about the election process for the President of the United States. We even had our own election here at school. Everyone was very excited to take part of such a special event. After the election was over we continued in Social Studies with the voyage of the pilgrims and the villages of the Wampanoag. Our class really loves history! In Science we have been working on a S.T.E.M. challenge, building a turkey trap to catch the Thanksgiving turkey. Each group had to construct and demonstrate their very own trap...I wonder if we will catch him over our break!? The month ended with a Thanksgiving Feast and a trip to Aissen Tree Farm. We have also made sure to take time out this month to remember all the blessings that God has given us including homes, families, pets, games, toys, clothes, food and so many others. But most importantly we thank Him for the gift of His Son and the promise of eternal life in heaven with Him. We pray that everyone has a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: The month of November is a time we remember things we are thankful for. I am thankful for students who continue to work hard and grow and learn, the many questions that are asked, and for the smiles and the laughs we have together. I am thankful for the conferences with all of the parents. I am thankful that I am able to share Jesus with the students, for the coming Advent season and all the excitement that it brings. I am thankful for time with family. Mostly I am thankful for the free gift of salvation through our risen Lord, Jesus. May the true Light of Christmas shine through your holiday season!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: The 6th through 8th has been had a fantastic first quarter and are doing well in the first few weeks of quarter two. Recently the students have been working through a multitude of different papers, projects, and other assignments as we are in full swing of the school year. The 7th and 8th grade, for example, just finished up their first open book reports of the year. Each student was able to read a chapter book of their own choosing and then they created a report using video, PowerPoint, models, or by whatever creative means they wished to utilize. Together we also just finished reading "My Side of the Mountain" and are now finishing up writing individual papers in response to this adventurous tale of a young boy that immersed himself into the American wilderness. For the whole class we have created several art projects, including those seen on the hallway walls outside of the gym for Veterans Day as well as many fall themed works. For these and all things we do them to the glory and honor of Christ our Lord.

Scrip Update for the Holidays

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
And filled with **Scrip** Gift Cards for everyone there!

Find a present they'll love while earning for St. Paul,
What a wonderful Christmas will be had by all!
With easy shopping and no wrong gifts;
Have a happier holiday with **Scrip**!



Scrip Ordering for the Holidays

Scrip continues to be ordered on a weekly basis in December to help meet the Christmas gift-giving needs as well as your holiday meal and entertaining preparation needs. Scrip will be ordered every week through **December 17th**. Orders placed by December 17th should be received and filled by Wednesday afternoon, December 21st and can be picked up in the school office the afternoon of December 21st or all day on the 22nd from 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Please note that December 22nd is the last day that the office will be open that you can pick up your Scrip. Please note that items on the front of the form with an asterisk (*) and all items on the back of the form must be ordered. Please make sure and check out the back as there are a lot of vendors that take Scrip and can be ordered. There are also additional vendors available and you can either ask to see the complete listing from the person that is selling Scrip or you can go online to www.ShopwithScrip.com. At the bottom of the page under SITE MAP click on Retailers. There will be a box that you can click on: Complete Retailer List DOWNLOAD NOW (PDF) to get the list. Please note that there may be a bit of delay in getting some orders through Great Lakes Scrip due to the demand and volume that they are dealing with during the holidays. Therefore, we are urging you to order early. The sooner in the season you order for holiday gift-giving, the better we are able to ensure that you will have what you need. We hope that the increase in ordering will help to meet the needs for those ordering Scrip for the holidays.

Scrip Selling for the Holidays

There will also be some changes to the Scrip selling schedule during the holidays in December. In the past years, Scrip was always sold on Christmas Eve for any last minute gifts that people might have needed. This year we will **not** be selling Scrip at either service on Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24). We will also not be selling Scrip on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25), Thursday, December 29 or on New Year's Eve (Saturday, December 31). So the last day Scrip will be sold during the month of December before and after church services is Thursday, December 22nd. The last day to purchase Scrip in the school office before the holidays is December 22nd. So please plan accordingly to have all of the Scrip cards you will need during the holidays. Thank you for your continued support and use of the Scrip program! All Scrip purchases results in profits for St. Paul Church and School.

Additional News

There has been a lot of news on TV and in the paper regarding credit card skimmers being found at gas stations in Green Bay which results in stealing your credit card information. They have been encouraging customers to use Gas Gift cards instead of your credit card. Many gas cards can be purchased through Scrip. We keep in stock BP, Kwik Trip, Shell, and Grand Central Station. Others that can be ordered include Exxon, Marathon Gas, and Mobil. If you use Scrip Gas Cards you never have to worry about having your credit card information stolen while filling up your vehicle!

ST. PAUL DAY SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS:

The children of St. Paul School and Sunday school have finished their 1st quarter offerings with a total of \$497 that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief has a program where they get animals and equipment to parts of the world that need them. A donkey & cart, a goat, a sheep, a piglet, and a hen were selected to purchase with the money that was collected.

The 2nd quarter offerings for the Sunday school and St. Paul School have been designated to go to a program at St. Louis Seminary where we adopt a student. Our student that we have adopted is Jeremy Steinke. He is 24 years old from Wausau, Wisconsin, He is a freshman at the seminary, He is a big Packer fan and a hunter. He had a setback when he was 2 and has limited vision and also had a hip replacement surgery last summer, but he is so excited about becoming a pastor. Please keep Jeremy on your prayer list as we work to help him out with his expensive schooling.



The choir will go caroling to the Nursing Homes and to the homes of shut-ins on Sunday, December 11. If you know of a shut-in or if you would like the choir to sing at your home, please call Jean Doell at 845-5162.

Calling all youth!! I am looking for help to assemble and deliver fruit baskets to members of the church on Sunday, December 4th. Please meet in the gym after church around 10:45 so we can put together the baskets and then we will go out and deliver them to the members of the congregation. This event usually takes about 3 hours. Please let Sherry Byrne know if you can make it. Call or text 920-606-2000.



Christian Service Guild News:

As our servants project for November, desserts were made for the Veterans Service meal.

Our December meeting will be held December 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m., in the meeting room. Our Bible study will be, "We Await His Coming." Bring your Bibles.

The Service Guild is now selling dish cloths for \$2.00 each. Purchases can be made from Diane Zeitler.

Quilting will begin on Monday, January 9th. Note the change of the day of the week. We will work in the church meeting room from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Bring a lunch along, coffee will be provided. If you have used sheets, bedspreads, mattress pads, drapes or material to be cut into squares, drop it off at the meeting room by January 9th or soon after. We are applying to Thrivent for funds to purchase supplies that aren't donated.

Upcoming Events:

December 8: Volunteer at Bethesda, contact Diane Zeitler if interested

Stamps for Missions:

Please continue to save cancelled postage stamps for missions.



Thank you to all the people that attended the Veteran's service and stayed for the meal. We had a record crowd with no leftovers. The 6-8th grade students at St. Paul thank you for your support and are happy to report made enough money to cover the cost of the trip to go to Outdoor Education at Camp Luther.



Come cheer on the kids!
Basketball schedule as of Nov 21, 2016.
More games may be added.

Tue Dec 6, 2016	Girls Home Sturgeon Bay 6 PM
	Boys Home Sturgeon Bay 5 PM
Tue Dec 13, 2016	Boy Home vs St. Paul Algoma 6:30
	Girls Home vs St. Paul Algoma 5:30
Fri Dec 16, 2016	Boys @ Maribel 6pm - 14311 S Maribel Rd. Maribel , WI 54227
Mon Jan 9, 2017	St. John Maribel Girls--Home 5pm
	St John Maribel Boys--home 6pm
Tue Jan 17, 2017	Boys @ Jacksonport 6:30
	Girls @ Zion Lutheran, Jacksonport 5:30 - 3937 County Road V Egg Harbor, WI 54209 (920) 743-2325
Tue Jan 24, 2017	Girls @ Morrison Zion Lutheran Time TBD
	Boys @ Morisson Zion Lutheran Time TBD
Tue Feb 7, 2017	Jaksonport--Home Girls 5 PM
	Jaksonport--Home Boys 6PM



Holy Humor



Faculty/Staff Contact

Pastor & Principal: Rev. Dr. Daniel Olson: pastorolson@stpaullux.org

4K Teacher: Beth Cheslock: bcheslock@stpaullux.org

5K Teacher: Sherry Byrne: sbyrne@stpaullux.org

1st & 2nd Grade: Heidi Pahnke: hpahnke@stpaullux.org

3rd & 4th Grade: Laura McClellan: lmcclellan@stpaullux.org

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Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048

Prayer Chain: Arlene Gruetzmacher –920-845-5048



Veterans Day

DVD's are available of the church service. Call the church office at 920-845-2095 and one of our volunteers will deliver it to you.

Need a ride to church? Please notify the church office for a ride to and from church services.

Newsletter Deadline: the 21st of the month.

Join us on Facebook: Search for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School and **LIKE** us today!