

1st Weekend of Advent December 3 & 4, 2017

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- † Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- † We love families! Your children are welcome in our service. Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children’s bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

TODAY’S THEME:

HE COMES BOTH TO DESTROY AND TO SAVE – GET READY!

Worship Participants

- Liturgist** Pastor Jacob Hoff
- Preacher** Pastor Brian Adams
- Organist/Pianist** Miss Heather Schmidt
- Flutist** Mrs. Nancy Willms
- Adult Choir Director** Dr. David Brightsman

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Christian Worship pg. 26

10:30 AM – HOLY BAPTISM SERVICE BEGINS ON PAGE 4

THE OPENING HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”
Christian Worship #4

1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My

hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.

Hymn continues on next page

Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -

fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and

raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.

Please Stand

THE INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

8:00 AM & 6:30 PM services continue on Page 7 – Confession of Sins

HOLY BAPTISM 10:30 AM ONLY

THE OPENING HYMN “See This Wonder in the Making”

Christian Worship #300

1 See this won - der in the mak - ing; God him -
 2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens As the
 3 Far more ten - der than a moth - er, Far more
 4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; Home we

self this child is tak - ing As a lamb safe in his
 door to heav - en o - pens And the Fa - ther beams, “Be -
 car - ing than a fa - ther, God, in - to your arms we
 take a new-born crea - ture, Now God’s pre - cious son or

keep - ing, His to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.
 lov - ed, Heir of gifts a king would cov - et!”
 place *him*, With your love and peace em - brace *him*.
 daugh - ter, Born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

THE INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true

faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought this child to be baptized. Jesus told us: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

P: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Emery Pearl Mladenovich, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Please Stand

EXHORTATION

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Emery may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Emery and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service continues on Page 7 – Prayer and Praise

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

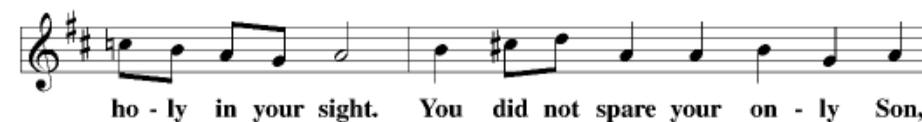


P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



O LORD, OUR LORD

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

Please be Seated

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSONGenesis 6:1-3, 5-14, 17-22

^{6:1} When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

⁵ The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. ⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your

sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

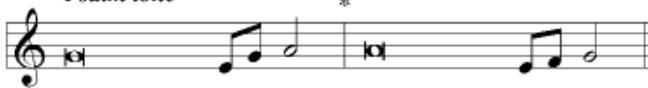
THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....**Psalm 24**
Christian Worship pg. 73

Refrain



Let the Lord en-ter; he is the King of glo-ry.

Psalm tone



The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
 the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
 and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
 he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
 be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*
 The LORD strong and mighty,
 the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
 lift them up, you ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*
 The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

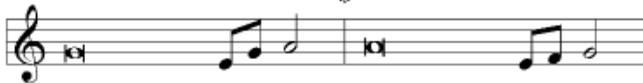
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain



Let the Lord en-ter; he is the King of glo-ry.

Psalm tone



THE SECOND LESSON..... 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (*Revelation 22:20*)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Mark 13:32-37

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be Seated

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM (8:00 AM ONLY) “Candles of Advent”

*Words by Nancy Price & Don Besig
 Music by Don Besig*

*Light one candle in the night.
 Light one candle of hope; hope for the world to calm its fear,
 hope for the news we long to hear,
 hope in a child who will soon appear.
 Light one candle of hope.*

*Light one candle in the night.
 Light one candle of faith; faith that can heal a world in need,
 faith that can conquer hate and greed,
 faith in a child who will come to lead.
 Light one candle of faith.*

Advent candles warm and bright
 fill the world with radiant light.
 Help us find the Promised One;
 guide us to the child who will come.
 Light one candle, light, light one candle of love;
 world to care, love ev'rywhere,
 love to help us share.
 Light one candle of love.

Light one candle in the night.
 Light one candle of peace; peace that will free the world from war,
 peace that will last forevermore,
 peace through the child we are waiting for.
 Light one candle of peace.

Advent candles warm and bright
 fill the world with radiant light.
 Help us find the Promised One;
 guide us to the child who will come.
 Advent candles spread your light of hope, and love, and peace.



THE HYMN OF THE DAY....."Savior of the Nations, Come"
 Christian Worship #2

Musical notation for the hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come". The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child, Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, Praise to God the

heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

THE SERMON Mark 13:32-37

Please Stand

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy

Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be Seated

THE OFFERING

(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A-men.

Please be Seated

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a miracle. By God's power, the Lord's body and blood are with the bread and wine. In the Lord's Supper, God gives strength and comfort to His believers. While the Lord's Supper is first about our relationship with Jesus, it is also about our relationship with fellow believers. Therefore, we practice "close communion." We invite all who are members of St. Paul's or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. If you would like to learn more about being a member of our family at St. Paul's, please feel free to contact one of the pastors.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

Christian Worship #22



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
 2 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Dawn, When will we
 3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms
 4 There shall we all our prais - es bring And sing to



down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break
 sing your morn - ing song? Come, Son of God! With - out your
 fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
 you, our Sav - ior - King; There shall we laud you and a -



down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 light We grope in dread and gloom of night.
 hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
 dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Please Stand

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Please be Seated

THE CLOSING HYMN..... “Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”

Christian Worship #9



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
 2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
 3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
 4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
 5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
 clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
 give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
 from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
 your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
 we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
 ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
 your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
 grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS: Today in the 10:30 AM service Emery Pearl Mladenovich will be received into God's kingdom through holy baptism. Emery is the daughter of Nick and Samantha Mladenovich. Serving as her godparents are Megan Stetzer and Brittany Jacob.

Following the 10:30 AM service today, Ellie Katherine Bolda will be received into God's kingdom through holy baptism. Ellie is the daughter of Jacob & Amy Bolda. Serving as her godparents are Emily Buch, Jace Bolda and Rebecca Claus.

At noon today Isabella Marie Gomez will be received into God's kingdom through holy baptism. Isabella is the daughter of Michael Gomez and Nicole Kirby. Serving as her godmother is Stephanie Kirby, and serving as her witness is Paul Gomez.

May the Lord bless these families as they grow together in Christ.

DOOR COLLECTION: We will be taking a door collection this weekend for Southside Ministries. The purpose of the collection is to put together gift bags containing peanuts, apples, oranges, candy, and small toys for the children.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: This weekend we begin the season of Advent. "Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Christian Church uses to remember the "coming" of Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time. The focus of the next four Sunday's are:

- Advent 1: Keep Watch, for the Lord Will Come Again
- Advent 2: The Forerunner Prepares: Christ is Coming
- Advent 3: The Forerunner Explains: The Christ is Here
- Advent 4: The Promised Virgin Birth of Christ

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Advent 1 – December 3 & 4
- Advent 2 – December 10 & 11
- Midweek Advent – December 13: 6:30 pm
- Advent 3 – December 17 & 18
- Children's Christmas Service – December 17: 4:30 pm

Advent 4 – December 24: 9:00 am
Christmas Eve – December 24: 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight – December 24: 10:00 pm
Christmas Day - December 25: 10:00 am
Christmas 1 – December 31: 9:00 am
New Year's Eve – December 31: 6:30 pm

CHURCH DECORATING: As has become the tradition in recent years, the Confirmation Classes at St. Paul's and their families are asked to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. The church decorating will take place on Sunday, December 10th after the 2nd service at about 11:30 AM. Take down of the decorations will be on Sunday, January 7th at 11:30 AM.

USHERS NEEDED: We have re-organized our crews and have open spots where we could really use ushers! Please prayerfully consider becoming an usher for your church – your help is greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE: A signup sheet is located in the narthex for anyone in the congregation who is interested in making Christmas cookies for the annual Mary & Martha cookie sale. Please consider baking a batch of cookies (100 cookies if possible) for this sale. Please have your cookies labeled "Mary & Martha cookie sale" and dropped off at church by 9:00a.m. on Saturday, December 9th. Anyone from St. Paul's is welcome to come and help pack the cookie boxes on Saturday, December 9th at 9am. The sale will take place after each service on Sunday and Monday, December 10th and 11th. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary and Martha Society and their support of missions.

NEED A GIFT OR A STOCKING STUFFER? The Mary and Martha Society still has cookbooks available for sale. Cookbooks are \$10 each and are located on the counter in the narthex.

GALA MEETING: Are you interested in learning more about our Gala, and the opportunities available for you to help? Our next Gala meeting will be on Sunday, December 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will be choosing the projects that the classes create, so come with any ideas you have!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE & MEAL: On Wednesday, December 13th we will be having our only Midweek Advent worship service. The Adult Choir and Grades 5-8 will be a part of this special service. The Board of Elders will also be serving a meal prior to the service beginning at 5:30pm. In order to assist in our planning for the meal, we ask you to sign-up on the sheets in the back of church if you'd like to attend the meal. If you would like to help bring some of the food items for that meal, there are sign-up sheets on the counter in the narthex as well. (If you are donating food, please have the items at church between 4:00 and 4:30pm that day.) Monetary donations are welcome any time, and there will be a free-will offering gathered at the meal.

LIVING NATIVITY: Our Living Nativity will be held on Friday, December 15th & Saturday, December 16th. There will be performances with live animals celebrating the birth of the Savior at 6:00pm, 6:30pm and 7:00pm each night. Following each performance there will be refreshments and crafts. St. Paul's families are encouraged to invite family and friends! There are flyers located in the back of church or in the school office that you can feel free to take and use for inviting others. Please consider helping volunteer for this important event where we have an opportunity to share the best news this world has ever received with our community. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church and school office, or contact Caleb Manske at [262-442-4286](tel:262-442-4286) or clmanske@hotmail.com for more information.

SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES UPDATE: It's been another very busy and productive year for Southside Ministries. St. Paul's strong and continuing support is a blessing. I believe that we moved more furniture and donations this year than in any previous year. You made a lot of people very happy with your donations.

The ELS tutoring that we do throughout the year on Monday and Wednesday nights is turning into a younger group. Long time students are graduating high school and going onto college or jobs. We have had a lot of younger children starting to come to ESL. Because of this, the homework we help with has gotten a lot easier and fun. It's a pleasure to share Jesus with these new students and we pray that the seeds the Holy Spirit planted with the older students continue to grow throughout their life.

This summer, we had 4 of our high school students able participate in summer camps up north. One girl attended an academic Drama camp in Stevens Point. Three of the students participated in a Natural Resources internship in Eagle River that combined work

opportunity with education programs. They all had summers they will never forget. We received glowing reports from the leaders about how hard working and likeable they were. This should lead to increasing opportunities in future summers.

Thank you to the congregation for allowing the immigrant children to participate in the neighborhood Christmas caroling, VBS, and Trunk or Treat. They really value these activities and talk about them through the year.

We will be taking a door collection for Southside Ministries today. The purpose of the collection is to put together gift bags containing peanuts, apples, oranges, candy, and small toys for the children. St. Paul's has been sponsoring this through our door collections for the last 5 years. Contrary to folklore, not all good little boys and girls get presents on Christmas. The families are very poor and not able to afford much extra for Christmas. The children are really happy to receive these gift bags and it is a very emotional experience for the volunteers.

If you have any surplus toys, we could really use them. Smaller toys such as Beanie Babies and Hot Wheels fit nicely in the Gift bags. We have been holding a Christmas party over Christmas vacation where we have the children draw numbers to pick a present from bigger toys and games.

We wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season. God Bless you for your help throughout the years. If you any questions or suggestions, please call Gary Eickhorst at (414) 870-9215.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: We are studying the topic: "Idols We Never Knew We Had." A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess. Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say "Definitely not! I don't bow down to idols!" But sometimes we do worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. Our upcoming study will bring to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God's guidance and power we'll get help to avoid worshipping these false gods. Please come and join us. We begin at 8:00am. Breakfast is also served. Below is our schedule:

Idols We Never Knew We Had:

Sports – December 9, 2017

Technology – January 13, 2018

Politics – February 10, 2018

Family – February 24, 2018

Religion – March 10, 2018

YOUTH GROUP: We are in need of volunteers to help with supervision of our Youth Group events. We typically meet one Sunday evening a month for a few hours. If you are able to help, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR: Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: December 14th, January 11th & 25th, February 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, April 12th & 26th and May 10th & 24th. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information. There are also extra copies on the narthex counter to pass along to a friend!

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR: A few spots remain for the second semester of the Wisconsin Lutheran Children's Choir (WLCC)! Auditions (for new students at semester) are Thursday, January 11, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. or Thursday, January 18, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. For more audition information and WLCC schedule, visit www.wlhs.org/wlcc or contact Director Casey Pufahl at casey.pufahl@wlhs.org or 414-453-4567 ext. 2572.

WLHS CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT: Enjoy early Christmas merriment at the annual Christmas Pops Concert on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium. This concert features the WLHS Concert Band, A Cappella Choir, Inspiration, Wisco Kids Show Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Jubilation Handbell Choir, and other instrumental ensembles. Admission is free, and a freewill offering will be taken during the concert. Afterward, enjoy a reception of Christmas cookies, coffee, and punch.

CHRISTMAS AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY: Join the Seminary Chorus on December 10th at 3:00 and 7:00 PM for *Christmas at the Seminary*. The men's choir will share the story of Jesus' birth in songs, carols and hymns. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is located in Mequon at 11831 N. Seminary Drive. The concert is held in the campus auditorium, and seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The 3:00 PM concert is streamed live at <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.

WLHS SACRED CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The annual Sacred Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium. The concert will feature the A Cappella, Cantorei, and Freshman Choirs of WLHS, Inspiration, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Wisconsin Lutheran Children’s Choir, and numerous instrumentalists. Admission is free, and a freewill offering will be taken during the concert.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL JOB OPENING: Wisconsin Lutheran High School’s Mission Advancement office is looking to hire a development officer. Primary responsibilities include: carry a portfolio of young alumni, manage volunteers and interns, research and grant writing, and assist the Director of Advancement Services. Blackbaud or donor database experience desired. Please submit resume and cover letter by Monday, December 4, to Jodi Lunow, Human Resources Specialist, at jodi.lunow@wlhs.org, or via mail: 330 North Glenview Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53213.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS THIS WEEK (December 3 & 4)

- 8:00 AM – Corrine Mayer
- 10:30 AM – Gordon & Michele Lesser
- 6:30 PM – Richard & Kathy Hinz

GREETERS NEXT WEEK (December 10 & 11)

- 8:00 AM – Jacque & Doreen Vallier
- 10:30 AM – Richard & Betty Patin
- 6:30 PM – {Insert your name here – sign up to be a Greeter!}

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

- 8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser
- 10:30 AM – TEAM #8 – Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha
- 6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

- Nov 29-Dec 5 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves, Sue Stempel
- Dec 6-12 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh, Karen Hille

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

- Dec 3: Set-up – Don & Marge Gebert, Clean-up – Mark & Kristin Hernon
- Dec 10: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Larry & Marion Klug

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3

- Worship Service with Communion8:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study/Sunday School.....9:15 AM
- Bible Information Class9:15 AM
- Worship Service with Communion10:30 AM

Monday, December 4

- Worship Service with Communion 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 5

- PSCIC 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 6

- Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM
- Men’s Open Gym 7:30 PM

Friday, December 8

- School Devotion8:30 AM

Saturday, December 9

- Bible Class8:00 AM
- Mary Martha Cookie Pack.....9:00 AM

Sunday, December 10

- Worship Service8:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study/Sunday School.....9:15 AM
- Bible Information Class9:15 AM
- Worship Service10:30 AM
- Mary Martha Cookie Sale Before & After Services

Statistics – Last Week

Thanksgiving Eve – 371, Thanksgiving Day – 48
 Sunday, Nov. 26th Attendance: 8:00 AM – 100, 10:30 AM – 150, 6:30 PM – 60
 Total Attendance – 310